



President's Message – STEM

Dear ASCE Northwest Branch,

With this likely being my last President's Message in the newsletter, I would like to promote what is probably the issue I feel most strongly about, STEM. In case you haven't already heard this acronym used millions of times, STEM is short for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. It is official ASCE policy to support these programs at the K-12 level. At the Branch, we have made K-12 Outreach a big priority, and our program has successfully grown since its inception. While outreach is something that is relatively easy to organize as a group and carry out as individuals, it is just one element to an overall policy in support of STEM.

Our education system is currently not facilitating STEM instruction to the degree required to produce enough educated individuals to fill the jobs needed and opportunities provided by an increasing technological and global society. Resources and priorities are lacking. Almost everyone has an opinion on where to place blame. I believe it is a systematic societal failure. You can find concrete examples of larger class sizes, cuts to science kits, and fewer dollars spent on extracurricular clubs, but the problem is larger than financial resources. The amount of time allocated to STEM in the classroom is shrinking. Engineering and technological careers are not held in as high esteem as they once were. The engineering community is even discussing the amount of education that should be required to practice professionally, which one way or another will have great impacts on future engineers entering the field.

We have every reason to promote STEM as individual engineers and as a Society. Promotion will improve the talent pool available to you when hiring. Promotion will improve the ideas and technologies available for us to use in delivering quality and efficient results. Promotion will create greater awareness of the logistical, environmental, and financial challenges we face to maintain a resilient infrastructure. Promotion will improve every global citizen's way of life.

In my previous messages I have discussed outreach, infrastructure spending, mentoring, actively promoting engineering and other topics related to STEM. We all can make a difference. I challenge everyone to commit to doing something in at least one of these ways. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to lead the Branch this past term. I hope I have made a difference, and I look forward to future opportunities to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Will Kratt, P.E.

Northwest Branch President

Email: william.kratt@gmail.com

As always, the views expressed in the president's message are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official positions of ASCE.

INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

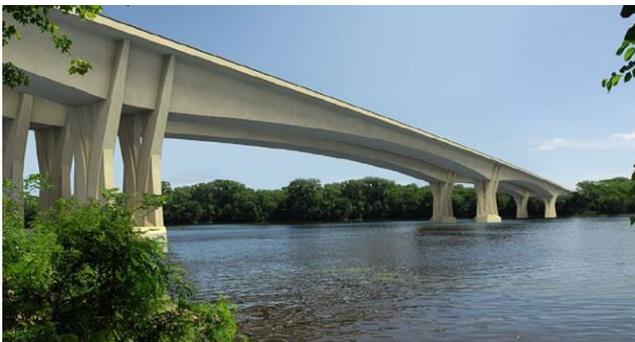
Mr. Jon Albee of John Muir Middle School in Wausau is looking for speakers and a judging panel for a 7th grade engineering project in October 2013. His students will be tasked to design and build prototypes for a portable ice cream cooler. He is looking for engineers to discuss the design and prototype process for 6 classes. He is then looking for judging panel at a later date. We will pass along more details, likely near the start of the school year. If you are interested in making a difference in our local schools and showing 7th graders that engineering is fun, please contact Will Kratt or Dan Borchardt.

If you have an Involvement Opportunity (example - community service event or organization) for Northwest Branch Members that you would like displayed in the Northwest Branch Newsletter, email Will Kratt at william.kratt@gmail.com with a detailed description of the opportunity and help needed.

PAST EVENTS

Interstate 90 Bridge at the Mississippi River Design Presentation

La Crosse, WI



The June 6th meeting in La Crosse was a huge success. Approximately 30 people attended the presentation given by MnDOT District 6 Project Manager Terry Ward, PE, MSISE, PMP and Adam Pohlman, PE on the Interstate 90 Bridge that spans the Mississippi River between Dresbach, Minnesota and La Crosse, Wisconsin. Others in the crowd included WisDOT Project Manager Anthony VanderWielen, PE and several engineers from MnDOT. Attendees got some great insight into the development of the project from the wealth of knowledge and experience both past and present members of the project development team from two state transportation agencies were able to provide. The social hour and dinner provided a great networking opportunity for people from all corners of our profession to converse.

The existing, facture critical bridge was built in 1967 and is 2,490 feet long and 4-lanes wide. The new bridge will improve the crossing to meet current structural and geometric standards and the reconstructed interchange will improve traffic safety, capacity, and access on and between Highway 61/14 and I-90. In addition to the highway issues being addressed, the project faces many competing interests of varying sensitivity, including lock and dam access, Traveler Information Center/Rest Area access, river user access, US Fish and Wildlife Refuge, environmentally sensitive bluffs, railroad corridor, proximity to the airport and river navigation channel, and the Mississippi River Bicycle Trail.

We hope to facilitate at least one more meeting on this project in the coming years to focus on the construction of the interchange and structures. Stay tuned!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Region 3 Assembly

Chicago, IL

On August 16th & 17th members from the states of North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio will converge on downtown Chicago for the Region 3 Assembly. Andy Walters will be attending to represent our Branch. The assemblies are a great to keep up on what's going on nationally with ASCE and learn best practices. Over the past several years we have used what we have learned to make improvements to the way our branch operates. With the goal of creating at least one positive change from each assembly, these meetings help the Branch provide the best value to all members.

Attendees will hear from ASCE President Elect, Randall Over, PE. There will also be discussions and voting on the ~~to~~ Raise the Bar+ resolution to ASCE National. There are several other breakout discussions dealing with bringing value to our members, continuing education, STEM, K-12 Outreach, best practices, and open forums. If you have never attended one of these meetings of several Branches and Sections, I highly encourage it. Everyone comes back energized about ASCE and ready to make a difference at all levels. If you have any questions regarding opportunities to attend a regional meeting, please feel free to contact a board member.

Raise the Bar and Advancing the Profession

John Frauenhoffer, Region 3 Director

- Are you satisfied with the status of the Civil Engineering Profession?
- What are you willing to do to uplift the Profession?
- What should your Association be doing?

ASCE has fostered ~~to~~ Raise the Bar+ for one and one-half decades. In Region 3, the Governors are engaging in a seven-month examination of the opinions in their Sections and Branches. This effort will culminate is a Region Resolution Vote in Chicago on August 16 at the Region 3 Assembly.

ASCE's Committee on the Advancement of the Profession is charged with uplifting our industry and improving our public image. Mr. Lee Barco is the chair, and his committee has an important and daunting task. Constituent Committees include Diversity and Inclusion, Ethical Practice, Leadership and Management, Licensure, Sustainability, History and Heritage, Public Agency Peer Review, and Raise the Bar. In July, Mr. Barco testified before the ASCE Board of Direction regarding charges, progress, and strategic planning.

I am inviting you to participate. If you have an interest in one of these constituent committees, I will present your interest to Mr. Barco. Typically a member with interest in a constituent committee begins as a corresponding member at no cost to you. Participation is via conference calls and assignments you accept. It's a great experience and a terrific opportunity for you to participate on the national level. Express your interest via my e-mail: mustang2797@att.net.

About the Author: John Frauenhoffer represents Region 3 on the ASCE Board of Direction. Region 3 is composed of Sections in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota. Mr. Frauenhoffer is a Licensed Professional Engineer and a Licensed Structural Engineer in Illinois and is employed by Engineering Resource Associates, Inc., headquartered in Warrenville

SAVE THE DATE! – ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting

Monona Terrace, Madison, WI

This year's Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting will be at Monona Terrace in Madison on Friday, September 13. This is a great opportunity to learn what is going on with ASCE throughout the state and earned continuing education credits. Look for registration information in the mail soon.

**OTHER NEWS****2013-2014 Northwest Branch Elections**

The results are in! Please take the time to congratulate the following individuals who will represent the Northwest Branch on our Board for the 2013-2014 term. Thank you to all who voted and to the incoming board for their commitment.

President . Jessica Felix
President Elect . Teresa Davis
Secretary/Treasurer . Will Kratt
Director . Andy Walters
Director . Mike Binsfeld
Director . Kris Roppe
Director . Mike Davis

A huge thank you to all of the outgoing board members . Joseph Behlen, Dan Borchardt, Lucas Budden, and Lisa Fleming! We appreciate the commitment that you have made to the Northwest Branch and your support of ASCE.

2013-2014 Wisconsin Section Elections

The Wisconsin Section Board ballots are due Monday, August 12, 2013 to Section Secretary, Peter Nilles, P.E. Check your inbox for your ballot included as part of the Summer 2013 Wisconsin Section newsletter. All ASCE members who have paid their 2013 Wisconsin Section dues have the right to vote and are eligible to hold office. Fellow Northwest Branch member and former Branch President, Dan Borchardt, P.E. is running for Vice President of the Wisconsin Section.

You've Seen The Grades – Now Download The App!

ASCE's 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure is available for the first time as an app+ at www.infrastructurereportcard.org for both tablet and smartphone devices. ASCE's new Report Card covers 16 infrastructure categories, and includes videos, interactive maps, and other multimedia tools.

What's new? The 2013 Report Card links to all the recent state and local Report Cards and gives key facts for all 50 states, including examples of initiatives and innovations that are making a difference. For example, Oklahoma created a plan to replace or rehabilitate over 950 structurally deficient bridges between 2013 and 2020. Philadelphia implemented a program to improve resiliency and address combined sewer overflows using green infrastructure, capable of capturing water from all but the most severe storms.

We hope every ASCE member will be able to use this great product to get more of their friends and neighbors involved in the conversation around our nation's infrastructure. The Report Card Outreach Toolkit includes presentations, state fact sheets, and other materials to help spread the message:

- ~ Want to [download the Report Card Executive Summary Brochure](#)?
- ~ Looking for the [Report Card Base Powerpoint](#)?
- ~ Talking to kids or a group that's unfamiliar with infrastructure? [Consider using the How We Use Infrastructure+Infographic](#).
- ~ Looking for the Report Card video to use in your powerpoint? [Pick the video up here](#).
- ~ If anyone you know can't get into the Report Card app and needs a PDF, [please find it here using password reportcard+](#). (Note: this PDF does not have charts or success stories but it does have the majority of content.)

If you have any questions on how you can help spread the Report Card message, contact ASCE's Report Card team reportcard@asce.org.

UPDATE ASCE ONLINE PROFILE REGULARLY

Please update your ASCE Online Profile with current email and mailing addresses to guarantee you receive ASCE Newsletters and important information. As a reminder, those of you that have passed your PE exam, make sure to change your account with ASCE National. To update your ASCE profile, go to www.asce.org or call (800) 548-2723.

2013-2014 Calendar of Events

The calendar is just a guide and may change throughout the year

AUGUST:

- August 12 . Ballots due for ASCE Wisconsin Section Board Positions
- August 16-17 . Region 3 Assembly . Chicago, IL
- Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER:

- TBD . PE Exam Helpful Hints & Review. Eau Claire/Menomonie Area
- September 13 -- ASCE Wisconsin Sectional Annual Meeting . Monona Terrace, Madison
- Board Meeting

OCTOBER:

- October 25 . PE, PS, and SE Vertical Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)
- October 26 . FE, FS and SE Lateral Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)
- Board Meeting

NOVEMBER:

- Board Meeting

DECEMBER:

- Board Meeting

JANUARY 2014:

- Board Meeting

FEBURARY:

- Board Meeting

MARCH:

- Board Meeting

APRIL:

- Board Meeting

MAY:

- Board Meeting

JUNE:

- Board Meeting

JULY:

- Board Meeting

CURRENT NORTHWEST BRANCH OFFICERS

President: Will Kratt, I&S Group, Inc.: La Crosse; (608) 789-2034

President-Elect: Jessica Felix, WisDOT Northwest Region: Eau Claire; (715) 836-5170

Secretary-Treasurer: Lisa Fleming, Ayres Associates, Inc.: Eau Claire; (715) 831-7677

Past President: Dan Borchardt, MSA Professional Services: Marshfield (715) 216-3601

Wisconsin Section Northwest Branch Representative: Dan Borchardt, MSA Professional Services, Marshfield: (715) 216-3601

Northwest Branch Directors-At-Large:

1. Andy Walters, American Engineering Testing, Inc., Wausau, WI; (715) 359-3534

2. Lucas Budden, WisDOT Northwest Region: Eau Claire, WI; (715) 836-2889

3. Joe Behlen, WDNR: Wisconsin Rapids; (715) 421-9940

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