



April 2026
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or call 800-548-ASCE

ASCE's mission is to provide essential value to our members, their careers, our partners and the public by developing leadership, advancing technology, advocating lifelong learning and promoting the profession.

GREETINGS DULUTH SECTION!

Greetings Duluth Section!

April has been and will continue to be a busy month for our section. Last week we hosted the toothpick bridge competition at UMD. We had four schools in attendance and hope to continue to grow participation in the event in the years to come. A few photos of the event are included in this newsletter. Next Thursday April 30th we have two events, the State of Minnesota ASCE Report card release event which will be hosted at 10 AM at the Duluth International Airport and our annual section banquet that same evening beginning at 5 PM at Tavern on the Hill. The students also just competed in the regional event for steel bridge, concrete canoe, and geowall.

The YMG group recently hosted a 2 hour ethics PDH which was well attended by members and professionals in the community. Their next upcoming event is a happy hour this week on Thursday at 5:30 at Bulldog Pizza. All are welcome to join them at this event.

Our next luncheon is on May 19th at noon at BARR Engineering in Duluth. Larry Sutter with Sutter Engineering will be presenting on upcoming changes with ASTM standards for cement and SCMs. Please use the collaborate link to RSVP so we can plan an accurate lunch head count. If you are unable to use collaborate, please send me a message. The cost of this event is \$25 if you register before 5 pm on May 15 and \$30 at the door for professionals. At this meeting we will also be ratifying our updated bylaws that our Section and YMG board have been working on over the past year.

Hope to see you on the report card release and the annual banquet next Thursday.

Peter Demshar, PE

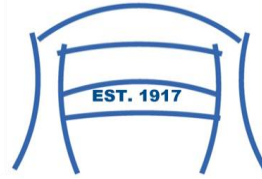
Duluth Section President

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Interested in submitting an article for the ASCE newsletter or becoming a Board Member?

Contact Tyler Yngsdal (newsletter editor) for information at 218.279.3001 or tyngsdal@sehinc.com



UPCOMING MEETINGS

MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2025/2026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025-2026

President

Peter Demshar, PE
Barr Engineering Co.
952-913-6392
pdemshar@barr.com

President-Elect

Tyler Yngsdal, PE
SEH
218-279-3001
tyngsdal@sehinc.com

Treasurer

Alex Popp, PE
apopp@DuluthMN.gov

Secretary

Jeremy Carlson, PE
Northland Constructors of Duluth
218-625-2284
jeremy.carlson@northlandconstructors.us

Past President

Ryan Swanson, PE
Ulland Brothers, Inc.
(218) 966-9822
rswanson@ulland.com

BOARD CHAIRS

2025-2026

Younger Member Chair

Dalton Scharmer
Sappi
dalton.scharmer@sappi.com

Membership Chair

Vacant

Government Relations Chair

Chris Rousseau
christopher.rousseau@wsbeng.com

Toothpick Bridge Chair

Travis Jensen
(612) 730-0580
jens1073@d.umn.edu

Web Updates

Rose Kopecy
SEH
(218)-249-1558
rkopecky@sehinc.com

Membership Meetings

- **April 30 (End of Year Banquet)**
 - **Tavern on the Hill**
 - **5:00-6:00 p.m. Social Hour and appetizers**
 - **6:00 Banquet Dinner**
- **May 19 – 12:00 (noon) @ BARR**
 - **Larry Sutter (Speaker)**

Board Meetings

- April 21, 2026
- May 21, 2026



FINANCIALS

National Bank of Commerce

Main Checking	\$8,897.70
Younger Member Checking	\$3,506.72
Savings (assumed)**	\$5,498.83

Other Assets

PayPal	\$0.00
Other cash/checks	\$460.00
Petty Cash	\$100.00
February 2026 Total Assets	\$18,463.25
Increase/(Decrease) in Assets	\$1,107.55

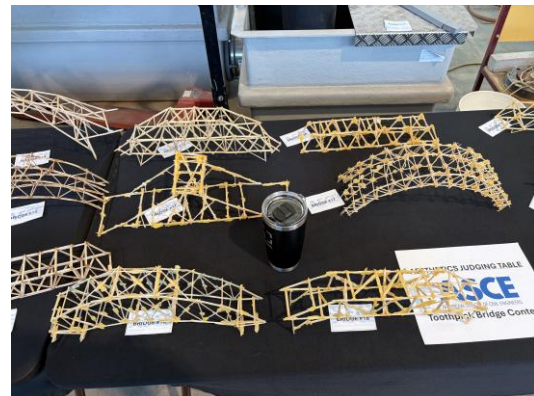
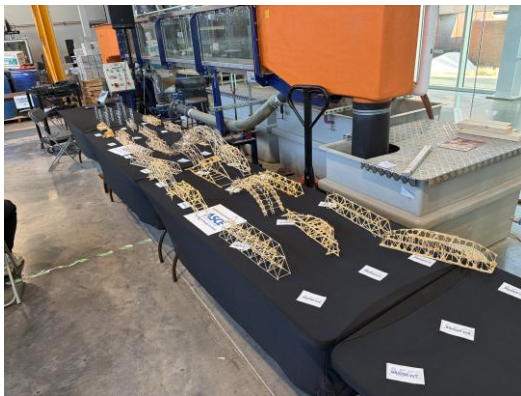
*Increase is from ASCE National Deposit & sponsorships



ANNUAL TOOTHPICK BRIDGE

2026 Toothpick Bridge Competition Recap

The ASCE Duluth Section hosted its annual Toothpick Bridge Competition on April 16 at the University of Minnesota Duluth, welcoming local high school students for a fun and challenging hands-on engineering experience. Student teams designed, built, and tested toothpick bridges while learning about structural behavior, load paths, and the creative problem-solving that defines civil engineering. Thank you to the volunteers, judges, and educators who helped make the event a success and continue to support STEM outreach in our region.





Come enjoy some free food and networking opportunities with young civil engineering professionals! **NO RSVP** required, just show up!

Who: Working professionals of all ages and civil engineering students.

What: Happy Hours, Social Events, and Civil Engineering Project site Tours sponsored by ASCE Younger Member Group.

Upcoming Events:

Happy Hours:

Thursday, April 23rd - Bulldog Pizza - 5:30 PM

Past Events: Ethics Presentation

- Eric Heiberg gave a presentation on Ethics in Engineering at Clyde Iron. Engineers in attendance filled their Ethics PDH requirements.



Additional social events & Construction Site Tours to be announced for Spring 2026

Interested? Join our email list by emailing the following:

Contact Dalton Scharmer (dalton.scharmer@sappi.com), Matt Henderson (mhenderson@sehinc.com) or Josh Tomczak (josh@nce-duluth.com)



ASCE DULUTH SECTION BOARD MEETING AGENDA

February 24, 2026 - 5:30 PM
Crooked Pint

Call Meeting to Order:

- Meeting called to order at 17:35 by President Pete Demshar
- Attendance:
 - Peter Demshar – President
 - Tyler Yngsdal – Vice President
 - Alex Popp – Treasurer
 - Jeremy Carlson – Secretary
 - Rose Kopecky Website/Outreach
 - Ryan Swanson – Past President

Approval of Agenda (Pete)

- **A motion was made by Tyler Yngsdal, seconded by Ryan Swanson to approve the agenda.**
 - The motion carried by the following vote: All in favor.

Approval of Minutes (Jeremy)

- **A motion was made by Pete Demshar, seconded by Tyler Yngsdal to approve the January Meeting Minutes.**
 - The motion carried by the following vote: All in favor.

Government Relations (Chris)

- Report card
 - Release event confirmed for 4/30/26 10:00 am @ DLH conference room.
 - No funding has been requested.
 - Tyler Y is attending St. Louis County Days in St. Paul in March.

Student section update (Emilio or Ben)

- Not in attendance at this meeting, Pete to confirm Emilio/Ben receive Board meeting calendar invites.

Younger Member Discussion (Dalton)

- Ethics presentation:
 - Confirmed for March 31st at Clyde Iron Malting Building, 2:00-4:30pm
- YMG Board Update
 - YMG hasn't communicated to Section Board who will take over for Dalton.
 - Curling event upcoming on Saturday Feb 28th in Superior

Treasurer's Report (Alex)

- Main Checking \$8,107.32
- Younger Member Checking \$3,650.58
- Savings \$5,497.80
- Petty Cash \$100.00
- PayPal \$0.00
- Total Jan Assets - \$17,355.70
- Total Dec Assets - \$15,416.76
- Increase/Decrease in Assets - \$1,938.94



- Increase is from ASCE national Deposit and sponsorships
- Motion made by Pete Demshar, seconded by Tyler Yngsdal to approve the Treasurer's Report.
 - The motion carried by the following vote: All in favor.

2025-2026 Speakers (Tyler)

- Speaker needed for May 19th Luncheon
 - May luncheon speaker: Larry Sutter, Sutter Engineering (@Barr Engineering)
- Rose suggestion for future speaking topics: IT, AI, BIM, etc.

2025-2026 BOARD MEETING / LUNCHEON SCHEDULE (ALL MEETING SCHEDULED AT 12:00 PM)

Luncheons

- March 17, 2026 – hosted by Barr (AISC bridge related speaker – Peterson)
- April 30, 2026 – Banquet, Location TBD. Tyler to get quotes from potential locations.
 - Potential Options
 - Tavern on the Hill
 - Blackwoods East
 - Pier B
 - Crooked Pint
 - After discussion:
 - Motion to reserve Tavern on the Hill by Ryan Swanson, seconded by Pete Demshar, more carries unanimously.
 - Will further evaluate food options/pricing and set budget for banquet at next Board meeting.
 - Pete Demshar proposed similar format to 2025.
 - Small amounts of speaking or presentation by students, Board, YMG, etc.
- May 19, 2026 – Barr Engineering

Board Meetings

- February 24, 2026 – Crooked Pint
- March 24, 2026
- April 21, 2026
- May 21, 2026 (Thursday)

Newsletter Update (Tyler)

- Scholarship letter
 - Need to continue to push for applicants
- Student section update
- YMG update
 - Tyler to follow up for next newsletter to get YMG content
 - Submissions due by 2/27/26 for sending out newsletter on 3/3/26.

Membership Chair (Vacant)

- Membership at risk
- Pete asked Rose to follow up on this list
- Rose to continue as interim membership chair but she is interested in taking on full membership chair



Website and Outreach Chair (Rose)

- Rose continues to monitor and update website as necessary.
- Rose requested quotes from the Board and others about the benefits of Section membership to be used on the website.
- Rose to send draft of survey to Board regarding virtual meeting option interest among other topics.
 - Rose is asking the Board for feedback on survey before sending to full membership.

Toothpick Bridge Chair (Travis)

- Event set for 4/16/26. 4-6 volunteers are needed each for morning and afternoon sessions.
- Pete plans to be there all day. Alex likely not available. Rose plans to be there ½ day. Craig Bursch plans to be there all day.
- Section Board (Alex Popp) to look into prize/trophy options.
- Alex has draft of trophy design.
- Pete suggests using Duluth Section logo for trophy.
- @ cost of \$25/ea, would be 18 each for a total of \$450 to provide prizes to 1-3rd place in each division.
- Pete emailed Travis to get a count of participants
- Pete to follow up with Alex to confirm quantity of trophies to order.
- Alex will order at the end of the week.
- Section Board is asking the student group to fill in most of the needed volunteer spots.
- Media attended last year – no certain if they will be again this year.
 - Section will be providing up to \$750 for prizes and lunch for judges

Matrix and Bylaw Review

- Tyler to invite all Past Presidents to awards dinner.
- List on OneDrive of all Past Presidents

New Business

- Alex: Has determined that if the Section works under it's legal name, no certificate of assumed name is needed.
 - National Bank of Commerce update
- Tyler: current sponsorship count – (7).
- Golf outing as a future engagement activity – no update
- Section Board will schedule a meeting at SEH in March to review YMG and Section bylaws before submitting those to National.
 - March 3rd @ SEH office 4pm-6pm
 - Motion to set budget of up to \$100 for pizza for Board working meeting by Pete Demshar, seconded by Alex Popp, motion carries unanimously.

Next Board Meeting: 3/24/26 @ Ursa Minor

Adjournment:

- **Motion made by Tyler Yngsdal, Seconded by Alex Popp to adjourn the meeting.**
- **The motion carried by the following vote: All in Favor**
- Meeting adjourned at 19:12

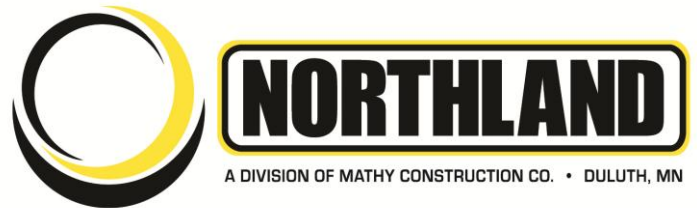


THANKS TO OUR 2026 SPONSORS!

(Consider being a sponsor!)



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