

President's Message

By R. Michael Hale



Our ASCE meetings and programs year is coming to a close, but we have several items that must be addressed.

The first item on the list is section officer elections. This month, we need members who are willing be nominees for the following board positions: President-Elect, Secretary, Director 2, and Treasurer. Jessie Chen, our current Treasurer, is willing serve another term, but the position is still subject to voting. It would be ideal if a member from our western area (Ocean Shores, Aberdeen, Hoquiam, etc.) were elected for our Director 2 position so that we can be more inclusive of our members in these areas. Nominees must be identified by May 23rd so that we may conduct voting from May 31st to June 13th, 2016. Please give this thought and consider serving on the section board and help the Tacoma-Olympia section be the best it can be. Contact anyone on the board if you are willing to be a candidate or know someone who has agreed to be a candidate. Thank you so much for your consideration to this matter.

Elections are also in progress for national and regional officers. The Tacoma-Olympia section has endorsed Ms. Kristina Swallow, Las Vegas Section, Past Director Region 8, for President-Elect 2016-17. We encourage you to do the same. Please remember to exercise your right to vote as a member. Voting is at ASCE's website from May 1st to June 1st, 2016 ending at 5:00 pm CST.

Our Annual Rainiers baseball game section outing is scheduled for Thursday, June 9th at 7:05 pm at Tacoma's Cheney Stadium. The Rainiers will be playing the Reno Aces. Members and their families and friends are invited to come out and be a part of the fun. We have reserved seating. Tickets cost \$12.50 per person and include a hot dog and drink. You may purchase an upgrade for \$18.50 per person to receive a ball cap in addition to a hot dog and drink. Contact me with your orders. The section will also send an event notification.

We also have a family-friendly picnic scheduled for July 10th at Tacoma's Titlow Park and a volunteer day with Habitat for Humanity on August 2nd. More information will be distributed for these events.

Our Section Meeting this month is a guided tour of Olympia's LOTT Clean Water Alliance Center on May 19th at 3:00 pm. More detailed information is provided later as part of this Newsletter. Please consider coming out and joining us, as this is our last business-type section meeting until September. Thank you everyone that has participated and supported our Tacoma/Olympia Section this year.

In This Issue

- **May 2016 Monthly Program**
- **May 2016 Announcements**
- **Building Trust**
By Frank Marescalco
- **Volunteering Opportunities**
- **Elections for Section Board Positions**
- **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

Sun dots the landscape along a small trail in the Olympic National Park's Hoh Rainforest. Photo credit to Freemages.com/Jerry Attrick

May 2016 Monthly Program

LOTT Clean Water Alliance Tour

This month, members will be able to tour the LOTT Clean Water Alliance wastewater treatment plant. Participation in the tour does not require any special protective gear, but wear close-toed shoes and dress for the weather as parts of the tour are outdoors.

The tour will begin at 3 pm and will go until 5 pm. After the tour, members will be gathering at nearby Anthony's Hearthfire Grill (not to be confused with nearby Anthony's Homeport Olympia) for food and drinks. Join us for some informal socializing and as an added bonus, wait out the traffic!

The LOTT Clean Water Alliance was formed as an intergovernmental agreement between Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Thurston County – or LOTT. The LOTT Alliance has received a number of prestigious awards ranging in scale from local to national. It is an outstanding example of commitment to environmental sustainability and management of public organizations. You can find more information about the LOTT Alliance at <http://www.lottcleanwater.org/default.htm>.

Date and Time	May 19, 2016 at 3:00 pm
Schedule	3:00 to 5:00 pm: Tour of Clean Water Alliance Center 5:00 to 8:00 pm: Happy hour – drinks and food
Location	LOTT Clean Water Alliance 500 Adams Street Northeast Olympia, WA 98501 Happy Hour at Anthony's Hearthfire Grill 1675 Marine Drive Northeast Olympia, WA 98501
Menu	https://www.anthonys.com/assets/uploads/files/OL%20HF%20Early%20Dinner(3).pdf
Price	The tour is free. Members and guests are responsible for their own bills for food and drinks at the restaurant.
Reservations	Reserve your spot by either responding to the Constant Contact invitation or by contacting Frank Marescalco at (253) 591-5423 or fmarescalco@cityoftacoma.org . Make sure your reservation is accurate so we know what to tell the restaurant.

May 2016 Announcements

It's hard to believe that it's already May! The majority of our Q1 and Q2 programming is in the rear view, the spring PE Exam is over, and our summer recess is quickly approaching. Our Section is making the final arrangements on summer activities and preparing for elections.

- ***Elections!***

May is the time for nominations and elections to positions of leadership in our section. Now is an excellent time to consider making the step from member to officer. If you are interested in running for a position that is up for election, let us know so we can get your name on the ballot. If you know someone who would make a good officer, nominate them! Nominations are due by May 21st and voting will end on June 10th. See the elections page for more information.

- ***Tacoma-Olympia Website***

The board is making progress on the website and is pleased to say that we are on schedule to have something live by this summer.

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

Some of our members recently visited Lincoln High School in Tacoma to speak to students about engineering as a career. The experience was immensely positive with great feedback from the students and teachers. There is a need for more of us to reach out to children and teach them about what we do. If you are interested in joining on a future outreach day, contact Frank.

- ***Summer Recess and Activities***

The Board will be sending out invitations by email for its upcoming summer activities. Our Section does informal activities in the summer in lieu of formal programming. You can RSVP to any of our activities via email or by contacting a board member. Our activities will include:

- Rainiers Baseball Game (family-friendly) – Early June
- Outdoor barbecue at Titlow Park (also family-friendly) – July 10
- Habitat for Humanity Build Day – August 2

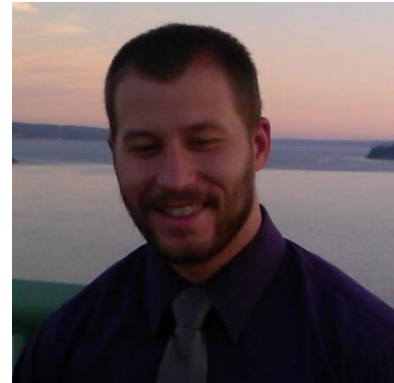
Check out our calendar and keep your eyes peeled for invitations to these events. We won't be sending out newsletters again until September, but you can always call us with any questions.

Building Trust

By Frank Marescalco

Nowadays, almost every engineer is required to take an ethics exam to get a license. But that's only a base line – a bare minimum, really. Anybody can pass an ethics exam. Anybody can *know* the right answer. But if my experience is any indication of reality, not everybody realizes the detrimental effects that seemingly little things can have on the way that others perceive trustworthiness and character.

To be clear, I'm not talking about the big stuff: fraud, negligence, things that make the news. I'm talking about little white lies, failures to follow through, excuses, and inconsistent behavior. These topics are all scrutinized by psychologists and while I'm certainly no psychologist, I don't think it takes one to recognize the ill effects of these behaviors.



Let's say you run in to someone you know, but haven't seen or talked to in a long time. To be cordial, you might recommend that you get in touch and grab lunch some time. But then you never do. Perhaps you have good reason – you don't actually like that person's company; you get busy; you forget; you never got around to it in a timely manner, and now it might seem awkward. But it doesn't change the fact that you didn't follow through. You might think: So what? The other person didn't follow through either, right? But you suggested it to begin with. And even if that weren't the case, is it okay to fail to follow through on something because someone else did it? Is it okay to do *anything* wrong because someone else did it? That kind of culture has led us collectively down a bad path.

Consider this trademark example of white lies: brushing off an invitation by claiming to have plans already. We all get it – you're trying to let them down easy. White lies might seem harmless, but people are generally able to see through them. White lies are just as harmful to our character and authenticity as any other type of lie, and people almost always find out you are lying. Even if they don't find out definitively, their gut instincts can tell. With social media so intrinsic to our real lives now, and with so many ways of making connections, people are bound to find out that you dodged them with a white lie. We've all had at least one experience where someone dodged us with a white lie and we knew it. Think about your feelings – how did that make you feel toward the other person? Even if you didn't take it personally, you view that person as dishonest.

Making excuses and failing to follow through are both things that, over time, can completely erode your relationships with others. But there are also some social faux pas that almost immediately and irreparably destroy trust in a relationship. The big one that has become strikingly common is backing out of plans – aka: flaking. I am personally appalled by how frequently this happens, even in professional environments. Most people recognize how badly one instance of flaking can hurt their image, so they have developed a response: non-committal behavior. However, this type of behavior is simply exchanging one form of dishonesty for another, and most people have learned to recognize it. It results in sporadic attendance at events (i.e., when it's convenient for them to attend) and unpredictable responsiveness in communication (i.e., when they want to respond). These are both highly inconsistent behaviors that scream 'untrustworthy.'

One "sniff test" for behavior is to ask yourself: "Would I do this in a marriage?" If the answer is no, then there's a pretty good chance that your behavior will paint you as an untrustworthy individual in the eyes of others. Engineers must all strive to build trust with our communities, our clients, and our colleagues. If you are a consulting engineer, then you know that trustworthiness is directly tied to your livelihood. Commitment, follow-through, and candid, polite communication are all excellent tools to build your reputation as a trustworthy individual. You will benefit personally and professionally, and so will those connected to you.

Volunteering Opportunities

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 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/>. Direct questions to Carlyn Harlow at tacoma.olympia.ymg@gmail.com.

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.

Elections for Section Board Positions

May is the time in which our Section holds its nominations and elections for the upcoming terms of service. Elections run all month and the winners are announced the following month. The actual term of service commences in October. Our section board is made up of the following positions:

- President-Elect – one-year term
- President – one-year term
- Past President – one-year term
- Treasurer – one-year term
- Secretary – one-year term
- Director 1 – two year term
- Director 2 – two-year term, not to coincide with Director 1 term
- Director 3 – one-year term, past president of SMU Student Chapter

This year, the following positions are up for election: Secretary, President-Elect, Director 2, Treasurer.

Serving on the board is an excellent way to become more involved with ASCE. If you want to take your membership to the next level and add something to your resume that really stands out, service on the board is one way to do that. You'll also get opportunities to attend some of our regional- and national-level meetings and get connected to other professionals all around the country. There are also opportunities to move up to regional and even national levels of service with section-level experience.

Officers are expected to attend a minimum of one monthly board meeting and at least two-thirds (about six) of the Section's monthly meetings. Officers may also be participants in planning for other types of events such as those we put on through the Younger Members Group or our Outreach Committee. If you have questions about the duties or time commitment involved with becoming an officer, reach out to any current officer.

If you would like to run for a position, submit your name to any officer so that we can get you on the ballot. If you know someone who would make a good board member, nominate them! Nominations are due by May 21st and voting will end on June 10th.

There are also a number of committee positions available that are decided by appointment instead of elections. If you have an interest in sitting on one of our committees, let us know.

Carlyn will be stepping down from her service as the section's secretary and will be moving full-time in to the Younger Members Group chair position. She is looking for a couple of high-energy individuals to help out with programming and promoting for the younger members. We are going to expand our younger members activities this year. We thank Carlyn for her service as our secretary and wish her the best in her new position.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 2016

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 3 | Tacoma Public Schools Outreach Day
Frank Marescalco and Chris Seaman
Contact Frank if you'd like to participate in a future outreach day! |
| 5 | ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Board Meeting – 6:30 PM
O'Blarney's Pub & Restaurant
4411 Martin Way East
Olympia, WA 98516 |
| 19 | LOTT Clean Water Alliance Tour – 3:00 PM
500 Adams Street Northeast
Olympia, WA 98501
Tour to be followed by happy hour at Anthony's Hearthfire Grill
1675 Marine Drive Northeast
Olympia, WA 98501 |
| 26 | Younger Members Group Trivia Night – 6:30 PM
O'Blarney's Pub & Restaurant
4411 Martin Way East
Olympia, WA 98516
Respond via Constant Contact or contact Carlyn Harlow |

Summer 2016

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Jun 9 | Rainier's Baseball Outing – 7:05 PM
Cheney Stadium
2502 South Tyler Street
Tacoma, WA 98405
Look for the Constant Contact invitation! |
| Jul 10 | Family Picnic at Titlow Beach
Titlow Park Picnic Shelter
8425 6 th Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98465 |
| Aug 2 | Habitat for Humanity Build Day – All-Day Event
Look for the Constant Contact invitation! Contact Carlyn Harlow for questions at tacoma.olympia.ymg@gmail.com . |

Membership Information

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

Section membership rates

- Individual: \$25 per year
- 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.

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>.

Branch Contact Information

President

R. Michael Hale, P.E.
City of Tacoma
(253) 591-5766

mhale@cityoftacoma.org

President-Elect

Frank Marescalco
City of Tacoma
(253) 591-5423

fmarescalco@cityoftacoma.org

Secretary

Carlyn Harlow
Apex Engineering, PLLC
(253) 473-4494

carlynharlow@gmail.com

Past President

Katie Hesterberg
(253) 888-7873

eagleddy@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Jessie Chen
APA – Engineered Wood Association
(253) 310-6046

Jessie.asce@hotmail.com

Director

Derek McCoy
U.S. Army
(719) 200-3041

dukemccoy@gmail.com