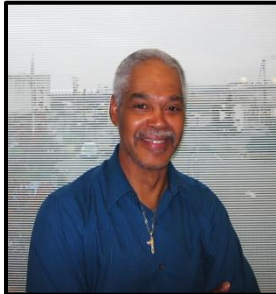


## President's Message

By R. Michael Hale



Spring is truly among us! This is evident by the all the spring breaks, vacations, and preparations for the upcoming summer. ASCE Tacoma-Olympia is also preparing for summer, but there are many tasks that still

need to be done.

The first task on the horizon is our April Section meeting which is our Annual Honors and Awards Banquet. We will be recognizing some people that have achieved Life Member status, a couple of our past section presidents, and a past treasurer who served for an extraordinary number of years. It is our board's hope that next year, we will have Outstanding Project and Leader Awards in addition to our section awards. I hope to see as many as possible of you at this month's Meeting. It will be at the La Quinta Hotel in Tacoma. Make sure you make your reservations by April 19<sup>th</sup>!

We are finalizing summer plans for our Section which includes an outing to a Tacoma Rainiers baseball game at Cheney Stadium. We would like to reserve a party deck. In order to help us to make this a reality, we are looking for some company sponsors to make contributions at three levels: \$150, \$200, and \$250. Getting a good number of participants will help to make this an affordable and feasible event. It will definitely be a fun one.

Other summer plans include a picnic in July. We also want to do something that will make a contribution to the community. In order to achieve this goal, we are putting a team together for Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity in

their home-building program. We are looking for people willing to spend a day helping to build a home in August. We have 20 spots available, and your friends and family are welcome to join. See our volunteering section for more information.

I attended the Annual ASCE-SAME Joint Section Meeting last month in March. It was good to reconnect with friends and acquaintances. We normally have three joint meetings each year with nearby professional organizations. These meetings are excellent opportunities to network with our fellow engineers, so don't pass them up!

Finally, we will be conducting Section officer elections next month. There will be opportunities for you to consider serving the Section in this capacity. The Tacoma-Olympia Section has endorsed for National President-Elect 2016/2017 Ms. Kristina L. Swallow, P.E., of the Las Vegas Section, and Past-Director of ASCE Region 8. We are asking our members to consider giving Kristina your support when we vote for our National Officers in May.

As always, thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

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- **Technology and the Human Element**  
*By Frank Marescalco*
- **Volunteering Opportunities**
- **Recent Events**
- **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

*The Lincoln Avenue Bridge in Tacoma as the sun sets lazily. Photo credit to Alex Hannum at [alexhannumphotos@gmail.com](mailto:alexhannumphotos@gmail.com)*

## April 2016 Monthly Program

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### Annual Honors and Awards Banquet

Join us this month as we honor individuals with prestigious records of service to ASCE. We will be holding our annual dinner in Tacoma. After the awards ceremony, enjoy a catered meal and socializing with fellow members.

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<b>Date and Time</b>	April 21, 2016 at 5:30 pm
<b>Schedule</b>	5:30 to 6:00 pm: Welcome and greetings 6:00 to 6:15 pm: Section business 6:15 to 6:45 pm: Dinner 6:45 pm: Awards ceremony Room reserved until 9:00 for socializing
<b>Location</b>	La Quinta Inn & Suites Tacoma 1425 East 27 <sup>th</sup> Street Tacoma, WA 98421
<b>Menu</b>	Caesar salad Breast of chicken parmesan Baked lasagna with herbs (vegetarian option) Cheese tortellini and penne pasta Marinara and alfredo sauces Hot vegetable medley Shredded parmesan Hot garlic bread Chef's variety of desserts
<b>Price</b>	\$27.00 Members \$15.00 Students
<b>Reservations</b>	Reservations must be made by April 19 <sup>th</sup> at noon. Payments are accepted ahead-of-time or at the door. To make a reservation, contact Michael Hale at (253) 591-5766 or respond to the Constant Contact invitation electronically.

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## April 2016 Announcements

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After a successful and busy March, we are preparing for an equally successful summer. The weather is getting nicer and we're looking forward to seeing many of you out under the sun this summer. Here's what's new this month!

- ***Tacoma-Olympia Website***

We are pleased to announce that ASCE Tacoma-Olympia will soon be online! The board will be working on launching the new website over the coming months. We hope to have our website live by this summer.

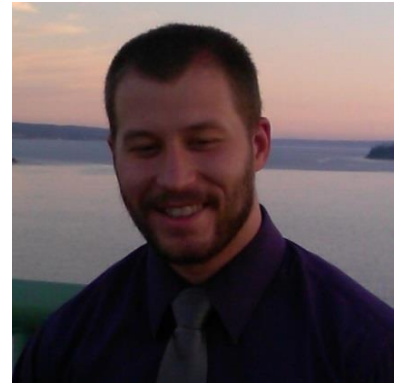
- ***Community Outreach: Speaking to Students***

Some of our members are participating in an upcoming outreach day where they will visit with local Tacoma Public Schools students to talk about engineering as a career choice.

## Technology and the Human Element

By Frank Marescalco

I've thought a lot about networking in these past weeks. It seems like social media and technology are everywhere these days. And with our lives busier than ever, it's easy to cut social interaction and think that social media can replace that – in our professional or personal lives. And I can hardly comprehend the extent to which our online LinkedIn presence has replaced the old way of applying to jobs – as a person.



I am certain that I generalize wildly by saying this, but in my experience the vast majority of individuals simply don't realize that networking and socializing are only successful if you are intentional about it. You truly do have to go to your calendar and block off time. Put it in your schedule! Success in relationships with others is lost when you take on the attitude that it simply has to “happen” or it wasn't meant to be. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I'm a firm believer in the human element. When it comes down to it, no amount of online presence can replace a person or a relationship. I think the value of having a strong network of reliable contacts cannot be understated – and LinkedIn doesn't count for that. If you found yourself jobless tomorrow, would you rather have a strong LinkedIn network or a strong personal network? Which one is more likely to get you employed again?

Making small changes to incorporate the human element in to your business practices can lead to tremendous increases in individual and team productivity. For example, email and text messaging have dramatically reduced the number of phone calls we make. Even though we are pressured to put things in to writing (or even do it for our own benefit), delivering news or information with a phone call adds a personal touch that can sometimes make or break the deal. Oftentimes, I find it is more effective to conduct business by placing a phone call, having a human-to-human interaction, and then following up the spirit of that conversation with a written record of the conversation using an email, if appropriate. At first glance, it might appear like double the effort, but it can actually save a lot of time –especially if the subject at hand is complicated or contentious. And everyone knows how written messages can be misinterpreted.

The same goes for networking. Sure, you can endorse people on LinkedIn and you can add members to your network, but it doesn't replace face-to-face interactions. Numerous reputable business research sources have confirmed that. Look for opportunities to put your physical self in front of others – potential collaborators or clients, for example. Our section meetings and special events are an excellent way to get your name and face out in to the local community. I know it takes more time and effort to come to an event than it does to click a button on LinkedIn, but – as the old saying goes – you get what you pay for. Even outside of your professional life, a good attitude and an intentional approach to being social with others can bring you many benefits.

So the next time you're looking at one of those emails for a company social, a summer barbeque, or a professional society event (wink wink), don't simply toss it aside. The next time you say, “We'll have to do lunch sometime,” follow it up with an invitation. Even if your proposal is met with rejection, you feel better about yourself and you become a more trustworthy person for doing what you said you would do. Marshall Brickman once said, *“I have learned one thing. As Woody [Allen] says, ‘Showing up is 80 percent of life.’ Sometimes it's easier to hide home in bed. I've done both.”*

*“Showing up is 80 percent of life”  
- Woody Allen*

## Volunteering Opportunities

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The Tacoma-Olympia section of ASCE needs all of its members to make our section all that it can be! We currently have positions to serve on committees, get involved with our Younger Members Group, and help coordinate events or give presentations. We also have volunteer opportunities for community-minded individuals. Here are some open volunteer positions we have available now. Our volunteer opportunities are always changing, so remember to check back next month if you can't join anything this month! Contact any of your board members if you are interested in serving.

### *Committees and Section Positions*

**Membership Steward;** *Approx. time commitment: 0 to 2 days per month.* This standing position with the Section is responsible for increasing member recruitment, retention, and participation. The position may include occasionally being a lead for events, interpreting survey/feedback information from members, and attending board meetings.

**Government Relations Committee Chair;** *Approx. time commitment: 0 to 2 days per month.* The Government Relations Committee is a standing committee within the Section. The chair position is responsible for recruiting co-chair members for the committee and contributing to committee initiatives and activities. The committee may write articles for our newsletter, mobilize members to action for important legislative events or bills, and coordinate with our state lobbyist.

**Project and Engineer Awards Committee Chair;** *Approx. time commitment: 0 to 2 days per month.* The Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Awards Committee is responsible for organizing the Section's annual awards program in April. The committee campaigns for and accepts nominations for awards in various categories (set by the committee) and chooses winners for the awards. The program also recognizes our life members at the ceremony. The committee may also be tasked with providing contributions to the Section's newsletter pertaining to outstanding projects and engineers in the community.

**Historical Committee Chair;** *Approx. time commitment: 1 to 2 days per month.* The Historical Committee is a standing committee concerned with local civil engineering history. This committee position is an excellent fit for history buffs. The responsibilities include researching and dedicating historic works of civil engineering within our geographic area of coverage. The committee is also tasked with producing a quarterly newsletter article about a local work of civil engineering and what makes it historically significant.

**Younger Members Group Chair/Co-Chair;** *Approx. time commitment: 2 to 4 days per month.* The Section's Younger Members Group is an active and exciting part of our presence here in the South Sound. The group's leadership organizes events for our younger members such as social outings, workshops, career training, and outreach. The YMG leadership team may also occasionally be tasked with providing reports to the board and producing articles for the newsletter.

### *Community Outreach*

#### **Bates Technical College Engineering Club Mentor**

**Ongoing;** *Approx. time commitment: 4 hours per month.* The Engineering Club at Bates Technical College is seeking an ASCE member who would attend meetings and provide a mentorship role to the students in the club. The club meets one evening per month.

#### **Math and Science Tutor**

**Ongoing;** *Approx. time commitment: varies.* Our Section members help local students with math and science tutoring through programs in our schools and colleges. If you have a knack for helping young people with

their technical studies, our Section needs your help! You can volunteer for positions that are local and work within your time limitations.

#### **Professional Engineer Exam Study Leader**

**Ongoing; Approx. time commitment: 4 hours per month.** If you are interested in helping younger members pass the professional engineering exam, leading a study session is a great way to help out. You can do this individually or as a firm. We have local members who already provide examinees with help studying for the exam who can help you get involved or even develop a technical session of your own.

#### **Volunteer Coordinator**

**Ongoing; Approx. time commitment: 1 to 2 days per month.** This standing position is responsible for coordinating all of our volunteering opportunities so that members get the best possible options for participation. Responsibilities include finding and reporting on volunteering opportunities in our region and maintaining an updated list of opportunities. This person would also serve as the point of contact for members interested in participating in events or assigned positions.

#### **Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity**

**One-time event; Saturday, August 2: 8 am to 3 pm.** The Tacoma-Olympia Section is partnering with Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity to host a team build day. There are spots for 20 participants, so feel free to invite friends or family – as long as they are 16 years old and accompanied by a parent. No construction experience is necessary. The Section is asking that members make a \$25 donation to Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity in signing up. **The Section will match whatever donations are made!** You can learn more about Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity by visiting the following website: <http://www.tpc-habitat.org/>

### **Section Programming**

**Programming Coordinator; Approx. time commitment: 1 to 2 days per month.** This position is a standing position with the Section responsible for coordinating programming for the Section. The primary duty of this position is to secure speakers for upcoming programs.

**Program Speakers; Approx. time commitment: 2 days per event.** Our section is always looking for individuals willing to speak to the Section at our monthly programs. Topics pertaining to engineering are always welcome, but our Section has hosted speakers who have given presentations about a range of other topics as well. Speakers are provided with a meal and a small personal item as thanks for their willingness to contribute.

## Recent Events

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March was a busy month for us. We had a successful joint meeting with the Society of American Military Engineers and several workshops for students and PE Candidates.

### *Brown and Caldwell Job Shadowing*

Ali Polda, a consulting engineer in Brown and Caldwell's Olympia office and Outreach Committee Chair, hosted a job shadow day for students at St. Martin's University on March 10, 2016. Four students attended and were able to get some hands-on experience as a consulting engineer. The shadow day was a great success for students and engineers. We're looking forward to another successful shadow day! Go Ali!

### *Joint Section Meeting with SAME*



Our section extends its gratitude to Mr. David Jansen, P.E., for his willingness to present to our members on the nature of radiological events and their relationship to our water supply. The section meeting was a tremendous success with members of both ASCE Tacoma-Olympia and SAME in attendance.

### *Water Resources Professional Engineering Exam Focus Study Session*

Frank Marescalco hosted a water-resources-focused study session for professional engineering exam candidates. The workshop was a great success with a total of six candidates in attendance. The problem-solving and discussion were valuable to the candidates and the session will be offered again this fall. The study session came on the heels of a similar session for geotechnical engineering hosted by GeoEngineers in Tacoma. Focus PE study sessions are becoming a proud tradition that makes our South Puget Sound engineering community unique.

### *Younger Members Group Resume and Interview Workshop*

The Younger Members Group held a small workshop for students at St. Martin's University to talk to students preparing to enter the workforce. The group covered information on job searching, modern resumes and online job applications, interview tips and techniques, and a discussion on budgeting and salary. The workshop serves as the first of its kind, with future sessions to follow.



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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### April 2016

<b>1</b>	ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Board Meeting – 6:30 PM
<b>15</b>	Spring 2016 Professional Engineer Exam Pacific Science Center 200 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109
<b>21</b>	Annual Life Member and Awards Banquet – 5:30 PM La Quinta Inn & Suites Tacoma 1425 East 27 <sup>th</sup> Street Tacoma, WA 98421

### May 2016

<b>2</b>	ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Board Meeting – 6:30 PM O'Blarney's Pub & Restaurant 4411 Martin Way East Olympia, WA 98516
<b>3</b>	Tacoma Public Schools Outreach Day Frank Marescalco and Chris Seaman Contact Frank if you'd like to participate in a future outreach day!



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### Membership Information

National membership rates may be found at <http://www.asce.org/membership>.

Section membership rates

- Individual: \$25 per year
- Life member: Free

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### Advertising Rates

Did you know you can purchase advertising space to promote your business, sponsor the section, and spread the word about job opportunities? Our newsletter is distributed to a growing membership base with about 500 viewers each month. We offer space in our newsletter at the following monthly rates:

- 1/4 page: \$25
- 1/2 page: \$50
- Full page: \$100

If you are interested in purchasing space in our newsletter, contact our treasurer Jessie Chen at (253) 310-6046 or [Jessie.asce@hotmail.com](mailto:Jessie.asce@hotmail.com)

Looking for a previous issue of the newsletter? The Tacoma-Olympia section of ASCE participates in ASCE's Higher Logic online community. You can access your account, and all of our past newsletters and online resources, at <http://collaborate.asce.org/ewrinstitute/home>.

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