

ASCE *American Society of Civil Engineers*

WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

August 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings, and welcome to the August 2017 edition of the ASCE Wisconsin Section newsletter!

Summer is upon us. I hope you are able to take advantage of the nice weather for outdoor activities, projects around the house, or relaxing with family and friends. Before we know it, we'll be back to the short days and long, cold nights of winter, but that's a thought for another day.

For this column, I'd like to report on two issues that the Wisconsin Section Board has been discussing, which are related to each other.

The first item is the upcoming election for Section Board members. We are having a difficult time finding volunteers to fill the candidate positions for the upcoming election. I know this is not an isolated situation, and that many of the Branches have the same struggle. I would encourage anyone who has an interest in developing and practicing leadership skills to consider volunteering, at either the Section or the Branch level. This is a great opportunity to get to know more people in your profession, and to be able to learn and share best practices that could help you throughout your career. Please contact any of the current Board members listed along the left-hand margin of this newsletter if you are interested in serving.

The second item is the consideration by the Section Board of retaining and association management firm to help with administrative tasks required of the Section. For many years, I have thought that our Section could benefit from some type of assistance, without really knowing where or how to solicit it. I recently joined another professional organization, for which the local chapter relies heavily on an association management firm for its day-to-day operations. I asked a few

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questions, talked to a representative of the association management firm, and decided that the Section Board should start talking about it in earnest. As I said, this issue and the first issue are related, in that our busy professional and personal lives sometimes make it difficult to make commitments. Being stretched too thin can also result in burnout. I'm hoping that, if the Section Board does pursue this avenue and retains an association management firm, that not only will burnout be reduced, but we will be able to attract more volunteers and keep the Wisconsin Section operating at a high level. The Section Board discussed this at its July 20 meeting. Whatever action the Section Board takes in this matter, we will keep you informed. The Section Board discussed this at its July 20 meeting and has decided to issue an RFP to association management firms. The Section Board has not yet committed to retaining an association management firm.

Thank you, and enjoy the rest of the summer!

Peter Nilles
ASCE Wisconsin Section President

ASCE NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS

By: Thomas W. Smith, III - ASCE Society Secretary

The 2017 national election concluded on Thursday, June 1, and the Tellers Committee convened this morning to validate the election results. Consistent with the Society's Bylaws, I am writing to give you formal notification of the results of this year's election. Publication of the election results will be provided on the Society's web page, *ASCE SmartBrief*, and in *ASCE News*.

President-elect Elect (2017-2018):

Robin A. Kemper, P.E., LEED AP, F.SEI, F.ASCE



Region Directors-Elect (2017-2020):

Region 1: Anthony L. Cioffi, P.E., M.ASCE
Region 5: Peter M. Moore, P.E., F.ASCE
Region 9: Kwame A. Agyare, P.E., MBA, ENV SP, M.ASCE
Technical Region: Marsha Anderson Bomar, AICP, ENV SP, F.ASCE

Region Governors-Elect (2017-2020)

Region 1: Danielle H. Spicer, P.E., LEED AP, ENV SP, M.ASCE
Region 2: Khaled Alamdeen, P.E., M.ASCE
Region 3: Therese R. Kline, P.E., M.ASCE
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<i>Region 6:</i>	Steven P. Johnson, P.E., M.ASCE
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	Melantha D. Norton, P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE
<i>Region 8:</i>	Florence M. Ching, P.E., M.ASCE
	Fred M. Nelson, P.E., L.S., F.ASCE
<i>Region 9:</i>	Yazdan T. Emrani, P.E., M.ASCE
<i>Region 10:</i>	G.L. Sivakumar Babu, Ph.D., F.ASCE

Regarding the Constitutional amendment, the membership approved an increase in the size of the Board of Direction to allow the third Technical Region Director a voting seat at the table.

If you have any questions regarding the election results please contact Patty Jones, Managing Director of Executive and Board Operations, at 703/295-6101 or pjones@asce.org.



2017 WISCONSIN SECTION ELECTIONS

By: Jared Wendt

The 2017-2018 Wisconsin Section Board of Directors elections will occur in mid-August. Election information and ballots will be emailed. No ballot information will be sent by US mail. We are still in need of candidates for Vice President and Secretary. If you would like to be more involved in ASCE, consider nominating yourself to a position on the Board. Some of the benefits are:

- Advancing your career by working with other leaders in the civil engineering community
- Advancing the profession by guiding the Section's activities.
- Enhancing skills by participating in well-run business meetings.
- Providing opportunities to participate in ASCE on a state or national level.

The Vice President serves as the editor of the Wisconsin Section Newsletter. The Vice President position consists of four (4) 1 year terms. These terms consist of 1 year spent in the following positions (in this order): Vice President, President-Elect, President, Past President.

The Secretary (three consecutive 1-year terms) manages section correspondence and maintains files of section activities and serves as board liaison with Public Information/Newsletter Committee.

Please contact Jared Wendt (jared.wendt@ch2m.com) if you are interested in serving on the ASCE Wisconsin Section Board of Directors.

DREAM BIG AT THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM



All around the world, engineers are pushing the limits of ingenuity and innovation in unexpected, imaginative, and amazing ways.

Dream Big: Engineering Our World is the first film of its kind for giant screen theaters that will transform how we think about engineering.

From the Great Wall of China and the world's tallest buildings, to underwater robots, solar cars, and sustainable cities, *Dream Big* celebrates the human ingenuity behind engineering marvels both big and small, and shows how engineers push the limits of innovation in unexpected and amazing ways. With its inspiring stories of human grit and aspiration, and extraordinary visuals for the world's largest screens, *Dream Big* reveals the compassion and creativity that drive engineers to create better lives for people and a more sustainable future for us all.

Don't miss this opportunity as a civil engineer to see this unique film with friends and family. Show pride in your profession and help spread the word about STEM careers with young people.

To read reviews and learn more about the film, visit <http://www.dreambigfilm.com/>

Now Showing: July 10, 2017 - January 4, 2018 at the Milwaukee Public Museum
Run Time: 44 minutes



AROUND THE SECTION

This section will feature activities from the various Branches and Younger Member Groups around the Section.

Fox River Valley Branch

The Fox River Valley Branch (FRV) is planning on holding an officers meeting later this summer to set the fall plans for the monthly branch meetings. FRV recently held its annual Timber Rattlers game in May and will be planning on continuing this event in the future as a way to end the ASCE year for the Branch.

Southeast Branch

The Southeast Branch hosted another successful Scholarship Golf Tournament on June 9th. 184 golfers participated, helping to raise over \$9,000 in scholarship funds for deserving civil engineering students at MSOE, Marquette University and UWM.

On June 15, the branch held its annual Past President's Dinner to recognize the contributions of those who served as president of the Southeast Branch in the past. The dinner included a presentation on the Keystone XL Pipeline Project by Marie Venne (ERM) and Jim Ballentine (Geosyntec Consultants).

Thanks to the efforts of our branch president, Ken Mika, ASCE's Dream Big has begun showing at the Milwaukee Public Museum, with the movie running through January 4, 2018.

Planning is underway for the 2017 STEM Expo hosted by the Younger Member Group. The annual event will be held on October 21.

The 2018 Spring Technical Conference will be hosted by the SE Branch this upcoming spring. Planning for that event will begin soon.

Southwest Branch

The Southwest Branch Board of Directors continues to look for speakers for Branch events and potential partnering opportunities with other professional groups.

The Younger Member Group continues to be active in the Branch and in the community. Below is summary of recent activity within the YMG:

- Our May event was a volunteer workday at the UW-Madison Arboretum on Saturday May 20th.
- Financial Planning Night was held on June 29th at Sprecher's in Middleton. A financial planner, mortgage broker, and a realtor were invited to speak to the group about saving for retirement and first-time home buying. The event was well received and will be considered again next year.

- A cookout/tailgate scheduled for July 20th at Vilas Park.

Northwest Branch

The Northwest Branch has been busy with preparations for the 2017 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28th at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse. The conference will feature Craig Shiefelbein as the keynote speaker. Craig is widely known as the co-founder of Paragon Development Systems (or PDS) 29 years ago, in an Oconomowoc basement with loose change and built it up to a company doing \$225+ million in revenues. PDS is a technical infrastructure company with over 140 engineers.



FOXCONN ANNOUNCEMENT BY: GREG SCHROEDER, P.E.

(Opinion by Public Affairs Chairman, Gregory Schroeder, P.E.)

It looks as if Wisconsin will score a big win for economic development. President Trump and Governor Scott Walker have announced that the world's largest manufacturer will locate an enormous manufacturing facility in southeast Wisconsin. What do you think attracted Foxconn to southeast Wisconsin? Undoubtedly it is a combination of things. Among those reasons are; abundant water supply, improving transportation systems, large low priced tracts of land, business climate, energy supply and energy cost, tax rates and a stable economic outlook. I have one more business location criteria for us to focus on. That is an able bodied and ready, educated work force.

Will Foxconn follow through on their promise? We won't know for a while, but we can say with certainty that the quality of our workforce will be crucial for many years to come whether it is Foxconn or other businesses. If Foxconn comes, will they stay? Will they grow? Will they be successful here? Will they attract other businesses? The quality of the employees they attract and hire will be crucial to answering all of these questions.

Regarding Foxconn's choice of Wisconsin, I have read National media citing the UW system and our technical colleges as top quality state education systems. I agree, but will we continue to invest, and strengthen our schools for the next generation of students? These are wonderful public assets. You have a say through your elected representatives in how they are supported and run.

What about our primary and secondary educational systems. Especially in urban schools, but not to exclude a single classroom in the state, we need all hands on deck to support our children. All children need access to quality educational opportunities.

What skills will be in strong demand for Foxconn and other future employers? We in ASCE know the greatest demand will be for students with strong STEM skills; science, technology, engineering, and math. We have multiple opportunities to improve Wisconsin's STEM educational climate. First, watch for legislation, and support bills that will improve STEM opportunities, STEM resources and quality STEM instruction. Second, you can volunteer at a school. Participate in tutoring, mentoring, visit a classroom, science fair, or career day. Are you an initiator? Start an afterschool program for Future Cities, First Robotics, First Lego League, or Girls that Code. You could also get involved with a school that is teaching the Project Lead the Way curriculum. Look for opportunities to share the new Dream Big movie.

Foxconn is a wakeup call. We CAN win our slice of the 21st century economic pie. Now let's do what we can to make this new vision a reality.

The opinions expressed here are those of the author only, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Wisconsin Section or ASCE.



2018 U.S. TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING BILL OUT OF COMMITTEE

This legislative information is from ASCE's Washington, D.C. office. On Thursday, July 27th the U.S. Senate committee passed the FY18 transportation-housing bill unanimously, including the language increasing AIP funding and the PFC cap. The bill still has to clear the entire Senate and then be conferenced with the House version.

The bill increases funding for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) by \$250 million for FY18 and raises the cap on the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) from \$4.50 to \$8.50 for the originating airport. Raising the cap on the PFC and increasing funding for AIP are the major priorities for ASCE in the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), but the FAA bill that passed committee last month only included a small AIP increase and no change to the PFC cap. This appropriations bill is an opportunity for us to increase investment in airport infrastructure, which received a "D" in the ASCE infrastructure report card.

AIP is a grant program and is the largest source of federal funding for aviation infrastructure. PFCs are fees airports can collect from departing passengers and use to fund federally approved capital projects. Since 2000, the federal government has capped PFCs at \$4.50 per enplanement, restricting local airports abilities to determine their own needs, raise necessary funds, and invest in their own infrastructure.

Here are the other big takeaways from the current version of the bill provided by Maria Mathews, ASCE, Senior Manager of grass roots programs and state relations.

- Highways and transit receive the full amount of funding from the Highway Trust Fund promised to them in the FAST Act (\$44.234 billion for highways and \$9.733 for transit).
- The TIGER grant program is funded at \$550 million, a \$50 million increase from FY17. The Trump Administration had proposed ending the program, which was originally created by the 2009 stimulus bill to support innovative projects that are difficult to fund through traditional federal programs.
- The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Capital Investment Grant program is funded at \$2.133 billion, which is \$280 million below FY17 levels. This was another program the Trump Administration targeted for cuts, proposing to limit FY18 spending to only projects with a full funding grant agreement (i.e. funding already approved projects but not accepting new projects). The Senate again largely ignored those proposed cuts.
- Amtrak also received the full amount of funding authorized by the FAST Act (\$358.4 million for the Northeast Corridor and \$1.242 billion for the National Network).
- The Federal Railroad Administration's new grant programs that were authorized by the FAST Act (Consolidated Rail Grants, Good Repair Partnership Grants and Restoration/Enhancement Grants) are funded at \$123.5 million, far less than their authorized level of \$425 million.
- The Federal Aviation Administration's NextGen modernization program received \$1.1 billion.
- After adopting amendments from Sens. Hoeven (R-ND) and Shaheen (D-NH), the bill modifies restriction on truck weights for vehicles travelling in interstates in North Dakota and New Hampshire.

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS GUATEMALA
BY: Brad Hughes

A group of 8 engineering students from the UW Madison chapter of Engineers Without Borders-USA and professional mentors with the Madison Area Professional Chapter and the Wisconsin Professional Partners chapter (Milwaukee) traveled to Guatemala in May of 2017 to oversee construction of a pedestrian bridge. The students and mentors planned and designed the cable suspension bridge over an 18 month period while the bridge construction took just over 3 weeks to complete. The bridge



spans 38 m (125 ft) and crosses a river that is not passable during the wet season and connects the community of Rio Lindo to schools and markets. Funding was raised by the EWB-UW chapter and included a Rotary International grant. Labor was provided by the local community. Total project cost is approximately \$40,000.

The included photo was taken by Mike Paddock at the bridge inauguration which was hosted by the local community in July 2017.



COMMITTEE UPDATES

Are you looking to get involved in ASCE? How about joining an existing Wisconsin Section committee? There are plenty to choose from!

More information on these and other Wisconsin Section committees, see the Administrative Manual on the Wisconsin Section website, at <http://www.ascewi.org/administrative-manual/>.

Please contact Jared Wendt at jared.wendt@ch2m.com if you are interested in increasing your committee involvement.




INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY REQUEST

If you have Involvement Opportunities (example - community service event or organization) for Wisconsin Section members that you would like featured in the Wisconsin Section Newsletter, e-mail Jared Wendt at jared.wendt@ch2m.com with a detailed description of the opportunity and help needed.



UPDATE YOUR ASCE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please update your ASCE online profile with current e-mail and mailing addresses to guarantee you receive ASCE newsletters and important information. As a reminder, those of you that have passed your PE exam, make sure to update your account with ASCE National. To update your ASCE profile, go to www.asce.org or call (800) 548-2723.



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