



Summer 2018

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Greetings!

Hello, I hope you have had a great summer! Many of our branches take time off from regular meetings in the summer, many of them host golf tournaments, and most of the Younger Members clubs are more active in the summer! I hope you have found a way to stay engaged with your branch during the summer.

We have spent the first few weeks educating our members about the push for decoupling, and have gotten some feedback that you will find interesting. The feedback is detailed in an article within this newsletter. We are just beginning to educate our peer organizations on the results of our survey, and in general, everyone seems interested because we are the only organization they know that has done any work to educate and then survey their members.

We have been busy making plans for the 2018 Tennessee Engineers' Conference at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. The event will be held Monday, September 17, and Tuesday September 18, 2018. There's a Welcome Reception Sunday night that promises to be a humdinger of a good time! We expect over 600 engineers from across the state to come and enjoy a wide variety of professional development sessions and networking.

Our educational tracks are planned, and we have many interesting topics in many areas of engineering. We are still seeking sponsors and exhibitors! You will find links to the registration and sponsorships in this newsletter. Please, help us out by registering to attend and consider sponsoring the conference! We'll see you in September!



Helen S. Hennon, PE
President, ASCE Tennessee Section
hhennon@utk.edu

2018 Tennessee Engineers' Conference



Tennessee Engineers' Conference
Engineering a Better World

September 16-18, 2018
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs
Franklin, TN

Randal Braker, PE
Environmental Chair

Michael Bivens, PE
Geotechnical Chair

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Ken Barry, PE
History and Heritage Chair

Eric Gardner, PE
Membership Chair
Younger Member Chair

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Structural Chair

Brian Reynolds, PE
Transportation Chair

Monica Sartain, PE
Report Card Chair

Wesley Goodnight
Student Co-Chair

Ashley Smith, PE
Website Manager & Student Chair

ASCE TN Section, ACEC TN, TNSEA, and TSPE will combine again for the 2018 Tennessee Engineers' Conference. With a wide variety of PDHs and countless networking opportunities, it is the premier gathering for engineers of all disciplines across the state.

The [conference schedule](#) with schedule of events, education tracks/topics and additional details is now available. **TODAY is the last day to register online!**

Follow the link below to register online:

[Individual Conference Registration](#)

Onsite conference registration will open Sunday, September 16, 2018 at 4:00 PM (CDT) at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs Conference Center.

BRANCH PRESIDENTS

Jeffrey Parris, PE
Chattanooga

Jennifer Moore, PE
Holston

Dan Boles, PE
Knoxville

Clint Camp, PE
Nashville

Duncan Adrian, PE
West Tennessee

BRANCH WEBSITES

[Chattanooga](#)

[Holston](#)

[Knoxville](#)

Chattanooga Branch Report

In May, the branch held the 2018 Group Outing for a day-game of the Chattanooga Lookouts vs. Tennessee Smokies. Members met in the Lookouts Loft for a bottomless menu of hot dogs, hamburgers, hot wings, veggie tray, mac and cheese, baked beans, popcorn, peanuts, dessert, water and soft drinks.

In June, the branch held a monthly membership meeting where Lindsey Willke, Urban Design Coordinator, presented past projects of the Chattanooga Design Studio in and around the downtown area.

In July, the branch held a monthly membership meeting where Lukas Salyer, our ASCE-TN Section Vice President, presented both the National and State of TN, ASCE-Infrastructure Report Card.

Looking Ahead:

On August 6th the ASCE Chattanooga Branch is partnering with the City of Chattanooga, Chattanooga State and other organizations to present the Chattanooga Development Symposium again this year. The purpose of this symposium is to provide a platform for governing bodies and other organizations to disseminate information and open communication with engineers, surveyors and the development community in hopes of streamlining development in the greater Chattanooga area.

In September the Branch will cancelled so members can join public and private sector professional engineers from across the state of Tennessee at the 2018 Tennessee Engineers' Conference.

[Nashville](#)

[West Tennessee](#)

In October the Branch will hold a monthly membership meeting in which Greg Dutson will present Structural Monitoring and Data Visualization for Hydro Dams.

Holston Branch Report

The Holston Branch would like to thank Phil Pindzola, Johnson City Public Works Director, for his presentation on the stormwater improvements in downtown Johnson City. The lunch meeting was held on March 20th at the Johnson City Public Library. Mr. Pindzola gave the group an overview of the history and implementation of the master plan that the city leadership had developed and implemented to address economic and cultural revitalization as well as flooding issues. The downtown Johnson City area has been plagued by flooding for decades due to infrastructure limitations and increased upstream urbanization. The master plan addressed these issues and consisted of major stormwater infrastructure improvements, cultural features such as an amphitheater, and greenway parks.

Although the Holston Branch has taken the summer off from meetings, some of the members have been busy helping with local Summer Stem programs. Thanks to Brian Johnson, Qk4 Inc. for taking the time to speak to the students at Anderson Elementary's Design and STEM Camp this summer. The free weeklong camp focused on fun science, technology, engineering and math activities. Utilizing the branches bridge kit, Mr. Johnson introduced the students to Civil Engineering and bridges. While learning a little bit about civil engineering and bridges the students constructed their own bridge that they then were are to crawl across. The branches bridge kit is available for any of our members to assist with presentations to local schools and groups.



Information about our next meeting this fall will be forth coming.

All of the latest Branch events can be found on the website calendar at www.asce-holston.org. If you would like additional information about our branch or upcoming meetings please contact us at asce.holston@gmail.com (goes to the current President).

Knoxville Branch Report

Our April lunch meeting was hosted by the UTK ASCE Student Chapter. The Knoxville Branch installed the 11 new student officers for the 2018/2019 year. The outgoing Student Chapter President, Mr. Matthew Lyons, reported on the Chapter's results of the Conference. UTK finished seventh in the conference and was also awarded the

recognition of being in the top five percent of student chapters in the nation. UTK will host the 2019 ASCE Student Conference in March 2019.

Our May lunch meeting was held at Buddy's Banquet Hall and Dr. Chris Pionke of the UT Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Engineering Honors College teamed with Dr. Glen Graber of the UT Department of Psychology to present a topic on engineering ethics.

Our June dinner meeting was held at the Casual Pint. Barry Thacker with Schnabel Engineering presented a talk about Arthur Morgan in character. Arthur Morgan was the first chairman of TVA and commonly thought of as the father of modern flood control.

Our July meeting was held at the City of Knoxville Public Works Building and Dawn Michelle Foster, project manager, with the City of Knoxville spoke about ongoing redevelopment projects in the City.

Our annual golf tournament was held on July 20th at Centennial course in Oak Ridge. Twenty-two teams participated and a check for \$6,500 was presented to the University of Tennessee.

The Young Members Group held a brewery tour in June where they visited four breweries and then met on Market Square to tour several of the local pubs.

Nashville Branch Report

The Nashville Branch hosted Sonia Harvat and John Barnett with Metro Water Services' to discuss the renovations to the historic 8th Avenue Reservoir for the May meeting.

Later that month, the Branch also hosted its annual Scholarship Golf Scramble. The proceeds from all of our sponsors and teams resulted in 60 golfers helping the Branch raise over \$3,000 towards our scholarships.

Our Younger Members' Group, in addition to their regular activities, hosted a Young Professionals Social which included a cornhole tournament with colleagues from AIA, USGBC, AGC and more. They also created a team for a local dodgeball league.

In July, our Branch hosted Metro Public Works to discuss policy and capital projects with speakers Jeff Hammond and Katrina Jones, in addition to accepting donations for school supplies to the Pencil Foundation.

Separately, the Branch is raising pledges to pay for schools to receive a copy of the *'Dream Big' film* and help share the story into all middle and high schools in Middle Tennessee.

West Tennessee Branch Report

The West Tennessee Branch Board met April 13th, May 11th, and June 15 to discuss Branch business. Jason Bates with ADS Pipe spoke at the April 19th branch meeting and presented on cost effective underground detention/retention solutions. Tiffany Heard, senior project manager with SSR, spoke at the May 24th branch meeting about the National Disaster Resiliency Competition sites

located in Dyersburg, TN. The West TN School of Rock was held on June 8th, and over \$500.00 was raised for the student chapters of the Branch. The funds will be added to the student chapters conference fund. Engineering presentations were also hosted monthly in Jackson, TN.

The board finalized the purchase and registration of three trailers for West TN student chapters to facilitate the transportation of concrete canoes and steel bridges to conferences. The board pledged 32 Dream Big DVDs for public schools that will be matched by ASCE National (64 total). The board also pledged an additional 28 DVDs to distribute to private elementary and middle schools in the West TN area. The younger member's group held a meeting on April 27th.

2016 Report Card for Tennessee - Solutions

The 2016 Report Card for Tennessee's Infrastructure Committee prepared a full report on the state of Tennessee's Infrastructure. The Report included 5 Key Solutions and Summarizes of each of the 10 areas highlighted. Over the next year the Tennessee Section will be highlighting the Key Solutions and respective infrastructure areas.

Solution #3

Leverage our state's central location as a transportation hub. Our central location in the country coupled with the intersection of multiple interstates and inland waterways across the state make Tennessee a natural hub for movement of commerce. FedEx has already embraced Tennessee as a natural location for its main headquarters. We have the opportunity to lead the nation in comprehensive freight management options.

Aviation - B-

Tennessee's Aviation Infrastructure serves both commercial and general aviation needs. The network consists of 69 Public Use Airports, including 2 medium-sized commercial hub airports, 3 primary commercial non-hub airports, 1 non-primary commercial facility, and 64 general aviation facilities. According to the most recent data available from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Tennessee was host to over 8.6 million enplanements in 2014, with Nashville ranking 3rd nationally among medium-sized hubs. Tennessee's aviation infrastructure has seen slight improvements in recent years due to implementation of a pavement management program, and recent projects that were completed, including the replacement of at least one general aviation airport (Hardwick field) with a new facility (Cleveland jetport) that increased capacity and safety. Memphis ranked #1 overall in 2014 for amount of tons landed at U.S. airports. A 2014 study of runway, taxiway, and aircraft parking apron pavements at Tennessee General Aviation airports indicates satisfactory condition. However, pavement constantly deteriorates with time and use. In 2015, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Aeronautics division developed a state-wide pavement management program to assess pavement conditions and analyze needs for pavement restoration and maintenance. Tennessee utilizes an aviation fuel tax as its primary funding source for aviation infrastructure. Recently, legislation was enacted to cap the amount of aviation fuel tax that can be collected from a single entity. It's important to note that unless a new funding source is located to replace the revenue lost by the Tax Cap, the ability to meet future infrastructure needs is greatly decreased.

Inland Waterways - C-

The state of Tennessee is located at the heart of the nation's inland waterway system. The state's three major navigable arteries, the Cumberland, Mississippi, and Tennessee Rivers and their tributaries, connect the state's four public river ports and over 170 private river terminals to river ports in 21 states and ocean ports along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Barge traffic is often delayed at Tennessee's locks due to abundant and unscheduled repairs, which can take months to completely resolve. Delays also occur due to low water, which results in light-loading barges and increased shipment costs. While delay times are generally low, they indicate an inability to effectively meet current demands. Budget cuts and depleted funds in the federal Inland Waterways Trust Fund threaten to set back Tennessee's water transportation infrastructure, including the new Chickamauga Lock, Tennessee's biggest water infrastructure project.

Decoupling Survey Results Summary

The survey circulated in March 2018 was intended to learn more about our members and their thoughts regarding licensure as it relates to experience. The ASCE Tennessee Section wanted to obtain a clear position regarding decoupling, without specifically calling it by name since not everyone has had the same knowledge about decoupling. First, we want to say thank you to everyone who participated in the survey. Decoupling is the removal of the requirement that a person that has passed the Fundamental of Engineering (FE) exam be allowed to take the principles and practices of engineering examination before 4 years of engineering related experience. Several states have adopted this practice. It is often reasoned decoupling will encourage college graduates to stay on a path to licensure and remain in the engineering profession. Some of you may have attended a presentation provided by Robert Campbell, P.E. who is a current member of the Tennessee Licensing Board regarding this issue. Several studies have been conducted and it has been shown that taking the examination early has not increased the passing rate of applicants and that the highest percentage of passing occurs around 4 years of experience. This is not a surprise since the P.E. exam is designed to be an examination to test the practical knowledge acquired by an engineer in training (EIT) having been mentored by other licensed engineers for the last 4 years.

Regarding the survey, we had a total of 171 responses from our member base. Although this only represents approximately 6% of our base, it is 2% more than typically respond to ASCE National surveys. Overall, 73% of the respondents were against decoupling. Of those that responded 95% had passed the P.E. and 82% of the respondents had accumulated 4 years of experience before taking the exam. The distribution for the respondents was fairly uniform beneath the age of 50 with the percentage typically in the teens; however those people with more than 30 years of experience represented 39.9% of responders. This statistic is no surprise, considering the largest percentage of current engineers are Baby Boomers. Fifty-Four percent (54%) of respondents did not believe that taking the exam early helped pass the test. Relative to whether or not the candidates' ethics would be affected, 28% believed that decoupling would have a negative effect on ethics, whereas 68.4% were neutral. Yet, 62% of respondents did believe that decoupling would have a negative effect of the quality of the candidate. *In summary the majority of our member base in the State of Tennessee is against decoupling.*

However, in speaking with many different people over the last 2 years

across the state regarding this issue; the consensus is that if we are not proactive as a group, there is the possibility that an individual or individuals will pursue lobbying efforts could possibly alter the rules of our state. This may create a decoupling situation which is not favorable for the preservation of the quality of engineering, nor safeguard the public in the State of Tennessee. Case in point; a decade ago a single individual successfully lobbied the state legislature to relax the requirements for licensure in the State of Tennessee. Although we applaud the efforts of this individual, the outcome was not for the greater good of our profession or for the public at large. The detailed results for the survey are available [HERE](#).

In closing, it is important that we as a profession stay engaged and use our own voices to strengthen our position. As a group, we are typically not outspoken and leave ourselves open to the influence of outside interests. I encourage everyone to get involved at a local, state, and national level with your legislators and policy makers to maintain and shape our profession.

Membership Renewal

If you haven't renewed your ASCE membership for 2019, please do so soon.



Memberships run on a calendar year schedule. Each Branch and Section has a database with contact information for members and past members. After two years, former members that haven't renewed for two years will be removed from the database. Please renew before your contact information is removed.

Log in to the ASCE website to renew your membership and get access to several free webinars. [Renew Here Today!](#)