

*"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.

Region 8 held its Assembly Fall Planning Meeting on August 28 and 29. We were unable to meet in person due to the pandemic.

However, instead of cancelling the meeting, the Board of Governors decided to try a virtual meeting to continue to provide value to our local leaders. This was our first time planning a virtual event of this scale. We are appreciative of the Leader Training Committee (LTC) for having a webinar on virtual conference best practices as well as the input we received from other ASCE leaders on how their virtual events went. We utilized

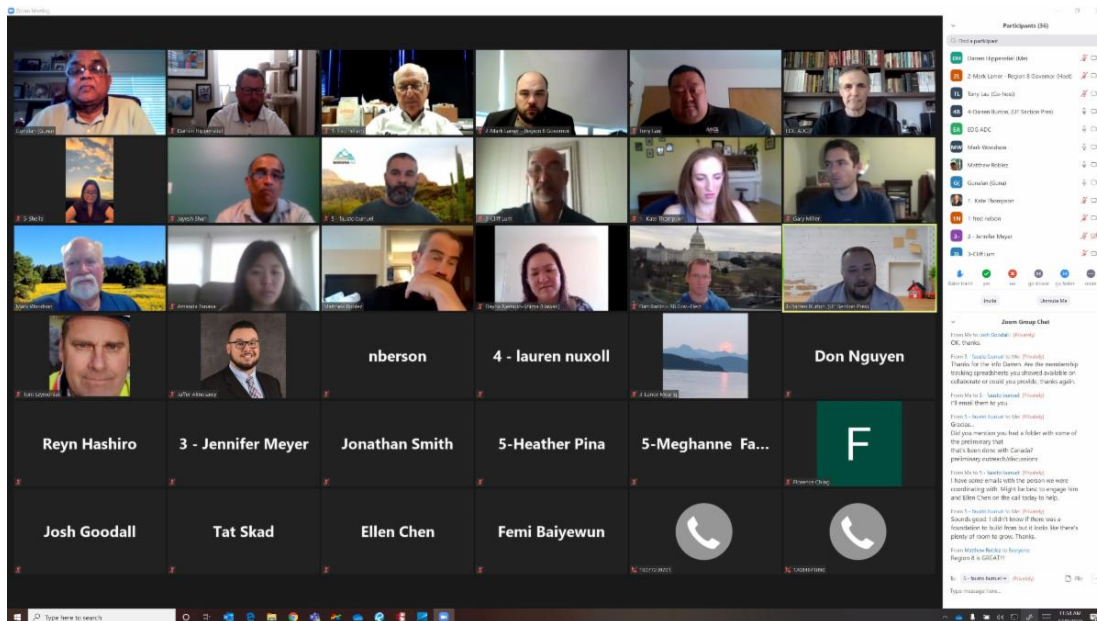
the tips in drafting our program. Still with all the best planning, there are always worries. Are two days of virtual meetings too long? Will we be able to keep attendees attentive for six hours a day? Will people show up knowing that they will be staring at a computer screen for two days. Will we know how to effectively operate Zoom?

Our fears were alleviated. We had a record 50 participants. All 12 Region 8 Sections and WRYMC were represented. The virtual format enabled us to have Society President K.N. Guna Gunalan, Society President-Elect Jean-Louis Briaud, and Society Executive Director Tom Smith participate without needing to travel. We were also able to bring in presenters from throughout the country without funding their travel.

The virtual format enabled us to extend invitations to our Region 8 Canadian members to learn about our domestic Section/Branch structure and other ASCE leadership benefits and nine of them accepted.

We were able to have our popular roundtable discussion on topics of interest to our local leaders using the Zoom breakout room feature. Our roundtable topics and best practice presentations focused on how local leaders are dealing with the current pandemic environment and conducting their annual activities while provide continued value to their members. Thank you to Southern Idaho Section President Lauren Nuxoll, Tacoma-Olympia Section President-Elect Tom Szymoniak, Seattle Section President Henry Haselton and Seattle Section YMF Representative Elyssa Dixon for sharing your Section's Best Practices.

We had many excellent speakers present at our meeting. We normally could not afford to fund their travel cost, but the virtual format allowed them to participate from their hometowns. The diverse range of topics for our leaders included Institutes and Institute Chapters Overview; Members of Society Advancing an Inclusive Culture (MOSAIC) Overview; Legal Issues in the COVID-19 Environment; and Presentation Skills for Engineers. Thanks for Society Director David Odeh, Southern Nevada Branch YMF President Suzy Trabia, ASCE General Counsel Tara Hoke, and Past Region 8 Governor Shoots Veis for your excellent and informative presentations.



### *Region 8 Assembly President's Panel Zoom*

The participants also got an opportunity to interact with a panel consisting of current President Guna, 2013 President Greg DiLoreto and 2016 President Mark Woodson, all Region 8 members. All three shared why they got involved with serving in ASCE and their experiences at various levels of ASCE leadership.



### *Assembly Region 8 Awards Zoom*

Congratulations to the 2019 ASCE Region 8 Award Winners that were presented during the Assembly meeting.



***Ron Iwamoto of the Hawaii Section was selected for the newly renamed Dale Nelson Engineer of the Year Award.***



***Stephanie Templeton of the Arizona Section was selected for the new Kristina L. Swallow Young Engineer of the Year Award.***

*The Small Project of the Year for projects under \$10M was awarded to City of Nyssa, Oregon Water Supply Improvement Project. Owner is the City of Nyssa, Oregon. Designer was HECO Engineers and the Prime Contractor was T. Bailey, Inc.*



*The Large Project of the Year for projects over \$10M was awarded to Keauhou Beach Hotel and Site Demolition, Kahalu'u, North Kona, Hawaii. Owner is Kamehameha Schools. The Designer was Belt Collins Hawaii. The Prime Contractor was Kiewit Building Group.*

If you want to learn more about each of the awards and view the past Region 8 award recipients, visit the Region 8 Awards page at <http://regions.asce.org/region8/awards>. Thanks to all the Governors for their efforts in organizing and implementing our first Region 8 virtual event. Special thanks to Governor Mark Lamer for serving as the Zoom meeting host. His Zoom experience and actions enabled the meeting to run smoothly as we moved from session to session, jumped to and from breakout rooms, returned on time from breaks, and created flexibility between advancing slides or enabling speakers to control their own slides.

While we could conclude that the Assembly's Fall virtual meeting was a success, it is desirable to meet in person. Meeting in person allows for in-person networking before, during and after meetings over drinks, snacks or meals. We also get to embrace the local ambiance of the host Section's city and experience a technical or cultural tour. Therefore, we are planning to hold our 2021 Assembly Winter Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 19 and 20, 2021. The in-person meeting is subject to the pandemic conditions being safe enough to travel. At least we know that we can be successful in hosting a virtual meeting again if necessary.

If Region 8 Sections, Branch, Younger Member Groups and Student Chapters are interested in borrowing Region 8's copy of Zoom Pro for local ASCE events, please let us know.

As we enter the end of ASCE fiscal year 2020, there will be transitions of officers and committee chairs for many of your Sections, Branch and Younger Member Groups. The Leader Training Committee has a resources page with content that you may find useful. The content includes but is not limited to suggested officer installation script, Section/Branch Operations Handbook, Section Financial Manual, Section/Branch Best

Practices Guide, and links to webinars that could help you plan out your activities for fiscal year 2021. Please visit [http://regions.asce.org/leader-training-committee/resources?\\_ga=2.127031693.1837204902.1502983697-531902126.1419979040](http://regions.asce.org/leader-training-committee/resources?_ga=2.127031693.1837204902.1502983697-531902126.1419979040).

A reminder that Governor Kate Thompson, Governor Lance Mearig and I will be finishing up our respective officer terms in September 2021. The Region 8 Governor and Society Director positions have three-year terms that begin in October 2021. Candidates can be from any State in our Region except for Arizona because they already have the maximum allotted two positions on the Region 8 Board of Governors (BOG). The BOG desire more diversity on the Board. Desirable diversity characteristics include female, ethnicity, Younger Member leadership experience, and active Institute participation or experience. We haven't had a candidate from Seattle, Tacoma-Olympia or Inland Empire Sections recently. Candidates for Region 8 Governor or Director must submit their nomination papers to the Region 8 Nominations Committee Chair by December 1, 2020. If you are interested in serving the Society as a Region 8 Governor or Society Director, please let me know.

If you are interested in having me participate in your local virtual events or strategic planning sessions, please send me an invite. The depth and breadth of my ASCE experience could be helpful to you and your group.

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 be diligent in washing your hands and wearing your mask for the benefit of others around you and yourself.

Mahalo and Aloha,  
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## Director At-Large



Since October 2017 I have had the honor of serving as one of two At-Large Directors on the ASCE Board of Direction. My term will be up this October. As I live in Region 8, the Region Governors have asked me to write a brief column on my Board experience.

The current composition of the Board provides for two At-Large Directors and 16 elected Directors and Officers for a total membership of 18. The purpose of the At-Large positions is to give ASCE the opportunity to bring subject matter expertise and perspective to the Board not otherwise present in the elected membership. I was selected by the Board because they wanted an executive from a large public sector agency to balance the academic, consulting, and small agency backgrounds of other members.

Prior to joining the Board of Direction, I served ASCE in a variety of roles. Between 1983

and 1998 I served on the Oregon Section Board, as Oregon Section President, and as Chair of the Pacific Northwest Council (The old Pacific Northwest Council and Pacific Southwest Council were replaced by Regions 8 and 9 in ASCE's current structure). In 1998 I moved to Western Colorado and from there to rural Idaho and Montana. The rural locations made it difficult to serve effectively in the regional organizations of ASCE. For example, simply attending a Colorado Section meeting required a six-hour round trip across several mountain passes.

I was able to serve ASCE on various national policy committees, participate in writing four national ASCE Infrastructure Report Cards, and chair the Development Council of the Transportation and Development Institute. Immediately prior to my selection as At-Large Director I was serving as Chair of the ASCE Public Policy Committee.

I believe that my experience and perspective helped the Board of Direction "think big" during a challenging time for our organization. We launched the *Future World Vision* initiative, helped refocus the *Raise the Bar* initiative into *Engineer Tomorrow*, overhauled our Code of Ethics, and made significant advances in the areas of sustainability and equity and inclusion. We also began to address the decline in dues paying members and the relatively low percentage of Student Members remaining with ASCE after graduation.

I am particularly interested in engaging Younger Members of ASCE in Society leadership. At my suggestion, the Board assigned the At-Large Directors as liaisons to the Committee on Younger Members. I have enjoyed that role immensely, and I'm very happy that the individual taking my At-Large Director position at the end of my term is a Younger Member.

When I step down from the Board in October, I will also be stepping up to serve as an elected member of the Transportation and Development Institute Board of Governors. With luck my four-year term will include service as Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Past President.

Roger M. Millar, PE, FASCE, FAICP  
At-Large Director

## Arizona Section Update

Much like the rest of Region 8 and the rest of the world for that matter, the Arizona Section has had to manage change in an ever-changing environment as a result of the pandemic. While there have certainly been challenges with this change, I personally prefer to look for the inevitable opportunities that come available with change.

An excellent example of this is the work that our Phoenix Branch has continued to put into virtual meetings through the leadership of branch president Larry Hanson. The Phoenix Branch has successfully:

1. Replaced monthly luncheons with "Lunch with the Branch" virtual event starting in July 2020.
2. Conducted a Young Engineer Leadership Workshop, October 2019. 23 attendees.
3. Conducted a half-day "Sustainability Presentation", August 2020. Virtual event.

- Consisted of 8 presenters presenting on either Life Cycle Assessment or Sustainable Infrastructure. Teamed with Arizona State University. 43 attendees.
4. Presented at the Branch level, Government Civil Engineer of the Year award, and Small and Large Projects of the awards, March 2020.

In addition to these events, one of the other opportunities the Phoenix Branch has opened up is sharing these events with some of our other smaller branches throughout the state. While these branches are geographically separated it has provided an opportunity for these events to be shared throughout the state.

Beyond the branch level the Arizona Section, under the leadership of Jose Aguilar, has been working diligently over the last year and half to update and release the [2020 ASCE Arizona Infrastructure Report Card](#) from our last release in 2015.

In preparation for the release, which occurred on September 16<sup>th</sup>, Jose also scheduled and held an Arizona Government Relations/Public Relations University that was very well attended by members from all over the state. All in attendance are looking forward to the opportunities and discussions this creates with the communities and elected officials throughout the State.

While the AZ Section, and many of the branches, have had to cancel many of our planned and scheduled events we look forward to the coming year and the opportunities it brings to help us grow and serve our members in new ways.

Arizona Section Update

Gary Miller, ASCE Arizona Section President-Elect

## Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events

- Annual Convention, October 28-30, 2020 Virtual
- Deadline to Submit Nominations for Society Director & Region 8 Governor Candidacy, December 1, 2020
- Region 8 Board of Governors Winter Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, February 18, 2021 (Tentative)
- Region 8 Assembly Winter Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, February 19-20, 2021 (Tentative)
- Society Legislative Fly-in, Washington, DC , March 2021
- Pacific Southwest Student Conference, University of California, Los Angeles, March 25-27, 2021
- Rocky Mountain Student Conference, Brigham Young University, April 8-10, 2021
- Mid-Pacific Student Conference, California State University, Fresno, April 13-16, 2021
- Pacific Northwest Student Conference, University of Washington, April 15-17, 2021

- Regions 8 and 9 MRLC, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Anaheim, Orange County, CA, July 9-10, 2021

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

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