

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."
– Winston Churchill

From the Executive Director

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Dear Colleagues,

For many in our profession, “ASCE” and “7” naturally go together, that’s how ubiquitous our structural loads standard has become. And many of our members stepped up last month to ensure that our latest revision would be adopted by the **International Code Council** as its reference standard.

We’ve been [reliably informed](#) that ICC governmental members voted to adopt ASCE 7-16, *Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures*, ensuring its inclusion in ICC’s 2018 International Building Code and adoption nationally as state and local jurisdiction code. The result is pending certification by ICC’s rules committee.

Thanks to those of you who contacted local building officials and fire marshals to urge their vote for ASCE 7-16, defeating an effort by the National Association of Home Builders to block the standard.

ASCE 7-16 will be published in the first half of 2017. See [what’s new in ASCE 7-16](#), including an online version and an all-new, truly transformative Hazard Tool that will make calculations much easier.

In July, the ASCE Board approved an updated mission for ASCE’s Sustainable Infrastructure strategic initiative: to “transform the profession so that all civil engineering is sustainable.” Through a focus on four key priorities, ASCE will enable civil engineers to create

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Dates to know

January

13-14 Regions 8 and 9 Multi-Region Leadership Conference

20-21 Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5 Multi-Region Leadership Conference

February

3-4 Regions 3, 6 and 7 Multi-Region Leadership Conference

17 *Dream Big: Engineering Our World* IMAX film premiere

19-25 Engineers Week 2017

infrastructure that is environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable to equitably meet the needs of human welfare and to realize healthy communities.

Last month, the **Committee on Sustainability** and several of its constituent committees met to hammer out a draft five-year road map to advance the key priorities, including specific actions in fiscal 2017 and 2018. In short, the four priorities aim to help professionals adopt and apply sustainable development principles through new processes, standards, and protocols.

For the first time in recent history, infrastructure was a prominent issue during the presidential campaign, with both candidates' 2016 platforms featuring infrastructure investment. In no small part this is due to ASCE's longstanding efforts to educate and raise awareness of our nation's infrastructure challenges through the *Report Card for America's Infrastructure* and other infrastructure initiatives, government relations activities, and the advocacy of our Key Contacts.

In preparation for President-elect Trump's inauguration, the swearing in of a new Congress, and the release of the 2017 Report Card, we are already engaging with the Trump transition team, incoming administration officials, and Congressional leadership, laying out **ASCE's principles for new infrastructure investment**. Approved by the Executive Committee, these fundamental criteria call for considering life cycle costs, planning for the future sustainably and resiliently, and leveraging funding from all levels of government and the private sector.

As the new White House and Congress consider potential paths forward on infrastructure legislation, ASCE will continue to advocate for this much-needed investment in sustainable infrastructure across all sectors, drawing on its members' expertise and passion. I will be sharing an update on these efforts in early 2017.

The topic of how to encourage Washington to invest in transportation infrastructure was the focus of a meeting of a select group of transportation-oriented association leaders convened by the **International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association**, with chief staff officers from a variety of ASCE transportation association partners, including the **Transportation Research Board**, **American Trucking Association**, **Associated General Contractors**, and the **American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials**, the closed-door Transportation Visioning Summit included a discussion of key principles that leaders should be able to agree on to break through and fund the freight and passenger corridors we'll need in the future.

Launched by President Obama in 2011, the **White House Champions of Change** program honored ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things, including at least three members of ASCE over its five years for their work on transportation. 2011 ASCE President Kathy Caldwell, P.E., honored as a "champion" during her presidential year, was among those who returned to the White House this month for a reunion of honorees.



Recently I attended my first meeting as a new member of the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Committee of 100** of non-profit association leaders, where I spoke about ASCE's efforts on infrastructure, noting our new Report Card coming in 2017. As seen above, John King of CNN, who delivered a keynote presentation at the meeting, met me afterward to say "I think your Report Card will be more important this year than it's ever been."

Building on the closer ties we've forged recently with the **National Society of Black Engineers**, I enjoyed a great meeting over lunch with Executive Director Karl Reid. We reviewed the progress of our reciprocal membership campaign and other provisions of our memorandum of understanding, plus explored other possibilities to work together based on the findings of the 50K Coalition earlier this year.

Without the work of committed members like Elias Sayah, P.E., F.ASCE, in our **United Arab Emirates Section**, we wouldn't see such great progress in our global expansion. I had the pleasure of welcoming Sayah, a Region 10 Governor, to our northern Virginia ASCE headquarters, and thanked him for his instrumental efforts to launch new Student Chapters in the U.A.E.

ASCE continues to be mentioned in media outlets each day regarding our perspectives on infrastructure, an interest that extends internationally. I was interviewed last month for an article in an Australian trade magazine, **Construction In Focus**, on the challenges we face in the United States, and ASCE's efforts. You can [read it here](#).

If you were at our convention in Portland, one highlight you'll always remember is the sneak peek you got of our giant-screen engineering movie **Dream Big**. The premiere is now less than two months away, during Engineers Week. Start planning related outreach activities with our [volunteer resources](#).

Through much of 2016, ASCE staff has been adopting a set of shared values to guide our sense of professionalism and our interactions with everyone from members to colleagues. And at our **second internal TEDxASCE event**, that shared sense filled the room as five ASCE staff members opened up to talk about, and in one case sing about, life experiences that shaped their values. I'd like to thank Holly Koppel, Amanda Queen, Frank Kim, and Carol

Vargas for their candor and storytelling ability, Josh Peterson for his music, and our Communication, Cooperation & Culture group's Culture of Learning Team for staging a second successful event.

For a further demonstration of staff commitment, just look to the amazing financial support the staff showed the **ASCE Foundation** for its #GivingTuesday campaign on Nov. 29, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. A total of 81 ASCE staff members contributed more than \$6,000 in gifts in less than 24 hours. We added some fun by linking the contribution total to the ability to wear jeans in the office on Fridays in December.

Congratulations to ...

... **At-Large Director Vilas S. Mujumdar**, D.P.A., P.E., S.E., Dist.M.ASCE, named by the American Association of Engineering Societies as its 2017 recipient of the Kenneth Andrew Roe Award. Vilas received the much-deserved honor for promoting a holistic approach to natural hazards reduction and for representing U.S. engineers in the World Federation of Engineering Organizations and the Pan American Academy of Engineers.

With deep gratitude for what you do for ASCE, I wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. It's going to be a very exciting 2017, and I look forward to making it a success together.

Until next time,



Section Informant

It's almost here! See *Dream Big* and spread its message in February

Dream Big: Engineering Our World is about to take viewers on a journey of discovery of how engineers enhance our lives through their remarkable spirit and achievements. With this film, you can stimulate youth to take the next step to explore careers in engineering. ASCE's [Dream Big page](#) offers a host of promotional materials and volunteer resources. Get an introduction to the range of outreach activities in support of *Dream Big* in a [webcast special](#) you can view anytime. Also find out [where to see Dream Big](#) when it premieres in February.

Enjoy the holidays, then get ready for the Multi-Region Leadership Conferences

Many of you who give their time to lead Sections, Branches, Younger Member Groups, and Student Chapters will be taking part in ASCE's annual Multi-Region Leadership Conferences in January and February.

Participation in MRLC workshops strengthens and expands the programs and activities of Sections and Branches through the interchange of ideas, information and experiences, while exposing incoming officers to the tools needed to be effective leaders. The MRLCs also offer a great opportunity for young professionals and seasoned leaders to get to know one another.

The MRLC schedule includes a chance for attendees to meet and appraise the two nominees for 2018 President-elect in "town hall" style forums. For more about the MRLCs, contact

Enhance your meetings with topical talking points and presentations

Now explore a great resource for fostering lively discussions at your next Section or Branch meeting. Talking points and PowerPoint presentations are now available to leaders on a multitude of ASCE topics. Topics include Dream Big, developing state Report Cards, Life Membership, Raise the Bar, best practices, and much more. Find the [talking points and presentations](#) with your login at files.asce.org.

Have you and your members seen the new print ASCE News?

ASCE News has returned in print! The first issue was mailed with November's *Civil Engineering* magazine. Catch up on major Society activities, what members are doing at the local level, and where to find details online, all in a lively, quick read. If you don't receive the magazine or want a preview, view it online. See the [November-December ASCE News](#).

ASCE News "Local News" section highlights activities of your Section, Branch, Younger Member Group or Student Chapter. Want to get your news in? [Use this simple form](#). Successful events and activities of any scope are welcome, from school outreach events, networking fund-raisers and infrastructure site tours to a Toys for Tots drive. Content can be copied from what you've already posted to social media, created for a newsletter or offered on your website. For questions, contact ASCE News editor [John Marston](#).

6- and 12-week Guided Online Courses encourage group learning

Consider exploring whether any of your local members would like to get together to take ASCE's Guided Online Courses. The state of the art learning experience includes reinforcing what you've learned through weekly discussion board topics with peers. Each instructor-led multimedia module of video lectures, interactive exercises, and case studies can be worked on at the learners' convenience. The 6 and 12 week courses begin Monday, Jan. 23. They include:

- Drinking Water Treatment Technology
- Earthquake Engineering for Structures
- Quantity Take-Off: Structures
- Seismic Evaluation and Retrofit of Existing Buildings
- The Foundation for Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Infrastructure Asset Management

Explore the [benefits of Guided Online Courses](#) and the details on each.

Ask Counselor Tara: How do we protect ourselves from 'spear phishing' email scams?

Each month ASCE's General Counsel Tara Hoke responds to legal questions posed by Sections and Branches. [Send Tara an email](#) with your question.

Question: Recently, a number of Section and Branch officers have been the recipients of so-called "spear phishing" emails, sent by scammers pretending to be someone else for the purposes of trying to extract personal information or a transfer of money. How do we protect ourselves from 'spear phishing' email scams? [Read Tara's response](#).

Ask
Counselor
Tara



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