Greetings!

I am excited to be your new Duluth Section President. It’s been a busy four years during my tenure as Treasurer, Secretary, VP and President Elect. I imagine this year will be as busy. But being busy is probably that status quo for most of you, and in that busyness we often don’t take time to reflect on the amazing things we are responsible for. So rather than telling you about all the upcoming initiatives of this year, I’d like to start off by taking a moment to express some gratitude; it is after all why I became a board member.

I graduated from a university program quite a few years ago now, and had little involvement or appreciation of ASCE. I took a position at a small consulting firm, and the learning became even more focused. But during those first couple years I became acutely aware that my learning was deeply dependent the experienced engineers and mentors around me. The vast majorities of those interactions weren’t had with the intent of increasing the company capacity for engineering, but were rather generous gifts of time and experience.

Likewise, I began to understand that the design standards and guides that I was using (and, yes grumbling about) were largely due to the efforts of volunteers. Even today, I sometimes imagine a dark room with cloaked figures in shades of gray slowly murmuring questionable complexity into our design standards. But that’s not true. Those standards are the hard fought effort of people that show up consistently, give their time freely and care deeply about bettering the profession they have chosen. So I’m grateful to those engineers that have come before me and shared their knowledge and wisdom. I’m grateful to the twelve engineers that formed ASCE in 1852 to formalize the professional accumulation of this wisdom and to “provide essential value to our members and partners, advance civil engineering and serve the public good.”

More specifically, I’ve had the pleasure of serving under Duluth Section Presidents Craig Bursch, Art Johnston, Lisa Karlgaard, and Cindy Voigt. Thanks to each of them for the leadership, support and comradery that they have given in the spirit of providing that essential value, advancing civil engineering and serving the public good at the local level.

I look forward to building on that tradition in my role as the ASCE Duluth Section President.

David Franseen
American Society of Civil Engineer’s Mission is to provide essential value to our members, their careers, our partners and the public by developing leadership, advancing technology and advocating lifelong learning and promoting the profession.

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david.franseen@krechojard.com

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Marine Tech
(218) 720-2833
npatterson@marinetechduluth.com

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(218) 722-5995
tomd@nce-duluth.com

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University of Minnesota Duluth
(218) 726-7810
muchrist@d.umn.edu

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(630) 605-5561
aislynclare@yahoo.com

First Past President
Cindy Voigt, P.E.
City of Duluth
(218) 730-5071
cindyvoigt@live.com

Web Updates
Lisa Karlgaard, P.E.
LHB, Inc.
(218) 279-2486
Lisa.Karlgaard@lhbcorp.com

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(218) 590-3158
john.hinzmann@state.mn.us

 Please join us for
a Unique Presentation:
October 20th, 2015 12:00 pm
Radisson Hotel
"Concrete Sustainability"
Mary Christiansen, Ph.D., LEED AP BD+C

Concrete is the second most widely used material on earth after water. The environmental, economic and social impacts of this well-known material are significant but also unknown to much of the population. This presentation will discuss some of the environmental concerns associated with using portland cement as the primary binder in concrete as well as some of the advances that have been made to reduce the carbon footprint of this ubiquitous material.

Please RSVP by responding directly to the electronic invitation you received, or emailing asceduluth@yahoo.com

Professional rate is $15. Student rate is $10. Costs will be collected at the door. ASCE Duluth Section will issue a PDH certificate to members in good standing. It is the responsibility of the individual to determine whether or not the presentation is applicable to his/her career.

ASCE Duluth Section 2015-16 TENTATIVE Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Meetings</th>
<th>Board Meetings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 15, 2015</td>
<td>September 24, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20, 2015</td>
<td>October 29, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17, 2015</td>
<td>November 19, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1, 2015 (UMD)</td>
<td>December 17, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 19, 2016</td>
<td>January 28, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 22, 2016</td>
<td>March 31, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19, 2016</td>
<td>April 28, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19, 2016</td>
<td>May 28, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASCE DULUTH SECTION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2015 at Tycoons.

Board Members present were Cindy Voigt, Nick Patterson, Tom DesMarais, Aislyn Ryan, Mary Christiansen and Dave Franseen. Also Pete Demshar (Younger Member Chair), Dave Polson (Membership Chair).

The meeting was called to order at 6:00. A quorum was present. August minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report: (Tom for Aislyn)
Checking: $4849.71, Savings: $6968.94.

Younger Member: (Pete D.)
Pete presented a budget of $1700 for YM group, $1,500 from Section, $200 from fundraising. Funds will be used for social events ($800), outreach ($400) and a large event (such as renting bus for a tour in the cities) ($500). Previous budget was $500. The suggested budget was approved.

Radisson Contract: (Dave F.)
Radisson plans to raise rates pending remodel of their facility. Current costs are $13/plate. New costs are anticipated to be $15.40/plate after Jan. 1, 2016. Members are in favor of raising rates to $20/plate to avoid making change. After some discussion, it was suggested to present options to the membership in October and take a vote. Options: 1) increase rates to $20/plate on January 1 or 2) increase rates to $20/plate on Sept 1.

2015 Board/Lunch Schedule: (Dave F.)
Membership and board meetings have been set for this year. Dave F. will send out electronic invitations to board members. Speaker discussion tabled until Nick arrives.

Newsletter & Sponsorship Update: (Tom)
Dave will put together a story about the Regional Assembly for the newsletter. Tom wants all board members to send him a list of 5 companies (with contact) for possible sponsorship.

Speaker Gift Status: (Nick/Dave P.)
Dave P. will check out speaker gift possibilities and purchase 20 (max $20/per) by 9/28.

Membership: (Dave P.)
Dave P. is here to help if e-mails are not reaching all members. There was some discussion on retention of students following graduation. An etiquette dinner was suggested, or some other event where older
ASCE members could interact with student and younger members.

UMD Student Update: (April)
April was not present, but Mary reported that Larry Novak from PCA came and presented for the September ASCE Student Group meeting and about 40 students were present. Elections for new officers will be in October.

Matrix Review and Update: (Dave F.)
Dave F. set up a table of tasks by month. It was determined that everyone should read their job descriptions. The Annual Report is due November 30, Mary will do it.

Multi-Region Conference: (All)
Jan 15-16 in Chicago. Aislyn, Pete and maybe Nick will attend.

Toothpick Bridge: (John H.)
John H. was not present. Co-chairs to work with John H. were discussed and several people will be approached. It was also suggested that UMD ASCE group get involved with the organization. Off topic, but somewhat related: UMD ASCE group should also get involved with Career Fair as a possible fundraising opportunity. It was strongly suggested that the TB Chair attend the next meeting. The new UMD ASCE P and VP will be invited to the next Board Meeting.

Cold Region Conference: (All)
Dave F. will invite John H. to attend next board meeting to discuss. It will coincide with the Centennial.

2015 Speakers and Meetings: (Nick)
Mary will present in October. November ideas were discussed and included: 4th Street Water Improvements, Lift Station 8, Jay Cooke, Hwy 210 Rebuild, how to use GIS data. Speaker ideas and speakers are welcome. Dave F. suggested the Secretary keep track of speaker ideas. Secretary did not approve of this idea. Nick will have confirmed contact with all speakers/dates/topics by next meeting. Nick will also bring the projector and laptop. Dave F., Aislyn, Nick and Tom will look into purchasing laptop and/or projector or paying Radisson to use theirs.

Other Discussion Topics: (All)
- Pete will try to start a Younger Member Committee that will consist of more than just Pete
- Nick will help with speaker gifts.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for October 29th, Tycoons at 6:00pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm
Mary Christiansen, Secretary
Speaker and Board Member Spotlight

Mary Christiansen, PhD, M. ASCE, Duluth Section Secretary

Where did you graduate from?

BS Architectural Engineering from the Milwaukee School of Engineering

MS Structural Engineering from the Milwaukee School of Engineering

PhD Civil Engineering from Michigan Technological University

Where do you work and what do you do?

I work at the University of Minnesota Duluth. I am an Assistant Professor in the Civil Engineering program and teach courses on structural analysis and design, concrete materials and sustainable design and construction. My research focus is on sustainable concrete binders and I have recently become interested in renewable energy technologies.

Why did you decide to get involved with ASCE and what would you like to see happen?

I have met many of the local ASCE members through my work and thought it would be a fun and interesting group to participate in. The local chapter is very supportive of the CE program at UMD, and I hope to show our appreciation through my involvement and also to further strengthen that relationship by representing UMD on the Board.
The 2015 ASCE Region 3 Assembly was hosted by the Minnesota Section at the Minneapolis Marquette Hotel. The two day event occurred Friday August 14th and Saturday August 15th. This year’s focus was on Sustainability. In attendance from the Duluth Section were Cindy Voigt, Lisa Karlgaard, Nick Patterson, Tom DesMarais, Pete Demshar, Aislyn Ryan, Governor Chris Rousseau, and me, David Franseen.

It was a great opportunity to have a significant attendance and learn more about the Regional Assembly close to home.

Mike Sanio presented the State of the Art of Sustainability focusing on the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure and ASCE’s position that we as Engineers are leaders and instrumental in re-framing the design and delivery of projects in a more Sustainable context. He also gave an overview of the make up of the committee on Sustainability that is a 12 person panel made up of appointees selected by the President Elect of ASCE National. A Summit on Jan 7-9 in January of 2016 is planned for 100 persons, with approximately 2/3 ASCE members and 1/3 others; largely academia. The intent is to layout a roadmap to faster adoption and consider issues related to climate change (regardless of its cause) effects on infrastructure development.

President Bob Stevens was also in attendance and provided a number of points for Engineers to consider:

- Engineers are behind the scenes largely and hidden: we are all ambassadors to changing the system and by simply telling people what we do, and how we make decisions will have significant influence. Even telling our kids and immediate families will have an impact.
- A Utility Engineering Institute has been formed as the 9th Institute. Check out the other 8.
- Life Cycle costing is critical to a reframing of sustainable decision making: we as engineers need to speak up about our understanding of this, and it WILL have influence on politics. The Report Card is good evidence of this shift, and how fast we can build influence at high levels.
- The infrastructure is improving, but very slowly, and most improvement has been in the private sector. More needs to be done.
- Raising the Bar continues to focus on a Masters Education.
- The gas tax has stayed the same since 1993. Funding is a key issue.
- ASCE member only represent 50% of the Civil Engineers in the US. Why? We have 148,000 members, but that is only back to pre-2008 levels. This isn’t large enough.
John Lazzara and Wayne Houle also discussed how the ENVISION system has been used to capture public input into a sustainable framework. There are many levels of ENVISION adoption that are being used to influence decision makers. Adoption of ENVISION is new, but is growing rapidly, primarily in the public arena.

Section and Branch roundtables were moderated by John Frauenhoffer and Chris Rousseau as well as others. ASCE National Geographic Services Department assisted in the discussions on member involvement, capital planning, centennial celebrations, officer recruitment and transitioning Student members into members after school. Region 3 is a leader in transitioning students, but even our transitioning rate is less than 50%.

John Frauenhoffer discussed the $2.6 million dollars spent each year by ASCE National on government outreach. Still much can be done at the local level to influence decision processes. As such, he made a number of requests to us as local Section leaders and members in his final year as Region 3 Director. (We’ll miss all his enthusiasm!)

- Reach out to the league of Women Voters to educate them on engineering and infrastructure.
- Talk actively about aspects of sustainability initiatives and how they influence engineer decisions.
- Join an Institute or Technical group, or start one locally. There is speaker cost sharing benefits from National ASCE for these groups.
- He urged us to use or money at a local level to provide members with benefits – so send us ideas you have. We don’t need large cash reserves.
- Consider talking to a non-member about the member benefits and getting them to consider membership.

It was a well-organized event, and gave us an opportunity to learn from other larger Sections throughout Region 3. Special thanks to the Minnesota Region for hosting and to Chris Rousseau (your Governor) for moderating the event.
Thanks to Our 2014–2015 Sponsors!
(Time to update your sponsorship!)

American Society of Civil Engineers Duluth Section

DULUTH OFFICE
Mining, Ground Engineering and Environmental Services

Tel: (218) 724 0088
Fax: (218) 724 0089
Email: athorson@golder.com
Web: www.golder.com

Mailing Address:
Golder Associates Inc.
4438 Haines Road
Duluth, MN
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1
8