

President's Message

By R. Michael Hale



Believe it or not, it's November! Time has fallen back, it's dark sooner in the evening, it's cooler, it's wetter, it's... oh, well it's sure enough *FALL!* We're shortly heading towards the Holiday Season.

I hope those of you that were able to make last month's section meeting enjoyed the presentation on neurodiversity by Mr. Samad Aidane. I hear it was a very interesting presentation. I was out of town and missed the meeting.

We have an interesting civil engineering project presentation coming up at this month's section meeting – the City of Tacoma's Central Wastewater Treatment Plant Flood Wall Construction Project. The flood wall was constructed to protect the plant from damage in the event of flooding in the area as a result of rain storms. Lance Bunch, the City's project manager for the Environmental Services Department, will be giving a presentation and guided tour of the new facilities. I hope you all can make it!

As you are aware, we want our Section to be as active as possible. With this in mind, it would be great if we could get some committees up and going in the Section. Committees can be about anything, but some standard committees for ASCE sections include an Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Awards committee; Community/Outreach committee; Membership committee; Government Relations committee; and a historic committee (we have one in place, but it is not currently active). These are just a few. If you have some ideas of how our section can be more beneficial to our Section and Members, please let us know!

Our section board is also looking for programs for our upcoming section meetings. If you are involved in or know someone that is working on a project that would make for a good presentation to our members, please let us know!

We are always looking for and welcoming new members to ASCE Tacoma-Olympia. I encourage you to invite someone to one of our section meetings! They might like what we have to offer and what we're all about.

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Mount Rainier Park heralds the season with its beautiful display of fall colors.

November 2015 Monthly Program

City of Tacoma Central Wastewater Treatment Plant Flood Wall Construction Project



Mr. Lance Bunch will be presenting a project which recently completed construction of a new flood wall for the City of Tacoma's Central Wastewater Treatment Plant. Lance Bunch is an Associate Engineer and Project Manager for the City of Tacoma's Environmental Services Department. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Washington State University (WSU). Prior to attending to WSU, Lance had a career as a Journeyman Millwright in the timber industry for 10 years.

The City of Tacoma's Central Wastewater Treatment Plant (CWWTP) is the most critical piece of wastewater infrastructure within the City of Tacoma. The CWWTP treats approximately 80 percent of the City's wastewater. During wet weather months, this facility treats an average flow of about 30 million gallons per day. In a large winter storm event, the CWWTP can receive and treat over 130 million gallons of wastewater in a single day.

The CWWTP is located on the west bank of the Puyallup River in the Tacoma tide flats, where it is protected from routine flooding by a series of levees constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Despite the existing levee system, the CWWTP was still at risk from flooding due to possible overtopping of the levee system upstream of the CWWTP. To mitigate this risk, the City constructed a flood protection system. The flood protection system consists of approximately 2,700 feet of steel sheet piles extending 4 to 8 feet above grade with an additional 15 to 25 feet below grade. The presentation includes a tour of the new facilities.

Speaker	Mr. Lance Bunch, Associate Engineer and Project Manager
Date and Time	November 16, 2015 at 11:30 am
Location	City of Tacoma Central Wastewater Treatment Plant Sewer Transmission Conference Room 2201 Portland Avenue East – North Gate Entrance Tacoma, WA 98421
Schedule	11:30 am – Social gathering 12:00 pm – Announcements and business 12:15 pm – Lunch (box lunches provided by Neighborhood Bistro) 12:35 pm – Project Site Visit and Tour
Cost	Members: \$16.00 Students: \$8.00
Menu	All box lunches include a roll or chips, sliced apple, house-baked cookie, bottled water, and one of the following sandwich or wrap options: turkey (white/wheat), ham (white/wheat), roast beef (white/wheat), grilled veggie wraps. Gluten-free is available.
Reservations	Reservations may be made electronically through the invitation sent by Constant Contact or by contacting Michael Hale or Jessie Chen. The deadline for making a reservation is Thursday, November 12 at noon. Jessie Chen – (253) 310-6046 or Jessie.asce@hotmail.com Michael Hale – (253) 591-5766 or mhale@cityoftacoma.org

November 2015 Announcements

Happy Thanksgiving! Your leadership team is walking the talk, and we've accomplished a lot in the last month. We're excited for more progress and we are thrilled with the member response! We had a successful October program with Mr. Samad Aidane, whose talk on multicultural teams and leadership was riveting. If you missed out, that was surely a mistake! Mr. Aidane is happy to speak with your firm or organization. If you're interested, contact Frank Marescalco and he will provide you with more information.

- ***Region 8 Special Grant Program***

The Tacoma-Olympia section of ASCE is part of Region 8 (http://www.asce.org/region_8/), one of the regional delineations of ASCE that is done on a national level. Our region consists of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and Hawaii. Region 8 has a special grant program through which a section may be awarded funding to pursue a project that satisfies Region 8's strategic initiatives: promotion of the profession of civil engineering, improved communications between sections, branches, and the region leadership, and providing support to the Region 8 entities. If you'd like to make a business case for funding, contact any of your section officers.

- ***Webmaster Needed***

Are you experienced in creating websites? Then the Tacoma-Olympia Section could use your help! Our section is in need of a website. Please contact any one of our board members if you are willing to assist with creating the section's online appearance.

- ***Younger Members Group Progress***

Our Younger Members Group held its first evening social in Puyallup this month with a great turnout. We are in the process of setting up another meetup in the Olympia area for January – watch your inbox for an invitation! If you have any questions about the Younger Member Group or would like to get involved, feel free to email Carlyn Harlow at carlynharlow@gmail.com.

- ***Collaboration with St. Martin's University's ASCE Student Chapter***

The Tacoma-Olympia Section is affiliated with St. Martin's University's ASCE Student Chapter and is looking for members to help the University's students understand that civil engineering is more than hydraulic classes and long test problems! If you are interested in meeting with the students, mentoring, or delivering a presentation about your career or a particular project, the students could greatly benefit from it! The students would also appreciate job shadowing opportunities or even receiving tours of offices and job sites. If you are interested in connecting with the St. Martin's Students, please contact Carlyn Harlow at carlynharlow@gmail.com.

- ***National Engineers Week, February 2016***

Did you know that the National Engineers Week in February (week of the 21st) is dedicated to celebrating the achievements and importance of our profession? This is an excellent time to get professionals out in to the community to connect with the public and tell them about all the wonderful things that we as engineers do. Our section is starting early looking for volunteers to help us get the word out! We will work with volunteers to get a program set up and get people engaged. Contact any of your section officers to contribute.

- ***Feature Articles***

Got something you'd like to share in our newsletter? We accept guest articles! You can write about anything such as a neat project, a community issue, local civil engineering history, or an event or conference recap! Just let us know! Contact Frank Marescalco if you're interested.

Spotlight on Government Relations

By Frank Marescalco

This month, I'd like to take a moment to talk about one of my favorite aspects of ASCE membership: government relations. Through ASCE, engineers like you and me have a voice to talk to our lawmakers on the local, State, and Federal level. You can do it through ASCE's Key Contacts Program (<http://www.asce.org/keycontacts/>), through committee membership on the local or national level, and through participation in section and state events such as legislative drive-ins or fly-ins. If you're really ambitious, you can even become a Congressional Fellow through ASCE. And many sections, including ours in Washington, have hired lobbyists to assist in government relations. The government relations program is robust.



Yet for its robustness, I don't see very many members take advantage of this opportunity. Indeed, my conversations with political canvassers and congressional aides confirm that civil engineers as a group are largely silent on political matters, despite the dire need for new and innovative legislation regarding infrastructure. I think that part of the silence is due simply to the nature of civil engineers as people – most of us aren't known as particularly outspoken or boisterous individuals – with some notable exceptions, of course. The other part of this inactivity, I speculate, is the idea that someone else will do it.

There are certainly national-level staff whose primary responsibility is government relations between the civil engineering industry and the government. But we all know that Federal legislation has been in gridlock over high-profile issues for years; and even if you never open your emails, you know that Congress puts infrastructure issues on the backburner over and over again. What's more, most of our national-level staff simply don't have the resources to focus on individual state legislation. That's where the sections come in.

The state of our nation's infrastructure has been highlighted in a humorous way by several television personalities – John Oliver and Stephen Colbert both have segments on infrastructure that are worth checking out (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wpzvaqypav8> for John Oliver's coverage). John Oliver's segment highlights an important piece of the puzzle – take a look at the national response to the idea of raising the gas tax to revitalize the Highway Trust Fund. Not one positive vote came in on the call-in. If you're a legislator, would you endorse that bill? Now, think about our state legislature. Under immense pressure to cut taxes and fund pressing issues like schools, issues related to infrastructure funding are likely to go entirely unaddressed without some sort of voice.

And we must be that voice. If you and I don't do it, no one will. Our section is working with other Washington sections to plan a legislative event for 2016. But before we get to that point, we need to do our homework. We are actively looking for members who are interested in legislative matters as they pertain to our industry. I'll start – one of my topics of interest is the idea of street utilities. It is a fascinating and creative means of sustainably funding transportation infrastructure without relying on unpopular tax increases that could be “stolen” to fund other public functions. What a change that would be! Imagine – robust street maintenance, the ability to respond to citizen complaints, the ability to augment private development dollars and build the streets our communities deserve. Sounds like exactly the type of change that drove us to become who we are in the first place, doesn't it?

As educated professionals, can we really sit on the sidelines and have a legitimate complaint against our legislators when the only voices they hear are those of hysterical taxpayers and extremist advocacy groups? Is it any wonder our world is in disarray? It's time we added our valuable voice to the mix. You can get involved by contacting me or any of our section officers! Let us know your thoughts and passions!

Call to Members – Get Involved!

The Tacoma-Olympia section of ASCE needs all of its members to make our section all that it can be! We are currently searching for members 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 is just a partial list of ways you can get involved:

- Nominate a project or a local engineer you know for recognition
- Give a presentation at our monthly program
- Tutor math for students K-12 or college
- Give a presentation at a local school about civil engineering
- Study for your PE Exam with other soon-to-be professional engineers
- Serve on our Younger Member Group leadership team
- Serve on or start your own committee on anything – topics range from technical matters to government relations to history
- Start a volunteer crew for Habitat or Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful
- Start a coed recreational sports team
- Start a team for Sound to Narrows, or a color run team
- Start a team for a benefit event, such as a walk for cancer research
- Anything else you can think of!

Our section is also in need of someone to help us get our website off the ground. If you or anyone you know would be interested, contact us!

If you're looking for ways to get your firm involved with our section, we have those, too! Here are a few ideas:

- Host a presentation on a technical subject relevant to your firm
- Give a presentation on a project your firm has done
- Host a PE exam study session

Did you know that you can post a job opening in our newsletter as well?

We also offer advertising in our newsletter. It's a great way to reach hundreds of local subscribers in the engineering community! If you are interested in purchasing space in our newsletter, contact us! See our back page for details.

If you have an idea that you think could help make our section better or if you want to get involved, feel free to email or call any of your officers. Section officer contact information is available at the end of the newsletter.

Committees

If you're looking for ways to get involved in our section, we have open positions on committees available now. The possibilities for committees are endless, but we've listed below a few basic committees and the essential duties they perform. There are opportunities on all committees now. Please contact any of your section officers if you are interested in serving.

- ***Community and Outreach Committee***
This committee is responsible for organizing community outreach programs such as K-12 school visits, college visits, job shadowing, competitions like the concrete canoe program and the steel bridge program, coordinating events with science centers, and mobilizing ASCE's presence to fairs – just to name a few things.
- ***Outstanding Projects and Leaders Awards Committee***
This committee organizes our annual banquet and awards ceremonies which typically take place in April each year. The committee sets award categories, reviews/approves nominations for awards, and seeks out exemplary individuals and projects in our community.
- ***Membership Committee***
This committee concerns itself with the healthy growth of membership in the section and makes sure that our members get maximum value from their membership. Responsibilities include member communication and outreach, surveys, and leadership recruiting.
- ***Historic Committee***
This committee formed in earlier days of ASCE Tacoma-Olympia and is still on the books, but it needs new members. The committee's primary interest is local civil engineering history. With such historical treasures as the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, the Glass Museum, the old Union Station, and the Port of Tacoma nearby, our heritage deserves recognition and celebration.
- ***Government Relations Committee***
For members who are interested in our legislation as it pertains to civil engineering, the Government Relations Committee is a great way to get involved. The committee's responsibilities include staying abreast of legislation, informing the section when action is needed, mobilizing our presence to legislative events, and even advocating for new policy. Our lawmakers didn't go to school to be engineers, so it's important that our profession be a voice for them when it comes to the technical side of things. Without the efforts of our industry, our lawmakers make decisions in a semi-informed void.

Committees are living, changing entities and they adapt to the needs of our members and our section. If you have a passion that isn't listed here, it doesn't mean you can't form a committee of your own. Contact us today to get a conversation going!

Calendar of Events

November 2015

4	ASCE Inland Empire Section Alternative Project Delivery Methods for Construction – All-day Seminar (6 PDHs) Mukogoawa Fort Wright Institute, Spokane, WA Contact Alan Gay at (509) 328-5139 or alan.gay@stantec.com
5	Tacoma Evening Social – 5:30 PM The Powerhouse Restaurant and Brewery 454 East Main Avenue, Puyallup, WA 98372
9	ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Board Meeting – 6:00 PM The Harmon Brewery and Eatery 1938 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402
12	Society of American Military Engineers November Meeting – 11:30 AM Eagles Pride Golf Club I-5 Exit 116 JBLM, Tacoma, WA 98433 Facility Condition Assessment and Asset Management – Bryan Claxton Reservations through Kim Kaul at kkaul@ahbl.com
16	November Section Meeting – 11:30 AM City of Tacoma Central Wastewater Treatment Plant 2201 Portland Avenue East
26	Thanksgiving!

December 2015

7	ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Board Meeting – 6:30 PM Olympia, WA – location to be determined
25	Christmas

Membership Information

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

Section membership rates

- Individual: \$25 per year
- 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.

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