



Fall 2017

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**Greetings!**

Hello! Thank you for entrusting me to be the 2017-2018 President of the Tennessee Section! I'd like to start by thanking Ashley Smith for doing such a good job as President last year. She did an incredible job as President, and has set it up for me to succeed. Thank you Ashley!

Let me tell you a bit about who I am. I grew up on a dairy farm in a very rural section of Washington County. I became an ASCE member as a student at Tennessee Tech. I graduated with the class of 1992 with my B.S. in Civil Engineering. From there, I went on to graduate school at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and received my M.S. in Environmental Engineering in 1994. I worked as an environmental/civil engineer and worked my way up from Engineering Intern to Vice President and Firm Principal at a small engineering firm over the next fifteen years. After 23 years at Quantum Environmental & Engineering Services, I moved to the University of Tennessee Design Services group. At the University of Tennessee, I work as an Engineering Project Manager for our new construction projects and renovations. One of my more notable projects right now is the renovation of Neyland Stadium!

I became very involved in the ASCE Knoxville Branch about 10 years ago, and have served as an officer from 2012 until now, including two terms as Branch President. I helped found Knoxville's Younger Member Group. I am currently the Knoxville Branch Treasurer.

We had a wonderful turnout at the 2017 Tennessee Engineers' Conference at the Music City Center in Nashville. Over 600 engineers from across the state came to enjoy a wide variety of professional development sessions and networking. Thanks to all of those that attended, as well as our wonderful sponsors and exhibitors! Special thanks to those that helped organize such a great conference. Plans for the 2018 conference are already underway, so please let me know if you have any suggestions on how we can improve it.

Our volunteers and committee chairs work very hard for our members. Don't forget to thank these people, and reach out to them if you need their resources or wish to volunteer. They are listed to the side along with our Branch Presidents. Click on their names to send an email to these hardworking people.

We currently have an open position for our Structural Committee Chair. If you are interested in finding out about this position, please let me know.

In the coming year, I challenge you to keep people engaged in talking

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about Tennessee's and the nation's infrastructure. We recently issued the Report Card for Tennessee's Infrastructure, and our legislature passed the Improve Act. We have been able to educate the public about infrastructure needs, and we need to keep that conversation going. If it will help you, a summary and the Report Card can be found on the Section website. The best way to encourage an investment in our infrastructure is to get people talking about it and contact our state representatives and tell them your thoughts on infrastructure. If we don't speak up, no on will.

Finally, please remember to renew your ASCE membership. As a volunteer, non-profit organization, we rely on current membership dues to fund our activities. We are grateful to you for your continued support of ASCE. I hope you have a great start to 2018 and please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you get more out of your ASCE membership!



Helen S. Hennon, PE  
President, ASCE Tennessee Section  
[hhennon@utk.edu](mailto:hhennon@utk.edu)

**Save the Date!**

**2018 TN  
Engineers'  
Conference**  
(ASCE, TSPE, ACEC,  
and TNSEA)



**Date:** September 2018

**Location:** Franklin Marriott Cool Springs

**Chattanooga Branch Report**

A combination of special events including E-Week activities, an annual Scholarship Fundraiser, and a young member outing, highlight the activities of the ASCE-Chattanooga Branch during the first quarter of 2017. Monthly events for the 1st quarter of 2017 were:

- In January, the branch hosted Mr. Nick McClung who is the Risk and Quality Assurance Manager for TVA Landfill Division. Nick provided a detailed presentation on the Quality procedures and processes utilized by TVA to manage dams, levees, coal combustion impoundments and landfills
- In February the ASCE branch participated in local Engineering Week activities including the Kick-off Luncheon, and the E-Week Banquet Dinner. ASCE was recognized as a primary partnering organization during the luncheon, and the branch was represented by Lukas Salyer, Maria Price, and Melvin Downs. As part to the E-week banquet, Jim Kapsho (Branch Scholarship Chair) presented (2) Scholarships to current UTC students Analisa Sheppard (\$2,300) and Seth Caudle (\$1,700). I have included a thank you letter received from Ms.

Sheppard

- Also in February, the Branch hosted a bowling outing for the Young Member & Student members. Melissa Kelly (Young Member Chair) organized the event and secured sponsorship from CDM Smith. The event was a great time for all who attended!
- In March, the branch held the annual School of Rock PDH Seminar event as a fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund. The annual event is presented & funded by the TN Concrete Pipe Association and generated \$1,000 for the Branch Scholarship Fund, and provided 6 PDH credit hours to attendees.

Looking Ahead:

In May, the Branch will hold a chapter Outing to the Lookouts Baseball Game.

Also in May, the branch will be sponsoring screenings of the Dream Big film for local schools who have field trips scheduled to the Aquarium and IMAX facilities.

## Holston Branch Report

The Branch would like to announce the following officers for the Holston Branch:

President - Jennifer J. Moore, PE

Vice-President - Stacy J. Date, PE

Secretary/Treasurer - Brian Johnson, PE

Steering Committee - Rich Glisson, PE and John Barrett, PE

The next Branch meeting will be at the Bristol Public Library on Tuesday, November 7th starting at 11:45am, in the J. Henry Kegley Meeting Room. We will be watching the webinar "Significant Changes to the Wind Load Provisions of ASCE 7-16" 1 PDH will be given if you pass the online test at 70% or better. Limited to 30 people, with members given preference.

Life Members, Stephen Mingle, Randy McQueen, and Clyde Kidd, will be recognized in a TBA meeting in December.

All of the latest Branch events can be found on the website calendar at [www.asce-holston.org](http://www.asce-holston.org). If you would like additional information about our branch or upcoming meetings please contact us at [asce.holston@gmail.com](mailto:asce.holston@gmail.com) (goes to the current President).

## Knoxville Branch Report

On July 28, 2017, the Knoxville Branch held the annual ASCE golf tournament. The proceeds from this event goes to help fund scholarships to UTK engineering students. The day started with a lunch then shotgun start tournament then wrapped up with awards and prizes. The event was well-attended as always, even with the typical summer weather. We hosted the event at Centennial Golf Course in Oak Ridge. 140 golfers participated, and everyone had a great time, except one of the cart drivers who had an "off" day. The most important part of the day was the fact that we raised over \$6,000 to fund scholarships. Thanks to Aaron Gray and Wayne Hastings for all the hard work they put into organizing the golf tournament and prizes.

In August, we teamed with SAME for a monthly meeting at Oak Ridge. The event was well attended with over 40 joining us for the

presentation. Jay Gabrielson of Vulcan Materials spoke about a new design technique called Inverted Pavement. As always, everyone enjoyed the location on Melton Hill Lake, and the food provided by Calhoun's.

We did not hold a meeting during September due to several of our members attending the Tennessee Engineers' Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

## Nashville Branch Report

Recent Activities:

August - The Branch held a joint meeting with SAME including Jeff Hammond, Metro Public Works as Speaker. Attendance included 115 pre-registered.

September - The Branch deferred holding an independent event in support of the Tennessee Engineering Conference that month.

October - The branch heard a presentation from Jeff Hooper regarding the intricacies and coordination related to the delivery of the new TopGolf facility.

November - Lipscomb University will host the Branch for a night-time meeting with a topic of the University's Mission Work in Central America.

The Branch has also planned its annual card game for December 7th, and the Younger Members are planning a ReLeafing Day later on November 18th.

The Branch's Budget for FY18 is just shy of \$59,000, and includes an intentional support focusing on student transitions and continued support to our Younger Members.

Our Branch continues to hold regular monthly meetings which are typically the third Thursday of the month and Board meetings are the following Wednesday. Everyone is encouraged to visit our website at [www.nashvilleasce.org](http://www.nashvilleasce.org) to learn more about the Branch's upcoming events and activities.

## West Tennessee Branch Report

The West Tennessee Branch Board met July 14th, August 11th and September 8th to discuss Branch business. Branch meetings were not held in July and August as the Branch does not typically host summer meetings. Mayor Jim Strickland spoke at the annual Kickoff Meeting on September 21st and discussed development in the Memphis area. Three life members, Wade Towles' (in memoriam), Kenneth Markwell and Richard Sweigard, were inducted and the new branch leadership was installed during the kickoff meeting. Engineering presentations were hosted monthly in Jackson, TN.

The 25th Annual ASCE West TN Branch Golf Tournament was held on June 21st and \$2,300 was raised for the student chapters of the Branch. The funds will be added to the fundraising for the concrete canoe trailers. The plans and specifications for the canoe trailers are currently being developed. The CBU Student Chapter hosted a free viewing of the Dream Big video on campus on September 9th. Dr. Stephanie Ivy is starting a STEM club at East High and they had their first meeting in September. She ordered ASCE T-shirts and food for everyone in the club and they will attend the screening of Dream Big in the near future.

## 2016 Report Card for Tennessee - Solutions

The 2016 Report Card for Tennessee's Infrastructure Committee prepared a full report on the state of Tennessee's Infrastructure. The Report included 5 Key Solutions and Summarizes of each of the 10 areas highlighted. Over the next year the Tennessee Section will be highlighting the Key Solutions and respective infrastructure areas.

### **Solution #3**

Raise awareness of the true cost of water. Current water rates do not reflect the true cost of supplying clean, reliable drinking water. Replacing Tennessee's antiquated pipes will require significant local investment, including higher water rates.

### **Drinking Water - B**

Currently 485 public water systems in Tennessee serve 6.9 million customers, including industrial and commercial users. Approximately 90% of Tennessee's population is served by a public water system. Yet unaccounted water losses in water distribution systems of 40% or greater are common due to aging infrastructure. Tennessee utilities spent millions of dollars over the last 10 years to improve service to customers. The EPA estimates Tennessee's total 20-year drinking water infrastructure needs as \$2.7 billion.

### **Waste Water - D+**

Like most states, Tennessee suffers from aging wastewater infrastructure. Tennessee has 242 municipal sewage treatment and collection systems regulated by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, and they serve about two-thirds of the state's population. About 45% of the annual sewage flow treated in wastewater facilities originates from groundwater or rainwater leaking through deteriorated sewage pipes, joints, or manholes. Reports submitted by 55 systems show that they experienced peak-day flows that exceeded facility capacity more than 60 days in a year. Combining the estimate of \$1.1 billion (to cut Infiltration/ Inflow leakage in half) with additional data in the US-EPA Clean Water Needs Survey (CWNS) shows an overall need of \$2.6 billion for Tennessee.

## TN A&E Board Briefing

Rule and Policy changes:

- Rollover for Continuing Ed will no longer be allowed (effective date is likely sometime next year)
- Engineers can document Cont. Ed. on calendar year or renewal period
- A motion was passed by the Board to allow a 1:3 application of experience for work prior to a degree (max 1 year). This will allow internship, co-op, or other work experience gained prior to obtaining a degree to apply towards the four year experience requirement for licensure.
- On decoupling: The Board is still waiting for Society input. Kasey Anderson is organizing a committee made up of members from several societies in an attempt to develop a position to present to the Board.
- Meetings are recorded and live-streamed (not live this month). See <https://tn.gov/commerce/topic/arch-public-meeting-information>

