



President's Message

Here we are in the heat of summer and, just when we should be taking a break from the hot air of political elections, many of us are in the midst of one of the several heated "recall" elections around the state. In my 50-plus years of living, I can't recall a time when there was such division among the populace at the most elemental level - the level at which we relate to our own existence and the existence of our fellow human beings. Why am I here and, most significantly for political issues, why are you here and why is "here" here? Though it would be entertaining (for me anyway) to ramble on about those matters, I will instead turn to a topic on which we civil engineers do agree. We agree that what we do is important. Important to whom? To others, to society, and to ourselves, whether or not our value is rightly perceived by any of those.

That leads to an interesting question - is it necessarily true that because what we do is important, more of what we do should be done? I would argue that it is not necessarily true in all cases. It is only true if there is a need for more of what we do. Otherwise there could be too much of a good thing, or worse yet, a body of valuable professionals trying to create needs just so their services are in demand.

ASCE believes, and most civil engineers would likely agree, that there is a need for investment in repair and upgrades to existing civil infrastructure. Even if ASCE's Infrastructure Report Cards overstate the need for such investment somewhat because our standards for infrastructure are higher than those of society at large, the Report Cards do demonstrate a gap between need and investment that will cost even more in the future if not addressed in the present. ASCE is right to prepare and distribute the Infrastructure Report Cards to those who make financial allocation decisions - legislators and the public. I do not consider those Report Cards as a profession merely trying to make work for itself, although civil engineers would certainly benefit by additional funding allocations. However, it must be remembered that engineering represents only a small part of overall project costs, and the profession's benefit would be only a small portion of the value of the infrastructure investment. Other sectors would reap more of the immediate financial gain. However, Society would be the main benefactor.

As mentioned in the previous Wisconsin Section Newsletter, ASCE at the National level is evaluating adding a 501(c)6 designation to its present 501(c)3 status. The addition would expand the lobbying efforts that ASCE is legally allowed to perform under the federal tax code. The additional lobbying that would become allowed includes preparation of voting record information on legislators and endorsing specific candidates.

Another, perhaps even more significant, difference is that a 501(c)3 organization exists for the benefit of the public, whereas a 501(c)6 organization exists for the benefit of its members. That would make it far more difficult to defend ourselves against the accusation that our Infrastructure Report Cards are merely an effort to make work for civil engineers. After all, with a 501(c)6 designation, the organization would then exist for the benefit of its members. The credibility of the organization and, by implication, its members could be diminished. In his Vision Statement of Gregory E. Diloreto, ASCE's national candidate for President-elect, paraphrases JFK to say "It is not what ASCE can do for you, and what benefits it can provide you, it is clearly what skills and talents you can provide to enhance our profession and achieve the ultimate goal of civil engineers in protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public we serve." This is consistent with a 501(c)3 organization, but not necessarily a 501(c)6 organization.

There were some responses to my request for feedback on this topic in the previous Newsletter, all of which opposed adding the 501(c)6 designation. I very much appreciate the comments and thank each of you who took the time to send them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, cont.

Brad Jansen recently received a Daniel Meade award for his excellent paper on whether preparation of the Infrastructure Report Card created a conflict of interests for civil engineers in the market sectors that directly benefitted from construction of additional infrastructure. His position is that there is indeed an actual or potential conflict of interests, and he suggested that the conflict could be reduced if engineers in the academic sector (to which I would add retired civil engineers) prepared the Report Cards. These same concerns would exist to a greater extent if ASCE were designated a 501(c)6 organization.

After a rather long and balanced discussion, the Wisconsin Section Board has approved a resolution opposing the addition of a 501(c)6 designation to ASCE's present 501(c)3 status. The vote was 11 yes, 0 no, and 3 abstain. We unreservedly appreciate the ASCE leadership's desire to be out in front, advocating on behalf of our profession. We also understand that in today's political environment, success often depends upon having the ear of those in authority. However, in the end we believe that it is best for the profession, and for society, if we earn that "ear of those in authority" by the use of rational persuasion, demonstrable fact, and clear presentation of the costs of ignoring our recommendations. We believe that is best achieved by remaining an organization that exists for the benefit of the public rather than for the benefit of its members. We believe that is most consistent with ASCE's vision for the future of civil engineering leadership. A copy of the resolution is included in this Newsletter. We would still be pleased to receive any comments you might have - please email them to me at BillMeyer@evergreencivil.com or by U.S. Mail to me at Evergreen Civil Engineering LLC, 2408 Evergreen Road, Wausau, WI 54403.

To return to the topic of elections, please vote in ASCE's National election and in our own Wisconsin Section election. Your participation is highly valued. I also encourage you to be informed and vote in any of the State recall elections that are underway. And stay cool!

Bill Meyer

Resolution Opposing Addition of 501(c)(6) designation to ASCE

1. Resolution Whereas the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is currently designated as a 501(c)(3) organization; and
2. Whereas ASCE currently engages in effective lobbying on behalf of programs and policies that promote public health and safety; and
3. Whereas ASCE's present lobbying efforts include preparation and dissemination of Infrastructure Report Cards at National and State levels as information for legislators and policy makers to reference; and
4. Whereas ASCE has an effective means to enlist member support in individual lobbying and legislative contact; and
5. Whereas ASCE's credibility as a source of unbiased information on issues related to infrastructure could be jeopardized by additional lobbying efforts on behalf of its members; and
6. Whereas other organizations currently lobby on behalf of the engineering profession and consulting firms; and
7. Whereas ASCE's historic role has not involved lobbying as a substantial activity; and
8. Whereas lobbying beyond its present extent, especially endorsement of candidates and legislation, could create significant divisions within ASCE and cause membership decline; and
9. Whereas feedback from members has been opposed to adding the 501 (c)(6) designation; and
10. Whereas lobbying within the United States could result in advocating policies that benefit some of ASCE's members at the expense of other members;
11. Therefore be it resolved that the American Society of Civil Engineers Wisconsin Section opposes ASCE's further pursuit of adding a 501(c)(6) designation to its existing 501(c)(3) designation and encourages ASCE to solicit additional feedback from ASCE membership in the form of an advisory referendum.

ASCE WISCONSIN SECTION-BOARD POSITIONS

Candidates for 2011-2012 Wisconsin Section Board Positions

The **Wisconsin Section Board** has nominated the following candidates for the 2011-2012 Section year officers. The Board recommends a vote for each nominated candidate. Use the enclosed ballot to vote for these candidates or write-in any candidates of your choosing. **All ASCE members who have paid their 2011 Wisconsin Section dues** have the right to vote and are eligible to hold office. Elected officers will serve for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, taking office at the September 9, 2011 Annual Meeting.

Please **return** the attached ballot **by August 12, 2011**.

President: Brian Udovich, P.E. - Brian graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering from UW-Platteville in 1997. While at Platteville, he was active with the student chapter of ASCE having served as Vice-President and a member of the concrete canoe team. Brian went on to receive his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Marquette University in 2005. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Wisconsin and works for Jefferson County as the Highway Operations Manager in the Highway Department. Brian has been active in ASCE's Younger Member Group having served as President-Elect, President, and Past-President, in addition to being a Corresponding Member of the National Committee on Younger Members. He is also quite active in the Southeast Branch having served as Secretary, President-Elect, and President. He is currently a member of the Transportation and Development Institute Transportation Safety Committee, a member of the Southeast Branch Scholarship Committee, and is involved with the Section as a Director at Large. Brian was also the Chairman of the 2002 Spring Technical Conference and was a member of the organizing committee for the 2006 Annual Meeting. He has also helped spark student interest in engineering as a Practitioner Advisor at Marquette University as well as volunteering at events such as the Future Cities Competition, the Math Counts Competition, the 150th National Student Conference in 2002, and the 2006 Great Lakes Regional Conference. Brian was recognized by the Wisconsin Section for his efforts in 2004 as the Young Civil Engineer of the Year and has been selected by the National Committee on Younger Members to receive the 2009 Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement.

President-Elect: Julie Hoppe, P.E., ASCE - Julie L. Hoppe, PE, is a senior transportation engineer at the Milwaukee, Wisconsin office of Mead & Hunt, a national firm offering consulting services in highway and bridge design and construction engineering, aviation, municipal infrastructure, architecture, planning, surveying, historic preservation, environmental studies, and leading edge technologies such as Geographic Information Systems. Julie has more than 22 years of experience in transportation project management, planning, and design. She has served as design engineer and manager on dozens of Wisconsin urban and rural roadway designs and transportation studies. Julie is an active member of several professional societies. She is a Past-President of the Wisconsin Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the past Secretary and the current Transportation Technical Committee Chair of the Wisconsin Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Julie has also been the chair of the Transit Section of the Report Card on Wisconsin's Infrastructure, an ASCE biannual publication. She is a Past-Chairperson of the Business Practices Committee of the Wisconsin American Council of Engineering Companies. As a former owner of Heartland Engineering, Julie brings both the highway design professionals' and the consultant engineering companies' perspective to ASCE. Her experiences and heavy involvement on professional society projects has allowed her to gain insight into many areas of the civil engineering business.

Vice President: Jon Lindert, P.E., LEED AP: is a civil engineer whose career has focused on Stormwater Conveyance and Management Analysis and Design, Green Infrastructure Analysis and Design, Sustainable Design, Floodplain Analysis and Mapping, Streambank and Natural Area Restoration Analysis and Design, and Park and Recreational Facility Design/Planning. He is also responsible for overseeing the stormwater grant writing activities at Strand Associates, Inc. From an ASCE standpoint, Jon is currently a Director of the Wisconsin Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and has served as the President of the Southwest Branch of ASCE in 2007. At the branch level, he served as the newsletter editor for two years, Secretary/Treasurer for two years, participation in the 2003, 2006, and 2009 Spring Technical Conference planning committees, and participation as chairman of the 2004 ASCE Annual Meeting Planning Committee. He is also a member of the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, North American Stormwater and Erosion Control Association, Friends of the UW-Madison Arboretum, and Wisconsin Environment

Secretary: Peter Nilles, P.E.: Peter has over 20 years of experience in consulting engineering. Peter graduated from UW-Madison with BS degrees in civil and environmental engineering and construction administration. Peter joined ASCE while a student at UW-Madison. Peter chaired the organizing committee for the 2003 ASCE Wisconsin Section annual meeting in Oconomowoc, and has served as the Secretary of the Wisconsin Section since September 2008.

Peter is currently Business Unit Leader for the Municipal Services Business Unit at Mead & Hunt, leading a group of two dozen engineers, surveyors and technicians. Peter's business unit works with communities and clients in the vicinity of Mead & Hunt's Wauwatosa, Madison, Green Bay and Norway, WI offices. In over 20 years of experience, Peter has worked as a consulting engineering with clients mainly in southeastern and south central Wisconsin, but also throughout the midwest. Peter's project experience includes project management for projects involving local road design and reconstruction, underground utility design, sewer system evaluation surveys (SSES), site development services, water resources services, utility system modeling and data gathering activities. He has designed sanitary and storm sewer systems, water distribution systems, streets, site plans, and water treatment facility modifications. He has used computer-modeling techniques to analyze the capacity of sanitary and storm sewer systems. He is experienced in sanitary and storm sewer flow monitoring, sanitary and storm sewer modeling, storm water sampling, and storm sewer smoke testing. He has also provided construction services, including inspection of underground utility work and street construction.

Director at Large: Brian Schroeder, P.E. - Brian has worked in the Eau Claire office of Ayres Associates since 2000 with one year of previous experience in structural investigation and design work. As a structural engineer, his responsibilities include designing bridges, checking plans, three-dimensional structural analysis, and structural investigation. His structural investigation work includes topside and underwater inspections of dams and bridges. He is also an engineer coordinator for diving operations for Ayres Associates, which includes in-house training of divers. Brian also manages inspection projects.

Brian has been active with the Northwest Branch of the Wisconsin Section of ASCE, serving as Director-at-large and President. He has enjoyed the opportunity as Past President to meet with the Wisconsin Section Board. In 2008, during his term as President, the NW section received an award for outstanding section newsletter.

He is currently pursuing his Master's Degree in Welding Engineering for the Ohio State University.

Director at Large: Justin Bilskemper, P.E. - Justin has worked at Strand Associates, Inc. for five years and is a project engineer and manager in the municipal and water supply departments. Justin is also a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Wisconsin. Justin graduated from UW-Platteville with a B.S. in Civil Engineering in May 2006. At Platteville, he was active with the student chapters of ASCE and Chi Epsilon, serving as secretary and vice-president, respectively. Currently, Justin is serving his third term as secretary and fourth term as scholarship chair for the WI Section SW Branch of ASCE. In addition, Justin has served on numerous conference planning committees for the SW Branch.

Wisconsin Section



Thank you
for your
stamp!

Peter Nilles, P.E.
Secretary—American Society of Civil Engineers
c/o Mead & Hunt, Inc.
17100 W. Capitol Drive
Brookfield, WI 53005-2154

Fold Here

INSTRUCTIONS: Please vote with this ballot. Detach, fold, tape, attach postage and return to Section Secretary Peter Nilles by *August 12, 2011.*

Wisconsin Section Ballot

President

Brian Udovich, P.E.

Other _____

Secretary

Peter Nilles, P.E.

Other _____

President-Elect

Julie Hoppe, P.E.

Other _____

Director at Large (vote for two)

Brian Schroeder, P.E.

Justin Bilskemper, P.E.

Other _____

Vice President

Jon Lindert, P.E.

Other _____

Other _____

Wisconsin Section
ASCE *American Society*
of Civil Engineers

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U.S. Postage
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Wisconsin Section—ASCE

Addressed to an Important ASCE Member

c/o: Julie L. Hoppe, P.E.
Mead & Hunt
10700 W. Research Drive, Ste 155
Milwaukee, WI 53226



ASCE Wisconsin Section Fall Annual Conference
September 9TH, 2011

Wisconsin Section Ballot Enclosed
Return By August 12, 2011