

*"Help you matter more and enable you to make a bigger difference"*

## Region 8 Director's Column

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Aloha and Mahalo for your membership in ASCE. Your membership dues and contributions support the civil engineering profession and the development of leaders to help us all matter more.

Hope you all are keeping your families and yourselves safe through the COVID-19 pandemic as your first priority. Even with that challenge, I am inspired to hear that many of your local leaders have organized virtual events to keep networking and activities going as reasonably possible. Keep up the innovative ideas.

During my first year as Society Director, I conducted many visits to local units during this

time of the year. Local visits are one of my favorite Director duties so not being able to travel frustrates me. Unfortunately, I am grounded in Hawaii for the foreseeable future due to a minimum 14-day quarantine requirement for anybody entering our State. However, if your local group is holding virtual events and would find value in having me participate, please send me an invite.

With the country's pandemic infection rates still being high, the Society has decided to convert the ASCE Annual Convention to a virtual conference. The Convention dates are October 28 to 30. In addition to leadership and technical training, the Convention will still include presentation of Society awards and the annual business meeting. Our Region's own, K.N. "Guna" Gunalan, will be sharing his experiences as Society President and will be presiding over the annual business meeting. Details are forthcoming. The Convention was supposed to have been held at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, CA. I guess we will just need to visit Mickey Mouse at a future date when it is safe to enter the Magic Kingdom.

Last month, I shared that the Region 8 Fall Board of Governors (BOG) and Assembly meetings would be shifting to mid-October in the hope that the pandemic environment would improve. However, with the pandemic infection rates still being high and with the Society converting the Annual Convention to a virtual format, the Region 8 BOG voted to switch our meetings to a virtual format. We also voted to switch the dates of the Assembly meeting to August 28 and 29, which is a more typical time frame for our fall meetings. We are still determining a date for our BOG meeting.

One advantage of converting our Assembly meeting to a virtual format is potentially being able to open up the meeting to more Section and WRYMC participation without incurring more travel costs. Another is the ability to invite a larger pool of speakers to participate because we typically do not have a travel budget to offer them. We intend to organize informal networking sessions before and after the Assembly meetings to make up for the lost face-to-face socializing that we value at these meetings.

I am looking forward to the Region 8 Awards presentation at our Fall Assembly meeting. It is always inspiring to hear the accomplishments of individual engineers and projects within our Region. This year is particularly exciting for two reasons. First, we will present our newest award which is the *ASCE Region 8 Kristina L. Swallow Young Engineer of the Year Award*. Second, we will present our Engineer of the Year Award under its new name as *ASCE Region 8 Dale Nelson Engineer of the Year Award*. Our Region 8 Awards Committee suggested naming these awards after these two individuals because of their outstanding dedication to and promotion of Civil Engineering and our Society. Please read about the awards in a separate article in this newsletter issue. The recipients of all Region 8 awards will be revealed during the Assembly meeting.

I'm sure that we have all experienced challenges with virtual meetings as we learn how to utilize MS Teams, Zoom, and other platforms out of necessity. One challenge that I experienced recently as a result of my location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean is the time zone challenge. The Society Board of Direction held its July meeting in Reston, VA on July 10 and 11. A few of us were not able to participate in person, but were able to participate virtually. The challenge for me was with the meeting starting at 9:00 am EDT which is 3:00 am HST. The Board discussed and made decisions on a number of

challenging topics. A summary of the Board meeting is provided as a separate article in this newsletter issue.

Last month, I indicated that there will be two Region 8 Governor positions to fill with next year's election. One thing I forgot to mention is my Geographic Region Director position also needs to be filled. The Director position has a three-year term that begins in October 2021. Candidates must be a Society member in good standing and must have served as a Geographic Region Governor. If you are interested or would like additional information, please let me know. Candidates for Region 8 Governor or Director must submit their nomination papers to the Region 8 Nominations Committee Chair by December 1, 2020. Mahalo for being a member of ASCE and for all that you do to help our great profession. #Region8isgreat!!! Please be safe and continue to wash your hands.

Mahalo and Aloha,  
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## Society Board of Direction July Meeting Highlights

The Society Board of Direction (Board) held its July Meeting on July 10 and 11 at Society Headquarters in Reston, VA. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some Board members, presenters, and attendees participated virtually. The Board discussed and made decisions on a number of challenging topics. Highlights from the Board meeting are summarized below.

### FY 2021 Budget and Reorganization

The Board approved a FY2021 budget that included continued work on the Society's digital strategy, a significantly increased emphasis on virtual activities, and an organizational realignment to make ASCE more nimble in addressing ongoing changes to the association business model that have accelerated due to the pandemic and will likely become permanent.

While details are still being finalized, these changes will allow the Board to focus on our strategic priorities, including growing membership, better meeting the needs of our students and early career professionals, and helping our members practice and lead in the near term and into the foreseeable future. At the same time, the Society will be better positioned to engage a broader global audience, conduct Society activities more sustainably by reducing our carbon footprint and the time and cost of participation, and making the Society more attractive to the next generation of professionals while sustaining it for long-term success.

ASCE is a financially healthy organization, with sufficient reserves, an active and growing membership, and countless programs that advance both professionals and the profession. Nonetheless, our duty to our members is to be stewards and ensure the long-term fiscal sustainability of the organization.

Like other professional associations, ASCE is experiencing COVID-19 impacts and increased competition for membership, continuing education, publications, conferences, and other products and services. This competition comes from for-profit businesses, other associations, and from the proliferation of online information that is often free. These products and services have historically generated significant revenue for ASCE, that along with the extensive contributions from our active volunteers, have allowed us to fund many more member programs than we can through dues alone.

The Board values the contributions and input of our active volunteer members, who deliver significant value to the profession. As such, we continue to make strategic investments in key areas, including expanded programs and an enhanced digital presence to better meet the needs of our increasingly digitally savvy younger and more global audience. We are also investing in helping our members to practice and lead in the near and foreseeable future by embracing emerging trends and navigating unpredictable forces. Our restructuring and budgeting processes will continue to be focused on finding new efficiencies and being more effective. A greater focus on digital and virtual products will generate more products, services, and member value providing financial and environmental benefits, while also enabling greater participation from members who serve as active volunteers. One example is the shift to virtual meetings and events, which has made us nimbler and more efficient. Other areas we are considering include streamlining our headquarters operations, consolidating and realigning our committee structure, and sunsetting some programs that may not be as critical today.

ASCE currently has 23,000 Life Members. Recognizing that life expectancy is increasing, as are the years of practice, beginning with the 2022 membership year the Board voted to adjust the years needed to achieve Life Member status from 35 to 40 and require that Life Members are retired from practice. Life Member candidates would no longer need to be 65 or have 10 years continuous years of membership immediately preceding the attainment of Life Member. Finally, following consultation with many of our dedicated Life Members, in 2022 we will replace the current \$50 Life Member service fee with a due for each Life Member set at 50% of member dues. This will better align Life Member fees with our overall dues structure and enable us to continue to support the programs and services valued by our growing number of Life Members. At the same time, we do anticipate aiding those Life Members who cannot afford to contribute.

The timing for many of these changes is being finalized and will be announced and implemented before or with the start of the new fiscal year on October 1, 2020. Changes to the Life Member program will take place in 2022. Other changes will be implemented after careful review and study by the Board and executive director.

Your Region 8 officers will share information after it is finalized. Changes will be reported in the ASCE News, Leadership Letter and Section Informant, and communicated directly to affected stakeholders.

### Dues Model

Staff working with a consultant continue to review different types of dues models to make ASCE membership appealing to non-members while maintaining financial stability for the organization. A suggested dues structure to 1) eliminate Affiliate and Associate Member grades, 2) eliminate Institute-only membership, and 3) replace the Associate Member graduated 5-year dues increase with a 50-percent discount in Member dues rate for members 28 and younger were voted down by the Board.

### Future World Vision

The Board authorized an investment spending amount of \$443,000 to execute a follow-on contract with Experimental to continue production of the Mega City and Floating City. Continued authorization of funds will depend on the amount of fund collection or pledges from partners.

### Code of Ethics

The Task Committee on the Code of Ethics provided their final report on the proposed revisions. The Board approved the first reading of the revised Code of Ethics. The second reading will take place at the October Board meeting.

### Governing Documents

The Governing Documents Committee presented proposed revisions to the Society Bylaws and Rules of Policy and Procedure related to the Constitutional Amendments that the membership approved in the 2020 election. The Board approved the second consideration of the Bylaws revisions. The Board approved the revisions to the Rules of

At its March meeting, the Board approved a motion to allow Student Members the right to vote in Society elections. The Governing Documents Committee was charged with preparing amendments to the Society Constitution accordingly. At the July meeting, the Board approved the first reading of the proposed revisions to the Constitution to allow Student Members the right to vote. The second reading will take place at the October Board meeting. If approved, the membership will vote on the proposed Amendments in the 2022 Society election.

### Society Officer Appointments

The Board approved the appointment of Elizabeth Ruedas, P.E., QSP, ENV SP, M.ASCE as the At-Large Director for the term 2020-2023. Ms. Ruedas was nominated by the Western Regional Younger Member Council and her appointment was recommended by the At-Large Director Review Panel.

The Board approved the appointment of Maria C. Lehman, P.E., F.ASCE as Society Treasurer and F. Jay Burress, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE, as Society Assistant Treasurer for FY21. Ms. Lehman served as the Society's Assistant Treasurer for the last two years. Mr. Burress previously served as a Society Director from Region 7.

## ASCE Region 8 Award Changes

Beginning this year, the Engineer of the Year Award will be the "ASCE Region 8 Dale Nelson Engineer of the Year Award" and the Young Engineer of the Year Award will be the "ASCE Region 8 Kristina L. Swallow Young Engineer of the Year Award". We chose these individuals because of their outstanding dedication to and promotion of Civil Engineering and our Society for the following reasons:

### Dale Nelson, P.E., F. ASCE:



Dale was a passionate leader of ASCE for over half a century, beginning in the mid-1960's when he was a student at Washington State University, through his untimely passing in 2019. In addition to leading numerous U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' projects, he finished his career as a FEMA project specialist. He served ASCE in numerous roles, including Anchorage Branch President (1975); Alaska Section President (1978), Region 8 Governor (2007-2010), and the Board of Direction as Region 8 Director (2015-2018).

It is not the positions he held, but how he served and led with his kind, generous and thoughtful passion that made all the difference. He was a "consummate gentleman who was always gracious, with the ability to solve difficult situations with thoughtfulness and finesse." He was approachable and instantly inspired us "to want to make the best of our time in ASCE." Rather than solve problems remotely, he would travel great distances to meet with troubled groups or individuals to offer assistance and counsel, including quiet and private correction when needed. In honor of his exceptional service to Civil Engineering and ASCE, a memorial scholarship for University of Alaska students was established in his name by Alaska ASCE members.

### Kristina L. Swallow, P.E., ENV SP, F. ASCE:

Kristina, one of the youngest, if not the youngest ever ASCE president, is full of positive youthful energy. Many engineers have been greeted by her warm smile, inspired by her fierce advocacy and impressed with her aerial gymnastics abilities. She began her ASCE career at the



University of Arizona in the mid-1990's, subsequently receiving a Master's degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She immediately began involving herself in the Civil Engineering profession and was heavily involved in younger member activities, Future Cities (mentor and judge), the Nevada Section and the Region 8 Board of Governors, receiving numerous "Younger Member" awards. Kristina also served as a Legislative Assistant on Transportation Policy to New Mexico US Senator Tom Udall from 2009-2012. She then served as Region 8 Director (2013-2015) and as ASCE President in 2018, where she traveled around the world representing the best of our profession.

After years of public and private service, culminating as ASCE Society President, she was chosen to be the Director of the Nevada Department of Transportation. Kristina L. Swallow exemplifies what it is to be an outstanding Younger Engineer.

This year's recipients of these two individual awards along with the ASCE Region 8 Large Project of the Year (over \$10M) and Small Project of the Year (\$10M and under) Awards will be unveiled at the Fall Assembly meeting on August 29.

## Tacoma-Olympia Section Update

1/24/20, the Tacoma-Olympia Section started the year with sending 3 representatives to WRYMC/MRLC in San Francisco:



*Amy, Grace, and Mohammad enjoying Washington-like weather in San Francisco*

When the group got back, we launched a series of socials geared to attract young professionals. One of the first of which was with the local HDR consulting office:



*2/10/20 Social at Fish Tale Brewhouse in Olympia*

Later in the month of February, the Tacoma-Olympia and Seattle members met at the Seattle Museum of Flight for a Popsicle Bridge Competition:



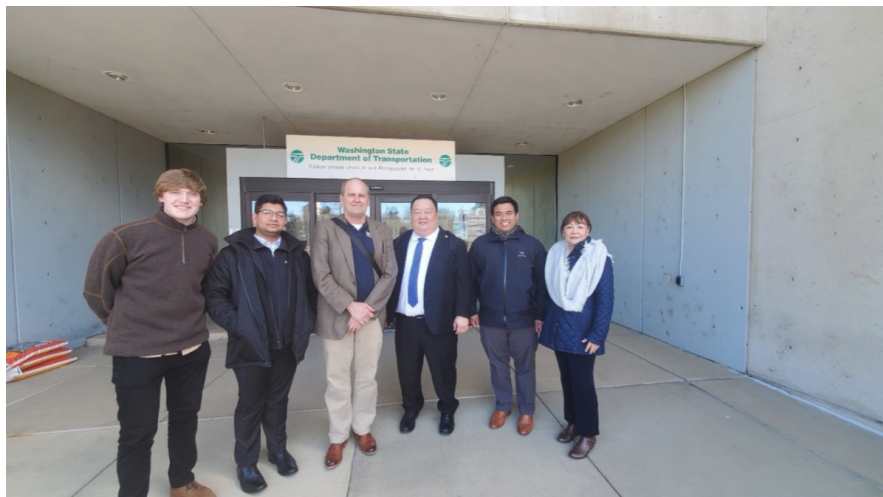
*Popsicle Bridge Contestants at Seattle Museum of Flight*

The fun continues with the first joint Tacoma-Olympia and Seattle overnight Ski Trip 2/28/20 – 3/1/20:



*Ski Trip weekend at Snoqualmie*

In the meantime, the WSDOT Chief Engineer reached out to the Tacoma-Olympia Section to learn more about ASCE. With the help and guidance of Tony Lau and Fred Nelson, a presentation about the benefits of ASCE came together. The formal presentation to WSDOT was on 3/6/20.



*WSDOT Presentation Team*

The success of the presentation was made possible by heartfelt testimonials.



## Personal Testimonies



Mohammad Khan...

*ASCE provides an organized younger member group. There is a plethora of leadership, educational, and volunteer opportunities under one roof. Plus I have a voice in what activities are provided.*



Jason Fairhurst...

*ASCE members empowered me to apply for scholarships and internships. I feel optimistic about my future.*

*Mohammad Khan Younger Member Co-Chair and Jason Fairhurst Saint Martin's University Senior*

The Tacoma-Olympia Section elected to cancel in-person activities scheduled after the middle of March. But we still awarded our scholarships:

- Saint Martin's University \$1,500
- MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement) \$1,500

We also completed the call for local OPAL awards and are in the process of evaluating the submittal.

There is also an ongoing photo contest sponsored by AISC.

## TACOMA-OLYMPIA SECTION



A lot is changing right now, but one thing remains the same: We have some amazing structures here in the Pacific Northwest. To celebrate them--and our hard-working industry--the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) is starting a monthly photo competition with awesome prizes. Submit your best steel project photograph, be it flying steel, steel in fabrication, or the topping out of a new landmark. **The best picture from June (as judged by a panel of experts) will win an Apple iPad Mini.**

Here's how it works: Just email your picture to [fennell@aisc.org](mailto:fennell@aisc.org). Include the names of the firms involved in the project (architect, engineer, fabricator/erector, and contractor). That's it!

Your picture may show up as a jigsaw puzzle at [aisc.org/puzzles](http://aisc.org/puzzles) or on our social media, so please be sure you have the rights to share it and understand that entering this competition means that you're granting AISC the right to use the photo online.

Get snapping, and good luck!

We are meeting and zooming on!





## Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Region 8 Board of Governors Fall Meeting, August 21, 2020, Virtual
- Region 8 Fall Assembly Meeting, August 28 and 29, 2020 Virtual
- Presidents and Governors Forum, September 10-12, 2020 Virtual
- Annual Convention, October 28-30, 2020 Virtual

Visit [Region 8 Events](#) for more information.