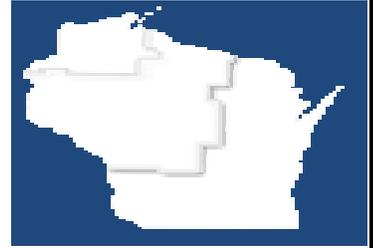




WISCONSIN SECTION  
Northwest Branch



Newsletter No. 122  
February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014



### President's Message – Past & Future

Dear ASCE Northwest Branch,

Is it cold enough for you? Hoping that you are staying warm. Now that I have broken the ice (pun intended), I want to use this forum to discuss a topic that a lot of us take for granted. It's our profession—Civil Engineering. At the end of February, we celebrate E-Week. It's a week that attempts to bring a limelight to engineering. The Northwest Branch even holds the spot light for you as we sponsor and encourage K-12 Outreach during this week. This attention is all well and good but it leads to a bigger question of **what comes after E-Week?** And you answer in typical engineer fashion—March! (little joke).

A majority of society does not understand the role of a Civil Engineer or at least, they do not until something goes a rye. I have family members that still do not understand our profession and the reason for that is that our profession is very diverse. So how do we bring more attention to the Civil Engineering profession and have children aspire to be Civil Engineers?

We need to raise the next generation with an understanding of the profession. We can do this by encouraging children to ask a lot of questions; having children explore how things work; supporting math and science education; and promoting our profession with STEM activities, K-12 Outreach, and individual mentoring. Formal K-12 Outreach is not for everyone; however, you can make a difference one child at a time. Our profession has the luxury to use every day, common encounters to explain what we do, i.e. a civil engineer designed the wastewater treatment plant so you could flush your toilet; a civil engineer designed the road that takes you to the store; a civil engineer designed the steel that makes up the truss in the gymnasium. How cool is that? Civil Engineers affect members of society on a daily basis.

After the conclusion of E-Week, I challenge you to keep the momentum going. Remember why you became a Civil Engineer and who influenced you and supported you in becoming one. The next generation of Civil Engineers is all around you. They just don't know it yet and need you to share how your profession has an effect on everyday life. Cool stories about crawling through a Hoover Dam vent duct or standing atop a 17 story building performing a post-tension tendon inspection does not hurt either.

Sincerely,

*Jessica L. Felix, P.E.*

Northwest Branch President

Email: felix.jessica@att.net

*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.*

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **Andy Walters Wins Volunteer Award**

ASCE Northwest Branch of the Wisconsin Section Director at Large, Andrew Walters, was recognized for his Outstanding Community Volunteerism related to K-12 Outreach at the Region 3,6 and 7 Leadership Conference in St. Louis, MO. Through this informal recognition it is ASCE's aim is to show appreciation to those who quietly, but consistently demonstrate their enthusiasm for our profession and who have a passion for sharing their love of Civil Engineering with those who will follow in their footsteps. Thank you Andy!

### **Teresa Davis to Attend ASCE Sustainability Workshop**

ASCE Northwest Branch of the Wisconsin Section President-Elect, Teresa Davis, was selected to attend the ASCE Section/Branch/Liaison Workshop for Sustainability in Atlanta, Georgia on February 22-23, 2014. The goal for the February Workshop in Atlanta is to assemble the entire ASCE Sustainability Leadership to promote information sharing and cooperation. In one workshop session, Teresa will be called upon to share and then compile the Northwest Branch's experiences and ideas with the larger COS group. This information will feed into a major task for the Workshop in Atlanta: to develop program content for a subsequent workshop on "Engineers as Sustainability Leaders at the Community Level" to be held at the International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure, November 6-8, 2014 in Long Beach, California.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **LOCK AND DAM 8 LOCKHOUSE SITE VISIT**

Tuesday, February 11, 2014 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm  
4405 Highway 35  
Genoa, WI 54632-0265

#### **Lock & Dam 8**

- Located on Mississippi River mile 679.2 near Genoa, Wis.
- Constructed and put into operation by April 1937. Site underwent major rehabilitation from 1989 through 2003.
- Dam consists of a concrete structure 934 feet long with five roller gates and 10 tainter gates. Earth embankment 17,500 feet long with two submersible spillways, 938 feet long and 1,338 feet long.
- Lock is 110 feet wide by 600 feet long.
- Between normal project, lower and upper pool is an 11 foot lift. The average flow is 40,000 cubic feet per second or 299,200 gallons per second.



<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/LocksDams/LockDam8.aspx>

## K-12 Outreach

Dan Borchardt P.E. M. ASCE  
ASCE K-12 Outreach Coordinator



Wisconsin's ASCE (American Society of Engineers) Northwest Branch has established a successful K-12 Outreach program to raise awareness about the vital work engineers do for our society on a daily basis. This program coincides with National Engineers Week, February 16-22, 2014, and will be supporting a national outreach program called Discover"E". The Northwest Branch Outreach plan is intended to promote the goodwill between engineers, the public and the community. The Northwest Branch will act as a catalyst for activity and communication, a scheduling tool, and an organizational tool for making the connection between your school and volunteer engineers.

The middle school and junior high age group was selected by the ASCE Northwest Branch because we feel it is a critical age group when students start to make decisions on what classes are best suited for them. The NW branch feels that targeting this age group can have a measurable impact on the audience as they decide if they would like to enter a Project Lead the Way Program, take a technology education class or take an advanced math class. Volunteer engineers can be a vital link to educating students on the importance of innovation, creativeness, and application of the core math and science classes to the challenges of the world. If you are interested in volunteering your time or know of an educator that would be interested in having engineers come to their classroom, please contact Dan at [danborchardt83@gmail.com](mailto:danborchardt83@gmail.com). Resources are available to assist with presentations/activities in classrooms.

The ASCE Northwest Branch board of directors is enthusiastic about this outreach program and look forward to its continued success. For more information about the NW Branch's Outreach check out our webpage: <http://www.ascewinw.org/outreach/>

## 2014 ASCE Wisconsin Spring Technical Conference

The Wisconsin Section Southeast Branch is happy to be hosting the **2014 ASCE Wisconsin Spring Technical Conference March 6th** at Country Springs Hotel in Pewaukee, WI. This year's conference has another exciting line up for technical sessions. You can earn up to 5 PDHs for attending all day. Register by **February 27th** to avoid a \$10 late fee. Registrations will not be accepted after **March 4th**.

*All registration and mailings are being done electronically this year.*

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=8wbor5kab&oeidk=a07e8noeofy83c98f3b&oseq=a021auhqyarl6o>

If you have any issues with on-line registration, please contact Chad Shihata ([cshihata@gmail.com](mailto:cshihata@gmail.com)).

## **PAST EVENTS**

### **Sustainability Systems for the Built Environment: What Tool to Use?**

Jessica L. Felix, P.E., M. ASCE

Jason E. Charalambides, PhD, P.E., ISI Envision and Monika Herrman, AIA, LEED AP presented to a small group of engineers on Thursday, November 21 at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. The ASCE Northwest Branch of the WI Section sponsored the presentation on ISI Envision and USGBC LEED. Thank you Jason and Monika for sharing your extensive knowledge about sustainability and how it's gaining traction as the standard in engineering.

### **2014 Region 3, 6 and 7 Leadership Conference**

Michael Binsfeld, A.M.ASCE

ASCE regions 3, 6, and 7 held the leadership conference at the Hilton hotel in downtown St. Louis. The conference was reasonably well attended, about 80 - 90% of the expected seats were full at any given time. The predominance of those in attendance seem to be from Illinois, Texas, and Missouri.

#### **Friday**

- The conference began on Friday morning with an ice-breaker type introduction to the composition of ASCE "corporate structure". All governors in attendance collectively presented various slides with facts describing the organizational makeup, financials, and history of ASCE. An overview of ASCE at the national level was outlined and the broad resources that are available to all members.
- A presentation on "Leading Others" was given by a Region 6 governor, Ken Rainwater. This was essentially a continuation of the ice-breaker from the first session and required each participant to complete the Meyers Briggs personality type test. Groups were formed with matching personality types and the basis of leadership principles were applied to each group. Pitfalls of incompatible leadership styles were investigated. The presenter allowed for a lot of interaction and open thought.
- During lunch the first day an excellent presentation on leadership was given by former Vice Admiral Michael Loose (<http://enr.construction.com/people/promotions/2010/1101-MichaelLoose.asp>). The topics covered primarily focused on his military background and how it applied to civilian works projects after retirement. His thoughts on encouraging risk in your children, while providing the right balance between praise and discipline were quite good.
- The afternoon began with breakout sessions that were formulated to coach best practices. Three of the five available sessions were selected from a list before the conference began:
  - The first session focused on the 'Raising the Bar' initiative. ASCE is currently 15 years into this and promoting its agenda. The agenda's primary focus is to tighten accreditation and licensing standards in the industry. It is the belief of the program that a 4 year degree from an accredited university will not be (and is currently not) sufficient to prepare licensed professional engineers in the future. A fairly in depth discussion went into how other learned professions (ie. doctors, educators, lawyers) require graduate degree work and that Civil engineering, in particular, has not kept pace with society standards. Blaine Leonard, 2010 ASCE president, spoke about setting deadlines. By 2020, they expect a licensed

- engineer to have a graduate degree(s). An interesting note about professional engineering licensure is that it hasn't changed since before 1900. At that time, an engineering license was far more difficult to get than most any other occupation. The requirements have remained unchanged since.
- The second session dealt with government relations, particularly how to influence your local, state, or national representatives. A broad overview of ASCE's advocacy programs on Capitol Hill was presented by Darren Olson, a region 3 governor. A few items mentioned were the Water Resources Development Act, which provides funding for harbors, locks and dam, environmental cleanup, port maintenance, among others. ASCE has been advocating this bill through both houses, which is widely a bipartisan agreement. The recent release of the infrastructure report card has provided ammunition for legislative agendas. Darren spoke about the ability to compare his state's infrastructure (Illinois) with others and draw attention to the differences. ASCE has produced an APP for iPads, etc. that allows the report card information to be taken to legislators for ease of explanations. (<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/2013-report-card-for-america/id603625735?ls=1&mt=8>). Each year ASCE adopts a list of priority issues in state government relations, with member input. At the national level, these issues are pushed often times with lobbyists. Legislative "fly-in" days were discussed and how the governors prepare for interaction with legislators and lobbyists. *I have a lot of information on this topic if anyone would like to review it.*
  - The last session attended had to do with transitioning students to young members. This session dealt with tactics that young member groups and boards used to educate students about the benefits of ASCE after college. The primary objective of this breakout session was obviously to focus on boosting enrolment, which is how ASCE survives. An interesting statistic given was that most graduates and young engineers intend to sign up but never take initiative on their own. They often only end up signing when approached by a current member.
  - The final session of the first day was a breakout session within each person's respective region. The group met with student engineers who had just shown up to discuss their ASCE programs and in what areas they would need help with. I spent some time with the Platteville group and was quite impressed by how active their chapter was in ASCE. Oddly enough, the larger engineering schools (Ohio State, Mich. State, Wisconsin) had lackluster chapter performance/involvement in ASCE when compared to smaller schools.
  - In the evening a social was held at the hotel, followed by a trip to the City Museum

## Saturday

- A networking breakfast was held during which student members were dispersed throughout the room and encouraged to ask questions of members.
- Following breakfast, Blaine Leonard gave a presentation regarding networking and how it applies to leadership. This particular presentation was geared towards the students present and how to become a more approachable person. He added interviewer skills and lessons on meeting new people.
- A session followed in the later morning covering the ASCE resources available to students and current members at the national level. Various individuals were introduced in key positions at the

headquarters. I was most impressed that ASCE has their own legal counsel, who fielded most of the questions after the presentation.

- The section and branch award presentation followed just before the final lunch. The St. Louis section seemed to carry away a large percentage of the awards, along with various sections from Texas. *I was not aware of Andy's award due to an ill-timed trip to the little engineer's room. I wish I could have at least accepted your plaque on NW WI behalf. Congratulations nevertheless!*
- Lunch was provided and slated as a networking section amongst the guests.

Overall the conference was a great experience and I'm glad I had the opportunity to go. More than anything, I have a much better understanding of the opportunities ASCE provides and what we're trying to accomplish at the local, state, and national levels. The networking aspect was surprising. I think I passed out more business cards here than I do at most trade shows. I spent a lot of time with the governors of the Duluth and Illinois sections who have been involved with ASCE for quite a long time. They had some very interesting stories to tell regarding "fly-in" experiences with their legislators.

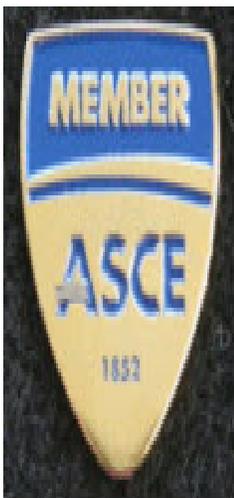
The summary doesn't do justice to the weekend, so please let me know if you'd like more detail on any of these sessions.

### **January Wisconsin Section Hosted by Northwest Branch**

Kristopher Roppe, A.M.ASCE

The Northwest Branch hosted the Wisconsin Section Board meeting on January 16 at the I & S Group office in La Crosse. Those in attendance included Section President Jon Lindert, Board Directors Justin Bilskemper and Paul Sponholz, Northwest Branch Board Members Will Kratt and Kristopher Roppe, and Refreshments were provided by the Branch to attendees during the meeting. Following the meeting all Branch members and those in attendance were invited to a social at Dublin Square Irish Pub & Eatery. During the social everyone was able to relax and enjoy a meal with fellow members while sharing their experiences in Civil Engineering.

### **Renew your ASCE Membership for 2014**



Online, in person, and wherever your membership takes you, ASCE benefits every Civil Engineer. See the ways you benefit from your ASCE membership at [asce.org/101](http://asce.org/101). Keep your benefits and [renew today!](#)

### **UPDATE ASCE ONLINE PROFILE REGULARLY**

Please update your ASCE online profile with current E-mail 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](http://www.asce.org) or call (800) 548-272.

## 2013-2014 Calendar of Events

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

### JANUARY 2014:

- January 10-11, 2014 Regions 3, 6, & 7 Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders (WSBL) – Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark; St. Louis, MO
- January 16 – ASCE WI Section Board Meeting hosted by Northwest Branch – LaCrosse (organized by Will Kratt & Kris Roppe)
- January 28, 2014 -- Northwest Branch Board Meeting

### FEBRUARY:

- February 11, 2014 – Lock & Dam 8 Tour – Genoa, WI (organized by Michael Binsfeld)
- February 16-22, 2014 -- National Engineers Week
- February 22-24, 2014 – ASCE Committee on Sustainability Workshop –Atlanta, GA
- February 26, 2014 -- Northwest Branch Board Meeting

### MARCH:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting
- March 6 – ASCE WI Section Board Meeting hosted by Southeast Branch – Pewaukee
- ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Spring Technical Conference

### APRIL:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting
- April 11 – PE, PS, and SE Vertical Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)
- April 12 –SE Lateral Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)

### MAY:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting
- May 8 – ASCE WI Section Board meeting hosted by Southwest Branch -- Madison

### JUNE:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting

### JULY:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting
- July 17 – ASCE WI Section Board meeting hosted by Southeast Branch – Milwaukee

### CURRENT NORTHWEST BRANCH OFFICERS

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