

Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers Section of American Society of Civil Engineers
(CSCE) Board Planning Meeting Conference Call via Teams
Friday, March 3, 2023, at 12:00 P.M. EST



The conference call/meeting began at 12:00 p.m. The following people were in attendance on the call:

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| Scott Nolan, CSCE President | Byungik Chang, Chair of the CT Chapter of the ASCE Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) |
| Rich Cohen, CSCE Vice President | Landon Barlow, Chair of the CT Valley Chapter of the ASCE Geo- Institute |
| Eric Hoyt, CSCE Secretary | Ron Hill, President of Fairfield County Branch of CSCE |
| Sam Turek, CSCE Newsletter Editor | Thomas Wamser, Member of Younger Members Group |
| Brianna Ritacco, CSCE Director I | Amy Petrone, CSCE Administrative Assistant |
| George Gerard, CSCE Director II | |

The following items were discussed:

1. Review/Approve Minutes from CSCE Meeting on February 10, 2023

- Scott Nolan made a motion to approve the minutes. Brianna Ritacco seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Monthly Dinner Meetings

March 22 - In-Person Dinner Meeting at the Norwalk Inn

- Scott Nolan can attend this meeting and help out at the registration table. Amy Petrone may be able to attend. Ron Hill will ask the speaker for his and his mother's meal choices.
- Amy Petrone will ask ASCE for Dan McCarthy's Fairfield County Branch leadership history with ASCE/CSCE Fairfield County Branch.

April 18 - In-Person Dinner Meeting at the USCGA

- Scott Nolan has the draft schedule from last year's meeting.
- CSCE should promote the scholarships and the ACE Awards in a newsletter. Scott Nolan will forward a President's Message to Sam Turek for the March newsletter.
- Rich Cohen circulated the ACE project nomination at his office.

May 17 - Virtual Lunch Meeting - Registration is open.

3. Annual Events / Critical Discussion Items:

- 3.1 PayPal - PayPal wants someone who has experienced the issue to contact PayPal. Since no one on the Board has had a problem with PayPal when registering for an event, Amy Petrone will try to register for an upcoming event to see if she can have a problem and contact PayPal. A brief discussion occurred about other payment processing options.

3.2 Younger Members Group Update - Tom Wamser shared the following information:

Re-cap of the recent Resume Review on 2/14/23 at UNH – This was a very successful event with about 45 attendees. CSCE bought pizza for the students and had 4 volunteers from CSCE review the students' resumes. Hopefully, this type of event will help the students maintain their membership with ASCE as they get jobs. At a future resume review, CSCE doesn't necessarily need to provide funding for the refreshments since the student chapter could ask the school to provide the funding.

3.3 ACE Awards - May 23, 2023

To partially cover rising costs associated with CSCE's events like the ACE Awards, CSCE could increase the pricing at the ACE Awards. To help the Board decide about increasing prices, Amy Petrone will provide information about pre-pandemic attendance, cost of 1 year's worth of awards, the 2022 invoice from the Aqua Turf Club, past sponsorships, and 2023 pricing at the Aqua Turf Club.

3.4 CSCE Land's End Items - People should order CSCE-branded items if they want.

4. CSCE Executive Board Activities

4.1 President's Report (Scott Nolan)

- CSCE distributed a structural survey from MIT to its membership. Byungik Chang and his colleagues submitted responses.
- StarChapter or similar services from ASCE - StarChapter contacted Scott Nolan, Rich Cohen and Brianna Ritacco recently to talk about its services. Scott Nolan told the StarChapter representative that he would share information about the services it provides with the Board. After a discussion, he will contact StarChapter and let them know that CSCE may be interested in its services in the future, but not at this time.

4.2 President-Elect's Report (Aaron Foster)

Aaron Foster is at the ASCE Legislative Fly-In now and received the 2023 ASCE Legislative Advocate of the Year award.

4.3 Report from Vice President (Rich Cohen)

CSCE received notification from the NYS Education Department that it's PDH sponsor status has been renewed for 3 more years.

4.4 Report from Treasurer (Tyler Parker)

- CSCE paid a lot of bills since the last meeting.
- CSCE received its ASCE allotment of \$5,598.51 following its submission of annual reports to ASCE.

4.5 Report from Secretary (Eric Hoyt)

CSCE's & the Fairfield Branch of CSCE's Annual Reports were submitted to ASCE.

4.6 Report from Newsletter Editor (Sam Turek)

The next newsletter will go out in the next week and could include a write-up of the UNH resume review.

4.7 Report from Director I (Brianna Ritacco)

- CT DOT ASCE Partner Program – Eleven (11) people (new and current CSCE members) used the partner discount code to join ASCE/CSCE.
- Past Presidents – CSCE could include write-ups and headshots of Past CSCE Presidents in its newsletters and could post that type of information on a page on the CSCE website.
- Teaming up with WTS on a virtual leadership event – CSCE has the opportunity to co-sponsor a 3-module presentation by Alyssa Dickson ([Mindfulness and Meditations | fleeceandforests](#)) in April, June and August (see below):
 - April 5 – Module 1 - Engineering Your Mind (60 minutes): explore the tenets and science of mindfulness, mindfulness practice, and the benefits of mindfulness for problem solvers.
 - May 3 - Follow-up – Mental Health Awareness Month Feature
 - June 7 – Module 2 - Mindful Leadership (90 minutes): understand management and leadership; grow leadership skills through mindfulness including active listening, awareness, and bias reduction; and the application of mindfulness to project management with diverse teams, stakeholders, and clients.
 - July 5 - Follow-up - Topic/Exercise TBD
 - August 2 – Module 3 - Understanding Emotional Intelligence (90 minutes): examine emotional intelligence through a mindfulness lens by growing self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, social skills, and empathy, and the importance of proactive versus reactive leadership.
 - September 6 - Topic/Exercise TBD

The fee for all three modules is \$5,000 and CSCE’s portion could be \$2,500 to pay for half of the event or ~\$1,650 to pay for one of the modules. Past CSCE Presidents Tom Roy and Rabih Barakat volunteered to help spearhead CSCE’s involvement with this event. WTS is looking for CSCE’s decision soon so it can begin to promote the overall presentation. WTS was not planning on charging people to attend these modules. The Board discussed supporting WTS and co-sponsoring events with WTS, but it needs to review its finances first. CSCE will plan to have a response by next Wednesday.

5. Reports from /Institute/Committee Chairs/Fairfield County Branch

- CT Chapter of the ASCE Structural Engineering Institute - Byungik Chang shared the following information:
 - The Chapter is finalizing the speakers at its upcoming seminar on October 20, 2023, and it will have a meeting next week about it. It is estimated that 6 NYS PDHs will be offered at this seminar.
 - The Chapter discussed having a mini seminar at CCSU for students interested in going into structural engineering.
- CT Valley Chapter of the ASCE Geo-Institute - Landon Barlow shared the following information:
 - The next seminar is on 4/21/23. Randy States is managing it. The program has been developed, sponsors have signed up and exhibit tables are available.
 - The Chapter is planning the next GEO-CT conference that is scheduled for 9/22/23.
- Legislative Affairs Committee
 - 2023 ASCE Legislative Fly-In – March 1-3, 2023 - Landon Barlow and Aaron Foster attended this event on behalf of CSCE. The goal for 2025 is to get 1 representative from each district in Connecticut to attend the event.
 - Aaron Foster won the 2023 ASCE Legislative Advocate of the Year award at the Fly-In.

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.