



REGION 5 NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

REGION 5 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Region 5 of ASCE is comprised of all the Sections and Branches within the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Puerto Rico. One of the key initiatives of Region 5 is to be a resource to our membership by fostering collaboration between the various groups within the region including Sections, Branches, Student Chapters, and Younger Member Groups.

The 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 link below; we want to hear from you!

Lawren Pratt, P.E., M.ASCE - Director, Alabama Section

Bradley Williams, P.E., M.ASCE - Governor, Alabama Section

Marta P. Alonso, P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE - Governor, Florida Section

Robert Jackson, P.E., M.ASCE - Governor, Florida Section

Rebecca Shelton, P.E., F.ASCE - Governor, Georgia Section

Ronald L. Schumann, Jr., P.E., M.ASCE - At-Large Governor, Louisiana Section

Rudy Simoneaux, P.E., M.ASCE - Governor, Louisiana Section

Jennifer Sloan Ziegler, Ph.D, P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE - Governor, Mississippi Section

Hector Colon de la Cruz, EIT, A.M.ASCE - Liaison, Puerto Rico Section

[Contact Us](#)

REGION 5 HONORS 2022

2022 ASCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

By Rudy Simoneaux,
P.E., M.ASCE
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The Region 5 Board of Governors is proud to announce the following ASCE Award recipients from Region 5:

2022 ASCE State of the Art of Civil Engineering Award

Dr. Jose D. Salas, Ph.D, Dist.M.ASCE (Florida Section)

2022 Norman Medal Award

Dr. Farshid Vahedifard, Ph.D, P.E., F.ASCE (Mississippi Section)
Fred Tracy (Mississippi Section)
Firas Jasim (Mississippi Section)
Masood Abdollah, S.M.ASCE (Mississippi Section)
Aneseh Alborzi (Mississippi Section)
Amir AghaKouchak, Ph.D, P.E, M.ASCE (Mississippi Section)

2022 International Coastal Engineering Award

Dr. Jane McKee Smith, Ph.D, P.E., D.CE, NAE, Dist.M.ASCE
(Mississippi Section)

2022 ASCE Distinguished Student Chapter Award

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Student Chapter

2022 Innovation in Sustainable Engineering Award

Rodney Cook Sr. Park (Vine City, Georgia Section)

2022 Jack E. Cermak Medal

Dr. Timothy A. Reinhold, Ph.D, P.E, M.ASCE (Florida Section)

2022 Outstanding Civil Engineer Advocate Team Award

Puerto Rico Section

2022 ASCE New Faces of Civil Engineering – Collegiate

Tiffany Ritch, S.M.ASCE (University of Florida)
Zoe Zhang, S.M.ASCE (Georgia Institute of Technology)

2022 ASCE New Faces of Civil Engineering – Professional

Katie Kelly, A.M.ASCE (Georgia Section)

2022 Hunter Rouse Hydraulic Engineering Award

Dr. Philip J. W. Roberts, Ph.D, P.E, F.ASCE (Georgia Section)

To learn more about these winners visit: <https://regions.asce.org/region5/awards>

BOARD OF GOVERNORS COMPLETES STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR REGION 5

By Lawren Pratt, P.E., M. ASCE

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Strategic Planning is a systematic process that sets an ambition for an organization's future and helps determine how best to achieve it. This process requires taking a step back from the day-to-day functions of ASCE to which we have become accustomed, and putting thought into where the Region 5 Board of Governors is heading. This can be challenging! As engineers, we all tend to focus on dealing with current details. Over the past several months we held multiple sessions and tackled this from several angles. We all agreed that a strategic plan update (our most recent plan is dated 2015) is necessary to determine the direction of ASCE and Region 5 and will help ensure ensures that our governors and members are working towards a common goal to serve the Civil Engineering Profession. The Region 5 Strategic Plan reiterates our Purpose, Mission, and Vision, establishes the Value to which we commit, and provides details on the Goals we need to meet to accomplish our Mission:

Purpose

The purpose of Region 5 is to **Inspire and Engage our Members:**

- Develop ever-increasing excellence in their own professional, technical, and interpersonal skills and abilities,
- Grow ASCE in size, influence, and its ability to positively change communities for everyone, and
- Promote Excellence in Civil Engineering

Values

Region 5 leaders serve based on our **VALUES**. We are committed to our **VALUES** of **Trust, Teamwork, Integrity, Service, Diversity, and Inclusion**.

Vision

Region 5 Vision ***"Inspire Excellence in Civil Engineering in Region 5."***

Mission

Region 5 mission is to provide resources and support to our Sections, Branches, Student Chapters, Younger Member Groups, and Institute Chapters; to represent our Region members to the Society; to uphold and enhance the integrity and ethics of the Civil Engineering profession; and to instill enthusiasm in our members.

Goals

To accomplish its mission and move toward fulfilling its vision, Region 5 has identified these five goals:

1. Effectively communicate opportunities, engagements, and concerns between the Society and Region 5's Sections, Branches, Student Chapters, Younger Member Groups, and Institute Chapters.
2. Increase intentional engagement opportunities among current members, younger members, student members, and transitioning graduates.
3. Fully integrate the Puerto Rico Section into Region 5 with representation on the Region Board of Governors, assistance on new officer transitions, and visits to section activities.
4. Increase the effectiveness, engagement, and value of the Region 5 Board of Governors.
5. Retain and Increase membership in Region 5.

Our Governors are also coming up with specific ways to accomplish each of the five goals listed above. This is intended to be a living document that will be updated occasionally as our Board of Governors meets throughout the year.

REGION 5 GRANT PROGRAM

The Region 5 Grant Program holds many opportunities for Sections and Branches. Region 5 will be offering mini-grants to help your group promote ASCE.

Proposals up to \$1,500 are eligible for Region 5 Grants. One grant proposal is required per project. Grants are intended for Sections or Branches to fund a single component of a larger program or for a one-time expense. A short proposal and report are required for each grant request. For more information visit: <https://regions.asce.org/region5/resources>

MEET OUR GOVERNORS

Ronald L. Schumann, P.E., M.ASCE



Ronnie Schumann is currently serving as your Region 5 Governor-at-Large. The Governor-at-Large position is an appointed position by the Board of Governors of Region 5. While on the board he has also served as the Region's treasurer since 2018.

Ronnie was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and resides in the Greater New Orleans area. In fact, tracing back his Cajun roots, his ancestors arrived in Louisiana around 1765 within 20 miles of where he now lives. The only appreciable time he has lived outside of the New Orleans area was while he attended Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

He has worked for small local consulting firms as well as large regional, national and international firms. He has been involved in a broad range of civil engineering projects. Early in his career, he participated in the design of a 4000 cfs pumping station, levees, floodwalls, and even a 60' steel sector gate across a

Ronnie has participated in the planning and geometric design of numerous highways including I-310, I-510, Texas SH 289, US 84, 3 segments of I-49 North, and over 65 miles of I-49 South through Louisiana.

Ronnie is a licensed engineer in 5 states including Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. He has designed subdivisions in the area around Huntsville, Alabama; shopping centers in Montgomery and Mobile, Alabama; and Planned Unit Developments in Alabama and Florida. He has also worked as a Construction Manager on projects such as the Canal Streetcar, Triple A Jefferson Baseball Park, the New Orleans Saints Training Facility, and the Alario Center.

His involvement in ASCE includes serving in every position including President for the New Orleans Branch. He has also served as President of the Louisiana Section and held all other officer positions on the Louisiana Section Board. He has served on the executive committee of the Louisiana Chapter of the Transportation and Development Institute since 2009. He served on the executive committee for the first Louisiana Report Card in 2012.

Ronnie met his wife Marilyn while attending Louisiana Tech. Marilyn is a Speech Pathologist and they have two children, a son and a daughter. Their son has an undergraduate degree in Meteorology and a Ph.D. in Geography and teaches Emergency Management at the University of North Texas. Their daughter has a Masters's in Higher Education and Student Affairs and has recently held the position of housing director for a sorority at Louisiana State

SECTION ROUND-UP

Alabama Section

The Alabama Section has been hard at work over the last few months! The Huntsville Branch hosted the 2022 Alabama Section Winter Meeting on February 23, 2022. Also, the Section released the state infrastructure report card on March 31, 2022 in Montgomery, Alabama at the Capitol! We are looking forward to a very successful summer!

Florida Section

On March 2-4, 2022, nine members from the Florida Section traveled to Washington, DC or attended virtually to meet with congressional offices to advocate for infrastructure priorities and the civil engineering community as part of the 2022 ASCE Fly-In (including ASCE Florida Section President Tzufit Boyle, Marta Alonso, Eric Czerniejewski, Celine Hyer, Sarah Matin, Tonya Mellen, Peter Moore, Kathi Ruvarac, and Christian Steputat). The 2022 Southeast Student Symposium was hosted by the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering on March 24-26, 2022, in Tallahassee, FL. Students from 19 universities in Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico competed, and the University of Florida was ranked third overall. The Annual Conference will be held July 14-15, 2022, at the JW Marriott Grande Lakes in Orlando, and will feature ASCE President Dennis Truax as the keynote speaker.



Georgia Section



The ASCE Georgia Section is ramping up STEM outreach! Along with supporting over a dozen outreach events in metro Atlanta and giving presentations in local classrooms, the Section has several new programs such as bi-monthly educator newsletters providing resources and information to nearly 350 teachers, an engineering job shadow program partnering with disadvantaged schools, a corporate-sponsored activity

workshop in partnership with a local library called Double Down on Engineering, an infrastructure scavenger hunt pilot project using the Citizen Science platform, and a summer educator shadow program by request of Gwinnett County Public Schools to show teachers what engineers do. In partnership with ACEC Georgia, the Section is also planning

a Fall 2022 reboot of STEM Day, a half-day event in which we have a showing of Dream Big – Engineering Our World, corporate-sponsored activity booths, engineering trivia, parent informational sessions, and lunch. The anticipated participation for this program is 600 students, parents, and volunteers. The Pre-College Outreach Committee of Georgia meets monthly to advise interested members on opportunities to engage in outreach and to plan upcoming activities. Please contact Jennifer Young at jmyoung@rkk.com to be added to the Committee or to learn more about any of the above programs.

Louisiana Section

The Louisiana Section, its Branches, and its Institutes have been offering in-person monthly technical webinars. Louisiana COPRI hosted its Spring Technical Seminar on April 28 with speakers from the Port of New Orleans and the Port of South Louisiana. In June Louisiana SET will host Remembrances of the World Trade Center Tower Structures. New Orleans Branch held its May luncheon with Mr. Blake Fogleman, P.E. presenting on current and future State/Federal funding sources for water and sewer systems. Our History and Heritage is actively planning the dedication of the Section's recent National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, the New Orleans Drainage System, for a date in late June. The Shreveport Branch hosted a 2-day in-person Spring Conference the first week of May with more than 50 attendees. During that conference we held our General Membership meeting and elected the Section board for 2022-2023. The Louisiana State University student section advanced to participate in the national steel bridge competition. The national concrete canoe competition will be held in Ruston, Louisiana.

Mississippi Section

The Mississippi Section hosted a virtual pumpkin carving contest back in October where contestants uploaded their creations to Facebook and tagged MS Section to enter. The Younger Member Group hosted a Christmas Themed Bingo night in December at a local restaurant in Jackson, MS. In the upcoming quarter, we will be hosting a Mississippi Braves Baseball game for our members. The ASCE Branches of Mississippi are transitioning back to in-person monthly meetings. Not only will these meetings continue to offer PDHs, but they will increase the social interactions between our members in hopes of leading to an overall better ASCE experience this year.

Puerto Rico Section

ASCE Puerto Rico started the year off with bang. We took a huge jump into the government affairs/ infrastructure advocacy efforts. ASCE President, Eng. Dennis Truax, Eng. Héctor Colón, and economist David Alvarez testified in front of the Puerto Rico Senate. The all-star team defended their position and importance of the Senate Bill 665, which aims to establish a long term infrastructure Plan. In March 2022, ASCE Puerto Rico assisted the ASCE Legislative Fly In. ASCE Puerto Rico was represented by its president, Eng. Hector Colón-De La Cruz. On the event, ASCE Puerto Rico won the Outstanding Civil Engineer Advocate of the Year Team Award. Ing. Hector Colon De La Cruz had the opportunity to meet with Resident Commissioner, Hon. Jenniffer Gonzalez. ASCE Puerto Rico recently coordinated with ASCE President, Dennis Truax, to promote the Society in the biggest Civil Engineering event in



ASCE LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN RETURNS TO CAPITOL HILL FOR FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS

By Ben Walpole, Aff.M.ASCE

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The buzz is back.

The annual ASCE Legislative Fly-In returned this week to Washington, DC, for the first time in three years, after COVID pushed the 2021 event to a virtual platform and forced the cancelation of the 2020 iteration.

“It’s good to get back and see people,” said Jim Pajk, P.E., M.ASCE, who figures he hasn’t missed a fly-in for at least a decade, representing central Ohio. “And there’s a different energy having it right here in Capitol Hill.”

The ASCE fly-in gathered 225 ASCE members from 48 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico – most of them in person, some participating via Zoom – for a three-day program of advocacy sessions and networking, highlighted by congressional visits to discuss infrastructure.

Those conversations took on a new tenor this year with the passage of the bipartisan infrastructure law in November. At \$1.2 trillion, it marks the largest infrastructure investment in the nation’s history.

Of course, that also can complicate certain congressional visits, depending on who you’re talking to.

“It’s exciting to always have that really good ‘thank you’ to offer people,” Pajk said. “But there are some challenges. From Ohio, Sen. (Rob) Portman was instrumental in getting the IJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) accomplished in such a bipartisan way in the Senate. On the House side, it wasn’t as robustly bipartisan as we would have liked. So we’ve had to have some discussions with elected officials promoting the benefits of the IJA in their district, even if they didn’t vote for it. Those can be challenging conversations.

“You want to be respectful of how they voted. At the same time, we want to discuss the benefits that they’re going to see. And they’re receptive.”

The other interesting challenge is ASCE members fending off the notion that with the bipartisan infrastructure law in place – as industry altering as that may be – the country’s infrastructure needs are taken care of. ASCE’s infrastructure advocacy work continues.

Pajk found a potent conversation starter in the recent news that Intel will be making a \$20 billion investment in facilities in central Ohio.

“That’s an unbelievable talking point,” Pajk said. “It’s going to create more investment, but it also means we’re going to have to be proactive about our infrastructure. And it’s more than just roads and bridges. So it’s great to talk about that this week.”

While Pajk and his fellow grizzled advocacy veterans reconnected, many other ASCE members enjoyed their first Legislative Fly-In experience.

Less than a year out from graduating from college, Matthew Jacobson, EIT, ENV SP, A.M.ASCE, made the trip from Los Angeles for his initial fly-in.

“There is this really big intersection between civil engineering and the work we do and the legislative work that Congress does,” said Jacobson, who now works as a civil analyst for Kimley-Horn and Associates. “I think that really inspired me to get more connected. Graduating and being a working professional now, you see how the work we do as civil engineers directly impacts the community but also relies heavily on public funding. It seemed like everything was coming together all at the same time.”

*2022 ASCE CONCRETE CANOE
COMPETITION CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS*

The Louisiana Tech ASCE Chapter is hosting the society-wide ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition, as well as the UESI Surveying and Sustainable Solutions Competitions. They are seeking volunteers to assist with the competition which will be held June 2nd through 5th on their campus in Ruston, LA. Ruston will be home to competition teams from every region of the United States as well as foreign countries including India, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

As this eventful weekend is rapidly approaching, the competition committee is in need of volunteers to help us make this a success. Volunteers will be helping with tasks such as directing traffic, serving food, working information tables, and most of all being smiling and welcoming faces to our guests.

For an opportunity to connect with the next generation of civil engineers, as well as witness some great student competitions, we kindly ask you to consider signing up to join our team and spend a beautiful summer weekend in Ruston.

Volunteers are NOT required to be available the whole weekend. If you are interested, please email ASCEneworleans@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 3-5, 2022: National Concrete Canoe Competition
(Louisiana Tech University; Ruston, LA)

June 10-12: Eastern Region Younger Member Council 2022
(Hartford, CT)

July 13-15, 2022: Alabama Section Annual Meeting
(Orange Beach, AL)

July 14-15, 2022: Florida Section Annual Meeting
(Orlando, FL)

September 9-10, 2022: Leader Orientation (New Officers)
(Reston, VA)

September 11-12, 2022: Presidents and Governors Forum 2022
(Reston, VA w/virtual option)

September 21-23, 2022: Mississippi Section Meeting
(Vicksburg, MS)

September 21-22, 2022: 32nd Annual Louisiana Civil Engineering
Conference and Show
(Kenner, LA)

October 23-26, 2022: ASCE Annual Convention
(Anaheim, CA)

January 20-21, 2023: ASCE Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC)
(Charlotte, NC)