

# CIVIL ENGINEER



T H E N E W S L E T T E R

Tacoma ♦ Olympia Section of the  
American Society of Civil Engineers



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**CIVIL ENGINEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!  
THEY PROVIDE THE QUALITY OF LIFE!**

The **Civil Engineer Newsletter** is published for the Tacoma/Olympia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers monthly from September to June.

To submit ads or articles of interest, please contact the President of the Section or the Editor. Information must be submitted not later than the 15th of the month prior to publication.

For address changes and corrections, contact the Editor.

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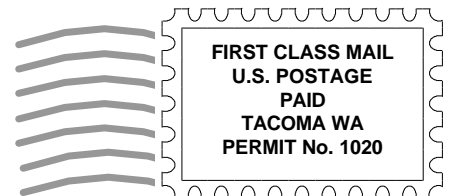
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**CIVIL ENGINEER  
The NEWSLETTER**

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# OCTOBER MEETING

**Tuesday, October 13, 1998**

**Fife City Bar and Grill**

Social: 6:00 P.M.

Dinner: 6:45 P.M.

Program 7:30 P.M.

The dinner cost is \$20.00 for members, and students are half-price.

The program is free to all.

## **Proposed in Professional Practice and ASCE**

Speaker: **Gary Carroll**, ASCE District 12 Director from the S. Idaho Section

Gary will install the 1998-99 officers and speak about changes that are percolating through our profession via ASCE. Items undergoing revision with ASCE influence currently include, required Master's Degrees, dam removal, opening up a portion of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas extraction, and other subjects that affect your ability to do work, live life, and leave a legacy for the future.

Come hear Gary speak about what ASCE is doing concerning these items and give him feedback on where we think ASCE should stand on these issues.

### **Directions to The Fife City Grill**

**From I-5** take the Port of Tacoma exit. At Pacific Highway East, turn west (left). The restaurant is on the right side about 1/2 block from the intersection, between a tire store and a motel. There is additional parking behind the build-

### **Reservations**

Reservations for dinner are really needed or we end up without enough Plates and seating. Call Connie Linden at (253) 383-2422 or Mark Leingang, (360) 754-9339 by the close of business, Friday, October 9, 1998.

This will let us tell the cooks how many to expect. You can also make reservations by accessing the Tacoma-Olympia Section Home page at: <http://www.asce.org/gsd/sections/tacoly/tacoly.htm>

If you miss the deadline for reservations, **call anyway**. It's better to be late than not call at all and just show up. Members with reservations who do not attend will be billed.

It is very important to make firm reservations for the section meetings for the following reasons:

To make sure that we have a place set for everyone.

So the presenter can bring enough hand-outs for all who are present.

We (section) give an advance count of attendees so the proper amount of food will be prepared.

We are charged for each person we make a reservation for.

If the meeting is canceled, we can notify you.

### **Awards**

#### **Young Engineer of the Year Award**

Nominations are now being solicited for the Young Engineer of the Year Award. You must have your EIT and be younger than 35 to apply. See Rebecca Vader for application forms. The Section winner will advance for consideration of national honors.

#### **Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award**

The Pacific Northwest Council voted to advance the Oregon Section's nomination of the Westside MAX Light Rail Project to competition at the national level. This project, owned by Tri-Met, designed and built by Otak, BRW, and Parsons Brinckerhoff; is billed as the largest public works project ever completed in Oregon, and carried a price tag of nearly a billion dollars.

Westside MAX is described in the nomination presentation as an integrated system of light rail transit, bus, and road improvements linking Portland, OR with Hillsboro, 18 miles west. The project includes the deepest public transit station in North America; the first "low-floor" light rail vehicle in North America; and an unprecedented commitment to link land use, transportation, and air quality issues through the creation of new (greenfield and redeveloped) communities around MAX Stations.

An overwhelming majority of the PNC delegates voted for this project on the first ballot. The criteria used to select the projects is: Resourcefulness in planning and solving design challenges; Pioneering in use of materials and methods; Innovative construction; Impact on the physical environment; Contribution to the well-being of people and communities; and beneficial as well as adverse effects of the project, including aesthetic value.

# President's Corner

JIM BRIGHAM

As your incoming president, my first item of business is to thank our outgoing president, **Rebecca Vader**, for a job well done. As I am now finding out, the duties of the president are broad and Rebecca has carried them out with a freshness and candor that is atypical of the stereotypical Civil Engineer. She will be a hard act to follow, but since she will now be past president, we will still benefit from her advice and lack of tolerance for the mundane.

Thanks are also due to the past board of directors, and the Tacoma and Olympia House Chairs. These are the people that keep our section running month to month and occasionally attend policy meetings on nice weekend days.

Now I'd like to briefly introduce this year's board:  
The voting members of the board are:

#### **Past President - Rebecca Vader**

Rebecca is currently on leave of absence from David Evans while providing essential care for several biological entities. She lives in Tacoma.

#### **President - Jim Brigham**

I am a Senior Geotechnical Engineer for GeoEngineers Inc., Tacoma and live in Yelm. As of this writing I have been married for 10 days. So far it's great. Maybe I should go home early.

#### **President-Elect - Kathy Hargrave**

Kathy is a Civil Engineer for Sitts & Hill Engineers in Tacoma and lives in Kitsap County. She can occasionally be observed on Tacoma street corners peering into storm drains and muttering softly to herself.

#### **Secretary - Chris Beckman**

Chris is a Civil Engineer for Pierce County Public Works. Prior to this he was Tacoma House Chair for several years. (Remember all those great meetings?) Chris lives in Milton.

#### **Treasurer - Kristina Nelson**

Once again Kristina has agreed to be our Treasurer. She has done a superb job in this role for a number of years. Kristina is currently Assistant Division Manager for City of Tacoma Public Works. If you mess with her, you too may be observed on Tacoma street corners peering into storm drains and muttering softly to yourself. Kristina lives in Port Orchard.

#### **Director - Perry Shea**

Perry is a Civil Engineer for SCA in Lacey.

...the duties of the president are broad and Rebecca has carried them out with a freshness and candor that is atypical of the stereotypical Civil Engineer.

Lately he has been going round and round about roundabouts.

(OK, that was a bad pun) Perry lives in the Olympia area.

#### **Director - Michael Hale**

Michael is also an Assistant Division Manager for City of Tacoma and lives in Tacoma. He is another person you don't mess with. (see storm drains above).

Other important volunteers include:

#### **Webmaster - Richard Swanson**

Richard is our outgoing past President who we couldn't bear to part with. He is THE MAN responsible for our web page and gives consistently excellent advice. He's also looking for a job when he retires from WSDOT in December. Richard lives in Olympia and communicates with his wife via e-mail whenever she is out of the room. (I haven't tried this yet, but give me time.)

#### **Jim Carlson, Pacific Northwest Council Committee Chair**

Jim is our long time delegate to our regional group and a past President who works for AHBL in Tacoma. Don't ask him for Mariners tickets in September when they are contending. This year would have been good.

#### **Olympia House Chair - Mark Leingang**

Mark is a Civil Engineer for MC<sup>2</sup>. He was kind enough to lead our field trip in April 1997, so we immediately drafted him for this position. Olympia meetings don't happen without Mark's planning.

#### **Tacoma House Chair - Connie Linden**

Connie was Secretary for a brief period in 1996 before going to Texas to pursue a Master's Degree. Now that she is back we are pleased to welcome her as Tacoma House Chair. Welcome aboard, Connie.

Well, as you can see we are in for a great year. Please address questions, comments, statements, and opinions to [JBrigham@GeoEngineers.com](mailto:JBrigham@GeoEngineers.com)

Jim Brigham, President  
Tacoma Olympia Section  
[JBrigham@GeoEngineers.com](mailto:JBrigham@GeoEngineers.com)

#### **Check It Out**

Kristina Nelson reports that the Tacoma Board of Building Appeals adopted amended 1998 versions of the Uniform Building Code, the Uniform Mechanical Code, the Uniform Fire Code, and the Uniform Plumbing Code, on Wednesday September 16, 1998. Copies of the Ordinances for the adoption and amendment of each code are available from the City. Please address any questions or comments to: Charles A. Pearson, PE, Secretary, Board of Building Appeals, 747 Market Street, Room 345, Tacoma, WA 98402, (253) 591-5019.

Kristina Nelson (253) 591-5765 is acting as the ASCE contact for this review.

#### **WELCOME New and Transferred Members**

The Tacoma Olympia Section is pleased to welcome the

many new and transferred members that were assigned to our section during the last few months. You and your guests are more than welcome at all of the section activities, and we invite you to support these activities by joining the section if you have not done so already.

The Tacoma-Olympia Section Board is pleased to have attracted the volunteer services of engineers of both genders, all stages of practice, in public and private occupations from both Tacoma and Olympia areas. There are opportunities for everyone to participate and we urge you to come check us out.

All ASCE colleagues of any membership grade living or working in Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, and Thurston Counties are invited to join our section. Slightly more than half of the 400 ± ASCE colleagues in our area have chosen to participate in our local organization, and we hope you will too.

ASCE at the local level is much more than the Civil Engineering magazine and national programs for publications, research, lobbying, and insurance. The Tacoma-Olympia Section presents a wide range of lecture and discussion topics at our meetings, but they are all tied together with a theme of northwest engineering activity.

Section members receive monthly newsletters from September to June, timed to serve as meeting announcements and reminders. The newsletter, along with the Web page (see masthead) are the primary means of communicating the many local items such as education programs and changes in the local and state regulations concerning engineers.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to invite colleagues from the national organization to join in our local organization as well. Look for the Section Dues check box on your annual renewal notice. The fee charged for section membership supports the many activities of the section.

### ASCE Activities

The fall Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Council of the Western Region of ASCE was Saturday, September 19th at the West-Coast Sea-Tac Hotel. This regional body discussed several items of policy ranging from how ASCE organizes and governs itself to how engineers should be licensed to how our national lobbyist should try to influence legislation.

### Thank You

Thank you very much to **GeoEngineers** for donating two fabulous 100-level seat tickets to a Mariners game for last month's student activities raffle. At the last Board meeting we voted to send \$150 of this money to the Alaska students to help with the considerable expenses of hosting the 1999 national steel bridge competition next May.

Thank you **Connie Linden** for stepping up to the plate and agreeing to be the House Chair for Tacoma.

### Open:

Resume Policy Our section newsletter will provide free

space for ASCE students and members to advertise their qualifications. The resume information needs to be received by the 20th of the month to make the next

### Notices

**Attention Students:** It is the Tacoma-Olympia Section's long-standing policy that your meal price is half off. Remember to say you are a student when you make your reservation. As always, there is no cost to attend the presentation.

**This newsletter** is a function of the section, and your thoughts, announcements, articles, essays, and letters to the Section President are welcome at any time. Contributions made before the 20th of the month will definitely make the next newsletter, and after that, you take your chances.

You may e-mail information with attachments to the President or the Editor. E-mail addresses are listed on the front cover of this newsletter. Format attachments as plain text or Word 97 (PC).

### ASCE Calendar

Our section holds open meetings once a month from September through June.

Meetings are typically scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month, but do vary for special speakers or joint meetings. Locations alternate between Tacoma and Lacey and times vary between lunch and dinner meetings.

Our preliminary schedule is shown below. Please check our web page or contact a house chair for firm information one week prior to each listed meeting.

Or, for a monthly meeting announcement and newsletter mailed to your address, please join the Tacoma-Olympia Section (in addition to the national organization).

October 13 - Tacoma Dinner - Gary Carroll ASCE District 12 Director

November 10 - Lacey - Lunch Meeting

December 9 (Wed) - Tacoma, Joint Dinner with Seattle Sect,

January 12 - Tacoma Lunch

February - Lacey Saint Martin's Engineering Banquet Dinner

March 9- Tacoma

April 13 - Lacey Lunch

May 11 - Tacoma Lunch

June 8 - Lacey

### PELP Programs

For information contact Ron Bucknam, PELP Program Director, PELP Program Director, at 206/543-1178; fax: 206/685-3836; or E-mail: rbucknam@u.washington.edu.

All courses will be held on or near the University of Washington campus, unless noted otherwise. To register for a course, please call Engineering Professional Programs at 206/543-5539. Early registration fees are applicable until two weeks before commencement of the scheduled course.

Designing and Implementing Stream Habitat Modifications for Salmon and Trout October 20-22,

Geology and Geomorphology of Stream Channels November 4 and 5,

Hydrologic Modeling and Design of Retention/Detention Facilities November 18-20,

Groundwater Monitoring Wells: Management and Use for Drinking Water Purveyors December 2 and 3,

Wetlands Ecology, Protection and Restoration December 15 - 17, (field trip on 12/17)