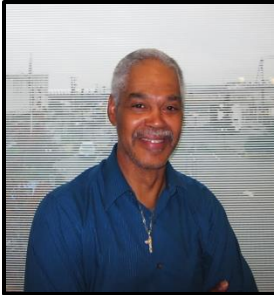


September 2016



President's Message

By R. Michael Hale

Hello, everyone! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer with your friends and families. I had the opportunity to go to Chicago in June to celebrate my mother's 80th birthday and my aunt's 76th birthday. I also went to visit my son and his family in California for his birthday. As you probably can tell, I like to celebrate birthdays.

Our section also had a very active summer. We did more activities this summer than our section has ever done. We had our annual Tacoma Rainiers outing in June like always. We also had a picnic at Tacoma's Titlow Park in July – if you didn't make it, you missed my barbecued chicken and sausages! For the first time ever, we participated in a Habitat for Humanity build day in August. We painted the inside of an entire two-story house. The way to go, team!

We have successfully launched a website for our section! This was possible through the hard work of our board members – we express our thanks to them. It has already proven to be helpful and useful to members and others. I encourage you all to check it out at <http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/>.

We are currently in the process of electing new board members. You can view our candidates at <http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/board-officer-elections-2016-2017>. We extend our thanks to the candidates for volunteering! The election ballot has gone out, so please remember to cast your vote. Ballots are due by Monday, September 12th. Thank you so much for your timely attention to this matter.

The Annual Region 8 Fall 2016 conference took place the end of August, in Boise, Idaho. Frank Marescalco attended on behalf of our section. The Governors and Presidents Forum is September 18 and 19 in Reston, Virginia. Then, the ASCE 2016 National Convention is September 28 through October 1 in Portland, Oregon. I plan to attend. With the National Convention being so close to our area this year, I encourage you to consider attending. The national conventions are always exciting and have many great events and workshops to attend. It's a great opportunity to meet and interact with fellow ASCE members from around the country, and it may not come this close to our area again for decades.

Our section meeting this month is our annual joint meeting with the Structural Engineers Association of Washington. It will be Monday, September 19, 2016. Our presenter is Ms. Nancy Boyd, P.E. serving as WSDOT's Director for Engineering Policy and Innovation. The Program is called Practical Solutions Approach to Project Development. I hope you put this on your calendar and will come out to the meeting. In fact, I encourage you each to invite someone from your office or you know in our profession to come with you to the meeting.

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Mount Adams as seen from the High Rock Lookout near Mount Rainier National Park. Photo credit to Alex Hannum at alexhannumphotos@gmail.com

September 2016 Monthly Program

Practical Solutions Approach to Project Development



Join us this month as WSDOT's Nancy Boyd presents on the agency's Practical Solutions program. Practical Solutions is a performance-based approach to transportation decision making. This data-driven approach uses the latest tools and performance measures to support decision making and considers not just roads, but the entire transportation system. The goal is to seek lower cost efficiencies in operating highways, ferries, transit, and rail, and reducing travel demand to save money and reduce the need for infrastructure expansion.

Community engagement is a key factor in helping to develop practical solutions. Practical solutions are found when stakeholders work together to identify the purpose of action, assess data from all parts of the system, and examine a range of options before investment decisions are made.

Recent WSDOT design policy and technical guidance focuses on creating tools and procedures that support the type of performance-based decisions that are consistent with the Practical Solutions approach. WSDOT staff are expected to evaluate the tradeoffs associated with difficult design decisions, considering the implications of these decisions, and leveraging early opportunities to identify and incorporate innovative designs.

WSDOT has implemented supporting policies and training for its workforce and is using new tools to keep existing assets in good condition. The practical solutions approach will continue to evolve as WSDOT works with its partners, communities, citizens, and businesses to find ways to bring low-cost, effective solutions to keep transportation viable for generations to come.

Nancy Boyd is the Division Director for Engineering Policy and Innovation at WSDOT. She launched WSDOT's new organizational division and successfully acquired funding to establish a new training office and a Knowledge Management function for the agency. She orchestrated the implementation of practical design reform at WSDOT and overhauled design guidelines to promote innovation, transform the planning and project development process, increase flexibility, and reduce the cost of projects. As a result, WSDOT is now at the leading edge of the Practical Solutions approach nationwide and a growing number of states and agencies are now following this lead and adapting to this new paradigm.

Nancy is a Professional Civil Engineer and a licensed Engineering Geologist who has worked for WSDOT in various capacities starting as an Engineering Geologist in 1991. Before taking on her current responsibilities, she was the Deputy State Design Engineer where she had responsibilities for several high-profile projects.

Speaker	Nancy Boyd, PE, LEG
Date and Time	September 19, 2016 at 5:30 pm
Schedule	5:30 pm to 6:00 pm: Reception and social 6:00 pm to 6:15 pm: Section business 6:16 pm to 8:00 pm: Program
Location	Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que of Tacoma 1901 South 72 nd Street Tacoma, WA 98408
Menu	http://www.famousdaves.com/togo/Tacoma
Price	There is no cost for the program, but members are responsible to cover their own costs for food and drink from the menu.
Reservations	Reserve your spot by either responding to the Constant Contact invitation or by going online at our website: http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/events .

September 2016 Announcements

Summer is fading and fall is setting in. That means cooler weather, less construction, students returning to school, and ASCE Tacoma-Olympia programming is back in session! Here are some of our upcoming events and

- ***New Officers***

Nominations have closed and the section has two new officers running for positions. Larry “Dale” Caswell, Jr. is running for the section’s secretary position. Chris Beckman is running for the vacant director position. Frank Marescalco will transition in to the section’s acting president and Michael Hale will transition to the past president. Derek McCoy is running to vacate his current director position to take on the president-elect role. Be sure to vote and remember to attend our October meeting where we will formally induct our new officers.

While we welcome the new transitions, it means we must say goodbye to our current past president, Katie Hesterberg. We wish her the best. Carlyn Harlow will step down from the secretary position and take over as the section’s acting YMG president. We are excited to have her stay with the section in this important role.

- ***Tacoma-Olympia Website***

Our section is now online. You can view our website here: <http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/>. Derek McCoy led the effort to bring our website online and will act our webmaster, so be sure to send him a big thank you note. You can use the website to register for events, contact officers and committee chairs, and volunteer. Let us know what you think!

- ***October 2016 PE Exam Study Sessions***

Fall means PE exam, and that means our section is actively programming to help younger members prepare for the big day. We held a study session in August and we have another coming up this month. Join Frank on Thursday, September 22, for a free, instructor-led focus session to brush up on your water resources and environmental problem-solving skills. GeoEngineers of Tacoma is hosting a geotechnical focus session on Wednesday, October 5. Sign up on our website at <http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/events>.

- ***Upcoming Presentation for Students and Younger Members***

The Younger Members Group will be holding a presentation focused on building and maintaining relationships throughout a civil engineer’s career and schooling on an evening in the last week of September, with the final date to be determined. This talk is aimed at members making a shift in their careers and students entering the profession. The presentation will be held at St. Martin’s University. Look for an email from us and keep your eye on the Tacoma-Olympia ASCE Section website for final details. You can also email Carlyn at tacoma.olympia.ymg@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Recent Events

This summer was a busy one for us! We sure hope you didn't miss out!

Tacoma Rainiers Baseball Outing

Our group outing to the Cheney Stadium in June was a little wet, but we still had a great time. And although Tacoma's Rainiers suffered a clear defeat, Hot Dog Man's presence in the bleachers brightened the atmosphere. If you missed Hot Dog Man, you really missed out: "You there! You're eating my family!"



Summer Picnic at Titlow Beach

Our section's summer picnic at Titlow Beach was a great way to spend a warm summer day. Michael grilled some fantastic burgers and dogs for the group. Participants were able to spend the time socializing over food, drinks, and card games. Our past president, Katie Hesterberg, received recognition for her service to the section.



Habitat for Humanity Build Day



On Saturday, August 20, several of the Tacoma-Olympia ASCE Section members met on an extremely hot day for the section's first Habitat Build Day with Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity. Not only was our section able to paint the entire inside of a house on South Stevens Street in Tacoma, but we raised \$600 for Habitat! To learn more about the Habitat Build Day, read the article included on the Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity website: http://www.tpc-habitat.org/what_you_can_do/group_build_days/team_habitat_groups/asce---tacoma-olympia-section.html.

Thank you again to those who contributed their time and money in order to make this event a success. We are looking forward to hosting another Habitat Build Day in the future. Feel free to contact any one of the ASCE board members if you would like to become more involved with Habitat for Humanity.



Region 8 Fall Assembly in Boise, Idaho

Region 8 held its annual fall meeting in Boise, Idaho this year. The fall assembly meeting is always a very energizing and engaging conference where leaders from all 11 of the represented states have a chance to interact and trade ideas and inspiration in an intense focus session over a couple of days. The meetings are never without evening shenanigans to help participants unwind and remember why we all contribute to ASCE.



Frank Marescalco attended the meeting on behalf of the Tacoma-Olympia section. Thursday afternoon included a tour of the United States Bureau of Reclamation's Arrowrock Dam on the Boise River. Participants were able to walk through the dam on a guided tour with Bureau staff and witness the 100-year old engineering masterpiece in an up-close, personal way. Following the tour, the Society held a formal ceremony to recognize the dam for its engineering achievements and add it to the register of historical landmarks. You can see more about the dam and its cutting-edge design and construction at this link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arrowrock_Dam.



Why ASCE?

By Frank Marescalco

As civil engineers, we are surrounded by options for membership in professional organizations. Each one of them depends on the support of dedicated volunteers to operate. But we all have limited time and even though we might be a part of several organizations, chances are good that we need to carefully choose which organizations to join and – even more so – which ones we choose to benefit from our volunteering efforts.



The Tacoma-Olympia section has a checkered past of activity ranging from highly successful, well attended events to, well, not-so-attended events. The reality is that none of the professional organizations to which any of us belong would work without the support and dedication of their membership. So claiming that ASCE provides nothing is a chicken-egg fiasco if no one is contributing to ASCE. Our section is what our community makes of it.

I grew up in Nebraska and ASCE is a respected, healthy organization in that area. So I was surprised at the reaction I got when I informed my supervisor that I had joined ASCE in Tacoma. He simply asked, “Why?” Having been a contributing member in the Tacoma area for some years, I now realize that many people are confronted with that same reality. It begs the question: with so many other organizations that are active and healthy, what benefit does ASCE add? My answer: it depends. It depends on what you want out of your career and out of your organizations.

It is true that there are many other professional organizations that have more tailored technical programming and resources available to their members. A whole alphabet of discipline-specific organizations comes to mind: APWA, AWWA, PNCWA, ITE, SEAW – you get the idea. And if your desire for your career is to be a technical guru, then it probably does make a lot of sense for you to join and contribute to your discipline-specific organization.

ASCE was once the catch-all for all of the disciplines. Each branch of the engineering community decided to go its own way when the needs for programming and mission statements began to diverge. Many professional organizations central and peripheral to the civil engineering industry at large have started and grown in recent decades. And their technical value is undeniable. ASCE has retained much of its technical value through its institutions, but these institutions are largely self-contained and represented.

Many ASCE members are members of at least one technical institute, and that is an excellent way to reap benefits from an ASCE membership. But where does that leave the rest of ASCE? What is ASCE really good for in its current form, outside of its technical institutions? What really separates ASCE membership from membership in another technical organization?

The answer is simple: leadership. There is no other professional organization that offers the value of ASCE when it comes to leadership training. If you are predisposed to politics, policy-making, management, relationship-building, or communication, ASCE is the organization for you. There isn't a sitting member of Congress who doesn't know ASCE's name. ASCE leaders consistently go to bat at the legislature for our industry – at all levels. When we become civil engineers, we take an oath to protect the public health and wellness. If you do nothing to support the industry's communication to our legislature, you are missing out on a big part of fulfilling that obligation.

And for those of us who aren't at the top talking to Congress on a daily basis, ASCE offers members a chance to develop leadership skills and public speaking in an arena outside of the daily job setting. Young engineers have an opportunity to super-charge their careers through exposure to decision making and board leadership on the committee, branch, section, region, and even national level.

So when your boss asks you why ASCE is important, point to his bottom line. Better leaders and better representation is in all our best interests, and it's time employers stopped dismissing that. ASCE is more relevant than it ever has been, and I commend each and every one of you for your support and commitment.

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.

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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 2016

8	Society of American Military Engineers Program Point Defiance Railroad Bypass Project – Sound Transit and WSDOT Eagles Pride Golf Clubhouse near JBLM To register, contact Kim Kaul at kkaul@ahbl.com by Tuesday, September 6 th .
19	Practical Solutions Approach to Project Development Ms. Nancy Boyd, PE Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que of Tacoma 1901 South 72 nd Street Tacoma, WA 98408 To register, visit http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/events .
22	Water Resources Focus Study Session for the PE – 5:30 PM Tacoma Center for Urban Waters 326 East 'D' Street Tacoma, WA 98421 To register, visit http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/events .
29	ASCE National Convention Portland, Oregon http://www.asce.org/templates/conferences-events-event-detail.aspx?id=9361

October 2016

5	GeoEngineers Geotechnical Focus Study Session for the PE – 5:00 PM GeoEngineers Office in Tacoma 1101 South Fawcett Avenue, Suite 200 Tacoma, WA 98402 RSVP directly to sbraicks@geoengineers.com to sign up.
11	ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Board Meeting – 6:00 PM Location TBD – check the website for updates
18	2016 Presidents and Governors Forum Reston, Virginia
28	Fall 2016 Professional Engineering Examination Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup 110 9 th Avenue Southwest Puyallup, WA 98371

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.

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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