



February 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,

Our next luncheon is on Feb 17th at noon up at UMD held in conjunction with the Student Chapter. Heather Fishel will be telling us about updates to the MEng program and Manik Barman will be discussing his ongoing research in the transportation materials field. Please use the collaborate link (watch your email this week) to RSVP so we can be sure to have UMD prepared and 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 February 14 and \$30 at the door for professionals.

We did get a date selected for the Toothpick Bridge competition for high school students at UMD and it is on April 16. If you would like to volunteer as a judge, please let me or one of our board members know. We will be having both a morning and afternoon session this year for the first time since the pandemic.

Our Younger Member Group continues to host happy hours, and the next one will be at Hoops Brewing on February 19th at 5:30 pm. Please also consider joining our YMGs for curling and the ethics presentation. Please see the newsletter for more info.

Please see our scholarship application for the 2025-2026 school year, which is in this newsletter. We are continuing to provide 3 Scholarships this year. Please forward or send to any applicable students.

Our annual year end appreciation dinner will be held on April 30th at a venue in Duluth that will be decided soon. I would love to see all of you there to recognize our scholarship winners and enjoy a dinner and networking with fellow engineers and students.

Hope to see you on the 17th for our monthly luncheon, and please don't forget to RSVP.

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025-2026

President

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President-Elect

Tyler Yngsdal, PE
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Treasurer

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Secretary

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jeremy.carlson@northlandconstructors.us

Past President

Ryan Swanson, PE
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rswanson@ulland.com

BOARD CHAIRS

2025-2026

Younger Member Chair

Dalton Scharmer
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Membership Chair

Vacant

Government Relations Chair

Chris Rousseau
christopher.rousseau@wsbeng.com

Toothpick Bridge Chair

Travis Jensen
(612) 730-0580
jensio73@d.umn.edu

Web Updates

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

UPCOMING MEETING

Date: February 17, 2026

Speakers:

- **Heather Fishel** – UMD
 - **Topic:** UMD Online Master of Engineering Program
- **Manik Barman** – UMD
 - **Topic:** Smooth, Safe, and Sustainable Roads: UMD’s recent research in Tenting Mitigation, Road Friction, and Green Concrete Road

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: UMD Swenson Civil Engineering Building



Heather’s Bio:

Heather Fishel is a dedicated educational leader with over twenty-five years of experience, currently serving as the Iron Range Professional Engineering Program Coordinator at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Drawing on a robust background as a former high school principal and science educator, Heather now leads the design and implementation of UMD’s online Master of Engineering program to bridge the gap between regional industry needs and academic excellence. She is passionate about

cultivating collaborative partnerships with engineering and mining leaders to empower working STEM professionals with the specialized leadership skills required in today’s evolving industrial landscape.

Email: hfishel@d.umn.edu

Manik’s Bio:

Dr. Manik Barman is a Professor of Civil Engineering and the Director of Graduate Studies at the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD). Specializing in infrastructure materials and pavement engineering, Dr. Barman joined UMD in 2015 following a Senior Research Fellowship at the University of Oklahoma. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 2014 and an M.Tech. from the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur. An internationally recognized expert, Dr. Barman sits on the Board of Directors for the International Society for Concrete Pavements (ISCP) and serves on the TRB Standing Committee on Concrete Pavement Materials (AKN13). Recently, he served as the Technical Program Director and Editor for the 13th International Conference on Concrete Pavements. He is a dedicated educator and frequent peer reviewer for leading scholarly journals.

Email: mbarman@d.umn.edu



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christopher.rousseau@wsbeng.com

Toothpick Bridge Chair

Travis Jensen
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Membership Outreach Chair

Rose Kopeccky
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rkopeccky@sehinc.com

MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2025/2026

Membership Meetings

- February 17 – UMD
- March 17 – BARR
- April 30 (End of Year Banquet)
– Location TBD
- May 19 - TBD

Board Meetings

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



FINANCIALS

National Bank of Commerce

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Main Checking | \$6,071.87 |
| Younger Member Checking | \$3,748.24 |
| Savings (assumed)** | \$5,496.65 |

Other Assets

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| PayPal | \$0.00 |
| Other cash/checks | \$0.00 |
| Petty Cash | \$100.00 |
| December 2025' Total Assets | \$15,416.76 |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Assets | \$1,914.72 |

*Increase is from ASCE National Deposit & sponsorships





ASCE STUDENT SECTION UPDATE

The UMD ASCE Competition teams are beginning to enter the last leg of preparations for competition at the 2026 symposium in the Twin Cities. Geowall is finalizing their design and report and optimistic about the competition. The Concrete Canoe team is beginning to finish their mold, which has been switched from a male to female mold for the first time in years. The Stee Bridge team is also in the process of completing their designs and beginning their report for the symposium.

Meet the new Student Section Officers:

President - Benjamin Gornik

I am a Senior in civil engineering with a focus in water resources. I was in concrete canoe for two years and geowall for 3, I joined ASCE my freshman year at the WGLSS symposium and became the secretary. My Sophomore year I became the treasurer and this year I was elected co-president with Emilio. In my free time I enjoy Nordic skiing, running, biking, and hiking. I look forward to leading the UMD ASCE section this year.

Co-President - Emilio Vargas

My name's Emilio Vargas and I am a junior at UMD studying Civil Engineering with a focus in water resources. I started my time at UMD as a member and eventually captain of the Concrete Canoe team. In Spring of 2025 I joined the ASCE officer team, and was elected as co-president this spring. I enjoy spending time outdoors, baking, and leading a small group through a campus ministry at UMD. I'm looking forward to leading this year alongside with Ben Gornik and the rest of the officer team, and hope to be able to provide a place for civil engineers to network and learn more about the industry.

Treasurer - Jillian Horsfall

Hi everyone! My name is Jillian Horsfall, and I'm originally from Minnesota. I'm currently a sophomore studying Civil Engineering at the University of Minnesota Duluth with an interest in Project Management. I chose civil engineering because I've always been interested in how infrastructure and sustainable development can improve communities. In my free time, I enjoy being outdoors, staying active, and learning through hands-on field experiences. I'm excited to be involved in ASCE to connect with other engineering students, grow professionally, and gain more experience in the civil engineering industry.

Secretary - Riley Schwichtenberg

I'm a Sophomore. I'm from Stewartville MN. I love the outdoors, snowboarding and all sports. I wanted to join ASCE to connect with other engineers, and be involved in a group setting.

Outreach - Ian Gangl

My name is Ian Gangl, and I am a junior civil engineering student who's mostly interested in structural engineering. I'm from Lino Lakes, MN, so a little North of the Twin Cities, and I've loved baseball, skiing, hiking, fishing, and biking my whole life. One other thing I like to share about myself is that I absolutely love going to concerts and seeing live music. I've been to around 10 regular concerts, Lollapalooza, and a few local shows in



small venues and basements in the past year or so. I picked civil engineering after being undecided in engineering for the first year or so of college because I love infrastructure and how people and places are connected by it. I ended up realizing through classes and internship experience that structural engineering is my favorite branch of civil engineering that I have experienced so far. I enjoy ASCE because I enjoy learning more about the industry and hearing about the different things that people do for work after graduating with a civil engineering degree.

Outreach – Bryan Kukacka

My name is Bryan Kukacka. I am from St. Peter, MN. I enjoy playing video games (of any kind), as well as participating in recreational sports. I also enjoy exploring the outdoors and relaxing (watching movies, for example). I choose Civil Engineering because I want to change the world for the better, through sustainability, infrastructure, and more! I wanted to join ASCE because I felt it would allow me to connect with more people around my major, as well as learn more about Civil Engineering outside of classes.



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 January 22nd - 310 pub (5:30 pm)

Thursday February 19th - Hoops Brewing (5:30 pm)

March - TBD

April - TBD

Curling with YMG (**NEW DATE**) - Saturday February 28th (12:00pm-4:00pm) at Superior Curling Club

Ethics Presentation (NEW DATE) - Tuesday March 31st (2:00pm-4:30pm) at Clyde Ironworks

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)

Curling Younger Member Event

WHEN: Saturday
February 28th
12:00 – 4:00 PM

WHERE: Superior
Curling Club
4700 Tower Ave
Superior, WI 54880



Happy hour following
Curling at Earth Rider

- Come for an afternoon of networking and curling
- Duluth ASCE Section will provide appetizers
- All ASCE members are welcome Duluth Section and Student Chapter
- Do not worry if you haven't curled before
- What you need to bring
 - Entry fee 10\$
 - Loose pants (jeans are not comfortable to curl in)
 - Clean shoes (shoes without salt and sand to change into once at the club)

Contact Matt Henderson or Josh Tomczak with questions
mhenderson@sehinc.com - Josh@nce-duluth.com

ASCE YMG ETHICS PRESENTATION

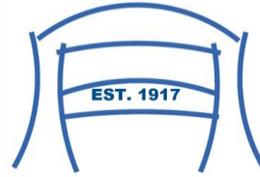
WHEN: Tuesday
March 31st
2:00 – 4:30 PM

WHERE: Clyde Iron
Works
2920 W Michigan St,
Duluth, MN



- Complete your ethics PDH!
- Presented by Eric R. Heiberg (Attorney at Law)- Heley Duncan Melander
- Appetizers provided
- Cost
 - Pay at the door or with Paypal:
 - \$50 (members)
 - \$75 (non members)

Contact Audrey Norlein with questions
anorlien@teamaet.com - 218-628-1518



ASCE DULUTH SECTION BOARD MEETING AGENDA

December 16, 2025 - 5:30 PM
Ursa Minor Brewing

Call Meeting to Order:

- Meeting called to order at 17:46
- Attendance:
 - Peter Demshar – President
 - Tyler Yngsdal – Vice President
 - Alex Popp – Treasurer
 - Jeremy Carlson – Secretary
 - Austin Willoughby - YMG

Approval of Agenda (Pete)

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

Approval of Minutes (Jeremy)

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

Government Relations (Chris)

- Report card
 - Potential release event in early May at DLH Airport.
 - ASCE Duluth Section has provided funds in the past to assist in printing.

Student section update (Zach H)

- Student section's annual report was submitted and dues have been paid for upcoming conference.
- Upcoming Student section conference in Chicago, always looking for volunteer judges

Younger Member Discussion (Dalton)

- Bylaws: Proposed bylaws updates were sent to the Board, awaiting Board review/commentary
 - Section Board to schedule meeting to review the proposed bylaws.
- Ethics presentation:
 - Date changed to March 31st at Clyde Iron Malting Building, 2:00-4:30pm
- YMG Board Update
 - Josh working on Curling event in Feb with Superior Curling, date TBD
 - Austin, Josh and Matt plan to volunteer for upcoming Math Counts event
 - Next Happy Hour event Jan 22nd, location TBD

Treasurer's Report (Alex)

- Main Checking \$3,943.64
- Younger Member Checking \$3,962.89
- Savings \$5,495.51
- Petty Cash \$100.00
- PayPal \$0.00



- Total Nov Assets - \$13,502.04
- Total Oct Assets - \$12,761.42
- Increase/Decrease in Assets - \$740.62
- Increase is from ASCE national Deposit and sponsorships
- Alex Popp to continue working with MN Secretary of State and ASCE National to correct Section Legal entity registration
- 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)

- Future Potential - MnDOT Blatnik or London Road
- Looking for additional presenters for 2026 luncheon dates
- Chris R. may have an opportunity to present in Spring if needed.
- Need January speaker: Potential LHB, MnDOT, Barr.
- Alex and Tyler to ask around to find options for January

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

- January 20, 2026 – Potentially hosted by LHB
- February 17, 2026 – Potentially hosted by UMD – Pete to coordinate with UMD
- March 17, 2026 – Potentially hosted by LHB
- April 21, 2026
- May 19, 2026

Board Meetings

- January 27, 2026 – Tavern on the Hill
- February 24, 2026
- March 24, 2026
- April 28, 2026
- May 26, 2026

Newsletter Update (Tyler)

- Content deadline 1/2/26, to send out ahead of 1/20/26 luncheon.

Membership Chair (Vacant)

- No updated at today's meeting

Website and Outreach Chair (Rose)

- No update at today's meeting.

Toothpick Bridge Chair (Travis)

- Pete will follow up with Travis for status update on the Bridge competition planning.
- No update on potential dates for bridge event, likely late March or late April

Matrix and Bylaw Review

New Business

- Alex: Duluth Section Certificate of Assumed Name with State of MN SOS includes addresses and names that are no longer current and don't match the name to go with our tax ID. Alex has asked for assistance from ASCE National on straightening this out and is awaiting their response.



- Second Harvest Food Shelf charitable donation – check was sent
- Golf outing as a future engagement activity – no update
- Annual report – has been submitted
- Section Board will schedule a meeting at SEH in Jan or Feb to review YMG and Section bylaws before submitting those to National.
- Alex will look into setting up an auto-renewal for the Section PO box.

Next Board Meeting: 1/27/26 17:30 @ Tavern on the Hill

Adjournment:

- **MOTION MADE BY ALEX POPP, SECONDED BY TYLER YNGSDAL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- **THE MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR**
- Meeting adjourned at 18:40



ASCE DULUTH SECTION SPONSORSHIP LETTER

We want to thank you for supporting The Duluth Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers in the past. Your sponsorship helps fund several programs that are specific to the Duluth Section. The first being our toothpick bridge competition. This program helps promote civil engineering at a young age, which is vital to the future of our profession. The second program is our annual scholarships to civil engineering and civil engineering technology students. Your sponsorship helps our local ASCE section to promote these valuable activities. That is why it is time again for us to ask you to renew your sponsorship, or consider a new sponsorship for 2025-2026. Our membership is comprised of engineers from a diverse range of companies (engineering, construction and geotechnical, etc.). We are very proud to showcase your company logo on our sponsor page.

With a contribution of \$ 250, your company's logo will be displayed in each section newsletter from September 2025 through August 2026. Our newsletter is produced 9 months of the year and reaches all of our 250+ members. Your support also aids the Duluth ASCE Section's efforts to keep the civil engineering community actively involved through technical presentations and networking luncheons, social activities, and student outreach activities.

If you would like to renew your sponsorship or become a sponsor, please send a check payable to **ASCE - Duluth Section** to the Section PO Box:

ASCE Duluth Section
P.O. Box 211
Duluth, MN 55802

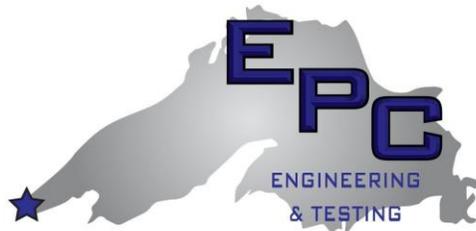
New sponsors, or to update logos, email your company logo to Tyler Yngsdal at: tyngsdal@sehinc.com

Sincerely,
The Duluth Section Board of Directors

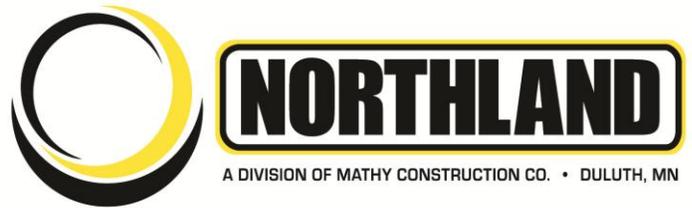


THANKS TO OUR 2026 SPONSORS!

(Consider being a sponsor!)

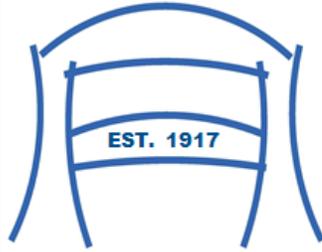


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SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

OBJECTIVE: To present up to three \$1,500 scholarships annually to an eligible individual.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. All Candidates **MUST** complete and transmit the application form to the Duluth Section Secretary by March 21st (End of day) to be eligible for the Scholarships.
2. The candidate must be either a junior, senior, or graduate student majoring in civil engineering during the award year, or a second-year student in a technical school majoring in a civil engineering supporting career.
3. Priority for one of the three scholarships: the candidate must be either a spouse or a son or daughter of an ASCE - Duluth Section member in good standing or a student member of ASCE assigned to the Duluth Section as of January 1st of the current year.
4. Second Priority of the remaining scholarships: the student must be enrolled at UMD.

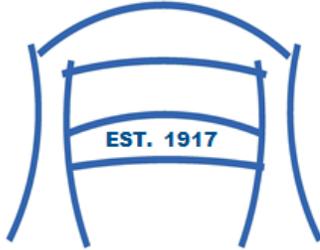
SCHOLARSHIP REVIEW GUIDELINES:

1. The scholarship review committee will consist of the first past-president, president and president elect.
2. The secretary shall review all applicants to ensure that they meet minimum qualifications. The secretary shall black out all personal information from the application form and then forward one copy to each of the review committee members.
3. The review committee shall recommend one or more candidates to the full Duluth section board at the March board meeting.
4. The scholarship winner will be announced in the April newsletter and shall receive the scholarship at the April Section meeting.

REVISIONS TO THE ASCE-DULUTH SECTION SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES:

1. The objectives, eligibility requirements or the scholarship review guidelines may be changed at any time by simple majority vote of the Duluth Section board.
2. All revisions to the guidelines will go into effect the year following the current scholarship cycle.

Return to: ASCE Duluth Section Secretary by March 21st, 2026.
Jeremy Carlson, PE
jeremy.carlson@northlandconstructors.us



American Society of Civil Engineer's Mission is to provide essential value to our members, their careers, our partners and the public by developing leadership, advancing technology and advocating lifelong learning and promoting the profession

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____
First Last

Address: _____
Street City, State, Zip Code

Telephone No.: _____

Email Address: _____

Duluth Section Member that you are related to (or your name and number), if applicable.

_____ Membership Number
Section Member Name

Please enclose your resume (your resume should address academic performance, volunteer service, work experience, and other information that you feel could be helpful in making our decision).

Briefly describe your goals for the first five years after graduation: