

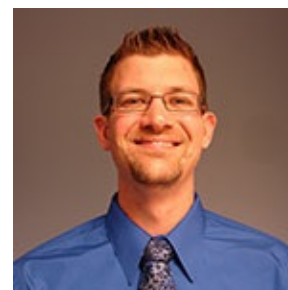
ASCE

WISCONSIN SECTION



President's Message

by: Jared Wendt



Welcome to the November 2018 issue of the ASCE Wisconsin Section newsletter! I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President of the Wisconsin Section. I would like to thank my predecessor, Justin Bilskemper, for the great work that he has done over the past year as President of the Wisconsin Section. During his term as President, the Section brought Impact Services on board to help with the administrative duties of our Section. This has helped to bring more consistency to our meetings and planning committees. He also led our group as we decided to undertake the report card. Thank you, Justin, for your contributions this past year and I look forward to continuing to work with you and the rest of the people on the Section Board of Directors as we continue to advance the Wisconsin Section!

If you were not able to attend the Annual Meeting held in Appleton in September, I had mentioned that the Section was looking for volunteers for the report card committee, most notably, chairs of the committee. The report card is a great way for our members to demonstrate our commitment to protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare. Since October, ASCE has released 4 state report cards:

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2018 Annual Conference Wrap Up

by: Joe Zellmer

The Fox River Valley (FRV) Branch was proud to host the 2018 Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting. This year's event was held on Friday, September 21 at the Fox Cities Exhibition Center (FCEC) and Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley (formerly the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel) in downtown Appleton. The event "technically" began on Thursday evening, with the Wisconsin Section board meeting and a roundtable discussion held at the Appleton Beer Factory, which focused on an Infrastructure theme and featured five local public and private policymakers.



The FRV Branch was extremely excited to welcome 2018 ASCE National President Kristina Swallow to the conference. Ms. Swallow participated in the roundtable discussion and delivered the plenary session to open the conference. Attendees were welcomed to the event by Appleton Mayor Tim Hanna, who also presented a technical session on the history and challenges required to transform the Fox Cities Exhibition Center from a vision to a reality.

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After the Midterm Elections

Opinion by: Gregory Schroeder, P.E., Public Affairs Chair

We are all glad that the elections are over. No more annoying political ads, especially the awful attack ads interrupting our favorite TV shows. Now we can get back to life without political interruptions, right?

Well, just wait, aren't the issues still there, and weren't those issues important enough to get us to go out and vote, and maybe even talk about our favorite candidates? Actually, now is the time to get active and follow through on our commitments to support our political leaders and the causes that we are passionate about. It has to be true that most people will sit back and take a breather from politics. When others are quiet, your voice will carry more weight.

In Wisconsin and in Washington, we will have divided House and Senates. Is this good or bad, or it just is? The result is that the things that can get done will be the ones that can be nonpartisan politically. An example would be infrastructure! Is this not civil engineering's top priority?

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SAVE THE DATE:

2019 WISCONSIN SECTION SPRING TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

WHEN

Thursday, March 14, 2019

WHERE

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
WR Davies Student Center
77 Roosevelt Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701



DETAILS TO FOLLOW

QUESTIONS? Contact [Evan Berglund](mailto:evan.berglund@krechojard.com) - evan.berglund@krechojard.com

STAY Grant

by: Josh Mitchell

The ASCE Wisconsin Section Southeast Branch and YMG applied for and received a Student Transition Activity Grant (STAY). The main focus of the STAY grant was to help jump start a mentorship program in the Southeast region.

The students from the Marquette, MSOE and UWM Students chapters are applying to be mentees and we have had a number of branch members apply to be mentors. The funds from the STAY grant are going to be used to reward mentor pairs who complete the program with a dinner in April of this coming year. We hope this programs encourages students to continue their involvement in ASCE, and helps develop them for their careers in civil engineering.



Get to Know Spotlight: Justin Bilskemper

Justin Bilskemper is a registered professional engineer with Strand Associates, Inc. and has been employed with Strand for over 12 years. He has primarily worked on water-supply projects, such as water system studies and master plans; well, pump, and facility design; hydraulic computer modeling; and asset management planning.



Justin graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Platteville in 2006 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. While at UW-P, he became active with ASCE by being Secretary of the student chapter. At the Southwest Branch level, Justin served as Director from 2012 through 2017, Scholarship Committee Chair from 2006 through 2014, Secretary from 2008 through 2011, and was part of the Younger Member Executive Committee from 2011 through 2014. At the Section level, Justin is currently serving as Past President and was a Director-at-Large from 2011 through 2015. Additionally, Justin has served

numerous conference planning committees since 2007 and has been a co-chair for three of the conferences.

Justin and his wife, Megan, and son, Warren, currently reside in Verona, Wisconsin. He enjoys spending his free time with his family, listening to rock music, hiking, and trying different kinds of whiskies and scotches.

Senate Passes WRDA 99-1

by: Brian T. Pallasch



The Senate **passed** S. 3021, the America's Water Infrastructure Now Act of 2018, or the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018 by a vote of 99-1. A

key issue at ASCE's 2018 Legislative Fly-in, the passage of this bill would not have been possible without your continuous outreach of the past year and being joined by fellow Key Contacts who sent well over 1,600 emails to over 320 congressional offices.

The legislative language contains many of the provisions that ASCE has championed, including your "asks" during the March 2018 Legislative Fly-In: reauthorization of the National Levee Safety Program and the National Dam Safety Program, two programs designed to prevent dam failure and improve levee safety, as well as authorization of the Securing Required Funds for Water Infrastructure Now (SRF WIN) Act, a new financing vehicle for critical drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects to help restore our nation's water infrastructure.

2018 STEM Expo

By: Pat Flaherty

The ASCE WISE Branch YMG once again hosted their annual STEM Expo event at the MSOE Kern Center, and this year the event had the highest overall turnout to date totaling up to nearly 700 people!!! This included 90 Volunteers that dedicated their Saturday to help staff the event and 352 ecstatic kids who spent the day learning about all things STEM!



This year's event featured almost 50 total STEM demonstrations and activities designed to interactively engage grade schoolers of all ages; and many of the activities were new to the 2018 event and/or provided by other contributing organizations outside of ASCE. Event attendees came from all over

southeastern Wisconsin and even northern Illinois and included kids of all ages from pre-kindergarten all the way to seniors in high school. Smiling, inspired faces were abundant throughout the course of the day!

We on the YMG have immense gratitude for all of the dedicated 2018 STEM Expo Planning Committee members who spent 6 months diligently organizing every aspect of the event, as well as the amazing group of volunteers who showed up to help staff the event on the day-of. Additionally, the success of this year's event was furthermore built upon the extremely generous financial support of 18 different companies all providing valuable STEM-based services and expertise throughout southeastern Wisconsin.

We are constantly told by event attendees how much they love this event, and we cannot stress enough that without the financial and volunteer support that sticks with this event year after year, the event would never be a reality. Thanks again to everyone who helped make the 2018 STEM Expo a resounding success!!



Report Card

by: Justin Bilskemper

The ASCE Wisconsin Section board is exploring the opportunity to develop an updated Infrastructure Report Card for Wisconsin. Report cards for Wisconsin were previously published in 2003 and 2007. The board is announcing this project with hope that our members will be motivated to volunteer their expertise and time to work on the project. In addition, we need members to reach out to their project partners, who many not be ASCE members, for assistance.

ASCE National publishes a national report card every four years. Last year the 2017 Infrastructure Report Card was published with an overall grade of D+. Data in that report has been cited in national network news as well as in testimony before congressional committees. It has evolved over the years and gained substantial credibility.

The national report card evaluates and grades 16 different categories. The state report card does not need to address all 16; we can choose those areas that have the biggest impact on the state's population and/or economy. Currently the **ASCE National Report Card data for Wisconsin** contains an estimations for conditions in our state. A new state report card is needed to provide confirmation and document the state's current conditions and needs.

[Read Full Article](#)

Around the Section

2018-2019 ASCE Southeast Branch Board of Directors Announced

Based on elections held earlier this year, the 2018-2019 ASCE Southeast Branch Board of Directors will be comprised of the following individuals:

President – Kyle Bareither
President–Elect – Nick Bobinski
Secretary – Wade Carter

Treasurer – Aaron Schram
Director at Large, Scholarship – Brad Seubert
Director at Large, Membership – Jake Brunoehler
Director at Large, Education – Tony Castle
Director at Large, Student Affairs – Dave Jaromin
YMG Director – Sarah Pasquesi
Past-President – Larry Buechel

These individuals will hold positions for the current Branch year, which runs from October 1 through September 30. Thank you to each of these people for volunteering their time to serve on the Board of Directors for the coming year.



Professional Development Opportunities

5 FREE PDH hours through ASCE!
Don't forget your annual ASCE membership includes five free professional development hours (PDH). Those PDHs can be redeemed using the On Demand Webinar offering available on the ASCE website.

ASCE Wisconsin Section 2018-2019 Board of Directors

President

Jared Wendt, P.E.
Jacobs

Jared.wendt@jacobs.com

President Elect

Ken Mika, P.E.
Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

KMika@geosyntec.com

Past President

Justin Bilskemper, P.E.
Strand & Associates, Inc.

Justin.Bilskemper@strand.com

Secretary

Jennifer Schaff, P.E.
County Materials Corporation

Jennifer.Schaff@countymaterials.com

Treasurer

Marty Hanson, P.E., F.ASCE
Starboard Tack Consulting

HansonM@StarboardTackConsulting.com

Director at Large

Danny Xiao, P.E.
UW Platteville

xiaoxi@uwplatt.edu

Director at Large

Jesse Jefferson, P.E.
WI Department of Transportation

Jesse.Jefferson@gmail.com

Director at Large

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, Southeast Branch

Larry Buechel, P.E.
Waste Management

lbuechel@wm.com

Branch Director, Northwest Branch

Kristopher Roppe, P.E.
ISG

Kris.roppe@is-grp.com

Branch Director, Southwest Branch

Harry Tran, P.E.
EMCS, Inc.

htran@emcsinc.com

Branch Director, Fox River Valley Branch

Cory Thomson, P.E.

Ayres Associates

ThomsonC@ayresassociates.com



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!

ASCE Wisconsin Section | www.ASCEWI.org

