



President's Message



Dear ASCE Northwest Branch Members:

Thank you all for taking a moment to open this newsletter and check in on activity in the Northwest Branch since the last newsletter. We've participated in several STEAM Girls and Boys events through UW-Stevens Point, and the Branch hosted this year's Spring Technical Conference. Thank you to all you attended the virtual 2023 Spring Technical Conference, and we hope to see you in-person at upcoming Wisconsin Section Centennial Celebration activities, including the 2023 ASCE Wisconsin Section Centennial Year Celebration and Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 28th.

As advertised in this newsletter, I'd like to draw your attention to this year's offering of the Goodell Scholarship. The application period is open and the \$1,000 Goodell Scholarship will be awarded to a worthy applicant. Application criteria include a permanent address within the Northwest Branch geographical area, at least one full academic year of study by the end of 2023 in the engineering curriculum, and attendance at one of the several ABET accredited engineering institutions in our area. Involvement in ASCE activities at their institution is a plus! Please reach out to the applicable students in your lives and encourage them to apply. The deadline to apply is October 31, 2023.

Finally, I'd like to put a plug in for the [Northwest Branch's LinkedIn page](#). Please follow our page for updates on Northwest Branch activity. We hope to use this platform to be more accessible to you and to provide you notices of upcoming events and recaps of past events. If you have any connections to ongoing construction projects and would be willing to host a site tour that you feel your fellow members would be interested in, let us know!

Sincerely,

Corona Woychik, PE, PTOE, M.ASCE
Northwest Branch President

Corona.Woychik@ISGInc.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 ASCE events for 2023!

2023 ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting and Grand Centennial Celebration

Registration is open for the 2023 ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting and Grand Centennial Celebration! This year's event will be hosted at the **Discovery World** in **Milwaukee** on **Thursday, September 28th**. See the WI Section's website to register.

Call for Virtual Technical Session Speakers

The ASCE Wisconsin Section's Northwest Branch is seeking speakers to lead virtual technical session webinars, organized and hosted by the Northwest Branch.

The ASCE Wisconsin Section Northwest Branch board hopes to capitalize on the collective expertise and talent represented by its membership to help provide exceptional education to fellow Branch members. Whether you are just a few years into your profession, experienced in your field, or retired, you have value to your colleagues and fellow engineers as we navigate education and professional development in the post-COVID world.

If you are interested in presenting in a virtual technical session webinar, please reach out to the Northwest Branch board by emailing the President at corona.woychik@isginc.com. Submissions should contain a title, description of the session being proposed, and three learning objectives.

PAST EVENTS

February 2022 UW-Stevens Point STEAM Point Day for Girls

Let's talk about the power of a young, upcoming generation of female engineers, shall we? MSA likely met a few of them at the UW-Stevens Point STEAM Point Day for Girls, which introduces 7th and 8th graders to STEAM activities and career paths. Here, AET Andy Walters and MSA's Dan Borchardt and Nora Rickman helped illustrate how stormwater filters through soils/wetlands and how potable water is filtered through various media by using sieves, aggregates, sticks and mud to test filtration success.







April 2022 Spring Technical Conference Summary

The ASCE WI Section Spring Technical Conference was hosted virtually by the Southeast Branch on April 8th. Some of the highlights include an opening presentation from President Dennis Truax and Dr. David Noyce on ASCE's Future World Vision Project. The Honorable Judge Derek Mosley provided the Keynote Presentation for the conference, a very interesting presentation on Unconscious Bias. Judge Mosley shared personal experience as well as research data on how all of us develop an unconscious bias... think 'black cats', 'black hats', 'black eye', as examples of the terms most people have heard their entire lives, with the connotation that these are all 'bad'; whereas doctors wear 'white coats' and the hero wears a 'white hat' as an example of 'good'.

Vance Crowe presented and led a great discussion on the art and ethics of Interest Based Negotiations. Along with these general sessions, there were technical breakout sessions throughout the day as well as recognition of our recent Wisconsin Section Student Award recipients and acknowledgement of the new Life Members and Fellows in our Section.

September 2022 Annual Meeting Summary

The ASCE WI Annual Meeting was hosted IN PERSON by the Fox River Valley Branch at the Bubolz Nature Preserve in Appleton on October 7th. Annual awards were handed out for individual and project honors. Some of the highlights included a very emotional presentation of the newly named, 'Thomas Walther Distinguished Service Award'. Tom's daughter and son were present to talk a little about Tom and present the award to the Northwest Branch's very own, Martin J. Hanson, congratulations Marty!

Other individual and project awards included:

- Young Engineer of the Year – Alyssa Walker
- Individual Merit in Consulting Practice – Nicholas Bobinski
- Individual Merit in Private Industry – Jacob Brunoehler
- Category B Project Award – Eagle Tower Replacement
 - Ayres Associates
- Category C Project Award – 87th Street Reconstruction MKE Regional Medical Campus
 - GRAEF
- Category D Project Award – North Fish Hatchery Road (CTH D) Reconstruction
 - KL Engineering

The Keynote Presentation for the conference was by Scott Ebel (WisDOT) on the I-41 Project: Brown & Outagamie Counties; Design, Coordination, and Budgeting. A group ethics presentation along with three technical breakout sections was also included in the day's activities. It was great to see our colleagues back in-person for the first time since COVID.

February 2023 UW-Stevens Point STEAM Point Days

Do *you* know what the difference is between concrete and asphalt? 712 middle school students do, thanks to an asphalt cookie exhibit at two different UW-Stevens Point STEAM Days! American Engineering Testing's Andy Walters and Matt Williams worked alongside MSA's Dan Borchardt, Nora Rickman, Hashim Chaudhuri, and Angeline Dannecker to introduce 7th and 8th graders to STEAM activities and career paths. A "Would You Drink This Water?" activity also showcased how stormwater filters are designed and how a turbidity meter works.

The problem of runoff was explained along with how filters assist in cleaning both stormwater and drinking water. After being split up into teams, students were tasked with coming up with an engineering design before being given dirty water with a turbidity level of 700 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU), sieves, a mix of aggregate, and a two-liter bottle. Eventually, each team figured out how to layer different sizes of rocks and sand in a way that would filter the water without letting material wash through the bottom of their filter. This portion enforced how wetlands infiltrate stormwater through soil.

When water had been run through the filters three times, students were taught how to use a turbidity meter. Each group then added flocculent to the water and added anthracite and green sand to their filters. This step helped explain how drinking water filtration systems operate. Most students were able to get turbidity readings between 20 and 60 NTU after adding flocculation and the additional media. One of the teams was even able to clarify the water better than the vial used to calibrate the turbidity meter, down to 0.003 NTU!

Many chaperones and students alike commented that *Would You Drink This Water?* was one of the best sessions because of how hands on it was. There were even repeat students from last year who wanted to beat their record!



March 2023 ASCE Wisconsin Spring Technical Conference

Hosted Virtually by Northwest Branch

On March 31, 2023, the Northwest Branch hosted the 2023 ASCE Wisconsin Spring Technical Conference. The conference was held virtually via Zoom and included 193 attendees, 2 general sessions, 4 technical breakout sessions, awards for the Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student, and recognition of New Life Members.

Our keynote/general session was presented by Dave Williams, Performance Strategist for ISG, Inc. that focused on building the foundations of an aggressive leadership development program. Employee retention is a major focus for companies around the country, particularly in our sector. Our second general session was presented by Austin Polebitski, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at UW Platteville whose research evaluates climate change impacts on infrastructure, and how to better use climate forecasts on employing short range and seasonal forecasts for decision making. The session provided a brief overview of the science behind our understanding of climate change and then examined how it impacts our ability to design infrastructure. As engineers, we have an ethical obligation to ensure that our designs and subsequent construction work accounts for accurate climate and/or weather forecasting using unbiased data sources to ensure our infrastructure is able to withstand future change.

During the post-lunch general session, the Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Award was presented to Frank Ziccardi-Marquette University and Matthew Tonkel-Milwaukee School of Engineering. New Life Members were also recognized, and those members included Ronald G Becker, Steven Mark Cramer, Jerome Alan Hutzler, Mark John Rapant, Rick L Hopke, Richard Henry Weber, Allan Eugene Erickson, Kenneth Edward Grebe, Carl C Sutter, Mafizul Islam, and Van E Komurka.

Thank you to the Northwest Branch Board and ASCE's administrative partner, IMPACT for putting together this great conference for our members!

2022 Goodell Scholarship

The Goodell Scholarship is offered to students from the Northwest Region currently enrolled in an ABET accredited Civil Engineering program. The scholarship was started to perpetuate the spirit and enthusiasm for the civil engineering profession that Harvey Goodell contributed during his career. Mr. Goodell provided leadership on the Northwest Branch Board for many years and is most recognized for his efforts in initiating and promoting the “Eminent Board” concept.

2022’s Goodell Scholarship was awarded to Ryan Mai Berger of Eleva, WI! Ryan Mai attended UW-Platteville and has been active in the student chapter and served as Vice President. He co-chaired the Annual UW-Platteville ASCE Benchmark Golf Outing event and served on the 2023 National Concrete Canoe Competition committee. Ryan is active in other organizations as well and has worked with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation’s Northwest Region for several summer and winter breaks.

Congratulations to Ryan and we look forward to seeing the great things he will do in his career and continued growth in ASCE!

2023 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, an ABET accredited civil engineering institution.

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 October 31st, 2023

Wisconsin Legislative Update (June 2023)

SB 247 A new program to finance road improvements that benefit agricultural producers. Improvements can be to local road, minor collector, bridge or culvert that is publicly maintained. The bill requires WisDOT to prioritize projects based on the largest number of agricultural producers, that are the oldest, and projects that will result in the largest reduction of repeated trips by farm equipment. The proposal is a 100 percent reimbursement program.

AB200 This bill requires the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to prepare a biennial report to the legislature detailing the operation metrics of licensure issuance and renewals.

SB 193 This bill changes the renewal period of some professional licenses from two years to four years. The bill allows DSPS to stagger renewals and make appropriate changes to continuing education requirements affected by the change in renewal period.

You can subscribe to a notification system where you will receive daily emails listing introduced bills and actions on bills based on key words you select. To subscribe, go to <https://notify.legis.wisconsin.gov>

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.

2023 Calendar of Events

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

August:

- ASCE Region 3 Assembly – August 25th and 26th, 2023

September:

- Virtual Technical Presentation (Lunch, PDH Eligible) – Date TBD
- ASCE WI Section Annual Meeting & Centennial Celebration – September 28th, 2023

October:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting – Date TBD
- WI Section Annual Meeting – Date TBD
- Scholarships Due – October 31st, 2023

November:

- Q3 Northwest Branch Board Meeting – November 10th, 2023 at 12pm
- Happy Thanksgiving!

CURRENT NORTHWEST BRANCH OFFICERS

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Past President: Wisconsin Section Northwest Branch Representative:

Corona Woychik - ISG: La Crosse; corona.woychik@isginc.com

Northwest Branch Directors-At-Large:

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