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Quarterly Newsletter - May 2024



President's Message – Matt Dahlem

It's baaaaaack! Let's welcome back the Quarterly Newsletter 2.0! We, on the Board of Directors, felt that bringing this back would be a great way to satisfy the members of the past while also giving it a reboot, and giving the newer members more interest and involvement in ASCE Wisconsin.

I hope everyone had a great winter and is having a great spring.

A little about me, I love to hunt and I love to fish. So as a member of the Fox River Valley Branch, I wanted to share that I had a great time chasing walleyes in my Branch's namesake - the Fox River! They weren't all great and I got skunked a few days, but at least managed to get a nice picture with one that I got in early April, and hope that the rest of you anglers had a good spring as well - and hope you all had good luck on the opener too!

Moving onto the ASCE side of things, we have approximately 2,000 members living around the great state of Wisconsin. While I've had the opportunity to meet just a small fraction of you, I know that you are deeply proud to be Wisconsin engineers. It's because of you that we had a great Spring Technical Conference (STC) in Green Bay – shout out to the Fox River Valley Branch for putting together and conducting such a great STC at UW-Green Bay! Looking ahead, I'm very proud of our Southeast and Northwest Branches for spearheading the initiatives laid out in the fall and putting together golf outings at Ironwood in Sussex and at Mill Run in Eau Claire, respectively. These types of outings are not only very important for raising money for ASCE causes, but just as importantly, it allows us to bond as ASCE-ers, develop relationships, and ultimately better the ASCE Wisconsin Section. After all, it's us and our firms that support the engineering cause, help to shape our future, hire our graduates and apply our engineering skills in countless ways for a better Wisconsin. Let's continue to truly be our most enthusiastic ambassadors of our craft and like I said after taking my Presidential oath, "Every engineer should be a member of ASCE."

News from ASCE Region Director Ken Mika

Member Grades: The ASCE Board of Direction endorsed a path toward streamlining member categories to make the profession more welcoming to the entire engineering team. Currently, individuals in the member, associate, and affiliate grades pay the same dues and have the same benefits and voting rights. Consolidating these three grades into one would simplify the “join” process while saving the Society money to provide a greater value to our Members.



The Society would retain distinguished member, fellow, life, and student member grades.

“Consolidating member grades is an important step for ASCE’s alignment with both our strategic plan and our code of ethics,” said ASCE President Marsia Geldert-Murphey.

“We state in our strategic plan: ‘Amplify our collective impact through a vibrant, engaged, and growing membership.’ In our code of ethics, we state, ‘Promote, and exhibit inclusive, equitable, and ethical behavior in all engagements with colleagues.’

“We know professional engineers as leaders of the civil engineering team are already distinguished by their P.E. Consolidating membership grades is about both inclusion and amplification. Over the last 50 years, we have witnessed a remarkable acceleration in technological innovation, with breakthroughs in various fields shaping the way we live, work, and interact, and that will only accelerate in the next 50 years. Civil engineers are systems integrators, and we must strive to improve our pathways to attract new members from the broader infrastructure community.”

Because the change would require updates to the ASCE governing documents—along with separate criteria related to service on the board—the specific language of the new membership grades and criteria must be approved by the board later this year before being included on the Society election ballot in 2025.

Please get in touch with Ken Mika (ken.mika@tetrattech.com) if you have any questions or comments about the proposed member grade changes.

[Read full article, here.](#)

Strategic Plan Metrics

Strategic Priorities

1. Internal Collaboration
2. Growth
3. Big Branch Events

Goals for this Quarter

1. Attend the golf outings
2. Get an engineer in your firm to join ASCE
3. Enjoy the summer and connect with some fellow ASCE members – be proactive!

Upcoming Events and deadlines:

1. **June 1** - Award Nominations due. Learn more here: <https://sections.asce.org/wisconsin-section/awards>

2. **June 7, 2024** - ASCE SE Branch Scholarship Golf Tournament – [Registration](#) is live as well as sponsorship registration ([more info here](#)).
3. **August 9, 2024** - ASCE WI NW Branch 1st Annual Charity Golf Tournament – Mill Run Golf Course, Eau Claire, WI. Please visit the "Events" tab on the NW Branch website (<https://www.ascewinw.org/events/>) for links to register and/or sponsor the event. Please contact Travis Pickering (travis.pickering@eauclairecounty.gov) if you have questions.

Branch Updates



Fox River Valley Branch

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College appreciates the support the branch provided its students in welcoming them to join the UW-Green Bay Student Chapter. Thank you to all who brought your time and talent to make it happen.

We always welcome more volunteers to help conduct branch activities. This can be as simple as suggesting individuals at your organization who might be willing to give a short presentation about a project. This has served as a great way for local companies to recruit or promote their businesses. Tap into the talent and potential of hundreds of local professionals!

Northwest Branch

Save the date for August 9, 2024 - ASCE WI NW Branch 1st Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Mill Run Golf Course in Eau Claire, WI - Once the event is live with Sponsorships and Registration available, ASCE members will be notified through an email blast and it will also be posted on the ASCE Wisconsin LinkedIn page. Once you receive the email, please feel free to share the email with contacts who are not members of ASCE. Then, please visit the "Events" tab on the NW Branch website (<https://www.ascewinw.org/events/>) for links to register and/or sponsor the event. Please contact Travis Pickering (travis.pickering@eauclairecounty.gov) if you have questions.



Southwest Branch

The Southwest Branch recently hosted an ethics PDH opportunity (presentation by Jeffery Russell on Ethical Engineering Practices) and a bowling social, both of which were well attended. This summer we have several events in the works.

Save the date, Friday June 21st, to see Madison's new softball team, the Night Mares, in action (more information to follow). Save the date, Thursday Aug. 29th to cheer on Madison's soccer team, Forward Madison (more information to follow).



Southeast Branch

June 7, 2024 - ASCE SE Branch Scholarship Golf Tournament – [Registration](#) is live and with Sponsorships ([more info here](#)).

Awards Updates

Nominations for the **ASCE Wisconsin Section Awards** are due by **June 1, 2024!**

Please ensure that you submit nominations recognizing ASCE Wisconsin Section members and projects for exceptional achievement by that time.

These honors award younger members, career professionals, outstanding projects, and journalists.

Full Awards Information & Nomination Forms



Nominate a Civil Engineering **Individual** for the:

- Thomas Walther Distinguished Service Award
- Excellence in Journalism Award
- Individual Merit Awards Awards - with categories including Education, Government, and Private Practice
- Young Civil Engineer of the Year Award
- Luther Graef Individual Merit Award for Engineer in Consulting Practice

Nominate a Civil Engineering **Project** for the Wisconsin Section Engineering Achievement Awards (please notice that these categories have changed from previous year's!):

- Category A – Costs less than \$5 million
- Category B – Costs \$5 million to less than \$15 million
- Category C – Costs \$15 million to less than \$25 million
- Category D – Costs \$25 million to less than \$50 million
- Category E – Costs greater than \$50 million (New Category!)

Up to two awards can be awarded in each of the above project categories.

All nominations should be submitted to the Awards Committee, via email to contact@ascewi.org by Saturday, June 1, 2024.

The Panel of Directors-at-Large reviews all award nominations and provides recommendations to the Wisconsin Section Board of Directors for final approval. The awards in these categories will be presented at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Report Card Update



Co-Chair Ken Mika

The 2024 ASCE Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card Committee is continuing to work on drafting the 2024 ASCE Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card. Volunteers are working hard to meet our current deadlines for a release in September. Thank you to our volunteers for your efforts!

Co-Chair: Jennifer Schaff, Co-Chair: Zoey Meyers, Amr El ragaby, Bob Bryson, Brian Udovich, Bruce Ramme, Craig Harley, Crystal Strait, Carl Sutter, Carol Diggelman, Danny X. Xia, Darrell Berry, David Sonne, Gerald DeMers, Gregory Schroeder, Gretchen Bohnhoff, Jake Brunoehler, Jennifer Hurlebaus, Jesse Jefferson, Joanna Bush, John McCarthy, Josh Mitchell, Justin

Bilskemper, Laura Gerold, Madison Anderson, Martin Hanson, Michael Schwar, Mike Penn, Ryan Betker, Seth Johnson, Tony Castle, Vik Verma, and Warren Hayden.

If you are interested in still volunteering, please reached out to Ken Mika (ken.mika@tetrattech.com) if interested.

Student Symposia

The Marquette University Student Chapter has been selected by the ASCE Committee on Student Members to receive a Letter of Honorable Mention for its outstanding activities as recorded in the 2023 Student Chapter annual report. This is recognition received by only the top third of all Student Organizations.

The Chapter's accomplishments reflect the enthusiasm and hard work of the student officers and members, but also the fine guidance of the faculty advisor (Daniel Zitomer, Ph.D., P.E., daniel.zitomer@mu.edu) and practitioner advisors (Chad O'Donnell, P.E., M.ASCE, codonnell1972@gmail.com and Kyle Bareither, P.E., M.ASCE, Kyle.Bareither@ramboll.com). Every individual who had a part in this endeavor should be justifiably proud of thier contributions to the development of the future of civil engineering.

Great work and congratulations to the Marquette University Student Chapter!

Forward Thinking

The future of ASCE Wisconsin is the students. We have six student chapters in Wisconsin:

- UW- Platteville
- UW-Madison
- UW-Milwaukee
- UW-Green Bay
- Marquette University
- Milwaukee School of Engineering

We want to hear from you! As student chapters, please find a way to get involved! Please contact our Director at Large Zoey Meyers at zoeym@jt-engineering.com for engagement opportunities.

Younger Members

Not only are our students the future of ASCE Wisconsin, but so are the younger members. If you are a recent graduate, and haven't done so already, I encourage you to transition your student membership to an associate / affiliate membership.

The YMG is dedicated to providing opportunities for those 35 and younger to socialize, network, learn, and volunteer.

If you are interested in a YMG or even joining a YMG board, please contact your branch YMG so you can be proactive in coming up with ideas, plan events, and be engaged in the ASCE Wisconsin branches at a level your comfy with. Contacts are:

- Northwest YMG Contacts: <https://www.ascewinw.org/board-officers/>
- Fox River Valley YMG Contacts: <https://branches.asce.org/fox-river-valley/contacts>
- Southwest YMG Contacts: https://ascewisw.org/?page_id=381
- Southeast YMG Contacts: <https://www.ascewise.org/ymg-board/>

Social Media Updates

Follow Wisconsin Section on **LinkedIn**

Below are some highlights from the first half of 2024. Our mission with this page is connect our members, share our successes, and keep our members informed. Please reach out to us so we can share your news too at contact@ascewi.org!

ASCE Wisconsin Section
792 followers

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These honors award younger members, career professionals, outstanding projects, and journalists.

More info here: <https://conta.cc/3ykh4q>



ASCE
WISCONSIN SECTION

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

2024 WISCONSIN SECTION AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Submit by June 1

More information: <https://sections.asce.org/wisconsin-section/awards>

ASCE Wisconsin Section ASCE @AceWisconsin - Apr 22 Promote

National Volunteer Week is this week! Thank you to all the wonderful ASCE WI Volunteers, including the Board!



April 21 - 27, 2024

CELEBRATING
ASCE WI VOLUNTEERS
WE THANK YOU ALL!

ASCE WI SECTION BOARD
<https://sections.asce.org/wisconsin-section/contacts>

ASCE Wisconsin Section
792 followers

Congratulations **Ken Mika, PE, BCGE, FASCE!**

Civil Engineering Certification
430 followers

Congratulations to **Ken Mika, PE, BCGE, FASCE** for achieving his Board-Certified Geotechnical Engineer (BC, GE) #boardcertification, the highest post-licensure board certification in geotechnical engineering. Mr. Mika was board-certified for his advanced expertise, advanced education and experience, and attainment of specialized body of knowledge in geotechnical engineering.

Mr. Mika is currently a Client Manager and Central Region Area Manager for **Tetra Tech** in Green Bay, Wisconsin, where he is leading their construction quality assurance teams. Mr. Mika is a recognized leader in the design and application of in situ solidification/stabilization (ISS) technology for waste, manufactured gas plants, and contaminated sediments. He has led both field oversight and design on over 600,000 cubic yards of ISS and deep soil mixing (DSM) projects in multiple states. In 2016, he led the design/construction team for a 75,000 cubic yard ISS project that earned the ASCE Wisconsin Section Engineering Achievement Award.

Among his notable accomplishments, Mr. Mika was recognized by his peers as an ASCE Fellow, receiving the Outstanding Alumni Award from the University of Wisconsin Platteville; Future 15 Award recipient from the **Greater Green Bay Chamber**; and recipient of the ASCE Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement. Ken is an active ASCE volunteer, currently serving on the National ASCE Board of Direction and serves as Chair of the Board Strategic Advisory Committee.

Ken received his Bachelor of Science in civil engineering and his Master of Science in engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He is a licensed professional engineer in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, Washington, and Wisconsin.

#ASCE #CEC #civilengineering #geotechnicalengineering #boardcertification #advanceyourcareer

Connect with us!



ASCE Wisconsin Section | 1502 W Broadway Suite 102, Madison, WI 53713

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