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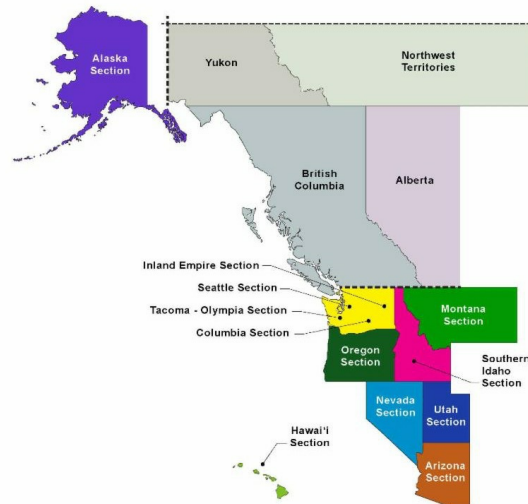
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"Help you matter more and enable you to make a bigger difference"

REGION 8 DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Region 8 Director's Column – July 2021

Aloha and Mahalo for your membership in ASCE. I appreciate your dedication to and support of our civil engineering profession and the development of technical and professional leaders to help us all matter more.

The Society Board of Direction meeting was held on July 16 and 17. The meeting was virtual again out of precaution for pandemic conditions. It is hard to believe that my three-year term as your Society Director is coming to an end in about three months.



However, as I reflected on that thought while trying to get my bearings straight during the 5:00 am virtual meeting starts, it is time for a new challenge for me. Director-Elect Larry Magura and I are planning multiple transition meetings to ensure that he is well-prepared to hit the ground running when he is installed on October 7.

With the short time remaining, I am happy to visit virtually with Sections, Branches, Younger Member Groups and Student Chapters to share about ASCE and other topics. I am even willing to speak in an unofficial capacity after my term ends. Just send me an invite at tlau_1987@hawaiiantel.net.

The Board continues to strategize on achieving the Society's number one goal - An ever-growing number of people in the civil engineering realm are members of, and engage in, ASCE. While the pace of ASCE membership reduction has slowed down, overall we are still losing more members than we recruit. The reduction in membership dues has directly impacted the types of services that can be provided to our members.

The Board was able to meet its goal of passing a balanced FY22 budget that didn't require the use of investment reserves. The FY22 membership dues rate will remain the same. Travel budgets were reduced by restricting Board travel for three of the four regular meetings and essentially eliminating travel for Society-level committees and encouraging continued use of virtual meeting options to reduce our carbon footprint for the environment.

The Region and Institute Presidential Group (RIPG) was formed by Society President Jean-Louis Briaud in October 2020 to foster greater collaboration between Geographic Regions and Institutes for the benefit of the Society. Subgroups were formed within RIPG to focus on general membership retention and specifically Student Member upgrades to Associate Members and Younger Member retention.

I had the pleasure of participating in the RIPG subgroup on Student Member Transition and Younger Member Retention. As the Society converts to automatic membership upgrades for Student Members to Associate Members this summer, we are developing presentations of various media that Sections, Branches, YMGs and Institute Chapters can use to educate Student Members about professional life and how ASCE can help with their professional development. We are also targeting graduate students to share about the technical offerings from our nine Institutes. The current percentage of student members that continue ASCE membership after graduation is about 15 percent.

Region 8 continues to promote local membership recruitment through our 2021 Region 8 Membership Drive. Please read the article below prepared by our Region 8 Membership Committee Chair and Governor Fausto Burruel on the current standings. The finish line is quickly approaching and the winners will be announced at the Fall Assembly meeting on September 24 and 25.

The Board received a final report from the Task Committee on Organizational Efficiency. The task committee evaluated how our organization operated over the last year and their final report provided numerous suggestions on potential ways that we can more efficiently operate that could save on Society expenses without a reduction in the quality of services provided. The Board accepted their final report and charged staff with developing strategies for implementing the suggestions.

The Board received updates from staff about the modernization of the Continuing Education program and our new Digital Strategy which includes a re-development of our ASCE website.

The Future World Vision (FWV) team provided an update on their exclusive reveal of the Mega City sizzle reel/trailer aligned with 2021 ASCE convention. They have begun discussions on collaborating FWV with museums to do a similar experience as Dream Big. The FWV

team will present a business plan at the Board October meeting on the potential cinematic theater experience addition to supplement the current developments.

Speaking of the Convention, registration for the 2021 ASCE Annual Convention is open at <https://convention.asce.org/>. The convention is virtual and will be held October 6 to 8. The OPAL Awards Gala is on October 8 and is included with the convention registration. The program is posted on the convention website. Early bird deadline is August 25.

The two new Region 8 Student Conferences are continuing to take shape. Names for the Northern and Southern student conferences will be decided on shortly. The 2022 Northern Region 8 Student Conference Symposium will be hosted by the University of British Columbia and the 2022 Southern Region 8 Student Conference Symposium will be hosted by the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

One event that is known at each of the conferences is the Innovation Contest that was proposed by the Committee on Student Conferences and Competitions as a Society-wide competition and approved by the Board. The Innovation Contest is a hybrid of the former ASCE Innovation Contest and the Blue Sky Contest that were previously held as pilot programs at select student conferences.

If you have an interest in serving as a Region 8 Governor, there will be two openings for terms beginning in October 2022. Matt Roblez, Utah Section and Mark Lamer, Arizona Section, will be completing their three-year terms in September 2022. Governor candidates can be from any Section in our Region except for the Alaska Section because the maximum allotted Governors from a Section on the Region 8 Board of Governors (BOG) is two and there are already two sitting Governors from the Alaska Section. If you want more information or are interested, please contact any of the current BOG members.

Mahalo for being a member of ASCE and for all that you do to help our great profession.

#Region8isgreat!!!

Mahalo and Aloha,

Tony C.G. Lau, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE

Society Director, Region 8

REGION 8 MEMBERSHIP COMPETITION SECTION UPDATE

Hello fellow Region 8 members. This past year has been a struggle and I don't think anyone needs to hear the reason why (I'm looking at you Covid Pandemic), sorry couldn't help myself. Region 8 membership took a hit but that doesn't mean we stop working towards getting our groups built back up as our Region opens up and things get better. That being said, the Region 8 Membership Competition is in full swing and will be wrapping up in a couple months with the winners being announced during the 2021 Fall Region 8 Assembly Meeting scheduled for September 24th – 25th.

While the Region's numbers show that we are below the baseline levels established during the 2020 Fall Assembly Meeting (starting point for this year's competition), we are seeing membership levels trending in the right direction. In the past two months we have seen growth in dues paying members of almost 2% and an increase in associate members of over 5% when comparing the average changes for all Sections in Region 8. Our current leader for the Large Section category is the **Oregon Section** and the **Southern Idaho Section** is double dipping, leading both the Small Section and YMG categories. I want to give a big shout out to the Southern Idaho Section as the only group exceeding their baseline values from 2020! Come on everyone, the race isn't over and there's still time to give Oregon and Southern Idaho a run for the money!

In case you don't remember what's on the line please see the list below for the competition breakdown and prize information.

- Competition will be based on the percentage of increase of dues-paying members.
- The competition will begin as of the 2020 Fall Region 8 Assembly meeting and winners will be announced at the 2021

- Total competition cost to Region 8 - \$2,500 to be covered by Region 8 reserves. Prizes as follows:
 - Large Section with the highest percentage increase in membership - \$1,000
 - Small Section with the highest percentage increase in membership - \$1,000
 - Younger Member Group (YMG) achieving the highest percentage increase in membership of dues-paying members - \$500
- Section size at the beginning and end of the competition will be based on data provided by the Society Geographic Services Department one week prior to the Assembly meeting.
- Region 8 will provide a certificate to the winners as well as cash to be used on Section and Younger Member Group activities.

If you have questions about the competition, please reach out to **Fausto Burruel**.

SOUTHERN IDAHO SECTION CURRENTLY IN 6TH PLACE IN 2021 ASCE SECTION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

In addition to the Region 8 Membership Competition, did you know that you can win prizes for yourself and your Section by recruiting new members and past members through Society contests?

The Society has continued their Member-Get-A-Member (MGAM) program for 2021. Refer potential members through the MGAM website at <https://info.asce.org/mgam>. For each of your referred colleagues that joins ASCE using the ASCE referral email, you will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card. If you have the most successful referred members at the end of 2021, you will receive a \$500 Amazon gift card. For additional rules, visit the MGAM website.

In addition to the personal recruitment contest, your Section can win too. The Society's Section Membership Drive (SMD) will award the top three Sections with the highest percentage growth with cash prizes of \$1000, \$750 and \$500 respectively. The SMD works in conjunction with the MGAM program. For SMD rules and current standings, visit <https://info.asce.org/smd>. As of July 15, two Region 8 Sections are in the top 10 with Southern Idaho Section in

6th place with 0.61% growth and Alaska Section in 10th place with 0.32% growth. Other Region 8 Sections just outside the top 10 are the Montana Section with 0.11 % growth, Utah Section with 0.17% growth and the Hawaii Section with 0.14% growth. The current top three Sections are the Philippines Section with 3.21% growth, the Rhode Island Section with 1.01% growth and the Egypt Section with 0.88% growth. Similar to the MGAM program, the SMD contest ends on December 31, 2021. The defending 2020 SMD champion is the Hawaii Section.

SOUTHERN NEVADA SECTION UPDATE

Covid has limited the Southern Nevada Branch activities; however, we have managed to keep things going with virtual luncheons. One silver lining with virtual luncheons is that we had presenters in July and November 2020, and February 2021 from outside of Southern Nevada that wouldn't have been possible in person. This expanded the topics available to our membership. The virtual luncheons have been:

- July 2020, Mr. Subhash Kelkar presented on: "How to Manage the COVID-19 Situation and Associated Stress at Home/Work"
- August 2020, David Swallow, PE presented on: "State of Mobility"
- September 2020, Commissioner Michael Naft presented on: "Development in District A and how COVID-19 has impacted the county as a whole"
- October 2020, Ed McGuire, PE presented on: "State of the City and CIP and Consultant Selection"
- November 2020, Michael L. Davis presented on: "Anatomy of Racing - A Reflection of Business"
- December 2020 was our virtual Holiday luncheon with APWA
- January 2021, Scott Hansen, PE presented on "Essential Business at the Water Reclamation District"
- February 2021, June R. Jewel, CPA presented on "Bottom-Up Leadership - Break the Old-School Model in Your A&E Firm and Create a Relevant and Future-Focused Firm"

- March 2021, Joanna Wadsworth, PE presented on "Overview of City's Transportation Technology Program"
- April 2021, David Swallow, PE presented on: "The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada and the Future of Transportation"
- May 2021 was a joint luncheon with the local ACI chapter. Michelle L. Wilson, FACI, presented on the New ACI 301-20
- June 2021 Mr. Bob Leuck, PE, presented on "Clark County Public Works June 2021 Update"
- July 2021 was a joint luncheon with NSPE with Steve Ford, PE presenting on "City of Las Vegas Project Updates"

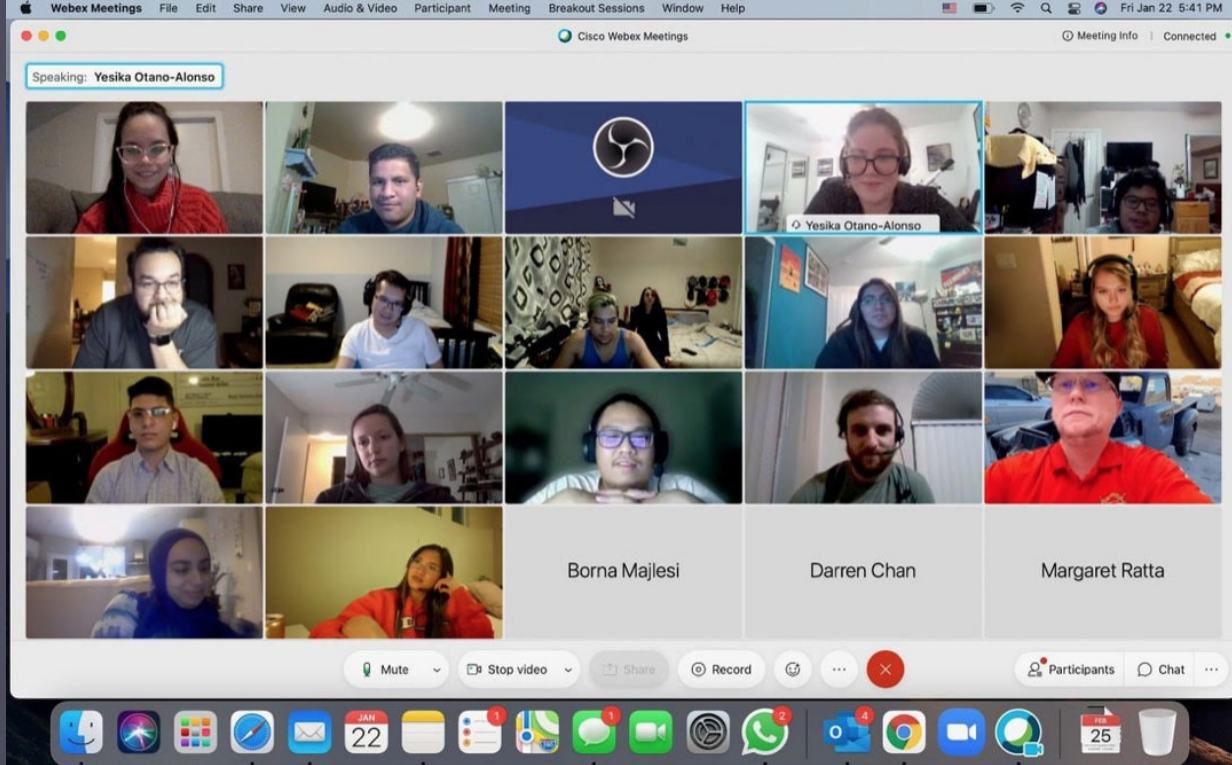
We also gave out our yearly awards:

- Young Engineer of the Year - Amanda Tanaka, EI, WSP
- Engineer of the Year (Private) - Jaffer Almosawy, PE, GCW
- Engineer of the Year (Public) - Suzy Trabia, PE, City of Henderson
- Community Involvement Award - Claire Kohatsu, PE, Aztec Materials
- Student Scholarship - Alezandria (Ali) Barreto Santos, UNLV

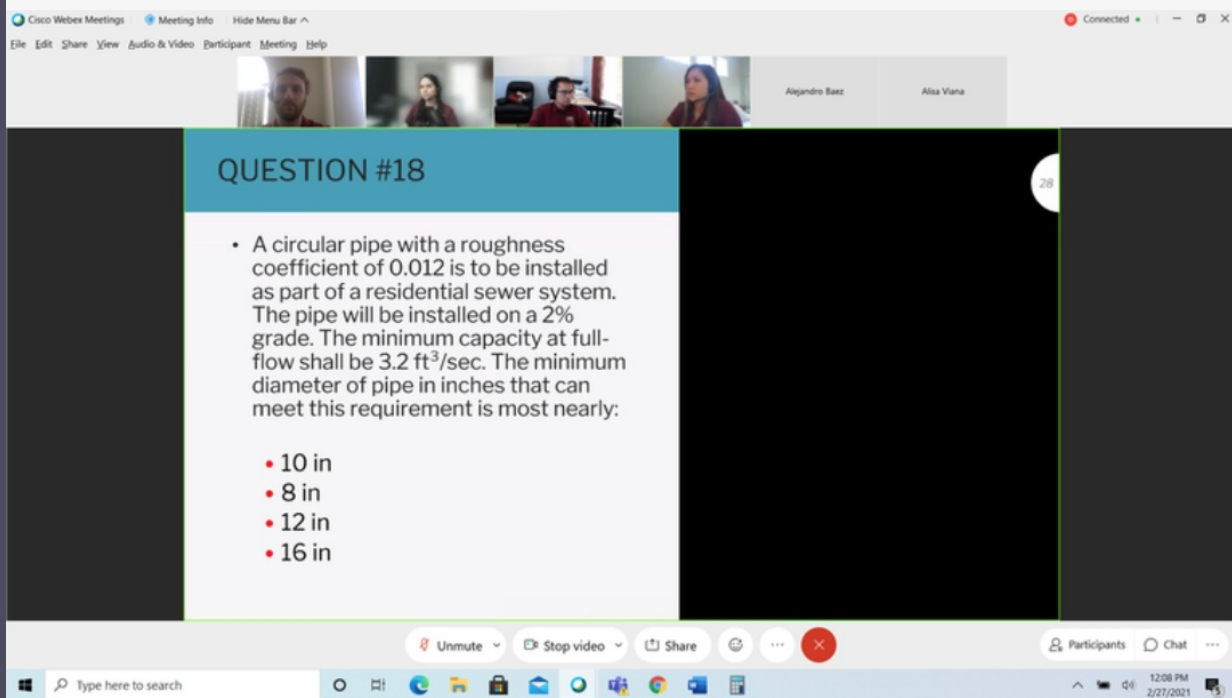
Our profession is one of honor, resilience, adaptability and strength. We are proud that our membership has continued to exemplify these characteristics through the pandemic. Despite the challenges of the past year or so, the membership of ASCE Southern Nevada Branch has carried on; safely congregating on virtual platforms, fostering community, learning and hopefully a measure of normalcy.

Events

- Students Vs. Professionals Game Night (January 22, 2021)



- YMF PE Review Webinar Course (February 4, 2021 – April 8, 2021)
- Spring 2021 FE Review Class (February 27, 2021)



- Virtual Trivia Night (March 12, 2021)



- Virtual Office Crawl (May 21, 2021)
- Professional Development Panel (June 17, 2021)
- Virtual Tech Tour: Water Treatment in Southern Nevada (July 14, 2021)
- Fall 2021 PE Exam Review Course (August 8, 2021 – October 14, 2021)
- LV YMF Virtual Mentoring Assistant (July 2021 – September 2021)
- Inclusion Survey (FY 2020 – 2021)
- Inclusion Grant (FY 2020 – 2021)

Luncheons:

- Luncheon (October 27, 2020): Business Development for Young Engineers (Harshal Desai)
- Luncheon (January 26, 2021): Poops Don't Lie: Wastewater Surveillance of SARS-COV-2 in Southern Nevada (Dr. Daniel Gerrity)
- Luncheon (February 23, 2021): Ten Things I wish I Had Known as a young Professional (Joey Paskey)
- Luncheon (March 30, 2021): Hazardous Waste Management in Nevada (Christopher Lynch & Elizabeth Futch)
- Luncheon (April 27, 2021): Your Personal Brand: Why It's Important to Have One (Marian Mason)
- Luncheon (May 25, 2021): What's Up in Washington: A Discussion with ASCE Government Relations (Caroline Sevier)
- Luncheon (June 29, 2021): Transportation, Funding and the Future (David Swallow)
- Luncheon (July 27, 2021): RFCD Projects: From Planning to Design to Construction (Al Jankowiak)

MONTANA SECTION UPDATE

At the time of this writing, 577 members make up the Eastern and the Western Branches of the Montana Section. The Section used to have five meetings each year by teleconference. New this year and from the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Section has held bi-monthly business meetings via Zoom. This has brought a new perspective to the meetings, and attendance has increased. Our annual Section meeting is planned to take place, in-person, at the Joint Engineers Conference in Helena at the beginning of November. There are four active student chapters, Montana Tech in Butte; Carroll College in Helena; Montana State University in Bozeman; and Montana State University – Northern in Havre.

The Section participates in the planning of the annual Joint Engineers Conference whereby two members assist with finding speakers for the three-day conference. In turn, the Section receives a portion of the proceeds from the conference. This year an accumulation of funds was used to increase the ASCE scholarship endowment at Montana State University – Northern.

Other on-going Section activities include:

- On May 1st the Carroll College ASCE Student Chapter held their 1st Annual Trap Shoot Competition,
- On May 6th, the Carroll College ASCE Student Chapter and the Western Branch held an Engineering Social,
- Continued efforts for the nomination of the Beartooth Highway as an ASCE Historic Civil Engineering Landmark,
- Participation with the Montana Society of Engineers to hire a lobbyist for the 2021 Montana Legislative Session, and
- Developing a team to draft the 2022 Montana Infrastructure Report Card.





REGION 8 MEMBERS AWARD SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to **Edward Yarmak, Jr., P.E., M.ASCE** of the Alaska Section for being selected by ASCE's Cold Regions Engineering Division to receive the 2021 **CAN-AM Civil Engineering Amity Award** for "design of foundations in permafrost using thermosyphon technology and for leadership in the field of thermosyphon stabilized foundations."

Congratulations to **Michael P. Stuhr, P.E., M.ASCE** of the Oregon Section for being selected by ASCE's Infrastructure Resilience Division to receive the 2021 **Le Val Lund Award for Practicing Lifeline Risk Reduction** for "achievements and leadership in risk reduction for water lifelines to increase community resilience."

ASCE REGION 8 AWARDS

REGION 8 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Board of Governors Fall Meeting, Flagstaff, AZ, September 23, 2021
- Region 8 Board of Governors Fall Assembly Meeting, Flagstaff, AZ September 24 and 25, 2021
- Presidents and Governors Forum (PGF), Virtual, September 29-October 1.
- 2021 Society Board of Direction Fall Meeting, Virtual, October 5-6, 2021.

ASCE REGION 8 EVENTS



ASCE Region 8 | <http://regions.asce.org/region8/>