



Newsletter

American Society of Civil Engineers

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Director's Corner



Edward Stafford, PE, F.ASCE

This has been a year few of us will likely ever forget. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we live, but as an organization, we were quick to pivot to virtual platforms and digital communication so that our essential ASCE work could continue. This is true at all

level of our organization and is shown in things from virtual trivia nights, to Section and Branch technical presentations, to the first ever ASCE Virtual Technical Conference (V-Tech) and our first virtual Annual Convention and Meeting. Region 7 also successfully held our annual assembly meeting virtually in August. I am looking forward to our 2021 meeting, which may be virtual or in person in July. Stay tuned for more information this Spring.

ASCE Board of Direction meetings in March, July and October were all impacted by the pandemic, with two being hybrid in person and virtual events and the October meeting being completing virtual. While this changed how we met and interacted it did not limit the important work of ASCE. At the October meeting several significant decisions were made, including the adoption of a new code of ethics, several items supporting our student members and continued focus on the long-term financial health of the Society. To read about the activity at the Board of Direction meeting and to see the all new ASCE Civil Engineering Source news and information hum visit <https://source.asce.org/board-wraps-busy-2020-with-momentous-decisions/>.

Many of you have already renewed your dues for 2021, and I encourage you to talk with members in your area and encourage them to complete the renewal process. While Society has many different outreach campaigns to encourage people to renew and to also recruit new members, we also know that the most effective method is personal contact at the local level. The impacts on the

Region 7 Board of Governors

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Our Region 7 Board of Governors is here to connect you, the ASCE members of Region 7, to ASCE at the Society level. You can learn more about each of us on the "Contacts" tab of our [Region 7 Website](#), and you can contact us via the contact form at the bottom of the "About" tab on the website. We want to hear from you!

- Edward Stafford, P.E., F.ASCE, Director/Chair
- Shawanna Erter, P.E., M.ASCE
- Steve Hakes, P.E., M.ASCE
- Jennifer Jacka-Taylor, P.E., M.ASCE
- Erin Steever, P.E., M.ASCE
- Elizabeth Staten, P.E., M.ASCE
- Marlee Walton, P.E., M.ASCE
- Jeffrey Young, P.E., M.ASCE

economy and competition from many other groups impacts our membership and we all must work to demonstrate why we are members of ASCE and why others should be members. Please consider contacting members in your area, learn what is working well for them and what would improve their experiences in ASCE.

Work on the 2021 Student Conferences is in full swing. The 2021 student conferences will all virtual, which will present new challenges to our students and new opportunities to showcase ASCE. In 2021 Region 7 will have 2 Student Chapters hosting student conferences, Kansas State will host the Mid-Continent Student Conference and Dordt University will host the Midwest Student Conference. For information about these student conferences please visit www.asce.org/student_conferences/. Please consider supporting one or more of these Student Conferences through sponsorship, volunteering to be a judge, volunteering to help the host school, helping your local Student Chapter, or just by attending a portion of the virtual Student Conference and helping spread the word about what ASCE has done for you and how it can help students as they transition from school to the profession.

If there is anything that I or the other members of the Region 7 Board of Governors can do to support your ASCE group please reach out to us. We are here to help!

ASCE Covid-19 Resources

Whether you're employed by a large firm or are a practice of one, the COVID-19 coronavirus crisis likely has you working from home.

The civil engineering profession looks a lot different today than it did a month ago or even a week ago.



With government agencies and state and local officials across the nation recommending extreme social distancing measures because of the coronavirus pandemic, many civil engineers are working from home.

But how does that work?

Amid unprecedented circumstances, civil engineering firms and civil engineers are creating the playbook for this new reality as they go.

ASCE has set up a Resources page and it can be found at: <https://collaborate.asce.org/covid-19/home>

The ASCE Denver Branch will have numerous virtual presentations throughout the upcoming year, and Region 7 ASCE members are invited to attend! Sign up for the ASCE Denver Branch weekly emails at the link below to get updates. <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/xatzlt7/JoinList>

Virtual Meetings in South Dakota

Submitted by Deidre Beck, South Dakota Eastern Branch Vice-President

As successful as the virtual meetings have been, they are not an ideal atmosphere for networking or engaging with Younger Members or students. In order to overcome this challenge, the Branch had to get creative. Together with the SD Section they hosting a virtual trivia night in November. The event was a success with over 30 students and professionals from across the state joining to test their knowledge of

engineering fun-facts. While everyone is eagerly looking forward to the day in-person events can resume, the ability to go virtual has allowed the Branch to continue their activities over the last few months. In fact, the virtual format has even proved to be a way to engage members located across within the Branch's large geographical region who cannot easily attend in person meetings. For this reason, the Branch is looking at continuing to provide options for virtual engagement post-pandemic.

Future City - Seeking Judges



The 2020-21 Future City Competition Theme has been announced and we are going virtual. The Future City challenge this year is to build a city on the Moon; describing its location, sharing its innovative features; and, providing a detailed description of how the city uses two Moon's resources to create a self-sustaining home where humans can live, work and thrive.

We need judges for the deliverables detailed below. Judging will be online/virtual during January and early February, with the Regional to be held virtually on February 20th, 2021.

Five deliverables are judged for each team. You can choose to judge one type of deliverable or multiple.

- City Essay: Read 1,500-word essays about the team's lunar city and solutions to the 2021 challenge.
Judging Dates
Jan 1 to Jan 17th, 2021
- City Model Slideshow: Teams bring their city to life using recycled materials. Judges explore a slideshow of images and captions of specific aspects of the city (e.g. infrastructure and services) and their solutions.
Judging Dates Feb 2 to Feb 16th, 2021
- Project Plan: Review each teams project plan used to help them plan and organize their project.
Judging Dates Feb 2 to Feb 16th, 2021
- City Presentation Video: Watch as a team explains their lunar city and solutions in a 7-minute video.
Judging Dates Feb 15 to Feb 20th, 2021
- City Q&A: Join a panel of judges for live, 10-minute Q&A sessions with teams, conducted via video conferencing. Guiding questions will be provided and you may also ask your own.
Judging Date Saturday Feb 20th, , 2021

Please sign up as a Regional Competition Judge or Volunteer to help out. For more information contact Dr. Rebecca Spearot at colorado@futurecity.org or Omar Venzor at ovenzor@wsbeng.com.

Multi-Region Leadership Conference, July 2021

This 2021 Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC) for Regions 3, 6, and 7 is *planned* be held in Denver on July 23&24, 2021. The event may be rescheduled or into an online version. Announcements regarding this will be made in early 2021. Reach out to Andi Barendt if you're interested in joining the Colorado planning committee, andib.asce@gmail.com.

2020 & 2021 Awards

The ASCE Region 7 Awards program is a great opportunity to recognize the dedicated volunteers in your sections and branches. We hope you will take the time to recognize those hard working individuals within your Section and Branches who are deserving of these awards. Every Section is encouraged to submit one or multiple nominations for each category. Deadline to submit for 2021 is April 30th. A formal call for nominations will hit your inboxes soon.

ASCE Region 7 Awards for the following categories:

- Outstanding Younger Member
- Outstanding Faculty/Practitioner Advisor
- Lifetime Achievement

The forms are posted to the ASCE Region 7 site <http://regions.asce.org/region7/awards>

The Region 7 Board of Governors is pleased to announce the 2020 Region 7 Outstanding Faculty/Practitioner Advisor Award Winners. This award is given annually to recognize the outstanding efforts of a Faculty or Practitioner Advisor who supports the ASCE student chapters and civil engineering students of Region 7.

Dr. Scott D. Schiff was nominated and selected for the 2020 Region 7 Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award because he is a dedicated teacher and mentor. Dr. Schiff has brought new enthusiasm to the student chapter at Kansas State University by increasing memberships and participation. He inspires the students to take on leadership positions and challenges them with new ideas for activities, involvement, and collaboration outside of KSU. One of these new ideas, encouraged student involvement in public policy by spearheading the Kansas Infrastructure and Public Policy Conference, connecting students from three universities to each other and to their elected officials. This year he was also appointed to a three-year term serving as the Chair of the ASCE Committee on Student Conferences and Competitions.



Dr. Joel Burken was nominated and selected for the 2020 Region 7 Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award because he serves as an amazing faculty advisor for the students of Missouri S&T. Under his leadership he has increased the activity and engagement of the ASCE student chapter at S&T since 2017. He has encouraged the students to collaborate with other student organizations and has been an advocate for Diversity and Inclusion. The student chapter has been active in engaging with professional leaders, including hosting the last three ASCE presidents to Missouri S&T. His student impact reaches beyond ASCE to many other University student organizations as well as students in K-12, including serving as host and judge for the Missouri Future Cities State Championships in recent years.

Gene Rovak of the ASCE St. Louis Section, has spent 50 years designing for a wide range of water related facilities and civil works. He was on the leading-edge creating computer modeling hydraulic systems prior to commercial or public agency software was available. One of his most significant roles is mentoring young engineers and teaching contractors, public agencies, utilities and university classes through presentations and publications. He has had an amazing impact on the civil engineering profession thru an amazing career and a constant involvement in ASCE at all levels. It is for these accomplishments that Gene Rovak was nominated and selected for the 2020 Region 7 Lifetime Achievement Award.



The Region 7 Board of Governors is pleased to announce the 2020 Region 7 Outstanding Younger Member Award Winners. This award is envisioned for Engineers under 35 years of age and a member of Region 7, that have exhibited professional achievement and has made a significant impact to the field of civil engineering. Their impacts are through professional activities, ASCE involvement, research and innovative engineering solutions.



Neila was selected as a 2020 Region7 Outstanding Younger Member because of her passion for addressing our aging collection systems infrastructure and making a positive impact for citizens of her community. She serves the ASCE Kansas City Section and draws people in and makes them feel at home in ASCE with her enthusiasm and creative ideas.



Deidre Beck was nominated and selected for the 2020 Region 7 Outstanding Younger Member Award, because of the “enthusiasm and take charge attitude she brings to her career” and she “embraces challenges and consistently exceeds expectations” and for taking the Eastern Branch of the South Dakota Section “to new heights” under her leadership.



Peyton Gibson was selected for the 2020 Region 7 Outstanding Younger Member Award because she is making a positive difference through her work contributing to economic, environmental, and social benefits through infrastructure-related policy change at the federal and state level. Her passion for the profession is evident by her enthusiastic involvement with the ASCE Denver Branch of the Colorado Section and her community. She leads with passion and energy and inspires others to get involved.

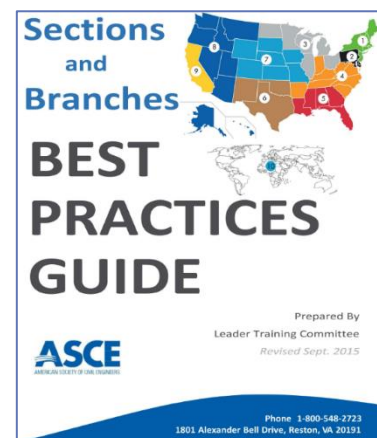
Region 7 Board of Governor Elections and At-Large Appointment

The Region Director and Region Governors serve 3-year terms. The Director and an elected Governor positions in South Dakota are open for the next election cycle this fall. Please submit your name for consideration to the Region's nominating committee before **November 1, 2021**. Any ASCE member who had been a Section or Branch officer or Committee Chair may become a Region Governor.

Section & Branch Best Practice Resources

Did you know that a Best Practices Manual is available at the Geographic Services Region, Section, and Branch Resources page, courtesy of ASCE's Leader Training Committee? A series of recorded webinars on [Best Practices](#) is available on the resources page (scroll down to "Best Practices") along with the [Section and Branch Best Practices Guide](#). Did you know that you can also [submit your own best practices](#) to be included in the guide? This is a great way to share your successes with other Sections and Branches.

The Iowa Section awarded two members who renewed their membership by December 1 with gift cards, drawn at random. What a great idea! Do you have ideas to share? Let us know!



Join us on ASCE Collaborate

ASCE Collaborate, a new online forum exclusively for Society members, is now live and starting to percolate with member comments, questions, and networking. ASCE Collaborate allows members to connect with other members, participate in discussions with subject matter experts; access a library of resources; and post images, videos and documents to share with others

ASCE Collaborate's success hinges on member participation. Please explore the forum and its benefits. Logging in is easy – members just input their ASCE username and password at asce.org or directly at collaborate.asce.org. For questions about the ASCE Collaborate experience, contact ASCE Online Community Manager Tirza Austin, taustin@asce.org

NOMINATE A WORTHY REPRESENTATIVE TO RECEIVE A REGION 7 AWARD BY APRIL 30TH
Region 7 would like to recognize those members for the categories of Outstanding Faculty/Practitioner Advisor, Younger Member, and Lifetime Achievement. Please submit a nomination for yourself or your peers.

For more information contact:

Jennifer Jacka-Taylor, P.E - ASCE Region 7 Awards Committee, jctaylor@burnsmcd.com or 816-823-6252.

The nomination forms can be accessed at: <http://regions.asce.org/region7/awards>

We want to hear from you!

To contribute to the Region 7 newsletter, send articles edited exactly as you'd like them to appear, in Microsoft Word format, to SHakes@benesch.com. Include R7 Newsletter in your subject line.