

## ASCE Region 8 - April 2017 Newsletter



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

Greetings Everybody!

April is here and the Regional Student Conferences are in process. The last two (Pacific Northwest Regional Conference and Mid-Pacific Student Conference) are being held April 20 - 22, 2017, hosted at Boise State University, Idaho, and Chico State University, California, respectively. I will be attending the Pacific Northwest Conference, and looking forward to the activities (Concrete Canoe presentations and racing; Steel Bridge presentations, construction and testing; Technical Paper Presentations; Surveying Competition; Bocce Ball and Dodge Ball (team fun and maybe a little stress relief); and Environmental).

The first two Regional Student Conferences (Rocky Mountain Student Conference and Pacific Southwest Student Conference) were held April 6-8, 2017, hosted at University of Utah, Salt Lake City and University of California, Irvine, respectively. It was a delightful opportunity to attend the Rocky Mountain Conference at the University of Utah. The University of Utah was the very best of hosts to everybody. The students of the Colleges/Universities attending provided a view as to the boundless future that these young women and men will be contributing to the Civil Engineering profession.

Next month's Region 8 Newsletter should have the results of the four Student Conferences. You may be wondering why the Students' Chapters within Region 8 are not all within one Regional Student Conference. The quick answer is that the Student Regional boundaries do not align with those of Region 8, and this is the same for the other geographical boundaries of ASCE.

Onto another subject, I would like to welcome those ASCE Members that are residing in Canada, and more particularly the Western Region of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE) which includes the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. As I have mentioned in earlier Newsletters, CSCE's Western Region ASCE Members have been assigned to ASCE Region 8. This is the first Newsletter that that is being sent to their ASCE member mailing address. I look forward to hearing from our ASCE members in Canada and them being involved in Region 8. The document, "[ASCE Region 8 at a Glance](#)", provides additional information. Please [contact me](#) if you have comments or questions and I look forward to developing an opportunity to meet with our ASCE members residing in Canada.

Activities at ASCE have been rather calm other than for those members and staff that are working the 2018 budget. The budget will be presented for review and approval at the ASCE Board of Direction meeting in July.

In closing, I would like to bring to your attention to Tom Smith, ASCE Executive Director, "[March 2017 - Letter](#)". Tom's letter is worth reading as it provides additional information concerning ASCE.

Do Not Forget To VOTE: ASCE's Electronic Voting will start on May 1, 2017 and end on June 1, 2017. Last year, Region 8 had more members voting than any of the other Regions. Let's do it again.

For your information:

Region 8 will have three Governor candidates on the ASCE ballot. They are:

Florence Ching (Hawaii Section),  
Fred Nelson (Phoenix Section), and  
Bob Turner (Inland Empire Section).

Also on the ballot;

ASCE President Elect candidates:  
Robin Kemper (Region 1), and  
Guna Gunalan (Utah Section, Region 8).

Thank you for being a member of ASCE.

***Dale A. Nelson, P.E., F.ASCE***  
Director, Region 8 ASCE  
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## Arizona Section Update

Greetings from Arizona where Spring is in full flux; the mountain towns are finally above freezing at night, and at the same time, the desert valleys are hosting their annual office pools as to when the first 100 degree day will be. Spring is also the half way point for our fiscal year and a great opportunity to take stock in all the great things that have happened so far.

The Arizona Section closed last year, and at the same time, kicked off the New Year (fiscally of course), with an excellent Arizona Section Fall Conference which was co-hosted with the ASHE Phoenix Sonoran Section.



*Figure 1: Sabrina Ballard Accepting 1st Place for Student Research (Courtesy of Mark Lamer, PE)*

The Fall 2016 conference was very successful and we were fortunate to have the largest attendance, just over 230 registered attendees, seen at an Arizona Section Annual Conference in quite a while. The theme for the conference was innovation and featured 30 technical sessions across all the disciplines of civil engineering, an impromptu design competition and a technical research poster presentation competition for the students from the three state universities, and addresses by both the ASCE Society President Mark Woodson, and the ASHE National President Larry Ridlen. The conference went extremely well and paid for a \$2500 scholarships for an active ASCE student from each of our state universities. We are already in the thick of planning our 2017 conference around the theme of "Stewardship and Leadership", we anticipate the 2017 conference to be even better than the last one.



*Figure 2: Student Impromptu (Courtesy of Mark Lamer, PE)*

This year has seen many different events organized and run by the sections branches or YMF groups. A featured event is the dedication of the All American Canal System as an ASCE recognized National Historic Landmark this past December. This event was planned by both the Arizona Section's Yuma Branch and San Diego Section's Imperial Valley Branch. For those of you that don't know, this canal system and its headworks is what redirects Colorado River water for the Imperial Irrigation District to supply water to more than 600,000 acres of agricultural land in southern Arizona and California for some of the most productive land in the US.



Figure 3: All American Canal Plaque (Courtesy of Fred Nelson, PE)

The dedication ceremony was well attended with approximately 80 people including representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation, Imperial Irrigation District, City of Yuma, as well as ASCE representatives from the society, Region 8 and Region 9. It was really great to see the Imperial Valley and Yuma Branches work across state and region lines to bring this activity together and to get the canal recognized.



Figure 4: All American Canal Tour (Courtesy of Fred Nelson, PE)

"Dream Big" was also a "BIG" hit with the section this year (pun intended). Both the Northern Arizona Branch and the Southern Arizona branch have already hosted viewings for students for more than 1,100 students (and counting). The Southern Arizona Branch and Southern Arizona YMF have arranged for more than 100 students to watch "Dream Big" in Southern Arizona so far with more showings planned for a run at the Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium in Tucson, and the Northern Arizona branch arranged for about 1,000 students to watch "Dream Big" in Northern Arizona in a single day event at the Flagstaff Orpheum Theatre, with another showing tentatively planned at the Flagstaff Festival of Science.



*Figure 5: Northern Arizona Dream Big (Courtesy of Mark Lamer, PE)*

In addition to the ongoing work of the Northern and Southern Arizona groups, the Phoenix Branch and Phoenix YMF have arranged for "Dream Big" to be carried at the Arizona Science Center for daily showings from April 21st through the end of June. More information on the showings can be found at the [Arizona Science Center](#).

The members of the Arizona Section have been extremely busy and continue working on all kinds of other fund raisers, K-12 outreach, volunteering, and section/branch activities. It has been a busy year thus far and more is to come. For more information on past and ongoing activities of the Arizona Section check out [our website](#), and in particular, our calendar and newsletters. If you are ever down here and want to catch up, or want to get some more information on what we are doing, feel free to contact one of our officers so we can connect.

*Mark Lamer, P.E., M.Eng., M.ASCE  
Arizona Section President*

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## **Outstanding Advocacy of the Year Award Winner: Tor Andersen, P.E., M.ASCE, Alaska Section**

For a third consecutive year, ASCE Government Relations presented two [Outstanding Advocate of the Year Awards](#). The award recognizes an individual Key Contact as well as an ASCE Section or Branch who has made strides in engaging their member(s) of Congress and/or state legislators on [ASCE's Priority Issues](#) and actively promoted the [Key Contact Program](#).

This year's Individual Award was given to **Tor Anderzen, P.E., M.ASCE** from the Alaska Section. Tor has been very involved in ASCE advocacy efforts in recent years, and was especially active over the past year. He has not only built relationships with his legislators at the state and federal level, but he was also the champion for the Report Card for Alaska's Infrastructure that was prepared in 2016. He recently became one of ASCE's "State Advocacy Captains" and has worked to further engage other ASCE members through this role, and by supporting and promoting the Key Contact Program

*Lawrence M. Magura, P.E., D.WRE, M.ASCE  
Region 8 Governor*

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## 2017 Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize Award Winner: Dr. Mikhail V. Chester, Ph.D., A.M.ASCE

**Dr. Mikhail V. Chester, Ph.D., A.M.ASCE** from the Phoenix Branch of the Arizona Section has been selected by the Committee on Technical Advancement to receive the **2017 Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize** *"For his pioneering work in the area of lifecycle effects on infrastructure decisions and for resilient infrastructure design for extreme events."*

Carolina Albornoz, Aff.M.ASCE  
Administrator, Geographic Services

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## 2017 Normal Medal Award Winner: Dr. Steven L. Kramer, Ph.D, P.E., M.ASCE

**Dr. Steven L. Kramer, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE** from the Seattle Section has been selected by the Society Awards Committee to receive the **2017 Norman Medal** *"For the paper, "Empirical Model for Estimation of the Residual Strength of Liquefied Soil," Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering, September 2015."*

Carolina Albornoz, Aff.M.ASCE  
Administrator, Geographic Services

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## 2017 Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement Winner: Ms. Courtney L. Davis, P.E., M.ASCE

**Ms. Courtney L. Davis, P.E., M.ASCE** from the Seattle Section has been selected by the Committee on Younger Members to receive the **2017 Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement** *"For professional achievement in service to the advancement of the profession, evidence of technical competence, high character and integrity, and contributions to public service outside their career."*

Carolina Albornoz, Aff.M.ASCE  
Administrator, Geographic Services

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## ASCE Members Carry Infrastructure Investment Message to the Hill

Despite a late season burst of winter weather, more than 200 ASCE members from 49 states, including Region 8 Director Dale Nelson, Governors Seth Olsen and Larry Magura, descended on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, March 15th to advocate for infrastructure, and the civil engineering community. Armed with their everyday civil engineering experiences, issues

briefings from the ASCE Government Relations team, and insight from keynote speakers, Fly-In attendees spent Wednesday afternoon advocating for transportation, water and water resources infrastructure as well as maintaining tax exemptions for municipal bonds.

Before venturing to Capitol Hill on Wednesday, members spent Tuesday receiving advocacy tips and tools from Brad Fitch, CEO of the [Congressional Management Foundation](#) and took a deep dive into the [2017 Infrastructure Report Card](#) with current Society President Norma Jean Mattei, Ph.D, P.E., F.SEI, F.ASCE and Greg DiLoreto, P.E., M.ASCE, President '13.

This year we had two congressional speakers stop in to inspire members to carry the message of infrastructure investment to their elected officials. [Rep. David McKinley \(R-WV-1\)](#) and [Rep. Earl Blumenauer \(D-OR-3\)](#) provided insights on what legislators hope to hear from constituents, and how best to persuade their colleagues to support infrastructure funding.

ASCE members meet with roughly 260 congressional offices during the Fly-in. You can check out pictures and see what attendees had to say by using #asce2dc on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and don't forget to add your voice to theirs by sending an [email to Congress](#) in support of infrastructure investment.

*Lawrence M. Magura, P.E., D.WRE, M.ASCE*  
*Region 8 Governor*

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## Congressman David McKinley, P.E., F.ASCE Addresses Fly-In Attendees

[Representative David McKinley \(R-WV-1\)](#) kicked off the 2017 Legislative Fly-In by addressing the assembled ASCE members. He brought the unique perspective as being only one of two practicing engineers in Congress, and the only civil engineer. McKinley holds his civil engineering degree from Purdue University. He established McKinley and Associates, an architectural and structural engineering firm, which he ran for over the 44 years prior to running for Congress.

In his remarks, he noted that the current state of the infrastructure represents a failure for the United States as a society. In his speech, he showed slides of his recent travels to Abu Dubai and China, and he noted some of the engineering feats that he saw in both places - noting that we are no longer the envy of the world. He further stated that if we are not careful, we will fall further behind. In addition to infrastructure, Rep. McKinley stated that Congress should focus its efforts on furthering STEM Education to ensure the best and brightest pursue science and engineering careers; and research to ensure that we continue to improve our materials and processes to get the most for our infrastructure investments.

*Lawrence M. Magura, P.E., D.WRE, M.ASCE*  
*Region 8 Governor*

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## Representative Earl Blumenauer Champions Infrastructure Investment

[Representative Earl Blumenauer \(D-OR\)](#) added his perspective by addressing the Fly-In attendees on the second day of the event. Representative Blumenauer is a twelve-term member of Congress who has devoted his entire career to public service, including service as a city councilman, county commissioner, and 10-years as Portland's Commissioner of Public Works. In 2008, ASCE recognized his passion and leadership on engineering issues by electing him as an Honorary Fellow of ASCE.

In his remarks, Blumenauer noted that infrastructure is or at least should be, a bi-partisan issue. Democrats and Republicans agree more than disagree, they just talk about it in different terms. It is up to ASCE and other advocates to make the case for infrastructure and to pressure Congress to support infrastructure with real action, not just words. He held up the [2017 Infrastructure Report Card](#) and noted that it is a great tool, and that we need to continuously remind our members of Congress that it is there and that it is unacceptable.

*Lawrence M. Magura, P.E., D.WRE, M.ASCE  
Region 8 Governor*

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## Team Members Needed

Are you a history buff and interested in researching more about the Lewis and Clark Expedition land survey from St Louis to the Oregon Coast?

The ASCE Lewis and Clark History and Heritage Project needs your help. We are looking for team members interested in researching, documenting and writing about the Lewis and Clark land survey in their state. We are also looking for team members to research, document and write about the land survey methods, instrumentation, innovation, and impact.

If this sounds interesting to you, please contact [Shoots Veis](#) or call him at 406-697-7128 for more information about the project and how to get involved.

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## Region 8 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Environment and Water Resources Institute (EWRI) Annual Water Congress, Sacramento, CA, May 22 - 25, 2017

ASCE Region 8 Fall Assembly and Planning Meeting, Springdale (Zion NP), UT, Sept. 7 - 9, 2017

ASCE Arizona Section Annual State Conference, Phoenix, AZ, Sept. 15, 2017

ASCE National Convention, New Orleans, LA, Oct. 8 - 11, 2017

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



STAY CONNECTED:

