



January 2018

President's Message

By Derek McCoy



Hello! Once again, another month has just flown right by. I hope it brings what will truly be a happy new year! I hope you had a great time over the holidays and found some time to relax and enjoy some quality time with family and loved ones. I wish all of you success on whatever undertakings you have planned for this new year.

Last month, the joint meeting with the Seattle Section of ASCE was a resounding success with a record number of attendees. Mr. Ralph Graves, PE, Senior Director of Capital Development with the Port of Seattle, gave a presentation on the capital projects program at the Port that sparked great interest and discussion. This month's program, on January 17th, will be a joint meeting with the Land Surveyors' Association of Washington (LSAW).

My thanks to Desi Schilling of LSAW and our own Tom Szymoniak for their coordinated efforts to make this event happen. I look forward to seeing you all there for what will surely be a fantastic evening. Looking ahead, we have the Saint Martin's Engineer Banquet in February and a joint meeting with the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) in March. The president of ASCE, Kristina Swallow, will be speaking at the banquet in February. Be sure to check out our [events webpage](#) for more information as we continue to coordinate these events.

We are continuing the process of planning our May awards banquet which showcases local projects and engineers through ASCE's Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Awards program. We need our members to nominate projects and people for consideration in the awards process. If you know of an outstanding project or an engineer who went that extra mile this last year, let us know. Award recipients at the Section level can go on to receive nominations and awards at the regional and national levels as well. You can find out more information about the nomination requirements by visiting our new [awards page](#).

If you haven't yet renewed your ASCE membership, please consider doing so. Our section can only thrive with the support of its members. We use your support to put on our programs and deliver the benefits our members deserve. And remember that the benefits of membership aren't just local. The Society has a lot of great resources to offer to its members at the national level. We are always interested in hearing any feedback on what the section can do to better serve its members. Send this feedback to asce.tacoma.olympia@gmail.com.

I hope this new year finds you well and that we will see you at one of our events very soon. Thank you for reading our newsletter.

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The Point Defiance Regional Stormwater Treatment Facility in North Tacoma. Photo credit to Bruce Talmadge.

January 2018 Monthly Program

Pierce County Subscription GIS Joint Meeting with the Land Surveyor's Association of Washington

This January is our first-ever joint meeting with the Land Surveyor's Association of Washington. With how much our profession interacts with surveying, we see this recurring joint meeting as an opportunity to emphasize that interaction and hold talks on topics that are of interest to both sides of that equation. This month, Pierce County has graciously volunteered to hold a meeting to talk about the County's GIS system. As you know, GIS systems have become a mainstay in the modern civil engineer's toolbox.

Pierce County is dedicated to increasing access to government. In order to facilitate that, it makes GIS data easily available through free public applications and subscription services. This sharing of data can increase economic development, improve communication and everyday decision-making, and enhance educational opportunities for our citizens. In this session, the County will demonstrate the newly re-platformed PublicGIS mapping application, the Pierce County Open GeoSpatial Data Portal, and the subscription-based application CountyView Web which supports queries, light editing, and map-making.

Don't miss this opportunity to make some new friends and take a dive on the survey side.

Date and Time	January 17, 2018 at 6:30 PM
Location	La Quinta Inn & Suites Tacoma-Seattle 1425 East 27 th Street Tacoma, WA 98421
Menu	The price of admission includes a complete, catered meal. Check the events webpage for more information about the menu.
Price	Members and Guests: \$30 Students: \$15
Reservations	You can RSVP by clicking here!

Announcements

We have plenty of information to share and opportunities to engage coming up, so be sure to check in.

- ***Washington State Report Card Needs Volunteers***
Do you get excited about the idea of having your name as an author on a document used by legislators? Would you like to contribute to ASCE's efforts to lobby for improvements to our state's infrastructure? The Tacoma-Olympia Section has joined forces with the Seattle Section to update our state's infrastructure report card. There are opportunities for volunteers from all branches of the profession. If you're interested, [contact Frank!](#)
- ***ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Swag is Available!***
You can now sport a fancy new embroidered ASCE Tacoma-Olympia shirt while supporting our section! You can order a shirt by [clicking here!](#)
- ***Secretary Millar Honored as an At-Large Director for the Society***
One of our section's most distinguished members, Secretary Roger Millar of the Washington State Department of Transportation, has been honored by the Society as an At-Large Director. Mr. Millar's position answers to the Board of Directors itself at the Society level. Some of you may recall that Mr. Millar was a 2017 recipient of the Society's Outstanding Public Official Award. Please join us in congratulating Mr. Millar on his latest achievement. May his example be an inspiration to all of us!
- ***OPAL Awards Begins Early This Year***
In an effort to build a more successful OPAL Awards program in our section, our leadership has begun the awards process early this year. The idea is to allow our members plenty of time to put together nominations packages. The exact scoring criteria are still being evaluated, but members can get a preview and early look at the program by visiting our [awards page](#). Please take a moment to review last year's criteria and think of some great projects or engineers who might be candidates for awards this year.
- ***ASCE is Now Offering Professional Development Hours***
As if you needed another reason to come out to our great monthly programs! Our section is now issuing professional development hours (PDHs) for attendance at our technical tours and dinner presentations. When you sign up for an event, use the electronic form to indicate whether you would like to receive PDHs for attending the meeting. Many of our members have already taken advantage of this great value-add!
- ***Government Relations Committee Seeks Co-Chair and Participants***
We are pleased to announce that the section's standing Government Relations Committee has a new chair! Ms. Bernie Sison comes to our section with experience in legislative matters for several other professional groups, and we are excited to have her leadership for our own. If you have ever wanted to participate in government relations in ASCE, now is the time! If you are interested, contact Bernie directly at [bernepmi@gmail.com!](mailto:bernepmi@gmail.com)

Recent Events

Our joint meeting with the Seattle Section in December was one of our biggest events in recent history. It exceeded anything in the past three years for attendance, and we had a 98 percent attendance rate compared to those that signed up. Our speaker, Mr. Ralph Graves, really hit a home run with his presentation. The program included a mix of technical information and high-level program information, with a little bit of everything in between.

Thank you to Mr. Graves, Tom Szymoniak, and to our incredible members for making this such a huge success!



New Year, Lofty Goals!

By Frank Marescalco



Well it's 2018 already! Can you believe it? It's an interesting time to be alive – that's for sure! Depending on how you see the world, 2018 could look pretty bleak or it could look pretty bright. I personally find myself seeing it as a bright future, despite some of the gloom and doom coming from the news and politics of the world. Maybe it's because I tend to see challenges and hardship as opportunities, and there are a lot of opportunities out there for those with the gumption to seize them.

Once you've gotten over the shock, it's time to start thinking about what's in store for you and your career in this upcoming year. As you consider your goals and lay out your road map to 2018, consider how getting involved with ASCE can help you achieve those goals. Think of ASCE as a vehicle for getting you there faster, or a key to open doors that were maybe not otherwise available to you. Let me demonstrate by sharing my own ASCE story.

I find myself reflecting on almost three years of involvement with our section and how much it has done for me. I've met people from all over the country that I would have never otherwise met. They are volunteers like me, all pursuing a cause that they truly believe in. I have traveled to places I would never have thought to go on my own and created great memories. I have a wide personal-professional network and access to many resources. The reciprocal effect of that wide network is that I am presented with opportunities all the time for professional growth. In such a wide network is a degree of security as well. After all – the Great Recession may be in the rear view, but you never know when life will throw you a curveball.

Being active with a volunteer organization is a bit like working out. We don't always want to do it, and it can definitely be tough to work up the motivation, but we all know that the benefits are worth the effort. I once heard a relevant saying: "If you don't do it, it doesn't get done." I know that your time is valuable, but it's hard to put a price on the benefits you receive from volunteer service to the section. This year, make the time to come to a few of our meetings. Our meeting topics range across the board from narrow technical topics all the way up to state and federal initiatives and leadership. We offer professional development hours for attendance at our talks as well. Members have come up to me and told me that attending the meetings has led them in new directions they never anticipated, and even helped them out in some tough times. These are recurring themes in the stories of many ASCE volunteers and participants.

*"If you don't do it, it doesn't get done"
– fellow gym-goer, reflecting on
difficult tasks that are worth the effort*

If you fancy leadership, serve on the board! Take this time to seriously consider running for election this coming spring. Service on the board is a sure way to supercharge your career and get your name out there. You can also lead a team to nominate an outstanding project or a deserving individual for one of our OPAL awards. If technical is what you fancy, consider helping us out on the state report card effort. You'll be part of a team of a few dozen dedicated volunteer engineers helping to put together a legislative document for the State. The report card effort is a fantastic example of making connections in high places across the state and putting your name on an accomplishment for which you can be proud. You can also serve on a technical committee and work on some of the toughest challenges facing our country today.

Whatever you decide to do with your 2018, make it a great one. At the risk of sounding a bit sensational, I believe there is no limit to what you can achieve through your involvement with ASCE. I think I speak for everyone on the board when I say that we sincerely hope we here at ASCE Tacoma-Olympia can make a difference in your year. So happy new year!

Volunteering Opportunities

The Tacoma-Olympia section of ASCE needs all of its members to make our section all that it can be! We currently have positions to serve on committees, get involved with our Younger Members Group, and help coordinate events or give presentations. We also have volunteer opportunities for community-minded individuals. Here are some open volunteer positions we have available now. Our volunteer opportunities are always changing, so remember to check back next month if you can't join anything this month! Contact any of your board members if you are interested in serving.

2018 Future City Competition Model & Presentation Judge; *Approx. time commitment: Several hours between 7:30 AM and early afternoon on Saturday, January 20th.* 10 or more model & presentation judges are needed on January 20th, 2018 at Green River Community College. Morning snacks and lunch will be provided! Your job will be to judge student models and presentations on the day of the competition. Register [here](#) as a "Regional Competition Judge" in "Washington Region" as a "Model & Presentation" judge. For more information about the Future City Competition and judging, please check out the [website](#). Feel free to reach out to Sarah Davis, Judge Co-Coordinator, at 425-456-2492 or Sarah.Davis@washingtonfuturecity.org if you have any questions about judging or would like more information.

Government Relations Committee Participants; *Approx. time commitment: 0 to 1 day per month.* The Government Relations Committee is a standing committee within the Section. The committee has a chair and is now in need of a co-chair and participants. The committee may write articles for our newsletter, mobilize members to action for important legislative events or bills, or coordinate with state lobbyists. Some ASCE members even participate in the annual fly-in to Washington D.C. Now is an excellent time to step up and serve the committee under our experienced committee chair's leadership.

History and Heritage Committee Chair; *Approx. time commitment: 0 to 2 days per month.* The History and Heritage Committee is a standing committee concerned with local civil engineering history. This committee position is an excellent fit for history buffs. The responsibilities include researching and dedicating historic works of civil engineering within our geographic area of coverage. The committee is also tasked with producing a quarterly newsletter article about a local work of civil engineering and what makes it historically significant.

Math and Science Tutor (Ongoing); *Approx. time commitment: varies.* Our Section members help local students with math and science tutoring through programs in our schools and colleges. If you have a knack for helping young people with their technical studies, our Section needs your help! You can volunteer for positions that are local and work within your time limitations.

Program Speakers; *Approx. time commitment: 2 days per event.* Our section is always looking for individuals willing to speak to the Section at our monthly programs. Topics pertaining to engineering are always welcome, but our Section has hosted speakers who have given presentations about a range of other topics as well. Speakers are provided with a meal and a small personal item as thanks for their willingness to contribute.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 2018

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| 1 | New Year's Day |
| 3 | ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Board Meeting – 6:30 PM
Elmer's of Tacoma
7427 South Hosmer Street
RSVP not necessary – open attendance to all members |
| 17 | Joint Meeting with the Land Surveyor's Association of Washington
La Quinta Inn & Suites of Tacoma
1425 East 27 th Street
Tacoma, WA 98421
Details TBD – keep an eye on our Section's Events webpage! |
| 20 | 2018 Future City Competition
Green River Community College
12401 Southeast 320th Street
Auburn, WA 98092
Volunteers needed to judge student presentations! |

February 2018

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| 14 | Valentine's Day |
| 16 | St. Martin's University Engineering Banquet
Details TBD – keep an eye on our Section's Events webpage! |

Membership Information

National membership rates may be found at <http://www.asce.org/membership>.

Section membership rates

- Individual: \$25 per year
- Student member: free
- Life member: Free

Advertising Rates

Did you know you can purchase advertising space to promote your business, sponsor the section, and spread the word about job opportunities? Our newsletter is distributed to a growing membership base with about 500 viewers each month. We offer space in our newsletter at the following monthly rates:

- 1/4 page: \$25
- 1/2 page: \$50
- Full page: \$100

If you are interested in purchasing space in our newsletter, contact our treasurer Jessie Chen at (253) 310-6046 or Jessie.asce@hotmail.com.

If you're a member seeking employment, you can request space in our newsletter to run a short ad. All you need to do is contact us!

Connect with us on Facebook! [Click here!](#)
Check out our Instagram account! [Click here!](#)

Looking for a previous issue of the newsletter? You can find them all on our website at: <http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/newsletter>.

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Visit us online at <http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/>.