

REGION 5 NEWS

The Purpose of Region 5 is Advancing the Profession by:

- Inspiring Members
- Creating Excitement
- Promoting Excellence in Civil Engineering



Issue 1
Summer 2018



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

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I recently read an article that was talking about the fact that parents only have 18 summers with their children. It seems obvious, because after 18 summers, every human being becomes an adult, in physical age at least, but it is an often overlooked obvious fact. We all have the tendency to get busy and push things back – “next summer we’ll get to the cabin, I promise” and other similar statements have been told by parents in modern times for far too long.

Fortunately, for those of us in the South, summers aren’t the only time that the weather is nice, so we often take advantage of this time to “beat the heat” and slow down a little. We aren’t scrambling in the 6 months of the year that the ground isn’t frozen to install that pipeline and we don’t have 17 hours of sunlight to finish those bridge plans. We’d rather head to the beach and take a load off.

That being said, it is also the time for a number of Sections to have their summer meetings and while we’re relaxing at the beach with family, there is a whole lot of planning going on at the student chapter, younger member group, Branch, Section and, of course, Region level.

At the Society level, we are really taking a look in the mirror. The Society has still not returned to the pre-recession membership and profit levels, despite the economy being hot. For the last couple years, we’ve had great profits on our investment portfolio, but we’ve used those profits to cover holes in the operating budget to balance our annual budget. The Board knows that this isn’t sustainable. The Board also knows that every project and program that ASCE executes on is very important to some (or all) of our membership. We were asked the fundamental question, why are you an ASCE Member? I, in turn ask you to think about that same question. The Board knows it needs to take bold action. We are exploring as many options as ideas that originate from the membership. We’ve even created a “bold idea” thread in our Board Collaborate Group to share with senior staff to explore idea viability. If you have a big idea, no matter how off the wall, feel free to send it my way, pmoore@chenmoore.com.

Region 5 Board of Governors

Our Region 5 Board of Governors is here to connect you, the ASCE members of Region 5, to ASCE at the Society level. Please contact your Governors at the addresses linked below; we want to hear from you!

- **Peter Moore, P.E., ENV SP, F. ASCE**, R5 Director, Florida Section
- **Jeffrey J. Earhart, P.E., F. ASCE** R5 Governor, Florida Section
- **Steven Goldstein, P.E., F. ASCE** R5 Governor, Florida Section
- **Katherine A. McLeod Gurd, P.E., F. ASCE** R5 Governor, Georgia Section
- **Barbara Lehman, P.E., M. ASCE** R5 At Large Governor, Alabama Section
- **Ali Mustapha, P.E., F. ASCE** R5 Governor, Louisiana Section
- **Lawren Pratt, P.E., LEED AP, M. ASCE** R5 Governor, Alabama Section
- **Shelly Watson, E.I., M. ASCE** R5 Governor, Mississippi Section

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Region 5 Website

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MEET YOUR GOVERNORS



Steven Goldstein, P.E.

Steve was born in Queens, New York City and grew up in Albany, NY. He has a Bachelor of Science, College of Engineering, Masters of Engineering and a MBA from Cornell University. He moved to Miami, FL in 1990 and has worked as a Structural Engineer, currently at BCC Engineering. Steve's involvement with ASCE includes serving as Miami-Dade Branch President in 2004-2005, Florida Section President in 2011-2012 and currently as a Region 5 Governor. He is also involved in Florida Structural Engineers Association, American Concrete Institute and Florida Engineering Society where he has held offices in each. Steve is an avid traveler and enjoys reading, as well as serving as Vice President for his synagogue.

REGION 5 INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD UPDATE

ASCE released the 2017 Infrastructure Report card in March of 2017. We hope you are using this valuable tool in your outreach and engagement activities.

The Louisiana Section also released their [infrastructure report card](#) in 2017. The Section rated their overall infrastructure as a D+.

The Georgia Section is currently hard at work updating their state report card, last released in 2014. The Georgia Section anticipates a January 14, 2019 release date in conjunction with the first week of the State Legislative Session.

REGION GRANT UPDATE

In 2017, Region 5 kicked off a Grant program. Our goals have been to support Civil Engineering education and outreach opportunities and Section and Branch leadership development. Some of the funding we have awarded has gone to the below

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Sections and Branches.

- East Central Branch, Florida Section - Dream Big Screening Event
- Tallahassee Branch, Florida Section - Dream Big Screening Event
- Montgomery Branch, Alabama Section – Networking event with Student Chapters and Younger Member leaders.
- Mississippi State University Student Chapter of ASCE in cooperation with the Mississippi Section of ASCE – Dream Big Screening Event
- Georgia Section - Dream Big Screening Event
- Palm Beach, Florida Section - Dream Big Screening Event
- Jackson Branch, Mississippi Section – Civil Engineering Landmark Dedication and Dream Big Screening Event
- Shreveport Branch, Louisiana Section – Civil Engineering outreach program

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS

The **Mississippi State University** student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers proudly boasts about their concrete canoe team. They have won their regional competition for the past four years, attending the National Concrete Canoe Competition (NCCC) three of those four years. The team has continued to improve each year, with the 2018 competition, hosted by San Diego State University, being no exception. The team placed 14th at the NCCC, their highest finish to date. The final placement in each of the four equally scored categories was 11th in the design paper, 18th in the oral presentation, 14th in the final product display, and 9th in the races. The coed sprint team finished 5th, and the men's sprint team finished 6th. In addition to placing within the top ten in any category for the first time, the team also constructed their lightest boat to date, weighing in at 198 lbs after losing 4 lbs after traveling cross-country through dry desert heat.

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MSU Team with the Maroon Pearl

FINDING HISTORY IN THE REGION

On May 4th, Region 5 gained a new Civil Engineering landmark with the dedication of the Augusta Canal. The **Augusta Canal**, built in 1845 as a source of power, water and transportation, is the only intact industrial canal in the American South in continuous use. By 1847 the first factories – a saw and grist mill and the Augusta Factory-were built, the first of many that would eventually line the Canal. Boom years followed as massive factories including the Enterprise, King and Sibley textile mills, the Lombard Ironworks and many others opened or expanded. Gradually Augusta's factories converted from canal-driven hydro-mechanical power to electrical power and moved away from the canal area, but the canal remains the City's drinking water source and a recreation center.

In recent years, the former Enterprise Mill has been revived after years of neglect as an office and residential complex, and now houses the Augusta Canal National Heritage Discovery Center. Its exhibits and artifacts depict Canal construction and mill life and remind Augustans and visitors alike of the progress, problems and promise of the Augusta Canal.

Also, the Jackson Branch dedicated the **Mississippi River Basin model** on May 19th. The Mississippi River Basin model, located in Jackson, Mississippi, is a scale replica of the Mississippi River Basin. The site, which

sprawls over 200 acres, was originally built by German prisoners-of-war who were housed in a camp located in nearby Clinton, Mississippi. The model was an empirical scientific experiment that, in the time before computer models could efficiently perform complicated numerical analyses, would determine how the mighty Mississippi River could be contained to protect citizens and assets such as those in the Mississippi Delta.

The site in Jackson is the largest and most encompassing physical model in the world. It has been called one of the most successful experiments in hydraulic engineering ever constructed.

The model required one million cubic yards of soil and utilized ten foot square concrete panels with the topography meticulously hand shaped into the concrete. The project encompassed (to scale) 41% of the land area of the United States and 15,000 miles of river.

SECTION ROUND UP Alabama

The joint Alabama Section ASCE and Alabama Chapter APWA meeting was a success. There were approximately 175 registrants, 33 exhibitors, and 33 sponsors that attended the technical presentations, the annual golf tournament, and the family seafood dinner. The Alabama Section Board voted to grant each of the six Branches within Alabama \$200 towards public school outreach – specifically for the purchase of Dream Big DVDs / toolkits. With the Society match, this effort will provide Dream Big DVDs to 480 more schools in Alabama.

Florida

The ASCE Florida Section held its 2018 Annual Conference on July 12 and 13 at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort in St. Petersburg. More than 250 members attended. The theme of this year's conference was Innovative Infrastructure. The conference, which in previous years was a 1 ½ day

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event, was expanded to two full days to provide additional opportunities for continuing education. The conference kicked off on Thursday morning with a choice of three field trips to local construction projects, including the reconstruction of the iconic St. Petersburg Pier. Following the field trips, multiple technical sessions were offered in six tracks: Structural, Geotechnical, Professional Development, Utilities, Transportation and Water & Environmental. The highlight of the conference was the Friday Awards and Installation Luncheon. Following a keynote address by FDOT District 7 Secretary David Gwynn, the Section recognized the middle school and school students who won the Engineering Encounters Bridge Design Contest, which had been held during the conference. Section awards were presented, along with the presentation of Region 5's Engineer of the Year award to Jose Acosta. The luncheon concluded with former Society President Kathy Caldwell installing the 2018-2019 Officers, led by President Rachel Haeseler. There were also plenty of opportunities for networking and socializing. In addition to the cocktail receptions held at the end of each day, the Section's Younger Members organized an evening event at the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club.



Florida Section – Officer Installation

Georgia

The Georgia Section held their Annual Meeting on Friday, August 24th. The Section hosted Robin Kemper, ASCE President-Elect. At this event, the 2018-2019 officers were installed and annual awards were bestowed. The below individuals and projects

were recognized:

- S.R. 21 at I-95 Diverging Diamond Interchange (GDOT, Wolverton & RB Baker) - Georgia Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement, Large Project.
- Sun Valley Drive Extension, Phase I (City of Roswell, VHB, AEC, Inc., & Vertical Earth) – Georgia Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement, Small Project
- Yanmar America EVO Training Facility (Yanmar America, Breedlove land Planning, Croft & Assoc., & Carroll Daniel Construction) – Georgia Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement, Natural Environment
- Kelly Farabee, PE, PTOE, M. ASCE, Wolverton – Young Engineer of the Year
- Lenor Bromberg, PE, F.ASCE, City of Roswell – Civil Engineer of the Year
- Steve McCutcheon, Ph.D, PE, DWRE, F.EWRI, F.ASCE- President's Award
- Rebecca Shelton PE, F.ASCE – President's Award
- Annie Blissit, PE, Env. SP – President's Award
- Stuart Moring, PE, F. ASCE – President's Award

Louisiana

The Louisiana Section held their Annual Meeting September 21. At that time, the new officers were installed and awards were given. ASCE Past President, Dr. Norma Jean Mattei, PhD, attended the festivities and installed the new officers.

The Awards Luncheon was well attended and the recipients of the Section's 2018 awards were: Matthew Redmon, PE, Outstanding Young Civil Engineer; Ronald L. Schumann Jr., PE, Outstanding Civil Engineer; Richard A. Van Wootten, PE, Life Achievement; Stephanie C. Bayne, PE, Outreach, Dr. Clinton S. Willson, PhD, PE, Educator of the Year; Joe E. "Butch" Ford, PE, President's Medal, Ronald J. Rodi, PE, Om P. Dixit PE, and David S. Huval, Sr., PE, Wall of Fame Awards. Louisiana Tech is hosting the Deep South Conference for the student chapters on March 28-30, 2019.

Mississippi

The Mississippi Section held their Annual Meeting on September 6 and 7 in Vicksburg, Mississippi. ASCE Past President, Norma Jean Mattei, Ph.D, P.E., and

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ASCE Region 5 Past Director, Bill Grogan, Ph.D., P.E. delivered keynote presentations. The meeting was well attended and included a tour of the Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) campus. New officers were installed and awards were given during the dinner reception. The recipients of the Section's 2018 awards were: Sarah McEwen, P.E., Young Engineer of the Year and Sadik Khan, Ph.D., P.E., Engineer of the Year.

Through fundraising and the ASCE match, the Section was able to secure Dream Big DVDs for all elementary, middle, and high schools in the state. The Section is currently updating their Infrastructure Report Card for a release later this year.

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico is the new member of Region 5. The island is still recovering from the wrath of Hurricane Maria in 2017. While power has been restored to almost all of the island, there is still a lot of recovery ahead. The Governors of Region 5 are looking forward to having contact and representation from its newest member.

News from Board of Direction

The ASCE Board of Direction met July 12-13, 2018 in Charleston, South Carolina. This was a normal business meeting for the Board with several valuable topics discussed in the remainder of the report. The concept behind this meeting was to focus on the topic of "Deliver and Increase Member Value", so a number of the sessions related to this topic and the theme permeated all discussions.

The first day of the Board meeting included a presentation by Jim Newsome III, the President and CEO of the South Carolina Ports Authority. His presentation welcomed us to Charleston and continued on the theme of thinking differently. We also heard from Sarah Sladek, the author of the book, "The End of Membership as We Know It", who purports that people no longer join professional organizations out of the same obligation they once did – they do it for a membership value proposition. This led to a number of great conversations, eventually in the challenge I mentioned above.

The last business item was a panel discussion on Member

Value from three committees (Diversity and Inclusion, Member Communities and Public Policy) as well and the Construction Institute. In each case, the groups discussed the important work that they do and its place in ASCE and in the greater world.

After the business items, the Board was invited on a tour of the Boeing Facility in Charleston. It is the location of the manufacturing of the aft section and the assembly of the final product for the 787 Dreamliner. Here's a fun fact, Charleston is one of only three locations in the world where wide bodies (more than one aisle) aircraft are assembled! The tour was fascinating of course, but the bigger message was the idea of partnerships – between Boeing and the State of South Carolina for sure – but in a larger sense, from engineering to raw materials to manufacturing to assembly, these are truly global products requiring great communication and understanding. What a fantastic message! After we returned, the Charleston Branch and South Carolina Section hosted a reception for us. I'll summarize by saying that it may be warm in July, but Charleston is one cool town!

The second day of the Board Meeting was all business including a discussion on Member Value from a Regional Standpoint and a working session on finalizing the Key Process Indicators for the draft Strategic Plan. We received the final report from the Task Committee on Raise the Bar Rebranding and voted to empower the RTB committee with a marketing budget to assist their efforts. We received an update on publications before the lunch break that prepared us for the real work of the day – passing the annual budget. After a number of amendments came up and failed, we approved the budget recommended by the Program and Finance Committee (with the exception of the aforementioned marketing budget), with the recognition that we needed bold action.

The afternoon concluded more quietly, with a review of Policy Statements from the Public Policy Statements, a recap of President Swallow's Presidential visit to South America and some additional spirited discussion during open session. As always, the meetings are interesting, grueling, informative and fun all in one. I look forward to the next meeting in Colorado in conjunction with the Annual Meeting.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 2-4 - Region 5 Board of Governors Meeting
(Savannah, GA)**

**October 11-15 – Society Convention and Board of
Direction Meeting (Denver, CO)**

**January 25-26 – MRLC Regions 1, 2, 4 & 5
(Orlando, FL)**

**March 7 – Alabama Section Winter Meeting
(Dothan, AL)**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

To contribute to the Region 5 newsletter, send articles edited exactly as you'd like them to appear, in Microsoft Word format, to blehman@Geo-Solutions.net