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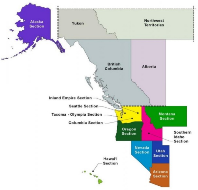
ASCE Region 8 Newsletter

March 2026

Celebrate March!
March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers
A windy March is lucky
Spring will come, and so will happiness. Hold on.
Clover blooms in the fields. Spring breaks loose, the time is near.

ASCE

REGION 8



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Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT/DEADLINE	LOCATION
3/27/26	2026 Pacific Southwest Student Symposium	California State University, Los Angeles
4/11-4/12/26	2026 Pacific Northwest Student Symposium - Concrete Canoe Only	University of Washington
4/16-4/18/26	2026 Intermountain Southwest Student Symposium	University of Utah - Salt Lake City
4/16-4/18/26	2026 Pacific Northwest Student Symposium	University of Alaska Fairbanks and University of Alaska Anchorage
5/1/26	Region 8 Awards Due	Online
8/28-8/29/26	2026 Fall Assembly	Boise, Idaho

Region 8 Director's Corner

Tor Anderzen

P.E. F.ASCE

ASCE Region 8 Director

Greetings!

I would like to follow up on our discussions during the Region 8 Assembly in Reno and in my last two columns. The ASCE Board of Direction has considered an initiative to change how our society is governed. The proposed change would reduce the number of regional directors on the society's board of direction from nine to three. The initiative is led by a Task Committee appointed by the board. The Task Committee gave their report and provided a second reading of the proposed constitutional changes during our board meeting in Reston earlier this week. After discussion, the initiative failed to receive the two thirds vote necessary to place the initiative on the ballot this May.

I want to thank all our leaders that engaged in this conversation with questions and recommendations – it was very clear that Region 8 was not alone with the concern that there are still too many questions unanswered. I expect that the conversation will continue and that there will eventually be new instructions given to the task committee and a new report back to the board, but no such directions have been given yet.

I also attended the legislative fly-in in Washington DC this week. Over 260 ASCE advocates from 48 states met with their Senators and Representatives to discuss infrastructure needs. During the fly-in we listened to presentations about ASCE key-issues and keynote presentations by Representatives Westerman, AR and Titus, NV, both of whom emphasized how important our infrastructure advocacy is. Region Governor Lauren Nuxoll was recognized with the 2026 ASCE Advocate of the Year Award for all her contributions with the Report Card for Idaho's Infrastructure.

For our meetings with the Alaska Delegation, I was joined by Carl Uchytil from Juneau and Kimberly Bustillos from Wasilla. We had the opportunity to speak with our two senators, their key staff, and staff from our congressman's office. In our meetings we discussed Reauthorization of Surface Transportation, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), and state revolving funds for Clean Water and Drinking Water.

IIJA expires at the end of this fiscal year and ASCE is asking for a reauthorization that maintains funding levels, prioritizes safety and streamlines permit processing without jeopardizing environmental safeguards. In reauthorization we are also asking for a streamlined permitting process and a stronger emphasis on safety improvements to address almost the 40,000 annual fatalities on our roads.

The State revolving loan funds for clean water and drinking water are important funding resources for our communities as they strive to improve the drinking and wastewater infrastructure in our communities. The authorization of each program expires at the end of this fiscal year. ASCE advocates reauthorization that the same levels as IIJA, $14.65B over five years. Over the last few years as much as half of the funds invested through the state revolving funds have been used for earmarks. This limits the ability of states to prioritize projects, therefore ASCE advocates that directed spending (or earmarks) is funded separate from the revolving funds. We also advocated a state revolving fund to be created for stormwater projects and that additional funding is made available for lead service line replacement and removal of emerging contaminants such as PFAS.

WRDA, which invests in our dams, ports, levees, and inland waterways, will expire in September this year. While recent investments have improved our nations water resources infrastructure, as asked that congress ensures that project backlogs are addressed and that programs such as the High Hazard Dam Rehabilitation Grant Program and the National Levee Safety Programs are reauthorized.

Overall, the legislative fly-in was very well attended and received, and I am heading home from a busy week in D.C. ready to catch up on work at home.

Looking forward to meeting some of you during the Student Symposiums in April.

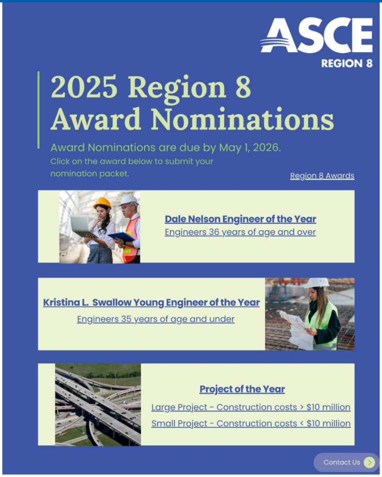
Thank you all for being leaders in our profession

Best regards,

Tor Anderzen, P.E. F.ASCE

ASCE Director, Region 8

Awards



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REGION 8

2025 Region 8 Award Nominations

Award Nominations are due by May 1, 2026.

Click on the award below to submit your nomination packet.

Region 8 Awards

Dale Nelson Engineer of the Year
Engineers 36 years of age and over

Kristina L. Swallow Young Engineer of the Year
Engineers 35 years of age and under

Project of the Year
Large Project - Construction costs > $10 million
Small Project - Construction costs < $10 million

ASCE Region 8 Awards

2026 Nomination Forms Open

Each year, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Region 8 honors outstanding engineers and engineering projects that make a lasting impact on our profession and communities. Award recipients are recognized at the Region 8 Fall Assembly Meeting.

Nominations are due May 1st each year.

See Applications Here:
https://regions.asce.org/region8/awards

Nomination packets must follow the judging criteria, as these are the standards judges will use to evaluate all submissions. Region 8 affirms that awards will only be granted to applicants who fully meet the established criteria. If none of the nominations satisfy these requirements, no award will be conferred.

For questions please contact r8awards@googlegroups.com

Section Spotlight

ASCE
ARIZONA SECTION

ASCE Arizona Section attended the Multi-Region Leadership Conference in Reno and had great representation from the great state of Arizona. While there, we had a statewide dinner at Jesse's where we had great food, conversations and even got to participate in a salsa dancing class!

A HISTORY OF CIVIL ENGINEERING I
INTERSTATE 8
1971
1972
1972
1972
CLEAN WATER ACT
INTERSTATE 19

ASCE Arizona Section celebrated our Centennial In April 2025. We had a gala with over 250 attendees, produced a video, received a proclamation from the governor, made a keepsake medallion and produced a physical time line of the civil engineering history for the last 100 years. During Engineers Week 2026, the centennial timeline poster boards were on display at the City of Phoenix City Hall.

The Phoenix Branch held their monthly meeting in March where two Project of the Year awards were presented. City of Phoenix ‘27th Avenue Materials Recycling Facility Upgrades’ and Arizona Department of Transportation ‘I-17 Improvement Project Flex Lanes’. They also celebrated a Life member award.

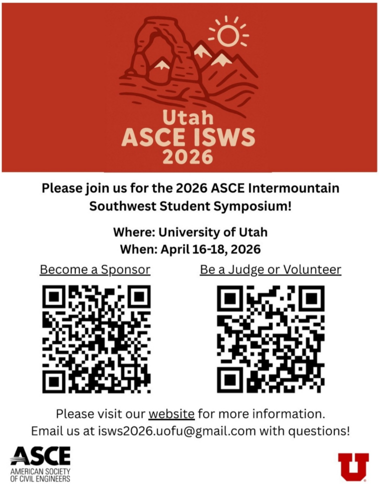
The Southern Arizona Branch joined forces with other organizations to celebrate E-week in southern Arizona. We recently had ASCE Girl Day where we took girls to Reid Park Zoo (located in Tucson) during the construction of Asia Exhibit and introduced them to the world of engineering, organized by WTS. We also held the E-week banquet dinner in early March, invited Susan Gray Tucson Electric Power CEO as our guest speaker, and presented awards to Engineer of the Year and Educator of the Year to recognize their contribution.

The Phoenix Branch YMF held their 8th Annual Cornhole Tournament in April 2025 where they raised over $15,000. This tournament has been the primary fundraiser for the Dr. Jan J. Tuma Memorial Scholarship Fund at Arizona State University (ASU), the ASCE AZ YMF Foundation, and the ASCE AZ YMF general operating fund. The scholarship, Foundation, and YMF operating funds are used towards engineering education and community improvement. The Foundation and YMF events throughout the year provide support to community projects which have a profound impact on the community.

engineering and the built environment

ASCE at Arizona State University had the pleasure of throwing their first Welcome Back Week, which consisted of a mixer to help everyone get to know each other on Monday. Then on Thursday they followed it up with mock interviews, a resume review, and career advice as students prep for the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment career fair in the coming weeks. Finally on Saturday, they took to Tempe Town Lake where not just current students, but Sun Devil alumni got to take two of our previous concrete canoes out on the lake for a day of rowing.

Student Competitions



Utah
ASCE ISWS
2026

Please join us for the 2026 ASCE Intermountain Southwest Student Symposium!

Where: University of Utah
When: April 16-18, 2026

Become a Sponsor

Be a Judge or Volunteer

Please visit our website for more information.
Email us at isws2026.uofu@gmail.com with questions!

ASCE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Other News

Seattle Section
Yue Xu
Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE

NEW FACES OF CIVIL ENGINEERING

From Region 8

Anna Lisonbee

of Utah Section

A poet’s eye for everyday beauty animates New Face’s career accomplishments

Anna Lisonbee blends engineering with a unique sense of creativity, bringing a “poet’s eye” to her work in water resources. Focused on protecting and enhancing natural beauty while strengthening community connections, she has built an impactful early career and earned recognition as an ASCE New Face, demonstrating how engineering can shape both resilient and meaningful environments.

Click Here to Learn More About Anna Lisonbee

Robert Schomp

of Oregon Section

New face brings small town connection to civil engineering

Robert Schomp's small-town roots shaped his community-focused approach to civil engineering. After navigating a nontraditional path that included attending multiple schools simultaneously, he built a career in water resources and now gives back by teaching and mentoring future engineers—bringing his passion for connection and service full circle.

Click Here to Learn More About Robert Schomp

Robert Serrano

5th year at Arizona State University

Robert Serrano's path to civil engineering reflects true resilience. After earning his GED and starting at community college, he transferred to Arizona State University, found his place in ASCE, and secured an internship that led to a full-time offer—proving that a nontraditional start can still lead to a successful career.

Click Here to Learn More About Robert Serrano

Governor Spotlight

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MEET YOUR GOVERNORS!

City:
Clearfield, UT

Work:
Senior Engineer at Kittelson & Associates

KITTELSON & ASSOCIATES

Lauren Nuxoll

ASCE Region 8 Governor to
Utah & Montana Sections

FUN FACTS

Lauren Nuxoll

Lauren has backpacked through 20 countries over 6 continents

On average, she plays on 36 sport teams a year across seven different sports

Lauren is the 8th graduate from Boise State University in her family where they still Bleed Blue and Honor Orange

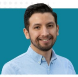
Lauren and her husband enjoy spending time and raising their 2 children

#Region8isGreat

ASCE REGION 8

FY26 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Tor Anderzen
Region 8 Chair



Jose Aguilar
Nevada and Western Canada

Lauren Nuxoll
Utah and Montana

Jaffer Almosawy
Oregon and Hawaii

Jamestaun Kraupp
Arizona and Inland Empire

Oceana Francis
Alaska

Laura Spencer
Seattle and Tacoma-Olympia

Larry Hanson
Southern Idaho and Columbia

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- Gain direct, measurable visibility at a fraction of traditional advertising costs.

Contact Us asceregion8@gmail.com

Got any news you would like to share? Please send us an email to asceregion8@gmail.com

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1801 Alexander Bell Drive
Reston VA 20191
Phone: 703-295-6300
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