

ASCE Region 5 Director's Letter
August 2, 2016

Dear Region 5 Members,

At its most recent meeting, the ASCE Board debated a host of key civil engineering and ASCE issues and set direction on how to advance the profession and strengthen the organization in the coming year and beyond. The Board of Directions had deliberations on strategic initiatives, adopting new policies, and passing a budget, among other items on our agenda.

As part of its fiscal year 2017 budget, the Board approved a new print ASCE News newsletter that will be mailed to members 10 times per year in conjunction with Civil Engineering magazine. Beginning in November 2016, this publication will deliver timely highlights of ASCE activities in a vibrant, brief format that provides both at-a-glance updates and guides readers to more content that can be found online.

The Board continues to debate how best to align the Society geographically and to most effectively constitute itself as a Board. After studying options for realignment, the Board elected to retain the Society's existing Region structure, alignment, and representation, for the present. A new task committee will be formed to examine a number of proposals that were raised during the Board's discussion.

The Society's Member Communities Committee (MCC) outlined its strategic planning process and received endorsement of its mission to enable members "to advance the profession and enhance their career growth by integrating member support and promoting member engagement." MCC oversees such successful programs as the Multi-Region Leadership Conferences and younger member and student programs.

The Board heard progress on ASCE's Global Strategy, which aims to enhance ASCE's global image, global voice, and global footprint; reserve a seat at the table for ASCE in global civil engineering forums; and expand products and services for international members. Currently 25,870 of ASCE's more than 150,000 members live outside the U.S.

The ASCE Public Policy Committee (PPC) held its strategic discussion with the Board, highlighting that ASCE successfully advocated for infrastructure issues on Capitol Hill, such as the passage and signing into law of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act last year, and progress toward passing a new Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The Senate WRDA bill would authorize \$9 billion for new projects and studies at the Army Corps of Engineers, add a dam rehabilitation component to the National Dam Safety Program, establish a new Water Infrastructure Trust Fund, and provide \$220 million in aid for Flint, Michigan.

Are there exciting programs and events going on in your local Section, Branch, Student Chapter, YM Group, or Institute Chapter? I would like for everyone to know how much success and fun we have in Region 5! Please consider submitting an item for the Region 5 News. This is the place for photos from tours, shout outs to award winners, news of successful programs and events, and all the great things happening around Region 5. It's easy to submit news items with this link: <https://asceforms.wufoo.com/forms/x1ygbyn217de85a/>.

The Purpose of Region 5 is Advancing the Profession by: Inspiring Members, Creating Excitement, and Promoting Excellence in Civil Engineering. Your Region 5 Board of Governors

is always open to hearing about what's important to you. If you have something you want to share, please feel free to contact me at any time. I will be happy to address any issues or concerns at monthly BOG calls. Your Director and Governors are here to help you and make your group successful. Please let us know how we can help!

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* Remember, the R5BoG is made up of seven Governors who are willing and able to help:

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