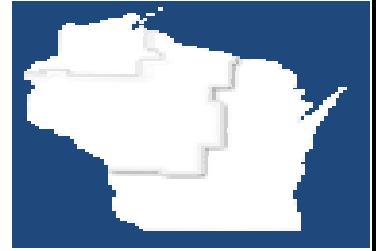




WISCONSIN SECTION
Northwest Branch



Newsletter No. 121
October 31st, 2013



President's Message – Past & Future

Dear ASCE Northwest Branch,

Hi Northwest Branch Members! I am excited to begin serving you as the President for the 2013-2014 term and am energized to be working with such an enthusiastic Northwest Branch Board. As we begin a new year for the Branch, I would like to reflect on our past and look ahead to our future.

In just the 3 short years that I have been on the Board, the Branch has established a K-12 Outreach program; created a website; held Branch meetings throughout our vast geographic area; sent Board members representing the Branch to the Region 3 Assembly and to the Regions 3, 6, & 7 Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders; annually awarded the Goodell Scholarship; and most recently awarded the first Matt Rynish Honorarium. Wow! However, these tremendous accomplishments are nothing new for this Branch. The Northwest Branch has always had members that are highly involved in their profession and community. Therefore, I charge you, our members, with the following for the upcoming year:

- Attend one Branch activity.
- Invite a colleague to join you at an ASCE activity and encourage him or her to become a Member.
- Get involved in your community, and share your knowledge as a Civil Engineer with the public, by participating in K-12 Outreach, mentoring, or participating in local government.
- Write to your representatives concerning Infrastructure issues.
- Consider serving the Branch in the future as part of the Branch Board.

With the seed planted by past Board members, fertilized by Matt Rynish and continued cultivation by the recent and current Board members, the fruits are starting to ripen. Now is the time to look toward the future of the Branch and to build upon the momentum.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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



THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 21, 2013

Presentation Starting at 5:30 pm

Light dinner provided by ASCE Northwest Branch

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - STOUT
JARVIS HALL**

Are you wondering how sustainable development fits into your line of work? Jason E. Charalambides and Monika Herrman, AIA, LEED AP will be presenting on ISI Envision and USGBC LEED. An email invitation with more information and a RSVP link will be sent out to the Branch Members the first week of November.

PAST EVENTS

Region 3 Assembly

Andy Walters, P.E., M.ASCE

On August 16 & 17, I had the privilege to attend the 2013 Region 3 Assembly in Chicago, IL, as a representative from the Wisconsin Northwest Branch. Attendance at the Assembly included representatives from each of the six state sections and nearly every branch in the region. Mr. Ken Mika from our very own Wisconsin Section presented on the lessons learned from last year's STEM Expo in Milwaukee and Ms. Mindy Bacon from the Michigan Section presented on some of the great things their section has been doing for student outreach.

The primary discussion of the Assembly was regarding the Raise the Bar Resolution presented by the Region 3 Board of Governors. Briefly, Raise the Bar is an initiative within ASCE National in an attempt to increase the Body of Knowledge (BOK). The initiative could include requiring an additional 30 credit hours of graduate level education prior to obtaining licensure as a Professional Engineer. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent in promoting Raise the Bar across the country; however, it has not taken hold, subsequently leading to the Resolution. After several hours of spirited debate, the original Resolution was revised by the Assembly to read:

- 1) **The American Society of Civil Engineers continue to develop, define, and disseminate optimal education, internship, experience, and examination goals for its members in regards to the link between competency and professional licensure; and**
 - a. **Coordinate a consistent approach on CEU requirements for FE and PE across all 50 states; and**
 - b. **Focus ASCE resources on creating effective and cost-efficient training courses that increase the BOK; and**
 - c. **Consider requiring more experience prior to obtaining the PE license (e.g., 5 or 6 years); and**
 - d. **ASCE should engage Universities on course content requirements to increase the BOK for specific topics.**
- 2) **The American Society of Civil Engineers develop a more effective strategy to engage other engineering professional and technical societies regarding the development, definition, and promotion of the link between competency and professional licensure.**

The final message leaving the Assembly came from our Region 3 Director, Mr. John Fraunhoffer. Mr. Fraunhoffer asked us all to 'Try Something New'; not just as ASCE representatives, but in all areas of our professional and personal lives.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to have attended the Assembly as one of your Branch representatives.

Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting

William Kratt, P.E., M.ASCE
Teresa Davis, A.M.ASCE

The Wisconsin Section held its Annual Meeting on September 13, 2013 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison. The keynote speaker was best-selling author and award-winning journalist, Dan McNichol. He spoke on the Oakland Bay Bridge repairs in California. The majority of his presentation focused on the state of our nation's infrastructure and how his research and observations relate to the ASCE 2013 Report Card on America's Infrastructure.

The four technical sessions covered topics in infrastructure, construction, structures, environmental/water resources, geotechnical, transportation, and stormwater. These sessions were informative for all attendees. The awards ceremony honored Project Achievement Awards. Each award included a short project presentation. The winner of the project with construction costs under \$2 Million was Strand Associates, Inc with the Whitewater North Street Bridge Replacements. The award for the project with construction cost over \$2 Million and under \$10 Million, was awarded to Mead & Hunt, Inc., for the Black River Falls Dam Rehab and New Hydro facility. GRAEF, with their work on the UW – Madison Union South project, earned the top honors for projects with construction cost over \$20 Million. Individual Achievement Awards consisted of the following: the 2013 Distinguished Service Award recipient was Rajan I. Sheth, P.E., F.ASCE; the 2013 Engineer in Government Service Award recipient was Brian M. Udovich, P.E., M.ASCE; and the 2013 Wisconsin Young Civil Engineer Award recipient was Theresa Possley Nelson, P.E., M.ASCE.



Of special note to the Northwest Branch, the 1st Annual Matthew T. Rynish Honorarium was presented to our President-Elect, Teresa Davis. This was a great chance to honor the work Matt did within the Branch with recognizing and supporting a great member to lead the Branch in the future. The honorarium was established to recognize Northwest Branch members for excellence in leadership, recruitment, and other support of Northwest Branch activities. The recipient is awarded \$500 and receives complimentary admission to the Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting.

Teresa graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where she was heavily involved in the ASCE Student Chapter. Teresa served as President, Chair of the Community Outreach Committee and traveled to Clemson, Oklahoma City, and Seattle with the Concrete Canoe Team. She also had the opportunity to travel to St. Louis and Los Angeles for national conferences. We look forward to the future leadership and energy Teresa will provide to the Branch!

OTHER NEWS

House approves \$8.2 Billion Water Resources Reform and Development Act

Following the government shutdown, the House found near-unanimous agreement Wednesday on the \$8.2 billion, ASCE-supported **Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA)**. The 417-3 vote funds projects including ports, dams, inland waterways, and levees, plus streamlines the approval process. "**ASCE is pleased** that Congress has collaborated to pass WRRDA and invest in America's future," 2014 President Mr. Randy Over, P.E., F.ASCE, said in a statement released by the Society. [Read the full statement](#) at ASCE's Save America's Infrastructure blog. Next, the House and Senate must resolve their versions of the bill.

Wisconsin Section
Mr. Dan McNichol Presentation *Focus on Aging Infrastructure*

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 4, 2013
Presentation Starting at 3:30 pm
Roundtable Discussion at 4:30
Reception to Follow

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON
1610 ENGINEERING HALL

Mr. Dan McNichol may just be the voice that wins the battle for aging infrastructure. Best-selling author, former White House Appointee, award-winning journalist for numerous publications and a fifth-generation road builder, Dan has decades of experience and expertise around the history, successes, failures and future of our Nation's infrastructure, as well as a deep understanding of the engineers, workers and partnerships that are crucial to driving change. There will be a round table discussion that includes the Secretary of Transportation Mr. Mark Gottlieb, Mr. Dan McNichol, Professor Craig Benson, and ASCE Members. A networking reception will follow the presentation and discussion. There is no cost to attend the event.

Please visit <http://www.direstates.com/> and <http://www.danmcnichol.com/?C=M;O=A> to learn more about Mr. McNichol and his mission help aging infrastructure.

Renew your ASCE Membership for 2014



Take care of business now, and give yourself a shot at a big screen TV or a Visa® gift card worth as much as \$250! [Renew your ASCE membership for 2014](#). ASCE is selecting six winners between now and Dec. 10. Gift cards start at \$250 and will decrease after every drawing. That means the earlier you renew, the more value you can win! Additionally, you will be entered to win the grand prize of a 50-inch flat-panel HDTV. 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.

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 or call (800) 548-272.

2013-2014 Calendar of Events

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

NOVEMBER:

- November 14 – ASCE WI Section Board Meeting hosted by Southeast Branch – Milwaukee
- November 21 – Sustainability Presentation at UW-Stout Jarvis Hall; Menomonie, WI (NW Branch Co-sponsored event)
- November 26 – Northwest Branch Board Meeting

DECEMBER:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting
- TBD -- Northwest Branch Social—Eau Claire/Chippewa Falls Area (Organizer – Teresa Davis)

JANUARY 2014:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting
- TBD -- 5th Annual Sylvan Tubing Event—Wausau Area – (Organizer – Andy Walters)
- 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 – La Crosse

FEBRUARY:

- TBD -- PE Exam Helpful Hints– Menomonie Area – (Organizer – Jessica Felix)
- Northwest Branch Board Meeting
- February 16-22, 2014 -- National Engineers Week

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

TBD ACTIVITIES IN 2014 (keep a lookout on the calendar for dates):

- Lock & Dam #8 Tour
- Ethics Course

CURRENT NORTHWEST BRANCH OFFICERS

President: [Jessica Felix](mailto:felix.jessica@att.net), WisDOT Northwest Region: Eau Claire; (715) 836-5170; felix.jessica@att.net
President-Elect: [Teresa Davis](mailto:brunnete.80@gmail.com), Brown and Caldwell: St. Paul MN – resides in WI; brunnete.80@gmail.com
Secretary-Treasurer: [Will Kratt](mailto:william.kratt@gmail.com), I&S Group, Inc.: La Crosse; william.kratt@gmail.com
Past President: [Will Kratt](mailto:william.kratt@gmail.com), I&S Group, Inc.: La Crosse; william.kratt@gmail.com
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