



December 2017

### President's Message

By Derek McCoy



It certainly always amazes me how fast time flies by! The holiday season is in full swing, and it won't be long before we will have to remind ourselves to date all our documents 2018. Despite the pace, I still think it's important this time of year for all of us to slow down a little and reflect on the year that's gone by. The volunteers on the board have been working hard to increase the value of membership in our section. We have spent a lot of effort reaching out and connecting with as many of our members and sister organizations as we can. We are pleased to continue that service in to the next year and expand our offerings even more.

Last month, the section had a holiday gathering at The Oyster House in Olympia. The turnout was a bit less than what was anticipated, but the participants had a good time with delicious food and great conversation. This month's program, on December 13th, is our annual joint meeting with the Seattle Section of ASCE. We have a great program lined up, too. Mr. Ralph Graves, PE, Senior Director of Capital Development with the Port of Seattle, will discuss the capital projects program at the Port. My thanks to the Seattle Section for their diligence and coordination. I look forward to seeing you all there for what will surely be a fantastic evening. As I announced in last month's newsletter, we will hold our first-ever joint meeting with the Land Surveyors' Association of Washington (LSAW) on January 17, 2018. Be sure to check out our [events webpage](#) for more information as we continue to coordinate these events.

It is important that I highlight again this month ASCE's Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Awards program which recognizes individuals and projects that have made significant accomplishments, achievements, and differences in our community in the following categories: design, construction, government, education, or management. I would encourage our membership to begin the process early and submit nominations for: Outstanding Individual, Small Projects (Under \$1 million in value), and Large Projects (Over \$1 million in value). Award recipients at the Section level can go on to receive nominations and awards at the regional and national levels as well. You can find out more information about the nomination requirements by visiting our new [awards page](#).

As you look forward to the new year and contemplate your goals for the next chapter, please keep us in your thoughts. The section can only be its best with your help. If you've thought about serving but aren't sure, make it your goal to reach out and talk to us. We can help you find a good fit. We would also be interested in hearing any feedback on what the section can do to better serve its members. Send this feedback to [asce.tacoma.olympia@gmail.com](mailto:asce.tacoma.olympia@gmail.com).

Thanks for reading, and hope to see you soon!

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*An early-season snowy hike at Paradise in Mt. Rainier National Park. Photo credit to Claire Mendenhall. Reach her on Instagram at Detailgirl253!*

## December 2017 Monthly Program

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### Port of Seattle Capital Projects Joint Meeting with Seattle Section

Join us for this year's joint meeting with the Seattle Section of ASCE. We will be gathering in Tukwila to listen to Mr. Ralph Graves, PE, Senior Director of Capital Development with the Port of Seattle. He will be talking about the capital projects program at the Port. The program is staggering in scale: many billions of dollars in construction. Some examples include the SeaTac Airport and the Fishermen's Terminal. Ralph will also discuss some of the technical challenges that the Port has faced. Our section will be offering participants 1 professional development hour - just be sure to check the box when you register! Don't miss this one!



#### Ralph Graves, Senior Director, Capital Development Division

Ralph Graves is director of Capital Development, overseeing project management, design, and construction in support of the business plans and infrastructure needs of the Port.

Prior to joining the Port in August 2008, Graves was a project manager in the Seattle office of Parsons Brinckerhoff, a world-wide engineering firm.

Graves served 29 years as an officer in the U.S. Army, retiring with the rank of Colonel. He commanded Corps of Engineers Districts in Seattle and Honolulu and was Deputy Commander of the Baltimore District. Responsibilities included water resources development, environmental protection and remediation, and major construction on Army and Air Force bases. Earlier military assignments include troop duty in Korea, Germany, and Operation Desert Storm; and teaching at the Army Engineer School and at West Point.

He holds a Bachelor's degree from West Point, a Master of Engineering from U.C. Berkeley, a Master of Science from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and a Doctorate from Stevens Institute. In Seattle he has been active with Seattle University and the Society of American Military Engineers.

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<b>Date and Time</b>	December 13, 2017 at 6:00 PM
<b>Location</b>	Ramada Tukwila Southcenter 15901 West Valley Highway Tukwila, WA 98188
<b>Menu</b>	The price of admission includes a complete, catered meal. The choice of entrees is Mediterranean chicken or grilled filet of salmon. Meals come with sides, rolls, and a selection of beverages. Special dietary accommodations are available on request.
<b>Price</b>	Members and Guests: \$42 Students: \$22
<b>Reservations</b>	You can RSVP by <a href="#">clicking here!</a>

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## Announcements

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We have plenty of information to share and opportunities to engage coming up, so be sure to check in.

- ***ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Swag: Coming Soon***

Our section will soon offer embroidered polo shirts for sale. When they are ready for pre-order, we will distribute a link. Look for that soon. Our section is also looking in to the possibility of offering other items to support our section.

- ***OPAL Awards Begins Early This Year***

In an effort to build a more successful OPAL Awards program in our section, our leadership has begun the awards process early this year. The idea is to allow our members plenty of time to put together nominations packages. The exact scoring criteria are still being evaluated, but members can get a preview and early look at the program by visiting our [awards page](#). Please take a moment to review last year's criteria and think of some great projects or engineers who might be candidates for awards this year.

- ***ASCE is Now Offering Professional Development Hours***

As if you needed another reason to come out to our great monthly programs! Our section is now issuing professional development hours (PDHs) for attendance at our technical tours and dinner presentations. When you sign up for an event, use the electronic form to indicate whether you would like to receive PDHs for attending the meeting. Many of our members have already taken advantage of this great value-add!

- ***Government Relations Committee Seeks Co-Chair and Participants***

We are pleased to announce that the section's standing Government Relations Committee has a new chair! Ms. Bernie Sison comes to our section with experience in legislative matters for several other professional groups, and we are excited to have her leadership for our own. If you have ever wanted to participate in government relations in ASCE, now is the time! If you are interested, contact Bernie directly at [berniepmi@gmail.com](mailto:berniepmi@gmail.com)!

## State Advocacy Captains Training 2017 Recap

*By Bernie Sison, PE, in conjunction with Mr. Logan Johnson, New Hampshire Section President-Elect*

On November 13, 2017, I attended the 2017 Advocacy Captains Training at the ASCE Headquarters in Washington, DC. ASCE National has provided this training for the last four years with the following purpose:



- Inform Advocacy Captains of the tools available to them
- Share and discuss advocacy efforts around the country
- Provide updates on the status of national government relations and lobbying efforts
- Train Advocacy Captains on how to communicate local and national legislative issues, bills that ASCE supports, and opportunities for our members to participate in grassroots movements

I learned that there are many tools available to our members for free. You can start at [http://www.asce.org/issues\\_and\\_advocacy/](http://www.asce.org/issues_and_advocacy/):

- Find out who your elected officials are and get to know them.
- Join the Key Contact Program and keep up to date on civil engineering legislation.
- Learn about the 2017 Infrastructure Report Card and download the APP for talking points.

This will help you gain the knowledge you need to develop relationships with your elected officials and influence the policy process at the state and federal levels. To find out how you can work with the ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Section to advocate for the civil engineering profession, or to get information about joining the Legislative Relations Committee, please contact [Bernie Sison](#).



*View of the Capitol from the ASCE Headquarters rooftop in Washington DC*

## 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.

**Government Relations Committee Participants;** *Approx. time commitment: 0 to 1 day per month.* The Government Relations Committee is a standing committee within the Section. The committee has a chair and is now in need of a co-chair and participants. The committee may write articles for our newsletter, mobilize members to action for important legislative events or bills, or coordinate with state lobbyists. Some ASCE members even participate in the annual fly-in to Washington D.C. Now is an excellent time to step up and serve the committee under our experienced committee chair's leadership.

**History and Heritage Committee Chair;** *Approx. time commitment: 0 to 2 days per month.* The History and Heritage 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.

**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.

**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.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### December 2017

5	WSDOT Innovations and Partnerships in Transportation Conference Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center 1500 Commerce Street Tacoma, WA 98402 <a href="#">Click here</a> for more information!
6	ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Board Meeting – 6:30 PM Elmer's of Tacoma 7427 South Hosmer Street Tacoma, WA 98408 RSVP not necessary – open attendance to all members
13	December Section Meeting Annual Joint Section Meeting with the Seattle Section Capital Development and Engineering at the Port of Seattle Ramada Tukwila Southcenter 15901 West Valley Highway Tukwila, WA 98188 RSVP at our website: <a href="http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/events">http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/events</a>
13	Webinar: From Civil Engineer to Manager – How to Become an Effective Civil Engineering Manager from any Stage in your Career Mr. Anthony Fasano, PE 11:30 Pacific Time (2:30 Eastern time) <a href="#">Click here</a> for more information!
25	Christmas!
31	New Year's Eve

### January 2018

1	New Year's Day
3	TENTATIVE: ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Board Meeting – 6:30 PM Location TBD RSVP not necessary – open attendance to all members
17	Joint Meeting with the Land Surveyor's Association of Washington La Quinta Inn & Suites of Tacoma 1425 East 27 <sup>th</sup> Street Tacoma, WA 98421 Details TBD – keep an eye on our Section's <a href="#">Events webpage!</a>

### February 2018

14	Valentine's Day
16	St. Martin's University Engineering Banquet Details TBD – keep an eye on our Section's <a href="#">Events webpage!</a>

## Membership Information

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

Section membership rates

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

## 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).

If you're a member seeking employment, you can request space in our newsletter to run a short ad. All you need to do is contact us!

Connect with us on Facebook! [Click here!](#)  
Check out our Instagram account! [Click here!](#)

Looking for a previous issue of the newsletter? You can find them all on our website at: <http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/newsletter>.

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### Director

Vacant

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