



# ASCE *American Society of Civil Engineers*

## WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

May 2017

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the latest edition of the ASCE Wisconsin Section newsletter! The summer months typically mean an increase in construction activity in Wisconsin, although it seems that concrete forms, geotechnical drilling rigs and front end loaders are being used on construction sites year-round. As I look out my office window, I can just make out the cranes at the new Milwaukee Bucks arena in downtown Milwaukee. Down the street to the east, the new Northwestern Mutual building is nearing completion. Out to the west, the Zoo Interchange is making progress, with new ramps set to open shortly. To the south of my office, the Milwaukee Streetcar project has started. I can't wait to see how those projects end up!

Our Section, all four Branches within the Wisconsin Section, and the Student Chapters, are led and staffed by volunteers. I want to express my thanks for their time and efforts to provide opportunities for members of the Wisconsin Section for career development, networking, sharing of knowledge, and assistance with furthering the civil engineering profession. If you haven't also thanked the volunteers, I encourage you to do so.

Specifically, I want to extend my thanks to Larry Ryan, who is stepping down as chair of the Wisconsin Section Awards Committee. Larry has led that committee for eight years, if my research is correct. The Awards Committee works with all Wisconsin Section award submittals, including individual achievement awards, project awards, and Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student awards. The Awards Committee also coordinates with award winners on certificates, monetary prizes, and award recipient attendance at the Spring Technical Conference and Annual Meeting. If you have communicated with Larry either regarding award submittals, judging of submittals or as an award winner,

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016 – 2017

#### President

Peter W. Nilles, P.E.  
(262) 255-9104

#### President-Elect

Justin R. Bilskemper, P.E.  
(608) 251-4843

#### Vice President/Newsletter Editor

Jared Wendt, P.E.  
(414) 847-0487

#### Secretary

Ken Mika, P.E.  
(414) 731-3111

#### Treasurer

Marty Hanson, P.E.  
(715) 802-8263

#### Past President

Dan Borchardt, P.E.  
(715) 384-2133

#### Directors-at-Large

Larry Buechel, P.E.  
(262) 509-5639

Matt Dahlem

(920) 892-2444

Jesse Jefferson

(715) 891-2078

Andrew Walters, P.E.

(715) 359-3534

#### Fox River Valley Branch Director

Peter Bielen, P.E.

(920) 617-1042

#### Southwest Branch Director

Dan Schrum, P.E.

(715) 834-3161

#### Northwest Branch Director

Mike Binsfeld

(608) 784-7173

#### Southeast Branch Director

Mike Arnold, P.E.

(414) 944-6080

#### Webmaster

Martin J. Hanson, P.E.

you know how conscientious and dedicated Larry has been in overseeing the awards processes. I wish Larry well and hopes he enjoys his additional free time traveling, fishing, or doing anything else other than working on ASCE awards!

Darrell Berry has graciously offered to take over as chair of the Awards Committee, and will be transitioning to the role with Larry's help. I look forward to a smooth transition and continued excellent service from our Awards Committee.

Our Spring Technical Conference was held in March. While the weather was not great, it didn't matter much as the Conference was high and dry inside the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Madison. My thanks to the Southwest Branch for hosting, and the Organizing Committee for their time and efforts to make the day a success. The Southeast Branch recently hosted a Brewers game tailgate. Unfortunately, the tailgate gang couldn't bring home a victory, but I hope they still had a good time. Additional information on Section and Branch activities (past and future) are listed in the newsletter.

Finally, if you get a chance, please check out a viewing of *Dream Big*, an IMAX movie produced by ASCE to showcase engineering achievements. *Dream Big* will be shown at select theaters throughout the state, including at the Milwaukee Public Museum. More information on the movie is available at <http://www.dreambigfilm.com/>.

Thanks, and enjoy the summer!

Peter Nilles  
ASCE Wisconsin Section President

---



## 2017 WISCONSIN SECTION SPRING TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

By: Justin Bilskemper

The 2017 Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, March 30, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Madison. The conference was well-attended with over 120 total participants throughout the day. Kristina Swallow, National ASCE President-Elect, welcomed the crowd with her opening remarks on recent ASCE endeavors and its future. Shortly after, Henry Petroski, Professor of Civil Engineering and History from Duke University, presented on Infrastructure in Perspective where the background, status, and future of highways, traffic control devices, and bridges were discussed in the context of technology, finance, and politics. That evening, John McHugh, Director of Corporate Communications at Kwik Trip, Inc., gave a lively and entertaining presentation on ethical leadership and the importance of creating an ethical culture within the workplace to attract and maintain a talented workforce.

---

## 2017 WISCONSIN SECTION SPRING TECHNICAL CONFERENCE AWARDS CEREMONY

By: Larry Ryan

### 2017 New Life Members

Fourteen New Life Members were recognized at the Wisconsin Section's 2017 Spring Technical Conference held in Madison on March 30, 2017.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Robert Hackel</li><li>• Ervin Dukatz</li><li>• Richard Blauvelt</li><li>• Albert Lindner</li><li>• Gregory O'Hearn</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Douglas Ernst</li><li>• John McCarthy</li><li>• Dennis Keitel</li><li>• Thomas Sear</li><li>• John Bridwell</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Octavio Tejeda</li><li>• John Norwell</li><li>• James Botz</li><li>• John Belken</li></ul>
--	---	--

New Life Members who were present stand with President Nilles for a photo opportunity:



### 2017 Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Awards

Students receiving this year's OSCES Award at the 2017 STC are:

- Karissa Brunette, MSOE
- Sarah Willie, UW-Platteville

Both are outstanding students and both are very active in their respective chapters. Neither could attend the STC because of their involvement in other conflicting ASCE activities. Karissa and Sarah each received \$1,000.00 scholarships and framed certificates.

---



## 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) has been busy so far this year. In January, the FRV Branch toured Kohler and had a roundtable discussion for EITs preparing for the PE exam. In March, the branch held DiscoverE in Green Bay for *Dream Big* at the Neville Museum and toured Fox Energy in Wrightstown. The Branch had a family day at the Appleton Timber Rattlers.

### Southeast Branch

The Southeast Branch (SE) has had a lot of activity recently. On March 31 and April 1, the MSOE Student Chapter hosted the Great Lakes Student Conference. On April 11, the SE Branch teamed up with the ASCE Wisconsin Section, STEM Forward, and the Society of Women Engineers to host a private showing of *Dream Big* for 60 people at Discovery World. The SE Branch has also worked with the Milwaukee Public Museum to have *Dream Big* shown at the museum through the summer and fall. The SE Branch YMG hosted its annual Brewers Game and tailgate on April 28 with over 100 in attendance.

### Southwest Branch

The Southwest Branch (SW) and its Younger Member Group (YMG) has been active this spring. In May, the SW Branch toured the Permeable Pavement Study on the east side of Madison and met up at Karben4 afterwards. The Branch is in the process of planning a Habitat for Humanity involvement event in the near future. The YMG hosted a trivia night at Buckingham's on Regent in April. The May event was a volunteer effort at the UW-Madison Arboretum on May 20 to help remove invasive species in the Grady Tract.

### Northwest Branch

The Northwest Branch has been busy with preparations for the 2017 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

---

THE WHEELS OF DEMOCRACY TURN SLOWLY  
BY: GREG SCHROEDER, P.E.

Today I helped my 26-year-old daughter sign up for health care at healthcare.gov, the on line Affordable Care Act, or “Obamacare” website. The process was simple and I knew it was adequate coverage. Outside of the healthcare.gov website it is like the wild wild west. Charlatan insurers with innocuous sounding names will sell anything at seemingly attractive prices, and they have banks of phone solicitors and computer robots to call you without mercy if they get your number. This is a controversial topic that we all have a stake in. Can the federal government improve upon the current healthcare law? The wheels of democracy turn slowly, which in this case is providing all of us an opportunity to exercise our civic responsibility. My experience with the ACA is only my experience. I know others have experienced rising premiums. What has been your experience? Will you contact your Senators and Representatives and voice your opinions on this very important issue?

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

---

AMENDMENT ON P.E. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS  
BY: GREG SCHROEDER, P.E.

An amendment to the licensing rules for professional engineers is in committee in the Wisconsin state legislature. It has the support of the Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL).

Here is some history on why changes are being proposed. In 2009, a bill was passed that modified Wisconsin statute 443.04, registration requirements for professional engineers. The modification eliminated the grandfather option for obtaining a professional engineering license without passing any examinations. (The grandfather option still exists, but now requires passage of all of the standard exam requirements.) Requiring all to pass the exams was a desirable goal as viewed by the DRL; however, to gain passage a compromise was made with another contingent. That contingent was the Wisconsin Technical Colleges Districts Boards Association (WTC). The WTC lobbied hard to open the profession to graduates of their associate’s degree engineering technician programs. Provisions were added that required associate’s degree engineering graduates to not only pass the exams, but to also complete 2 additional years of experience before receiving a P.E. license in lieu of the missing 2 years of education. Licensing 2 year program graduates was a compromise that was conceded with a great deal of unease by the engineering community. A great deal of work had gone into the amendment to require all applicants to pass the exams, and the WTC group would not support the legislation without their provision. Senator Coggs controlled the committee and would not move the 2009 legislation forward without the

WTC support. In the end, the elimination of the grandfather exam exemption was seen as worth the compromise. The DRL supported the change partly due to concerns over a large backlog of 'grandfather' applications. The legislation passed as 2009 Wisconsin Act 350.

The current effort to update the statute has the goal to eliminate the confusion over 2 year degrees. One of the biggest concerns with the 2009 amendments is that they confuse students, parents, teachers and guidance counselors into thinking an associate's degree may be a quicker and cheaper route to the profession. In fact, only one student graduate of an associate's degree program is known to have passed the engineering exams in the 6-1/2 years in which they have been eligible. By the time a student has graduated with an associate's degree, and realizes that they are not prepared for the exams, it would be a huge setback for them to restart in a four year degree program because many of their college credits would not transfer.

Nationally, ASCE is promoting increasing the educational requirements for professional engineers. This is certainly counter to licensing a 2 year program graduate. There is also a concern with license reciprocity with other states and a potential diminished respect for the Wisconsin professional engineering license. Only one other state, Oregon will license graduates with 2 year degrees.

How will the current atmosphere in Madison impact this initiative? There is an effort by the Republican-dominated legislature to reduce and streamline the rules and regulations controlling licensing of all kinds in the state of Wisconsin. The effort is promoted as a reduction of barriers of entry to jobs. The P.E. license revision may be perceived as counter to the trend, and this could increase the challenge to obtain sponsors and supporters for the legislation. If a bill to eliminate the 2-year degree option makes it forward a strong effort of support and education will be required.

To track progress on this and other legislation you may go to the State legislature web site and click on "Notification Service". Pick keywords to filter which legislation, proposals and hearings will generate an email to be sent to you. I will try to provide updates as they become available to me and also to report to our ASCE Wisconsin Section Board.

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

### **Current Wisconsin Statute for Professional Engineering Registration**

Wisconsin statutes 443.04 constitute the requirements for professional engineering licensure along with statute 443.09 which explains the examination requirements. The two are quoted below. [Link to statute](#)

**443.04 Registration requirements for professional engineers.** An applicant for registration as a professional engineer shall submit satisfactory evidence to the professional engineer section of the examining board of all of the following:

**(1m)** A diploma of graduation, or a certificate, from an engineering school or college approved by the professional engineer section as of satisfactory standing in an engineering course of not less than 4 years or a diploma of graduation or degree from a technical college approved by

the professional engineer section as of satisfactory standing in an engineering-related course of study of not less than 2 years.

**(2m)**

(a) For an applicant possessing a diploma or certificate from a course of study of not less than 4 years as specified in sub. (1m), a specific record of 4 or more years of experience in engineering work of a character satisfactory to the professional engineer section and indicating that the applicant is competent to be placed in responsible charge of engineering work.

**443.09 Examinations and experience requirements for architect, landscape architect and engineer applicants.**

(1) In considering the qualifications of an applicant as an architect, landscape architect or professional engineer, responsible charge of architectural, landscape architectural or engineering teaching may be construed as experience.

(2) Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, no person who has an arrest or conviction record is eligible for registration as an architect, a landscape architect or a professional engineer, or certification as an engineer-in-training.

(3) Written examinations shall be required of every applicant for certification as engineer-in-training.

(4) Written or written and oral examinations shall be required of every applicant for registration as an architect or a professional engineer. Only one form of examination may be required for all applicants. The examination shall be reasonably related to the skills likely to be needed by an applicant practicing the profession at the time of examination and seek to determine the applicant's preparedness to exercise such skills.

(4m) No person may be registered as a landscape architect under this chapter unless he or she passes a written examination or written and oral examinations conducted or approved by the landscape architect section of the examining board under sub. (5).

(5) Written or written and oral examinations shall be held at such time and place as the landscape architect section of the examining board determines. The scope of the examinations and the methods of procedure shall be prescribed by the landscape architect section with special reference to the applicant's ability to design and supervise architectural, landscape architectural, or engineering work, which shall promote the public welfare and ensure the safety of life, health, and property. A candidate failing an examination may, upon application and payment of the required reexamination fee, be examined again by the landscape architect section. No restrictions may be placed on the number of times an unsuccessful candidate may be reexamined, except that after failure of 3 reexaminations, the landscape architect section may require a one-year waiting period before further reexamination.

**History:** 1979 c. 167; 1981 c. 380; 1981 c. 391 s. 211; 1983 a. 328; 1993 a. 463, 465, 491; 1995 a. 27 ss. 6606, 9116 (5); 1997 a. 300; 2009 a. 350; 2011 a. 146.

**Cross-reference:** See also chs. A-E 3, 4, and 9, Wis. adm. code.

(b) For an applicant possessing a diploma or degree from a course of study of not less than 2 years as specified in sub. (1m), a specific record of 6 or more years of experience in engineering work of a character satisfactory to the professional engineer section and indicating that the applicant is competent to be placed in responsible charge of engineering work.

**History:** 1979 c. 167; 1983 a. 328; 1999 a. 85; 2009 a. 350; 2011 a. 146.

**Cross-reference:** See also ch. A-E 4, Wis. adm. code.

The authority of the examining board is discussed. 70 Atty. Gen. 156.

---



## 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](mailto:jared.wendt@ch2m.com) if you are interested in increasing your committee involvement.

---



## CALENDAR OF SECTION EVENTS

The calendar is simply a guide and may change throughout the year:

### JUNE

- ❖ June 1 - Nominations for Individual Merit and Engineering Achievement Awards due to the Wisconsin Section Secretary

### JULY

- ❖ Wisconsin Section Board Meeting

### AUGUST

- ❖ August 4-5 - Region 3 Assembly, Detroit, MI

---



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.asce.org) or call (800) 548-2723.

---



ASCE Wisconsin Section Website has been updated. Please visit it at <http://www.ascewi.org/> to stay up to date on events. There are also links to all of the four branches within the Wisconsin Section.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FIVE FREE PDHS!?!

Are you looking for some professional development opportunities to bolster your technical skills? Do you need continuing education credits? Have you taken advantage of your FIVE FREE PDHs for 2017?? Check out the programs being offered by ASCE's Continuing Education Department. For more information, please see the ASCE website at [http://www.asce.org/continuing\\_education/](http://www.asce.org/continuing_education/).