

ASCE

WISCONSIN SECTION



President's Message

By: Ken Mika, P.E.

Greetings,

Welcome to 2020 everyone! This is going to be the year of infrastructure for our Section and it couldn't have come at a better time. The state of our nation's infrastructure has been in the news headlines for the last 12-24 months, and Wisconsin is no exception. As a Section, we are on track to release a Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card in 2020, our first since 2007. This is an important document for our State and Section, as elected officials and governmental agencies consider how to allocate a finite amount of resources toward this issue. Development of this report has been a huge undertaking and has involved many of our Section members. Our Report Card Release fundraiser in Green Bay last month kicked off our year on infrastructure which was very successful. Thank you Carl Sutter, Debby Jackson, Eric Rakers, and Martin Hanson for speaking at the event! Another fundraiser is scheduled in Milwaukee for March and is looking to be very successful, as well. Topic presenters for Milwaukee include Carl Sutter, Kevin Shafer, and Bryan Kennedy. There are also plans in the works for a fundraiser in Madison for some time in April, stay tuned.





The ASCE Wisconsin Section Southeast Branch is hosting a fundraiser for the upcoming 2020 Infrastructure Report Card release event next week!

Where: City Lights Brewing Company In Milwaukee
When: March 3, 2020

Kevin Shafer, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District Executive Director, will discuss the importance of infrastructure in the greater Milwaukee greater metropolitan area.

[Click here to register!](#)

Sample beer, network and socialize to help raise funds for the ASCE Wisconsin 2020 Infrastructure Report Card release event!



GET TO KNOW

Get to Know Your Board

Larry Buechel – 2019-2020 Wisconsin Section President-Elect

In an effort to familiarize our membership with the Section's Board of Directors, we periodically spotlight some of those board members to provide insight into who exactly they are. In this edition of our newsletter, we are spotlighting the Section's current President-Elect Larry Buechel. The following is the result of a brief question and answer session with Larry:

Tell us about yourself:

I am a District Manager with Waste Management, Inc., responsible for overall management of its legacy solid and hazardous waste disposal facilities in the Midwestern United States. My wife Erin and I live in the Milwaukee area suburb of Mequon, and we are the proud parents of nine-year old twin boys.

Where did you go to school?

I graduated from UW-Madison with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering

Do you have any hobbies?

My family and I are avid Wisconsin Badger fans and enjoy attending Badger sporting

events regularly. I also enjoy working in our yard - maintaining the lawn and gardens, and the occasional round of golf.

What is your favorite television show or movie?

I enjoy watching the Amazon Prime TV series “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”. As for movies, “To Kill a Mockingbird” is my all-time favorite.

[Read Full Article](#)

Congratulations 2020 New Life Members!

By: Darrell Berry, PE, SE, F.ASCE-Life and Awards Chair

We congratulate our newest 10 Life Members for 2020 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. 2020 is the year in which our new Life Members satisfy these criteria. Our newest Life Members, which are listed below, will be recognized at the 2020 Spring Technical Conference.

Michael C Felker, P.E., M.ASCE
John Robert Genskow, P.E., M.ASCE
Hans-Peter Huttelmaier, P.E., M.ASCE
William F Kralj, P.E., M.ASCE
Susan Rasmussen, P.E., M.ASCE
Jeffrey George Smith, P.E., M.ASCE
Thomas P Smukowski, P.E., M.ASCE
Paul M Steinbrecher, P.E., M.ASCE
Jo C Tucker, P.E., M.ASCE
Thomas Anthony Wiza, P.E., M.ASCE

Congratulations

2020 ASCE Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference

By: The 2020 ASCE Wisconsin Section
Spring Technical Conference Planning
Committee

Friday, April 3rd, 2020



**Blue Harbor Resort & Conference Center
Sheboygan, WI**

Registration for the 2020 Spring Technical Conference is now open!

The Fox River Valley Branch and the Wisconsin Section cordially invite you to attend the 2020 ASCE Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference on Friday, April 3, 2020 at Blue Harbor Resort & Conference Center in Sheboygan.

The Spring Technical Conference Planning Committee is pleased to introduce Jason Mengel, the Director of the 2020 Ryder Cup, to deliver the morning Keynote Presentation which will provide an overview of what Wisconsin can expect as one of the preeminent international sporting events contested in the world today is held at Whistling Straits this September.

[Read Full Article](#)

ASCE Wisconsin Section's Darrell Berry honored with 2019 Engineer of the Year by STEM Forward



The ASCE Wisconsin Section is proud to announce that longstanding ASCE member Darrell Berry of Mead & Hunt has been recognized as STEM Forward's *2019 Engineer of the Year*.

Darrell has been an active member of the ASCE Wisconsin Section for many years as a Fellow Member and a Life Member. He currently serves as Chairman of the Section's Awards Committee, and has received the Section's Distinguished Service Award and the Section's Merit Award for Engineer in Consulting Practice.

Darrell has made significant contributions to the civil engineering profession throughout his professional career, and although semi-retired, he manages transportation and bridge design engineering projects for clients such as the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. He served as project manager for the award-winning Riverside Pump Station Storm Water Improvements project for the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Water Works Division. The project won the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Wisconsin Section's 2017 Engineering Achievement Award. Additionally, his civic involvement is wide-reaching across the New Berlin community.

In recognition of and with thanks to Darrell for his many contributions.



Outstanding Senior Engineering Student Awards

by: Jennifer Schaff, ASCE Wisconsin Section Secretary

Every year the Wisconsin Section reaches out to student chapter faculty advisors requesting nominations for an outstanding student studying civil engineering. This award is given to an individual currently enrolled as a senior and an ASCE student member "for individual achievement/service that demonstrates excellence in engineering academic achievement and service to the profession." An

award certificate, symbolizing the achievement, as well as a monetary gift is presented to the winning student(s) at the Spring Technical Conference. Per the Administrative Manual, up to two awards of equal value shall be presented annually. The nominations deadline was February 14th and submissions are currently under review.

2020 ASCE Wisconsin Section Infrastructure Report Card Committee

By: Jennifer Schaff and Ken Mika

The Infrastructure Report Card is progressing! It is a big task, but we have amazing volunteers! Technical Chapters Teams finalized their Chapters which are currently under review by ASCE.

We are currently raising funds for the upcoming release event. The first fundraising event was held in January in conjunction with the Fox River Branch at Badger State Brewing Company in Green Bay WI. The event was successful, with about twenty-five attendees. Thank you to all the attendees and volunteers, with special thanks to Jill Miller, Brad Severson, Joe Zellmer, Ken Mika and Carl Sutter. The second event is scheduled for March 3 in Milwaukee at City Lights Brewing Company. A third event is in the works for Madison in April. Please check out the events page of our website for registration and other information. Please post and share information with fellow engineers and policy makers you interact with. It's been a while since Wisconsin has participated in the release of an Infrastructure Report Card. It may be a great way to start a conversation!

A public relations firm is being engaged to assist with release activities and make the most of our volunteer's hard work. Due to the legislative calendar in Madison, the release date is likely to occur in June of 2020. We will be sharing more on this in the near future. If you feel you are too remote to assist or just can't spare a lot of time, we will be looking for volunteers to help with social media related to the release.

If you are interested in helping raise funds or helping in any other way, please reach out to Jennifer (Jennifer.Schaff@countymaterials.com) or Ken (KMika@Geosyntec.com).

2020 Women in Construction Week National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)

By: Ken Mika, President

WHEREAS, the NAWIC Milwaukee Chapter 105 has distinguished itself for 55 years as the voice of women in construction in the greater Milwaukee area and throughout Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the work done by the NAWIC Milwaukee Chapter 105 has benefited Milwaukee, and the state of Wisconsin through community development and educational programs; and

WHEREAS, the NAWIC Milwaukee Chapter 105 has unceasingly promoted the employment and advance of women in the construction industry; and

WHEREAS, the construction community, represented by NAWIC Milwaukee Chapter 105, has been a driving force in fostering community development through renovation and beautification projects; promotion of skilled trades careers; and a positive vision of the future; and

WHEREAS, the NAWIC Milwaukee Chapter 105 has sought to achieve successful results for the Greater Milwaukee area and surrounding areas in a cooperative spirit with other organizations;

Now therefore, be it proclaimed that we, the board members of the ASCE Wisconsin Section, do hereby recognize NAWIC Milwaukee Chapter 105 and its many dedicated volunteers for its steadfast work on behalf and support of women in construction, and do proudly proclaim the week of March 1-7, 2020 as “Women in Construction Week,” and encourage our members to congratulate the organization on its many accomplishments.

Proclaimed this 1st day of March, 2020.



Ken Mika Recognized as Green Bay Chamber's Future 15 Finalist!

The ASCE Wisconsin Section is proud to announce that Section President Kenneth Mika, P.E. of Geosyntec Consultants has been announced as a Future 15 finalist by the Current Young Professionals and the Greater Green Bay Chamber.

Current Young Professionals annually recognizes the accomplishments of talented young professionals who make an impact within the community with its Future 15 & Young Professional Awards, which annually profiles 15 area young professionals who are growing and excelling in their respective fields. These individuals are currently influencing the growth, prosperity and quality of life in Greater Green Bay and demonstrate the ability to positively impact the area in the future through professional accomplishments and community involvement.

[Read Full Article](#)

Wisconsin Section Achievement Awards: Individual Merit & Engineering

The ASCE Wisconsin Section will soon be accepting award nominations for the 2020 Wisconsin Section Achievement Awards!

Distinguished Service Award

Wisconsin Young Civil Engineer of the Year Award

Engineering Achievement Awards

Category A: Construction Cost Under \$2M

Category B: Construction Cost Over \$2M and Under \$10M

Category C: Construction Cost Over \$10M and Under \$20M

Category D: Construction Cost Over \$20M

Individual Merit Awards

Engineer in Education

Engineer in Consulting Practice

Engineer in Government Service

Engineer in Private Industry

Excellence in Journalism Award

Nominations are to be submitted as PDFs by June 1 to the Wisconsin Section Secretary [Jennifer Schaff](#). For complete award information, [visit the Awards page](#).

2020 ASCE Multi-Region Leadership Conference

By: Larry Buechel

On January 10th and 11th, ASCE's Leader Training Committee hosted the 2020 ASCE Region 3/6/7 Leadership Conference in Detroit Michigan. Participation in this event offered an excellent opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with a wide variety of ASCE members – young and old/student and professional, from across the three Regions represented at the event. There are actually three separate conferences held as part of the larger Leadership Conference – the Workshop for Section, Branch and Institute Leaders (WSBIL), the Central Region Younger Member Council, and the Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders.

I participated in the WSBIL portion of the conference, hoping to share information on our Section's successes and challenges and learn about the successes and challenges of other Sections, Branches and Institute Chapters in the Regions. Day 1 of the conference began with a "Welcome" and panel discussion on the state of the ASCE organization, followed by a presentation by ASCE President Kancheepuram Gunalan on attracting the best and the brightest to ASCE Section and Branch leadership. This was followed by Region breakout sessions, a presentation by ASCE President-Elect Jean-Louis Briaud on his background and his vision for ASCE, an assessment on attendees "emotional intelligence", a Society leadership question and answer session, and a presentation on the ASCE resources available to support Section, Branch and Institute leaders. The day concluded with a Multi-Region Awards Banquet, held at the Henry Ford Museum.

[Read Full Article](#)



ASCE President Kancheepuram Gunalan presenting on attracting the best and the brightest to ASCE Section and Branch leadership.

Photo of those attending the 2020 ASCE Region 3/6/7 Workshop for Section, Branch, and Institute Leaders.

More ASCE & The Global Climate Threat

Opinion by Public Affairs Chairman, Gregory Schroeder, P.E., M.ASCE

A constituent was requesting action by a politician, and the politician explained that unless the phone was ringing, there was nothing that they could do. The point is that unless the public is behind an issue in some significant way, any political action will have no traction.

The public has taken a massive turn in the average view of climate change. Look at the change in the views of the public in Australia. Consider how fast and strong public views change when the impacts are on your soil, your home, your friends, and your relatives. When considering Australia and other tragic extreme weather events, I would say that we are already well beyond the first deaths attributable to climate change. I would contend that if the wildfires of California or Australia were 1% worse due to climate change, then fewer deaths, injuries, and destruction would have happened without climate change. Apply this same logic to the past ten years of extreme weather events such as hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and Superstorm Sandy.

The public is now moving out in front on climate change. Some businesses are showing leadership while most are sitting back or avoiding the issue. I am a bit amazed by the fact that the public energy utilities have shown leadership in taking action to reduce GHG emissions. As evidence I would submit that the public energy utilities of Wisconsin met their CO2 reduction levels in 2013 several years ahead of the target dates, and they have not slowed down but are continuing to seek to lower GHG emissions. So, the public is out front, the utilities are next, and the politicians are behind the utilities. How far along is the engineering community, and ASCE in particular? I hope to take up this topic in one of my next articles by reviewing the position papers, course offerings, and the national infrastructure report card, all specifically with respect to the climate crisis. One positive for ASCE is Robin Kemper's President's note in the April 2019 Civil Engineer magazine where she says, "Earth Day continues to give a voice to environmental issues and remind us that we must do our part to save the planet from the harmful effects of climate change. Climate-change-induced events are threatening lives the economy and our infrastructure. These effects will continue through this century and beyond, resulting in more frequent wildfires, longer periods of drought, stronger storms, temperature increases and elevated sea levels..."

[Read Full Article](#)



Engineers Without Borders

By: Brad Hughes



During a January trip, students and professionals oversaw construction of a water storage tank that is part of a 15 km gravity-driven water distribution system.

The \$100,000 system will be the longest water system implemented by an EWB student chapter nationwide and provide more than 600 people, a church, and a school with steady and reliable access to clean, potable water.

Puerto Rico Project Trip

Even the earthquakes that struck PR couldn't get in the way of a team of EWB students and professionals making progress on a solar photovoltaic project for a children's shelter in Mayaguez, PR. The team was on the ground when the first quake hit but was able to complete planning and make arrangements for construction of the system which will begin in the spring for a summer 2020 completion.

Support Engineers Without Borders USA in Madison: [Support EWB Madison](#)
Get involved with the Madison Area Professional Chapter: [Get involved with MAPC](#)

The student and professional chapters of Engineers Without Borders USA in the Madison area continue to change lives around the world. Project work and fundraising are ongoing to benefit communities in Guatemala, Ecuador, Uganda, and Puerto Rico.

Interested in learning more with a lunchtime brown bag session in your office? Reach out to ewbmapc@gmail.com. Corporate sponsorship opportunities are available. Fun and Inspiration available at the annual Spring Fundraising Banquet on April 4, 2020 at Union South, UW Madison. More info: [EWB UW Madison Banquet](#)



The Fox River Valley branch is seeking volunteers

Einstein Expo: Saturday, March 7, 9:00a - 4:00p. Join us at the KI Convention Center in downtown Green Bay for a family-friendly event that allows kids and families to fully immerse themselves in STEM and explore how it impacts their life and world around them. More information: [Einstein Expo - Green Bay — Einstein Project](#)

Contact Joe Zellmer (joseph.zellmer@outagamie.org) if you are interested in volunteering.

Southeast Branch Awards Annual Scholarships to Local Civil Engineering Students

In January, the Southeast Branch awarded \$3000 scholarships to three civil engineering students enrolled at one of the universities within the Branch offering a civil engineering degree program. We would like to recognize and congratulate our scholarship winners for this year. Those winners are:



Gabriela Lukanus is a Marquette University student. Gabby's father is a general contractor and she grew up in the construction industry learning how to read plans and write bids and contracts. She is heavily involved in extracurricular activities including: co-captain of Marquette's ASCE concrete canoe team; Residence Hall CPC program; and Marquette's powerlifting team. Gabby is also Co-lead of Alpha Omega

Epsilon's Professional Committee.

Megan Weidner is a Milwaukee School of Engineering student. She has served as the ASCE student chapter secretary and is heavily involved in the ASCE concrete canoe team. She is involved in numerous community activities including: American Red Cross Blood Drive, Key Club, Red Kettle Campaign, and as a Sunday school assistant at church. Megan has worked as an intern at Mortenson Construction and this year has an internship with Southland Industries.

Liam Brodie is a UW-Milwaukee student. He was vice president of the ASCE student chapter in 2018 and has volunteered at the ASCE STEM expo in past years. Liam has worked with Foxconn on building a temperature model for biological wastewater treatment. For this co-operative education position, Liam worked in Milwaukee, Racine, and Taiwan. He has traveled to Guatemala to serve as a medical translator. He is passionate about environmental impacts and his goal is to work in the wastewater engineering field.

These 2020 scholarships were awarded to the recipients at the Southeast Branch's annual Scholarship Dinner, held January 29th at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. Congratulations to these three very deserving students on being awarded the 2020 student scholarships.

2020 NSPE-WI Discovery Conference

When: April 21– 22, 2020.

Where: Radisson Hotel Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

NSPE-WI Annual Board Meeting will precede the conference, at the same location on the evening of April 20, 2019. All members are welcome to attend.

Conference Location: Radisson Hotel Madison, located at 517 Grand Canyon Dr, Madison, WI 53719. Phone: (608) 833-0100

Earn up to Professional Development Hours (PDHs), more details will be posted on topics as they become available.

[For more information click here!](#)



You may not be aware, but the Wisconsin Section of ASCE stores records at the Marquette University Library. We currently have 32 boxes of records sitting at Marquette in the archives. We are looking for a volunteer or two to go through the information and determine what needs to be disposed of based on the [record retention policy](#)

Of the 32 boxes, some may contain records from the various Branches as well. These



records would be isolated by Branch and the Section would request follow up at the Branch level. Please contact Jennifer Schaff at Jennifer.schaff@countymaterials.com or Jill Miller at wi.sec.asce@gmail.com.



Consider mentoring in this new year! ASCE Mentor Match connects ASCE members based on topics of interest and experience level.

<https://collaborate.asce.org/mentoring/home>

ASCE Leader Resources

Check out the Society's many resources – from webinars to publications to talking points and handbooks – [here](#).



ASCE Wisconsin Section 2019-2020 Board of Directors

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Join the Discussion on Collaborate!

There is a **new website** for ASCE members to discuss important issues surrounding the profession. Participate in various "communities," such as the Wisconsin Section and your local branch.

You can access Collaborate by logging in with your current ASCE credentials. Check it out and start collaborating!

Find other ASCE Members using the exclusive [ASCE Member Directory](#).

Have questions? Visit the [New Userpage](#).

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