

President's Message

By Frank Marescalco



How time does fly by! Soon, we will all be writing 2017 on our documents. It seems like this year flew by with the economy picking back up and construction booming in our region. We are fortunate to have such a strong comeback here.

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. I don't know about you, but 2016 seemed like a pretty wild ride to me. The uptick in the economy, the presidential race, the historic weather, the tragedies and the triumphs – you have to take it all together.

I know that here at the Tacoma-Olympia section, our members and leadership have a long list of worthy 2016 accomplishments! We have been working hard at the leadership level 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. And we are pleased to continue that service in to the next year and expand our offerings even more.

I am excited to announce that this month's program, on December 14th, is the revitalization of our annual joint meeting with the Seattle Section of ASCE. This will be a fantastic opportunity to meet (or catch up with) our friends to the north. We have a great program lined up for you, too, with Mr. Roger Millar himself to deliver a talk on how the State has been spending funds allocated to transportation projects. Roger is a great speaker and a distinguished ASCE member. My thanks to the Seattle Section for their diligence and coordination. Don't miss this opportunity!

I am also excited to let you all know that our very own Michael Hale has stepped up to head the awards committee and bring you an awards program in April 2017. For those of you who are not familiar with it, the April program is a nationwide ASCE tradition where we recognize outstanding projects and engineers within our geographic area of representation. The categories for awards this year will include projects under \$1 million, projects over \$1 million, and engineer of the year. Winners in each category can be nominated at a higher level. The awards program is more than just a fun evening – it's an important tradition that recognizes the value of the work that we do as engineers.

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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. Remember that service isn't a burden – it's an opportunity. Remember what Lewis Carroll said: "In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take, the relationships we were afraid to have, and the decisions we waited too long to make." Make this your year!

From all of us at ASCE Tacoma-Olympia, we wish you politically correct, inclusive, happy holidays of your choice! As always, thank you for reading our newsletter, and we hope to see you at an event soon!

The Tatoosh Range as seen from Panorama Point, Mt. Rainier. Photo credit to Alex Hannum at alexhannumphotos@gmail.com

December 2016 Monthly Program

WSDOT: Connecting Washington Annual Joint Meeting with the Seattle Section

The Tacoma-Olympia Section will be holding its annual joint meeting with the Seattle Section this December at the Southcenter Ramada Inn. Our annual joint meeting is a great way to catch up with our friends to the north and make new contacts.



Roger Millar of WSDOT will be giving a presentation about how the agency has been spending money appropriated by the State for transportation improvement projects. Roger Millar is the Secretary of Transportation for the Washington State Department of Transportation. He joined the agency as Deputy Secretary in October 2015 and was appointed Acting Secretary by Governor Jay Inslee in February 2016. He was appointed Secretary of Transportation in August of 2016. Roger oversees an agency of 6,800 employees, with responsibility for 18,600 lane miles of highway, 3,800 bridges, general aviation airports, passenger- and freight-rail programs, and Washington State Ferries, the nation's largest ferry system.

Roger is a distinguished member of ASCE and an excellent speaker. He has published articles at the national level and is an active contributor to our local ASCE communities.

You can find out more about the program and register to attend our meeting by clicking on the link below. Be sure to register soon, because the registration fee goes up after December 2.

Speaker	Roger Millar, PE, M ASCE Secretary of Transportation, WSDOT
Date and Time	December 14, 2016 at 5:30 pm
Location	Yakima Banquet Hall Southcenter Ramada Inn of Tukwila 15901 West Valley Highway Tukwila, WA 98188
Price	Members - \$40.00 Students - \$20.00
Menu	The price of admission includes a complete, catered meal. The choice of entrees is Mediterranean Chicken or Fire-Grilled Flank Steak. Meals come with sides, rolls, and a selection of beverages. Special dietary accommodations are available on request.
Reservations	Reserve your spot by going online at our website: http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/events .

Announcements

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

- ***Awards Committee Chair Selected***

Our section is pleased to announce that Michael Hale has stepped up to take on the responsibility of chairing our Awards Committee. We encourage you to volunteer and help Michael as he takes the reins to our annual awards program in April. Even if you don't volunteer to help on the committee, you can help us by nominating outstanding projects or individuals within our community that you believe are worthy of recognition. So please, nominate someone or something today!

- ***History and Heritage Committee Chair Wanted***

Within our section and our engineering community, we are fortunate to have a lot of experienced, retired members and life members. One of the most important things we can do throughout our career is to mentor younger engineers and pass on valuable information to new generations. Being a mentor and teaching others is a highly satisfying activity. The ASCE's way of incorporating experience and passing on knowledge is through the History and Heritage Committee. Our section's committee is currently inactive, but all it needs to be active is you – a willing volunteer to step up! This opportunity is perfect for our life members, retirees, or even practicing senior engineers.

- ***Guest Articles***

Did you know that you can be featured in our newsletter by writing a guest article? If you have an opinion on a topic or information to share, you are a candidate! All you need to do is contact Frank with an article or even an idea for an article, and we'll be happy to set you up. Writing an article isn't just a great way to help us out – it's also a fantastic way to let the section know about projects you're working on, contributions you can offer to others, or just plain getting your name out there to the community. Just think: if things go south and you find yourself out of work, you have a foot in the door if people know you already! If we can learn anything from Mr. Trump, it's that there's no such thing as bad press – right? Or perhaps you disagree and you'd like to let us know – write an article!

- ***Coming Changes to Bylaws***

At our November meeting, Frank announced some pending changes to our Section's bylaws. The changes include making the secretary and treasurer positions in to two-year terms each, with terms being staggered. The intent of that change is to enhance continuity of leadership and reduce turnover at the board level. The proposed changes also include incorporating one new director position on the board open only to graduates of the St. Martin's University Student Chapter who served at the board level during their study at the university. The new director position is open each year with priority assignment to the past president of the student chapter. If the past president is unwilling or unable to fill the position, the position is open to any past officer. The proposed amendments take in to consideration some comments received from members at the November meeting. The board intends to vote on these changes to the bylaws this month. Please feel free to contact Frank directly if you have any questions related to these changes.

- ***Upcoming Football Viewing Social for Younger Members!***

The Younger Members Group looks forward to hosting a football-viewing social early next January! The event is tentatively scheduled at the Hawk's Prairie Restaurant and Sports Bar in Lacey, Washington. The exact date and time depends on the playoff schedule, but you can be assured of one thing; that this will be a time to loosen up and get to know some fellow civil engineers in the Tacoma-Olympia area! The more the merrier, so feel free to invite friends and family. All ages are welcome and the YMG will be offering FREE APPETIZERS!! 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 Harlow at tacoma.olympia.ymg@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Recent Events

City of Tacoma: Transportation Master Plan

In November, Josh Diekmann with the City of Tacoma presented the City's master transportation plan to our section. Josh is the City's Transportation Engineer. The discussion was well attended and the presentation was fascinating. The presentation was rich with useful information and was even attended by staff from other agencies looking to pursue a similar planning path.

The topics discussed included the process by which the City prioritized modes of transportation along different corridors, the public involvement process in developing the plan, and the financial aspects of the study that back the plan. The plan is progressive in that it is inclusive of all types of transportation, but recognizes that it isn't possible or appropriate for all corridors to be designed for every mode of transportation. The plan was coordinated with other agencies, including Pierce Transit and Sound Transit, so that actions the City takes are in harmony with actions those agencies have planned for the horizon. The plan is comprehensive in that it contains some recommendations on capital projects the City could undertake, but also seeks to help inform the direction and regulation of private development within key areas of the City. The plan is a powerful tool to aid the City's decision makers.



The presentation even included some new vocabulary! A “walkshed” is defined as an area within which a person could reasonably navigate between locations on foot. Tacoma used the “20-Minute Neighborhood” concept to establish its walksheds and located the walksheds within critical areas, usually characterized by high-density neighborhoods or popular amenities. Our section thanks you, Josh!



St. Martin's University Student Chapter Update

By Joanna Johnson, Vice President

The Saint Martin's University (SMU) chapter of ASCE is thriving this semester. Students are preparing for the Pacific Northwest regional competition in April 2017. SMU ASCE is planning to participate in concrete canoe, steel bridge, environmental, surveying, and the ethics paper. The 2017 conference will be the first time SMU ASCE will participate in the environmental and surveying competition.

The concrete canoe team will be concentrating on improving the mix design from last year while keeping the same canoe shape. SMU ASCE welcomed American Concrete Institute President Eric Olsen from The Euclid Chemical Company and Sean Roberts from CalPortland Company to speak about concrete design.

Meanwhile, the steel bridge team is looking to create a completely new and innovative design. The 2016 competition was the first year that Saint Martin's had participated in the steel bridge competition in over a decade. This year's team has a lot of drive and wants to make this competition count.

Besides conference preparations, the SMU ASCE chapter has collaborated with the Younger Members Group to help students build a set of basic work skills before entering the professional world. On September 28th, the YMG held a networking workshop on campus. SMU ASCE looks forward to working with the YMG more in the future!



2016 SMU Concrete Canoe Team

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.

History and Heritage Committee Chair; *Approx. time commitment: 1 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.

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

December 2016

1	ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Board Meeting – 6:30 PM Hawks Prairie Restaurant and Sports Bar 8306 Quinault Drive Northeast Olympia, WA 98516 RSVP not necessary – open attendance to all members
14	December 2016 Program – 6:00 PM Roger Millar: Connecting Washington Southcenter Ramada Inn of Tukwila 15901 West Valley Highway Tukwila, WA 98188 RSVP by clicking here .
25	Christmas!
31	New Year's Eve

January 2017

1	New Year's Day
4	ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Board Meeting – 6:30 PM Hawks Prairie Restaurant and Sports Bar 8306 Quinault Drive Northeast Olympia, WA 98516 RSVP not necessary – open attendance to all members
12	Region 8 Spring Assembly Los Angeles, California Location TBD
13-14	Regions 8 and 9 Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders Los Angeles, California http://www.asce.org/regions-8-9-workshop-for-section-and-branch-leaders/
TBD	Younger Members Group Football Playoff Party Hawks Prairie Restaurant and Sports Bar 8306 Quinault Drive Northeast Olympia, WA 98516 Keep an eye out for the RSVP link! http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/events
24	Early Bird PE Exam Study Session – 5:30 PM Tully's Coffee of Downtown Tacoma 764 Broadway Tacoma, WA 98402 RSVP at http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/events

February 2017

14	Valentine's Day
19-25	Engineers Week 2017 Contact us to get involved! Lots of opportunities available! http://www.discovere.org/our-programs/engineers-week

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.

Connect with us on Facebook! [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>.

Branch Contact Information		
President Frank Marescalco, PE City of Tacoma (253) 591-5423 fmarescalco@cityoftacoma.org	President-Elect Derek McCoy, PE Hatton Godat Pantier, Inc. (719) 200-3041 dukemccoy@gmail.com	Secretary Larry "Dale" Caswell, PE U.S. Army (253) 219-9453 d_cas@hotmail.com
Past President R. Michael Hale, PE City of Tacoma (253) 377-8221 skahale3@yahoo.com	Treasurer Jessie Chen APA – Engineered Wood Association (253) 310-6046 Jessyyue78@hotmail.com	Director Chris Beckman, PE (253) 468-0309 bmwjupiter@gmail.com
Younger Members Chair Carlyn Harlow Apex Engineering, PLLC (253) 473-4494 carlynharlow@gmail.com	Director Samuel Dunn SCJ Alliance (360) 349-3270 samuel1dunn@gmail.com	Director Vacant

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