



President's Message



Dear ASCE Northwest Branch Members:

It has been a while since our last newsletter and a lot has happened since then, so please take the time to read through the different articles and get caught up with the branch activities.

The main event for the branch last year was hosting the 2017 Annual Meeting. A lot of time and effort went into making this event a success, and I just want to say thank you again to all who helped out. I hope many of you had the chance to attend, but if you were not able, you can read more about it in the next few pages. The next section-wide meeting hosted by the branch is the 2019 Spring Technical Conference. Please contact me if you are interested in being on the planning committee.

In past years the branch has offered a scholarship to students from the Northwest region. We will be offering the scholarship again this spring, and more information is included in the letter. The application is also attached. If you know of an eligible student, please forward on this information and encourage them to apply!

The branch is working on setting up activities for 2018 and will be sending out invitations via email. Be sure to check in periodically so you don't miss out on any opportunities! Also new this year, the Northwest Branch Website will be getting a new look as it gets updated to a new format. We have developed a working draft of the new website and plan on making it live within the next couple months.

I appreciate the opportunity to be your president, but I would not have gotten here without the help of others. I was encouraged to join the board shortly after graduating college by my co-worker and served as a director-at-large for three years. During that time on the board, I gained valuable experience, leadership skills, and helped plan the first Spring Technical Conference hosted by the Northwest Branch. I also met several new people who shared the same interest in Civil Engineering and commitment to the Northwest Branch and its members. This experience led me to run for president of the branch and got me to where I am today. Becoming a board member was a great choice for building my career, and I would definitely recommend it to anyone looking to get more out of their membership. There are several other opportunities to become more active such as helping out with STEM events, serving on the Annual Meeting and Spring Technical Conference planning committees, and attending socials and construction tours. As I said before, we are working on setting up events for 2018 and are always welcome to ideas from our members. If serving on the board or a committee is something that interests you or if you have an idea for an upcoming event, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristopher Roppe', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kristopher Roppe
Northwest Branch President

Kris.roppe@is-grp.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check your emails from the Northwest Branch for all upcoming conferences, construction site visits, socials, outreach programs, and volunteer opportunities. The board is working diligently on lining up a great spring and summer of ASCE events!

PAST EVENTS

Northwest Branch Hosts the Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting

The Northwest Branch hosted the 2017 Annual Meeting on September 28th, 2017 at the La Crosse Center South Ballroom in La Crosse, WI. Over 140 people attended the event including members, non-members, speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and award guests.



The meeting started with an inspiring keynote address presented by Craig Schiefelbein, Co-Founder of Paragon Development Systems. The address focused on inspiration to innovation and was tailored to the engineering profession touching on the purpose of our role, how we can impact the quality of life of others, and the mindset that prompts innovation and building a legacy.



Three technical sessions were offered during the day with each having four topics pertaining to different civil engineering disciplines including construction, geotechnical, leadership, transportation, environmental, and water resources. Between sessions, attendees had the opportunity to network with fellow engineers and visit the many exhibitor booths to learn about the latest services and technologies available for the industry.





Tom Thibodeau, a distinguished professor of servant leadership from Viterbo University, gave an ethics speech over the lunch hour. He talked on how servant leadership is meaningful, ethical, and practical and when people incorporate this into their tasks, they can see the results of their good work. Following the speech, several award recipients were recognized. Awards included project awards, individual awards, and outgoing section board members. The award recipients are listed below.



2017 Project Achievement Awards

Category A - Projects with Construction Cost under \$2 Million

Riverside Pump Station Project Green Solutions for Separate Infrastructure and Sewer Separation
Mead & Hunt, Inc., for Owner City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Water Works

Category D – Projects with Construction Cost over \$20 Million

SH 18/151 (Verona Road) Stage 1 Reconstruction

Strand Associates, Inc., for Owner State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Category D – Projects with Construction Cost over \$20 Million

Lakefront Gateway I-794 Ramps at Lincoln Memorial Drive

State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation and City of Milwaukee, GRAEF prime consultant

2017 Individual Achievement Awards

Engineer in Consulting Practice – Mike Arnold, P.E.

Engineer in Government Practice – Gerald DeMers, P.E.

Young Civil Engineer of the Year – Anthony (Tony) Castle, P.E.

Distinguished Service Awards (2) – Larry Ryan, P.E. & Jesse Jefferson, P.E.

Matthew Thomas Rynish Honorarium – Corona Woychik

2017 Appreciation of Departing Section Board Members

Kenneth Mika, P.E. – Secretary

Dan Borchardt, P.E. – Past-President

Peter Bielen, P.E. - Fox River Valley Branch Director

Dan Schrum, P.E. - Southwest Branch Director

Mike Binsfeld, E.I.T. - Northwest Branch Director

Mike Arnold, P.E. – Southeast Branch Director

The final technical session of the day was a unique opportunity to enjoy a La Crosse Queen Boat tour of the Mississippi River. The La Crosse Queen is a modern day replica of the grand river-boats which used to ply the Mississippi in the early 1900's and is one of the few 'true' paddle wheelers still in operation. The tour included narrated presentations of the twin 'Blue Bridges' in downtown La Crosse, the Canadian Pacific Railroad swing bridge, and the I-90 Dresbach bridge while traveling past each structure. Passengers also were able to experience locking through Lock and Dam #7 just north of La Crosse while learning about the history and fun facts of the Lock and Dam system. Photos taken during the tour are included on the following pages.



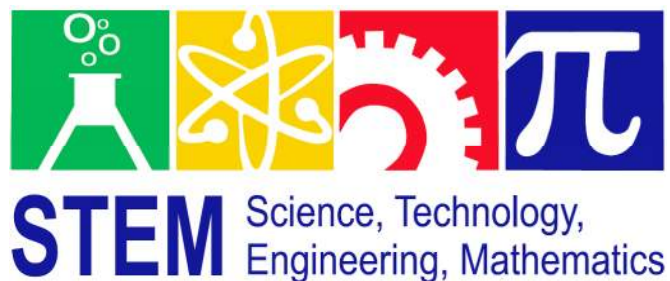


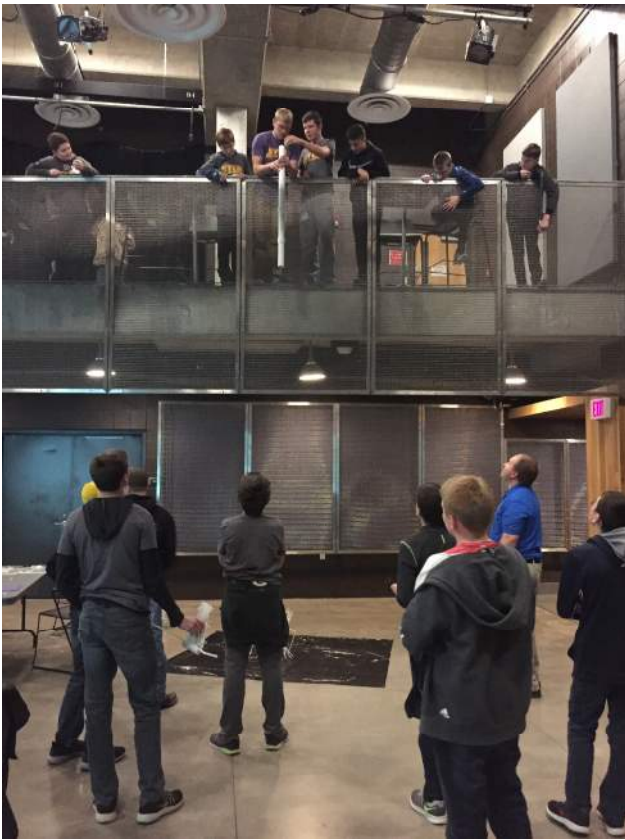
The 2017 Annual Meeting was a great event! Thank you to all who attended and a special thanks to the Northwest Branch planning committee, Technical Committee Chairs, and the Wisconsin Section Board for their efforts in putting this together.



STEM EDUCATION – Exploration for Boys at UW - Stevens Point

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point opened its doors Friday to 7th and 8th grade Boys on November 10, 2017 who wanted to learn more about STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).





Daniel Borchardt and Abby Meyer, MSA, and Andrew Walters, American Engineering Testing, Schofield, all volunteered at the event on behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

The STEM Exploration Day for Boys drew 250 -300 participants from throughout 8-10 central Wisconsin Schools.

After an opening session with keynote speaker, students participated in hands-on workshops and learned of the many career paths available with a STEM education.

The ASCE team helped boys with a crash-cushioning experiment. They worked in groups to design and make a crash barrier capable of catching an egg dropped from different heights — including from a balcony. Some of the eggs survived the drop.



In addition, boys learned about the ingredients that go into making asphalt. They made asphalt cookies with ingredients including Oreo Cookies, Reese's Pieces, oatmeal, and graham crackers. These ingredients represented raw materials used to make asphalt for road projects. Then the boys got to eat their creations.



The ASCE NW Branch has participated in the STEM Career Day for Boys and Girls for many years and is always in search of volunteers. If you are interested in helping at future events **PLEASE CONTACT DAN BORCHARDT AT DBORCHARDT@MSA-PS.COM**

District 1 Community Center, Black River Falls – July 20, 2017

This summer, a group of ASCE members and other professionals toured the District 1 Community Center in Black River Falls. Designed and built to cater to the unique needs of the Ho-Chunk community, the 60,000 SF building will serve student youth and adults, athletes, and general members of the community. Facilities within the complex include youth education classrooms, office spaces, meeting rooms, multipurpose spaces, two gymnasiums, and a wellness center, complete with a running track, stationary equipment, and studio space. To keep building maintenance sustainable, the facility was design with a horizontal geothermal field and in-floor heating.

The group toured all areas of the facility, from the roof to the bathrooms, in July while the building was under construction. The Ho-Chunk Nation broke ground in September 2016, and with the project scheduled for completion in Fall 2017, the site was bustling with activity. At the time, plumbers and HVAC technicians were at work in kitchens and the wellness center. A crew was on site with gallons upon gallons of paint, painting the expansive gymnasium walls. Outside, a concrete crew was pouring curb and gutter for the onsite drives, installing inlet covers as they went. On the roof, laborers were at work constructing a decorative wooden awning. Inside, an exposed white spiral staircase stood, taped off to protect it from construction wear.

Following the tour, many of the group stayed for a social hour and gathered over food. Overall, the tour of the unique facility and the amiable conversation that followed was a great way to spend the mild July day.



2018 Goodell Scholarship

The Northwest Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers annually awards a scholarship to recognize the unselfish contributions to the civil engineering profession made by Mr. Harvey Goodell, a notable Northwest Branch leader and member. One **\$1,000** scholarship will be awarded this year.

Applicants must have permanent residence within one of the following counties within the Northwest Branch geographical area: Adams, Barron, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Lincoln, Marathon, Monroe, Oneida, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Price, Rusk, St. Croix, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vilas, or Wood.

Applicants must have completed, or will complete in the present semester/quarter, at least one full academic year of study in the engineering curriculum.

Applicants must be attending, or plan to attend in the following semester/quarter, one of the following ABET accredited engineering institutions: University of Wisconsin – Madison, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin – Platteville, University of Minnesota—Twin Cities, University of Minnesota — Mankato, Michigan Technological University, Marquette University, or Milwaukee School of Engineering.

Application materials and additional information is available on the ASCE Northwest Wisconsin Branch Website at:

www.ascewinw.org/scholarships/

Applications are due 5:00 PM May 31, 2018

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 or call (800) 548-272.

2018 Calendar of Events

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

April:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting

May:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting
- Prescott Bridge Tour
- Scholarship Applications Due by 5:00 PM – May 31, 2018

June:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting

CURRENT NORTHWEST BRANCH OFFICERS

President: Kris Roppe - ISG: La Crosse; kris.roppe@is-grp.com

President-Elect: Corona Woychik - ISG: La Crosse; corona.woychik@is-grp.com

Secretary-Treasurer:

Andy Walters, American Engineering Testing, Inc.: Wausau; awalters@amengtest.com

Past President: Wisconsin Section Northwest Branch Representative:

Kris Roppe, ISG: La Crosse; kris.roppe@is-grp.com

Northwest Branch Directors-At-Large:

Dylan Musgjerd – ISG: La Crosse; dylan.musgjerd@is-grp.com

Evan Berglund - Krech Ojard & Associates, Inc.: Eau Claire; (715) 553-7374

Dan Borchardt - MSA Professional Services: Wausau; (715) 304-0448

Mike Binsfeld - J.F. Brennan Company: La Crosse; mikebinsfeld@jfbrennan.com

Newsletter Editors:

Kris Roppe & Corona Woychik