



American Society of Civil Engineers

Our web site: <http://sections.asce.org/columbia/index.html>

# Columbia Section

Since October 10, 1950

## Newsletter

June, 2004

### Columbia Section Board

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### Columbia Section June 16, 2004 Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, June 16, 2004 at 11:30 am – 1:00 PM

**Place:** Shilo Inn, George Washington Way, Richland

**Meal:** Buffet (Chef's choice) \$10 per person.  
Please pay cash or check to treasurer at the meeting.

**Topic:** Infrastructure Conference

**Speakers:** To be announced, City of Richland  
To be announced, City of Pasco

Each City and County will have a 20-min time period to discuss upcoming infrastructure projects. There should be limited time for question and answer. However, we will try to keep each jurisdiction to 20 minutes.

Lunch will start at 11:30, and the presentations will start at Noon.

RSVP to: Byron Perry, [bperry@hdrinc.com](mailto:bperry@hdrinc.com) or (509) 546-2040 by June 15, 2004.

### Columbia Section June 22, 2004 Meeting An ASCE Structural Engineering Institute Presentation

**Date:** Tuesday, June 22, 2004 at 6:00 PM

**Place:** Shilo Inn, Lobby Board Room, George Washington Way, Richland

**Meal:** Select from O'Callahan's Menu  
Please pay cash or check to Shilo Inn.

**Topic:** Pre-Engineered Steel Buildings

**Speaker:** Karim Itum, General Manager, Sun Building Systems, Sunnyside, WA

**About the Topic:** An overview of the construction of Pre-Engineered steel buildings, its advantages and why it is preferred over conventional structural steel construction in many applications. Some diverse applications for the pre-engineered buildings will be illustrated through the presentation that will show flexibility and adaptability.

**RSVP to:** Indra Ghosh, [ighosh2000@msn.com](mailto:ighosh2000@msn.com) or (509) 371-9507 by June 21, 2004

**ELLECT YOUR OFFICERS**  
**Columbia Section Election of Officers for 2004-2005**

**Election Date: June 16, 2004      Place: Shilo Inn      Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 PM**

**Columbia Section:**

**President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer – Term one year, July 2004 – June 2005**

**Area Directors:**

**Walla Walla**     **Pendleton-La Grande**     **Tri-Cities**     **Yakima**    Term 3 years

**Yakima Branch:**

**President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer – Term one year, 2004-2005**

*Duties of the officers have been described in the Columbia Section Manual (see Section website).*

The following nominations have been already received and approved in our Section meeting on May 19, 2004.

|                      |                |                       |                 |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| President:           | Aaron Meilleur | President Elect:      | Byron Perry     |
| Vice President:      | Darral Moore   | Sec.-Treasurer:       | Paul Harmsen    |
| Tri-Cities Director: | Ben Volk       | Walla Walla Director: | Frank Nicholson |

**From President's Desk .....**

*Joy is not in things, it is in us. -----Richard Wagner*

Dear Members:

Here's a potpourri of comments from some recent topics:

**Elections**

The June 16, 2004 ASCE Meeting will be your chance to vote for your officers for next year. The new officers will begin their duties in September 2004. The following folks have been nominated:

|                       |                               |                      |                        |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| President:            | Aaron Meilleur                | President Elect:     | Byron Perry            |
| Vice President:       | Darral Moore                  | Sec.-Treas.:         | Paul Harmsen           |
| Newsletter:           | Open                          | Tri-Cities Director: | Ben Volk (3-year term) |
| Walla Walla Director: | Frank Nicholson (3-year term) |                      |                        |

Remember, if you don't show up, you may be elected!

**June Meeting**

At the June meeting we will get an update from the City of Pasco and the City of Richland on what is happening in their cities with regard to infrastructure. It has been interesting to hear from all of the cities and counties in this area. We will probably take July and August off from meeting unless a special request is made to have a speaker.

**May Meeting**

Frank Nicholson gave us an excellent update on what is happening in the City of Walla Walla at the May 19, 2004 meeting. The City has projects ongoing from the wastewater treatment plant expansion to aquifer storage and recovery. I'm sure Frank would give you a personal tour next time you are in town.

Enjoy your day and God bless you all.

Sincerely,  
Ben W. Volk, P.E.

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## District 12 Director's Report

I just returned from the spring ASCE Board meeting in Washington DC. I also attended the OPAL (Outstanding Projects and Leaders) award banquet. One of our northwest members received the Charlie Pankow award, Magnusson Klemencic Associates for their developed of the Steel Plate/Composite Concrete Shear Wall System used for the first time Seattle's Federal Courthouse Building. The outstanding civil engineering achievement award went to the Boston Section's Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge.

Then the next two days, from morning till night (don't all of you members feel sorry for me), were spent in a windowless room doing the national business of the organization. Here is a summary of the highlights of that meeting.

For those members that participate nationally the Board voted to increase the per diem amount from \$75.00 to \$100.00 per room night. Depending on budget priorities this may not go into effect until 2006. This is the first time this has been increased since 1988. However, in order to mitigate the budget impact committees will be required to do more teleconferences and email and avoid face to face meetings.

As members we will have two official nominees for President-elect to vote for this year. The Board nominating committee voted to send to the membership as official nominees Conrad Keys from New Mexico and Dennis Martenson from Minnesota. You will get the opportunity to vote for one of these members in June. This is an important election as we also will be voting on a constitutional amendment changing our form of governance. If you need information on the governance change please contact me. For more information please visit [www.asce.org/governance](http://www.asce.org/governance).

So the bad news is that the Board in an initial vote approved a \$10 dues increase. Why? A variety of reasons. First, inflation alone eats up \$5 of that increase. With that we are still able to fund a number of existing programs including: 1) Continuation of the congressional fellow, which has increased the ASCE voice in Congress. 2) Key contact program, which notifies you the members of key federal issues that we need you to correspond with your federal legislators. 3) State Government Affairs programs, which provides money to the local sections helping them participate in the state legislative process protecting our interests. 4) West Point Bridge Design program, one of our outreach programs to high school students. (see below for northwest winners) 5) Continue our dues to ABET, which accredits our engineering schools. 6) We are required to replenish our reserves lost through devaluation of our stocks during the economic downturn. So then why the second \$5? Here is what we as members get for the second \$5. 1) A new infrastructure report card, which has been extremely valuable in educating the public as to the needs in this country. 2) Seed money into a new certification program in the hopes of generating long term revenues. So what are we not funding? We are not funding an expanded K-12 outreach program even at a time when civil engineering enrollments are declining and engineering enrollment overall is flat. We cut the national presidents overseas trip. We did not fund an advertising campaign to be used to reinforce the ASCE identity and reputation among the public and policy leaders. In addition in the past year staff has been cut at the national level, travel by volunteers cut, and cost control measures implemented. Although an increase was approved in the per diem the Board did not address the budget impact for 2005. As a result unless the budget impact is addressed in 2005 this change will not occur until 2006.

The next meeting of the Board of Direction is schedule for July 23-24, 2004 in Seattle. This will be our chance for the Pacific Northwest to show off our area. I know I am probably not making these board meetings sound like too much fun, but if you can spare the time I recommend you attend at least part of the meeting. With the exception of the executive session these meetings are open to you the members and many of the reports presented will give you an opportunity to learn more about what programs ASCE does with volunteers for us a members.

Don't forget to vote. Your ballot should come in your June ASCE news. Please look for it.

In non Board member news, I am please to report that several high school students in our District reached the semi finals for the West Point Bridge competition and one student was awarded 5<sup>th</sup> place. The northwest winners are:

### Semi Finalists

| Team            | School                 | City              |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Floating Bridge | St. Helens High School | St. Helens Oregon |
| Dukes of Hazard | Nampa Christen School  | Nampa Idaho       |
| Up to No Good   | Sunset High School     | Beaverton Oregon  |
| Makaci          | Burns High School      | Burns Oregon      |

### Finalist

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Place

|         |                       |             |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Inferno | Nampa Christen School | Nampa Idaho |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------|

As always if you have questions or comments please do not hesitate to call or write. My email is [greg@tvwd.org](mailto:greg@tvwd.org) and my phone number is (503) 848-3032.

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

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### Seminars, Conferences ...

- American Institute of Steel Construction and The Pacific Northwest Steel fabricators' Association – **Quality Issues in Construction Documents**, June 9, 2004, Marriott Sea-Tac Airport Hotel, 3201 South 176<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle, WA. Call 503-253-9172 for registration and more information.

For ASCE seminars, courses and conferences, visit [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org).

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