



American Society of Civil Engineers

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Columbia Section

Since October 10, 1950

Newsletter

February, 2004

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President's Remarks:

Dear Members:

Rejoice fellow engineers...February 22-28 has been declared National Engineers Week! I know, I know, we are not ones to toot our own horn; but, where would the world be without engineers? Who would be working to ensure that we have clean water, good roads, reliable power and adequate waste treatment systems? This is the one week out of every year that we can take the time to be recognized for our significant contributions to society. Stand up and be counted! Attend the National Engineers Week Banquet on February 27, 2004.

Speaking of contributions to our society, we are still looking for an appointee for Tri-City Engineer of the Year. The applications are due February 13, 2004 and they do take some time to complete. Please think about who you might nominate for Engineer of the Year. The award goes to an engineer selected from a group of engineers nominated by the various engineering technical societies in the Tri-Cities including: ASCE, IEEE, and ASME.

The Future City Regional Competition held in Seattle on January 26, 2004 was a great success. The team from Hanford Middle School placed 2nd and the team from St. Patrick's School placed 6th out of 24 teams. The east side of the state was well represented with over 2/3 of the teams

rewarding experience to see these kids learn how a city operates and pick up some engineering skills. And it only takes a small dedication of your time. Make the time to volunteer your skills, and you will be amazed at what a difference you can make.

God Bless You All and Keep Up the Great Work!

Sincerely,

Ben W. Volk, P.E.

You will never "find" time for anything. If you want time you must make it.
----Charles Buxton

Engineering Awards Banquet-February 27

The IEEE Richland Section is assisting in organizing this years engineering awards banquet with other local technical organizations. (**See Page 3 for Engineer's Week banquet in Walla Walla.**)

Date: Friday, February 27, 2004

Place: O'Callahan's Restaurant in the Shilo Inn.

Schedule: 5:30-No-Host Social Hour; 6:30-Dinner; 7:10-Program Introduction; 7:15-Awards and Recognitions; 7:45-Featured Speaker; ~8:30-Engineer of the Year Award.

Menu: Buffet with carved baron of beef, chicken dijon, baby red potatoes, salads, pasta salad, fruit trays, dinner rolls, assorted desserts, coffee and tea.

Speaker: Jeff Dagle will speak on the topic of the East Coast Blackout of August 2003. See page 3 for more details.

Reservations and questions: The price for the dinner is \$25.00 per person. Please contact Rich Larson at 373-9100 or 545-9719 for reservations and/or questions. Reservations will be taken until Tuesday, February 24th at 2:00 pm. Late calls will be at risk but will be taken until seating is full. Hope to see you at the banquet.

National Engineers Week 2004 will be celebrated February 22-28.

The 2004 program is chaired this year by IEEE/IEEE-USA and Fluor Corporation. The best way to keep current is to periodically visit <http://www.eweek.org/>.

Career Fair Volunteers Sought

I'm still looking for two or three people to come to Pendleton for a career fair on February 18, 2004 to talk to 1000+ 8th graders about Civil Engineering. I have a booth lined up and we'll feed you lunch. Please contact Dave Krumbein at Blue Mountain Community College 541/278-5748

A Report From District 12 Director, Greg DiLoreto

Director's Corner

I have just returned from ASCE's winter Board week meeting in San Antonio. Less you think I spent my time cruising the famous Riverwalk, let me set you straight. ASCE has this habit of working its Board and committee members from sunup to sundown and for five straight days that is exactly what I did. We would start at 7 or 7:30 in the morning and wrap up at 5 to 5:30 in the evening.

Although I am on several committees this report to you concerns the work the Board undertook. Below are the items of note:

- Discussion of the role of the Board. It is understood that the ASCE is a policy based Board and as such does not spend its time in the daily management of the society. To that end the second day of the Board meeting was spent in our first effort at the next strategic plan, on which I will report later.
- A report on the activities of the various ASCE committees. ASCE has created a Program Committee, which is comprised of seven Directors. I am one of those Directors. The charge is to review the products and services of eleven ASCE volunteer committees and together with the Finance decide the level of funding. The importance of the Program Committee is to relate activities to the funds available.
- Discussion of the Task Committee on Institute Affiliation with Local Groups. The Task Committee was formed to look at how the technical groups of the Sections could affiliate with the ASCE Institutes. Four models were developed. They are:
 - National Institutes working through and interacting with Section or Branch governing bodies as the direct contact when local technical groups or local Institute Chapters exist.
 - National Institutes working through and interacting with Section or Branch local technical groups or local Institute Chapters directly.
 - National Institutes working through and interacting with the Section or branch governing bodies only (e.g., no local technical groups exist.)
 - Specialized arrangements where National Institutes interact with multiple organizations, which could include one or more ASCE Section or Branch and/or outside organizations, such as allied professional and technical organizations.

Of note is that local technical institutes cannot form without the involvement of the Section or Branch.

The Board heard presentations on our international efforts, our pre-college outreach program, policy committee on wetlands, and the President of the National Council of Examiners on Engineering and Surveying spoke. If you wish specific information on those topics please let me know.

We spent the second day of our Board meeting in a workshop. We began the development of our next strategic plan for the Society. The day was spent looking at trends that as a profession we need to address. Some of these trends affect society in general and the Society. Here are just a few:

- Aging population
- Two wage earners
- Erosion of jobs overseas
- Deferred infrastructure maintenance
- Affecting public policy
- Value for ASCE dues
- Should we be an organization for only license civil engineers
- Remember our local focus
- Professional organization partnerships with similar organizations in other countries
- Shortage of labor in the next generation
- Society positions that may alienate members

This is not an exhaustive list, but it will be our starting point for discussions. From here a task committee will be formed and they will begin putting together our strategic plan. If you have ideas please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reach electronically at greg@tvwd.org.

Our next meeting is May 13-14 in Washington DC. This meeting is in conjunction with the ASCE OPAL (Outstanding Projects and Leaders), award dinner. I urge everyone that can attend this dinner. It is our academy awards dinner recognizing our profession. We are also looking for table sponsors. If you or your firm are interested in supporting ASCE through this event please contact me.

One final note, now is the time to express and interest in national ASCE committee work. If you have an interest in volunteering at the national level please let me know and I can pass that on.

Greg DiLoreto, P.E., F.ASCE
Director, District 12

Jeff Dagle to Speak About the August 2003 Blackout at Awards Banquet

The largest blackout in the history of the North American electric power grid occurred on August 14, 2003. An extensive investigation into what happened (and why) began immediately, led by a joint U.S. - Canada task force with the support of the electric utility industry and several federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Energy. Jeff Dagle of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory led the data collection task for the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) on behalf of the task force's electricity working group. He will describe the blackout's sequence of events, root causes, and data management issues associated with supporting the blackout investigation, beginning with the immediate response in the days and weeks following the blackout through the development of the interim and final reports.

Mr. Jeff Dagle joined the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (operated by Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy) in 1989 with BS and MS degrees in electrical engineering from Washington State University in 1989 and 1994, respectively. Mr. Dagle currently manages the laboratory's support to the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electric Transmission and Distribution. In addition, he has been integrally involved in National critical infrastructure protection programs for several years focusing on the security of the Nation's grid. Mr. Dagle is a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and is the past chairman of the Power Engineering Society in the Richland Section. Mr. Dagle is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Washington, and was awarded 2001 Tri-City Engineer of the Year by the Washington Society of Professional Engineers

The faculty of the Edward F. Cross School of Engineering at Walla Walla College invites you to join them for the annual Engineers Week Dinner.

When: Thursday, February 26, 2004 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Reid Campus Center, Whitman College Campus

What: Mr. Richard G. Weingardt, Chairman and CEO of Richard G. Weingardt Consultants will speak on "Pearls of Wisdom for Leadership". This will be a motivational presentation that will encourage engineers to become involved in leadership positions in society. It will provide some tips as to what engineers can do to hone their skills for such leadership positions. Mr. Weingardt is the author of 7 books and 500 articles on business, engineering, and leadership.

Menu: Vegetarian entrée. Angel hair pasta with olive oil, diced peppers, fresh basil, and fresh vegetables and rolls. Dessert will be chocolate cake with white chocolate sauce.

Reservations: RSVP Renee Mackin at 509-527-2765 by noon Friday, February 20, 2004. Tickets are available in the Engineering Office, Room 255A, Chan Shun Pavilion, Walla Walla College.

Price: General \$17.50, Students \$12.00.

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