



“advance the Civil Engineering profession by serving the members of Region 8 as an extension of the Board of Direction”

## Region 8 Director's Column

As Thanksgiving approaches, let us all take a moment to reflect on all the people, events and other items that we appreciate. I would like to share some of the things that I am most thankful for.

I am thankful for a generous family and friends that have sacrificed and helped me throughout my professional career. There have been long hours spent between work and ASCE, including time away from home on travel and participating at conferences and other events. Yet support from family and friends has been unwavering in helping to cover my responsibilities at home while I have been away and engaged in additional ASCE duties. Thank you family and friends.

I am thankful for the ASCE Student Chapter at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM). During my time at UHM, I was quite reserved and only hung out with a few classmates. With prodding from one of the student chapter officers, I got involved with ASCE and helped our school re-engage with the concrete canoe competition and the Pacific Southwest Conference. It helped me get to know more civil engineering students, many of whom I continue to interact with professionally to this day. Thank you UHM Student Chapter.

I am thankful for civil engineering mentors. I met my first mentor, Lester Fukuda at an ASCE Hawaii Section dinner meeting about a month before graduation. The Hawaiian economy was bad and firms were not hiring many entry-level engineers. After many unsuccessful interviews, including firms and government agencies that I had interned with, I was unsuccessful at lining up a full-time job. However, Lester saw enough raw talent to take a chance on me and hired me after a short interview. During my first month on the job, he sponsored me to attend the next ASCE Hawaii Section dinner meeting and “volunteered” me for the Section’s Hospitality Committee Chair position. It definitely benefitted my career to meet and greet the leaders of the local civil engineering community each month. It also opened the door to future additional involvement in the Section. Lester continues to support me in all my ASCE activities in Hawaii, Region 8 and at the Society-level. Thank you to Lester and all of our mentors.

I am thankful for the Hawaii Section Younger Member Forum (YMF). The YMF had just formed and we were doing a few activities each year. For me, their most impactful activity was their Professional Engineers (PE) Exam Refresher Course. If it wasn't for the availability of that course, I probably would not have passed the PE exam. I eventually paid it forward by joining the YMF and serving as their President and PE Exam Refresher Course Chair. The YMF opened the door to my participation in the Western Regional Younger Member Council (WRYMC) where I first met our current Society Past President Kristina Swallow and other younger leaders in Regions 8 and 9. WRYMC participation allowed me to get involved with the Committee on Younger Members, which led to opportunities to serve on other Society-level committees. Thank you YMF.

I am thankful for the leaders of Region 8, past and present. Being an ASCE leader is not a paid position. In fact, you generally pay financially and with your time to be involved. Timewise it could be three to six years to move through the Branch or Section board or three years to serve as Region Governor or Director. Yet we all do it, and do so happily. Why? It's because we all want to serve and give back to our profession. Thank you Region 8 leaders.

I am thankful for the staff of ASCE. Yes, ASCE is a volunteer driven organization. However, to operate all the student chapters, YMFs, Branches, Sections, Institutes, Regions, Society-level Committees or the Board of Direction requires dedicated full-time staff support at ASCE Headquarters in Reston, VA. Executive Director Tom Smith and his staff work tirelessly to support the membership of ASCE and help implement our ideas. Thank you ASCE staff.

I am thankful for the members of ASCE. Each and every one of you is important to the success of our profession. We all have our own reasons for why we joined and retain our membership in ASCE. Some of you are future leaders and we look forward to you taking on your roles. Some of you are followers and that is very important because leaders are only great with the support of great followers. What is ultimately important is that all of you are members of ASCE because it makes us who we are. Thank you to all ASCE members.

Finally, as we continue to reflect on this season of giving thanks, please consider helping the future of our profession. #GivingTuesday is a global giving movement bringing communities together to support and champion the causes they believe in and the communities in which they live. The ASCE Foundation is attempting to raise \$75,000 for the 2019 Younger Membership Leader Symposium (YMLS) on #GivingTuesday 2018. The YMLS is organized by the Committee on Younger Members. The YMLS had a great impact on my professional development both as a past participant and as a past chair. Please help our Foundation to continue providing professional and personal development opportunities that prepare Younger Members to serve as global leaders, building a better quality of life. For more information and to make a contribution, visit <https://www.ascefoundation.org/ways-to-give/-/givingtuesday/>.

Thank you for being a member of ASCE and for all that you do to help our great profession. #Region8isgreat!!

Mahalo and Aloha,

**Tony C.G. Lau, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE**  
**Society Director, Region 8**

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## Oregon Section Achieves *Dream Big* Milestone

Congratulations to the Oregon Section! Through their special fundraising efforts, every public elementary, middle and high school in the state (some 1075 schools all totaled) will now receive a DVD version of ASCE's *DREAM BIG* movie. What a great way to reach out to young Oregonians who will be the engineers of tomorrow!

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# Utah Section Update

The ASCE Utah Section consists of four branches: Northern Utah, Wasatch Front, Central Utah, and Southern Utah. The Section mainly works in an administrative capacity and most of our activities are done on the Branch level with the exception of the Annual Utah Section meeting, which is held in May or June of each year. The 2019 Annual Section Meeting will be held in Utah County, the heart of our Central Utah Branch.

The 2018 Utah Section Meeting was held in June of this year at Utah State University in Logan, and was attended by ASCE President-Elect Robyn Kemper. We started our meeting with a brunch with Robyn and the Section, Branch, YMF and Institute leaders to have a Q&A session with Robyn. Following the brunch, we welcomed the members from all over the Utah Section and began our meeting. Robyn was the keynote speaker and led a great discussion on how ASCE benefits our industry. Following her comments, the Section awarded Guna Gunalan with the Utah Section Engineer of the Year Award, and then swore in the new officers. The meeting wrapped up with a tour of the Utah State University Water lab to watch the Oroville Dam model in action. It was interesting to watch. We want to give a special thanks to Dr. Michael Johnson for giving us the tour. The Northern Utah Branch continues to provide value to our members in the Cache Valley. They plan and conduct a monthly member's luncheon with technical speakers on a variety of topics. Their most recent presentation was on the Flint Michigan water crisis. The branch also continues to support the Utah State University Student Chapter and recently met with the Senior Design class to discuss the value of membership in ASCE to their careers.

The Wasatch Front Branch has an active Community Giving Committee that plans service projects throughout the year. They are currently planning a fundraiser for a local Sub for Santa program, and an activity at a local school during Engineer's Week in February. The Wasatch Front Branch also holds monthly luncheons for their members with speakers presenting on a variety of topics. They recently heard from the Utah Department of Transportation's Freight Manager on the logistics of moving freight through Utah.

There are exciting things happening in the Central Utah Branch. Utah Valley University (UVU) has added an ABET accredited Civil Engineering Program, and the branch is helping the University begin an ASCE Student Chapter. The Central Utah Branch is also actively seeking new Practitioner Advisors for UVU and BYU to strengthen these student chapters. The Central Utah Branch continues to sponsor a monthly luncheon and speakers for their members. The most recent speakers were from the Central Utah Water Conservancy District and spoke about their asset management program. The Southern Utah Branch has been teaming up with APWA and UCLS to sponsor monthly meetings. ASCE membership numbers are lower in the Southern Utah Branch, and by combining efforts with APWA and UCLS, they are able to increase attendance to the meetings. This has been a very successful partnership. The speaker from the most recent luncheon was Utah Congressman Christ Stewart, who discussed the Federal status of the Lake Powell Pipeline and the Northern Corridor. The luncheon was very well attended.

The Utah Section Younger Member Forum has been working closely with the university student chapters. They are planning a volleyball social with the BYU student chapter, and are co-hosting a resume workshop with the University of Utah student chapter in November. The Utah Section YMF brings a lot of value to our Section.

As you can see, Utah is a great place to be an ASCE member. Not only do we have the greatest snow on earth, but some of the greatest engineers as well. If you ever find yourself in Utah, you are invited to come to one of our branch meetings and meet our wonderful members.

***Craig Friant, P.E. M.ASCE***  
***Utah Section President***

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## Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Region 8 Board of Governors Winter Meeting, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1200, Honolulu, HI 96813, Wednesday, March 6, 2019, Meeting Start Time: 7:30am
- ASCE Region 8 Assembly Winter Meeting, 1132 Bishop Street, Suite TBD, Honolulu, HI 96813, Thursday, March 7, 2019, Meeting Start Time: 7:30 am
- Region 8-9 MRLC (Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders (WSBL), Western Region Younger Member Council (WRYMC) and Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders (WSCL)), Friday, March 8 to Saturday, March 9

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

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