

ASCE

WISCONSIN SECTION



Photo of Eau Claire in the Northwest Branch.

President's Message

By: Larry Buechel

Greetings fellow ASCE members. I hope you have survived the winter so far. All things considered, it hasn't been too bad to this point, and it's already February, so spring isn't very far away either.



By now, you should have seen an invitation in your email inbox to participate in the Wisconsin Section's recently released member survey. This survey is an opportunity for you to share your opinions on what you like about your ASCE membership and what our Section can do to make that membership more valuable to you. It should only take five minutes or so to complete. Additional details on the survey

can be found later in this newsletter. Your feedback is very valuable to our Section so please take the time to complete the survey if you haven't done so already.

In January, the Section embarked on a process to develop a new strategic plan for our organization. That plan will identify the Section's objectives over the next three to five years and layout a road map for us to achieve those objectives. The member survey discussed above is part of that process. The survey results will be utilized in development of the strategic plan and identify the areas we need to focus on in order to provide member value and continue to move our organization forward. So, again, please complete that survey so we are sure to understand what is important to our members and how we can improve our organization. That feedback is vital to our continued success. We hope to complete the development of the new strategic plan by early spring and will post it on the Section's website at that time for all to view. Additional information on how you can contribute to the Section's strategic planning effort can be found later in the newsletter.

February brings us Engineers Week. ASCE teams up with DiscoverE each February to recognize the engineering profession and promote engineering education programs. This year's E-Week is February 21-27. This ASCE/DiscoverE partnership to promote E-Week creates an opportunity to:

- Celebrate how engineers make a difference in our world
- Increase public dialogue about the need for engineers
- Bring engineering to life for kids, educators, and parents

The link below provides access to the ASCE webpage containing details on the ASCE/DiscoverE Engineers Week activities.

[2021 ASCE/DiscoverE Engineers Week Activities Information](#)

Similarly, in February the STEM Forward organization holds their annual Engineers Week Banquet to honor engineering professionals for their contributions to the profession. This year, Wisconsin Section members John McCarthy and Nick Bobinski have been selected by STEM Forward to receive their Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year awards, respectively. Congratulations to John and Nick for this well-deserved recognition! Both gentlemen have been active Section and Branch members over the years and are truly worthy of these awards. Details on these awards and STEM Forward's upcoming Engineers Week Banquet can be found later in the newsletter.

March brings us the Wisconsin Section's annual Spring Technical Conference (STC). This year's STC is being hosted by the Fox River Valley Branch and will be held as a virtual event. The STC is scheduled for March 5th. Notice on that event has been sent to the Section membership via email and registration is open. Take advantage of this great opportunity to obtain several professional development hours and learn more about some of the great engineering work your peers from around the State are doing. Additional details on the STC are included in this newsletter.

Lastly, I wanted to mention here that the University of Wisconsin – Platteville (UW-P) will be hosting the 2021 ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition on their campus. The event is being held June 26-28, 2021. This is a great opportunity for the UW-P Student Chapter to

showcase their wonderful campus and associated facilities to dozens of other Student Chapters from around the country and elsewhere in the world! If you have an interest in attending this event or providing volunteer support for it, you can find more details via the link below. This is a great chance to see some very creative canoe designs and resourceful construction techniques developed by our civil engineers of tomorrow.

[2021 ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition - UW-Platteville](#)

Thank you for your continued support of ASCE and the Wisconsin Section. Please be sure to complete the member survey and consider participating in an Engineers Week event or attending the Fox River Valley Branch's 2021 STC.

Thanks again and stay well,



Larry Buechel
ASCE Wisconsin Section President

Help Us Improve Your Membership
Complete our Wisconsin Section Member Survey and/or
Volunteer for a 15-minute Interview!

The ASCE Wisconsin Section has recently embarked on the development of a new three-year strategic plan for the Section. It is an exciting time, and we need you! Your feedback will show us what we are doing well, and what we might need to do differently to create new value for our members.

There are two fairly quick and easy ways that you can help. Those are:

1) Complete the Wisconsin Section Member Survey

The ASCE Wisconsin Section is requesting your participation in a state-wide survey of the Section membership – it will take less than five minutes! This survey is one of the steps in the strategic planning process. Members who

[Take the Survey](#)

2) Volunteer for a 15-minute Member Interview

A second step in our feedback-gathering process is the completion of personal interviews with a representative cross-section of our membership. To that end, we are seeking volunteers who are willing to talk candidly about their experience with the ASCE Wisconsin Section and answer questions regarding what they think we are doing well or

should move away from. If you feel that you have more input than what we asked for in your membership survey, we would love to possibly interview you in a 15-minute virtual call coordinated within your schedule. Click the link below to express your interest.

[Volunteer for a 15 minute Interview](#)

The Section Board is excited to incorporate your honest feedback into the ongoing strategic plan development process. Member feedback is vital to the ASCE Wisconsin Section's continuing mission to provide essential value to our members and partners, advance the civil engineering profession, and serve the public good.

If you have questions or would like to share specific feedback, you can also contact us directly anytime at wi.sec.asce@gmail.com.



Register for the ASCE Spring Technical Conference

The Fox River Valley Branch and the Wisconsin Section invite you to attend the 2021 ASCE Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference on Friday, March 5, 2021. This day-long conference will be presented virtually.



*Jason Mengel, Director of the
2021 Ryder Cup*



*Craig Thompson, WisDOT Secretary
- Designee*

Featured keynote speakers will include Jason Mengel, the Director of the 2021 Ryder Cup, and Craig Thompson, Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary-Designee. ASCE Past-President K.N. Gunalan "Guna," Ph.D., P.E., D.G E, F.ASCE will present an Ethics presentation.

[View Event Details](#)

[Register Now!](#)

[Sponsorship Information](#)

[I can't make it](#)

The generous support from this year's Presenting Sponsors allows us to greatly reduce our registration fees. Thank you to the 2021 STC Presenting Sponsors [Advanced Drainage Systems](#) and [Fehr Graham](#) for their support!

Up to **six PDH's** will be available from this program.

We hope to "see" you at the Conference!

Sincerely,
The 2021 ASCE Wisconsin Section
Spring Technical Conference Planning Committee



Thank you to our presenting sponsors!



2020 ASCE Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card Update

By Jennifer Schaff, PE M.ASCE and Ken Mika, PE M.ASCE

The 2020 ASCE Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card Committee has moved on to advocacy phase of the Report Card activities. In late fall of 2020, committee members had one-on-one calls with staff members from Wisconsin's federally elected officials. This took place over a two-week period. The goal was to introduce the 2020 ASCE Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card and establish an open dialogue between the Wisconsin Section and our federally elected officials' offices.

In November, Jake Brunoehler and Jennifer Schaff gave a presentation to American Public Works Association (APWA) on the Report Card grades. Then in January, Carl Sutter gave a similar presentation to the Fox River Valley Branch. On March 23, Ken Mika is scheduled to give a presentation for the University of Wisconsin – Platteville Engineering Seminar Series on what went into producing the Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card, what the grades were, and the next steps for advocacy.

Depending on where you are in the state of Wisconsin, you may have seen Marty Hanson in the news. Platform Communications organized two interviews regarding infrastructure and road funding that translated into a total of 7 media hits across both online and broadcast TV platforms. These interviews were pitched around Gov. Tony Evers' state of the state address and the upcoming state budget. Below is a list of the media hits.

Broadcast Hits

- WBAY - Green Bay - INTERVIEW: Report grades Wisconsin roads D+, Jan. 21 at 4 p.m.

- WEAU - Eau Claire - Wisconsin's roads get a D+ grade, Jan. 24 at 10 a.m., Jan. 25 at 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.
- WLAX - Eau Claire - Wisconsin's roads get a D+ grade, Jan. 24 at 9 p.m.
- WJFW - Eau Claire - Wisconsin's roads get a D+ grade, Jan. 25 at 5:30 a.m.
- WTMJ - Eau Claire - Wisconsin's roads get a D+ grade, Jan. 25 at 6 p.m.

Online Stories

- WBAY - Green Bay - INTERVIEW: Report grades Wisconsin roads D+
- WEAU - Eau Claire - Wisconsin's roads get a D+ grade

Currently, Carl Sutter is leading the charge with Jake Brunoehler and Marty Hanson to set up four collaborative presentations with Wisconsin's League of Women Voters. The plan is to have the presentations where half of the presentation is on the Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card and the other half would be presented by an economics professor. The goal is to get the point across that investing in Wisconsin's infrastructure makes cents for Wisconsinites (pun fully intended).

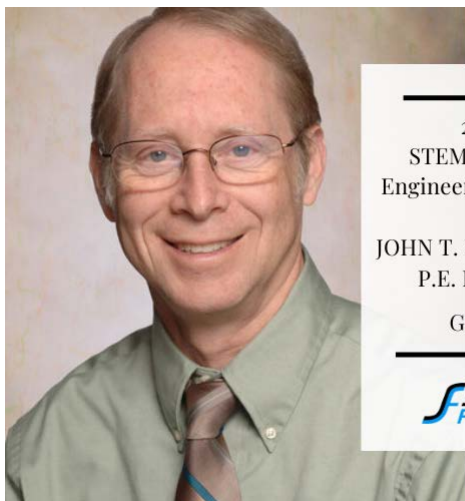
Another activity being set up is one-on-one calls between Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card committee members and the staff members of Wisconsin's state elected officials.

If anyone is interested in participating in Wisconsin infrastructure advocacy, please reach out to Jennifer Schaff and Ken Mika. The committee has more plans for the future and could use help with finding public groups to present the 2020 Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card to, writing opinion pieces (Platform and the Society are willing to help support this effort), to a state drive-in the future!

Keep an eye out for the 2021 National Infrastructure Report Card which is scheduled to be released in early March!

ASCE Wisconsin Section Members Honored with 2020 Engineer of the Year Awards by STEM Forward

The ASCE Wisconsin Section is proud to announce that two longstanding ASCE members have been honored with [STEM Forward's](#) 2020 *Engineer of the Year* awards.



Both John and Nick have made significant contributions to the civil engineering profession throughout their professional careers. They will be highlighted at the 68th Annual Engineers Week Banquet to take place on February 17, 2021.

Full information on the awards and banquet [can be found here](#).

NSPE-WI (WSPE) 2021 Virtual Discovery Conference

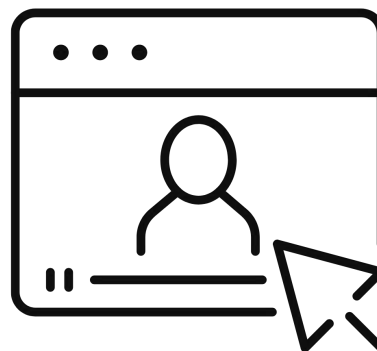
NSPE-WI (also WSPE) will be offering continuing education courses, comprising their 2021 Virtual Discovery Conference, from March 9 through June 22.

The theme of this year's conference is "*Pioneers of Progress*" where scientists, engineers and technologists will be recognized for their contributions that have given us the technology we enjoy today. There are currently 14 courses planned over 7 weeks. The session days and times are every Tuesday and Thursday at 12:00 pm noon, some lasting for 90 minutes, most for 60 minutes, and equate to 1.5 PDH and 1 PDH respectively. The Conference will be multidisciplinary (Civil, Electrical, Chemical, Mechanical, Bio-Medical) with an emphasis on Civil Engineering and 2 ethics courses. The sessions will be live streaming via Zoom and there will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of each session.

Registration is scheduled to open Monday February 15, 2021. Attendance fees are \$150 for all 14 sessions (16 PDH) or \$15 per session. For the Conference schedule, complete presentation details and to register, please visit www.WSPE.org.

2020 ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting Materials Available

Materials from the 2020 Annual Meeting are now available to attendees by request. If you would like to review a recorded session or PDF presentation, please email wi.sec.asce@gmail.com and specify the title of the session you'd like to access.



Southeast Branch Civil Engineering Scholarship Award Event

By Aaron Bubb

On January 27th, the Southeast Branch awarded their annual scholarships to Michael Pook of Marquette, Zach Binversie of MSOE, and John Bowen of UW-Milwaukee.



Michael Pook is pursuing a civil engineering degree at Marquette. Michael volunteers his time tutoring at the Milwaukee Academy of Science, a K-12 public charter school located close to the Marquette campus, and at Southeast Asian Literacy, a program in the Neighborhood House of Milwaukee. In his work at the Engineering Materials and Structural Testing Lab in Engineering Hall, he tests structural properties of different materials on a variety of projects. Through his involvement in ASCE's concrete canoe and AISC's steel bridge team, Michael has developed technical and interpersonal skills. His professional goal is to improve the quality of life for others.



Zach Binversie is pursuing a civil engineer degree with a specialty in environmental and water resources at MSOE. Zach was a founding member of the MSOE National Club Baseball Team. He volunteers at STEM Expos and the Mequon Nature Preserve. As part of ASCE and the concrete canoe team, he has worked to create a positive environment to welcome and retain team members. Zach believes ASCE has been an instrumental part in his growth as a student, engineer, and person. In his career as a civil engineer, he wants to focus on protecting, sustaining, and repairing the environment and its valuable resources. He feels a civil engineering career is about making the world a healthier place to live.



John Bowen is pursuing a structural engineering degree at UW-Milwaukee. John has volunteered for an English Language Learning program and donates blood through the American Red Cross. He is President of the ASCE Student Chapter at UWM. As part of the concrete canoe activities, he has developed a greater understanding of applied structural engineering, which has helped his class work. After graduation in winter of 2021, John's plans include earning a master's degree and professional engineering license, continuing his involvement in ASCE, and finding a job he loves in structural engineering.

Thank you to the Southwest Branch Scholarship Committee who reviewed the applications recommended these recipients.

Congratulations 2021 New Life Members!

By: Darrell Berry, PE, FASCE-Life, Awards Committee Chairman

We congratulate our newest five Life Members for 2021 listed below. To obtain Life Member status, individuals in the grade of Fellow, Member, Associate Member, or Affiliate must be at least 65 years old, have paid dues in any membership grade except student for at least 35 years and have had ten years continuous membership immediately preceding the attainment of Life Member. 2021 is the year in which our new Life Members satisfy these criteria. Our newest Life Members will be recognized during the 2021 Virtual Spring Technical Conference. Each new Life Member will receive a certificate from ASCE national and a Life Member pin.

Awad Soliman Hanna, F.ASCE
Martin John Hanson, P.E., F.ASCE
Hector R Bravo, P.E., M.ASCE
Candace Susan Groth, P.E., M.ASCE
Thomas William McCoy, P.E., M.ASCE

Efforts on Formation of Architectural Engineering Technical Committee Continue

By Larry Buechel

The Wisconsin Section is continuing the process to formally establish an Architectural Engineering Technical Group for its membership. In October, the Section submitted to the ASCE Governing Documents Committee proposed modifications to its Constitution and Bylaws that are necessary to allow ASCE Institute-only members to join the Section's technical groups/institute chapters. The ASCE Govern Documents Committee responded in late December with comments on the Section's proposed changes, and also proposed a separate series of revisions to the two documents intended to bring them into conformance with the Society's current model documents. The Section is in the process of reviewing those revisions and responding to the Committee. Once all proposed revisions have been resolved, the final draft of the revised Constitution/Bylaws will be presented to the Section membership for review. This is expected to occur in February and March.

If you have interest in joining the Section's Architectural Engineering Technical Group, please email the Section at wi.sec.asce@gmail.com.



2021 World Environmental & Water Resources Congress to be Presented Virtually

June 7-11, 2021

Planning a Resilient Future Along America's Freshwaters

ASCE will be hosting the 2021 World Environmental & Water Resources Congress conference virtually from **June 7 – 11, 2021**. Attendees will have the opportunity to share their research on issues affecting the environment and the policies relating to water resources. As a water community, we will focus on using our existing knowledge, combined with fresh ideas to maximize resources and develop best practices as we strive for a healthy future environment.

[View full information here.](#)

In response to the global outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19), ASCE is committed to reducing the risk of adverse health impacts to the thousands of ASCE members, guests and staff that participate in numerous ASCE committee meetings, conferences and events. Thank you for your continued patience and dedication to ASCE and its Institutes.

We Love our Students!

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Nominations for ASCE Wisconsin's Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Award are open!

Submit your nomination by Sunday, February 14, 2021.

This award is given to a civil engineering student in their senior year who has shown "individual achievement/service that demonstrates excellence in engineering academic achievement and service to the profession."

Students are nominated by their ASCE Student Chapter Faculty Advisor and will be recognized at the 2021 Spring Technical Conference on March 5.



Membership at a Glance



Total WI section members: 1,868

Affiliate: 60

Assoc: 338

Distinguished: 5

Fellow: 55

Member: 1,075

Student: 335

**New Members (since last
newsletter): 27**

Volunteer to Judge the 2021 Great Lakes Student Conference!

The American Society of Civil Engineers 2021 Great Lakes Student Conference will be virtually hosted by Purdue University on **April 10-11, 2021**. The two-day event is expected to draw nearly five hundred and fifty participants from Seventeen universities.

We are volunteers to help us judge the event! This year, we have 17 schools participating, but each competition will vary on the number of teams/students so the time commitment for each competition will vary as well. The conference is April 10th-11th, 2021 and will be completely virtual. For more information, please contact Jack Bell at bell224@purdue.edu. For the rules to the competitions, please visit our website at asceglsc.org.

Background

The Great Lakes Student Conference is one of 18 regions that the American Society of Civil Engineers student chapters are divided into. These regions are based on geography and the Great Lakes Student Conference encompasses schools from southern Wisconsin, northern and central Illinois, and Indiana. In total, the Great Lakes Student Conference is composed of a set of 17 universities, with some universities joining the conference on a yearly basis, and is one of the largest regions based on the number of schools.

Each April, the schools from the Great Lakes Student Conference region come together to compete in three different Civil Engineering-based competition areas: side competitions, steel bridge, and concrete canoe. Usually around 400-500 students attend and compete in all three areas of competition. This year, Purdue University has the honor of hosting the conference, but it will be virtual due to COVID-19. Because of the magnitude of the conference and the types of events we are hosting, we need judges to help us decide the winners of each competition!

Competitions:

The AutoCAD competition will require students to recreate a floor plan in AutoCAD with certain criteria in under one hour. Judges will be asked to review their submissions and determine who best completed the competition based on our scoring breakdown.

Concrete Cornhole is a fun competition in which students create their own cornhole board out of concrete and then put it, and their throwing skills, to the test in a double bracket tournament. Judges will be asked to review their cornhole boards at the beginning of the competition to determine how closely each team followed the rules.

Sustainable Solutions is a competition in which students are asked to help redevelop a part of a fictional campus in order to make it more sustainable. Teams will present their ideas to a panel of judges at the conference. Judges will be asked to attend the presentations and determine which team won based on our scoring breakdown.

The Surveying competition is a competition in which students will be given data files to perform certain tasks on in surveying software and then will present their results at the conference. Judges will be asked to review their submissions the week before the conference, listen to the presentations at the conference, and then select a winner based on our scoring breakdown.

Technical Paper is a yearly competition where each university selects a student to write a paper on a given prompt. Those students then present to a panel of judges at the conference.

Judges will need to listen to the presentations and select a winner based on our scoring breakdown.

Please contact Jack Bell at bell224@purdue.edu for more information. Thank you!

ASCE Wisconsin Section 2020-2021

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Waste Management
lbuechel@wm.com

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UW Platteville
xiaoxi@uwplatt.edu

Branch Director, Southeast Branch

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Kapur
nbobinski@kapurinc.com

President Elect

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County Materials Corporation
Jennifer.Schaff@countymaterials.com

Director at Large

Gary Amel, P.E.
The Foth Companies
gary.amel@foth.com

Branch Director, Northwest Branch

Corona Woychik
ISG
corona.woychik@is-grp.com

Past President

Ken Mika, P.E.
Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.
KMika@geosyntec.com

Director at Large

Thomas Walther, P.E.
walthetr@charter.net

Branch Director, Southwest Branch

Terry Armstrong, P.E.
Realtime Utility Engineers, Inc.
terry.armstrongjr@gmail.com

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Matt Dahlem, P.G.
Fehr Graham
mdahlem@fehr-graham.com

Director at Large

Andrew Walters, P.E.
American Engineer Testing, Inc.
awalters@amengtest.com

Branch Director, Fox River Valley

Branch
Brad Severson, P.E.
raSmith
Brad.Severson@rasmith.com

Treasurer

Marty Hanson, P.E., FASCE

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ASCE Wisconsin Section | 5329 Fayette Ave, Madison, WI 53713

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