

"I'm not afraid of storms, for I'm learning how to sail my ship."

– Louisa May Alcott

From the Executive Director

Thomas W. Smith III
ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE



Dear ASCE Member,

At ASCE, it's all about 2017 already, even if there are still a couple of months remaining in 2016.

Our 2017 leadership – the most diverse in ASCE history – is now at the helm following its installation during the ASCE 2016 Convention. Work is well underway on the 2017 *Report Card for America's Infrastructure*. An exciting International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure is in the works. And we're looking forward to the premiere of *Dream Big: Engineering Our World* during Engineers Week, which will include a comprehensive suite of outreach materials that is now coming together.

Ask anyone fortunate enough to have attended our **2016 Convention** in Portland, OR, and they'll tell you how inspired they were by the many sessions and activities geared toward innovation and how to achieve it. Opening keynote speaker Frans Johansson set the tone by showing how greater diversity in perspectives opens up new ways of looking at things. Attendees also were fired up by events such as a sneak peek at an early cut of *Dream Big* and an Industry Leaders Forum discussion about innovation as it relates to the ASCE Grand Challenge.

Inside this edition

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- Society leadership for 2017 inaugurated
- New Region alignment shifts Canada and Mexico
- Members asked to urge code council endorsement of ASCE 7-16

Section Informant

- Learn to leverage *Dream Big* during Engineers Week 2017
- Encourage members to take the ASCE Grand Challenge pledge
- Ask Counselor Tara: Know your state's laws on fundraising

Dates to know

November

29 #GivingTuesday for the ASCE Foundation

30 Section and Region annual reports due

December

15 Section federal tax filing due to ASCE

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



Photo by James Tkatch for ASCE

Our expanded global reach was evident, with a large contingent of international members at the convention, plus delegations from four sister societies who **renewed their agreements of cooperation** with us – the Chinese Institution of Civil Hydraulic Engineers, the Finnish Association of Civil Engineers, the Ingenieurs et Scientifiques de France, and the Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers. Whether you made it there or not, [revisit the convention](#) via coverage in *ASCE News*.

At the **Annual Business Meeting**, convention attendees witnessed the inaugurations of 2017 President Norma Jean Mattei, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE, and President-elect Kristina Swallow, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE, plus the transition of 2016 President Mark Woodson, P.E., L.S., D.WRE, Pres.16.ASCE, to Past President. We also welcomed four new Region Directors to our Board – John Casana, P.E., D.WRE, LEED AP, M.ASCE, serving Region 2; Nancy Straub Cline, P.E., M.ASCE, for Region 6; Marsia Geldert-Murphey, P.E., M.ASCE, for Region 7; and Brett Phillips, Ph.D., M.ASCE, serving our Region 10 international membership. Also welcomed to the Board were new At-Large Director Terry Neimeyer, P.E., ENV SP, BCEE, F.ASCE, and Technical Region Director Carol Ellinger Haddock, P.E., M.ASCE.

The new officers prepared for their roles earlier in the month by taking part in Leader Orientation at ASCE headquarters, followed by the **Presidents and Governors Forum**, where they were joined by more than 90 incoming and current Region Governors and Section and Branch Presidents from as far away as Australia, Nigeria, and Costa Rica. The two days of training on the ins and outs of ASCE and effective Society leadership included an emphasis on student member transition to associate member and a look ahead at leveraging Dream Big.

Our **Technical Region Board of Governors**, made up of two representatives from each Institute plus the three Technical Region Directors, met concurrently with the PGF. The board considered how to apply findings from a Younger Member survey and was briefed on recently revised Institute operating procedures.

The final meeting of the 2015-16 **Board of Direction** took place in Portland prior to the convention. Actions included:

- Approval of the Task Committee on Geographic Boundaries' recommendations to fold Canada and Mexico into our domestic Regions. Canada will move from Region 10 to Regions 1, 3, or 8, based on the provinces' contiguous locations. Mexico will be reassigned from Region 10 to Region 6. Also, Puerto Rico will move from Region 1 to

Region 5.

- Approval of a new ASCE policy statement supporting drones as civil engineering tools, provided they are used safely and responsibly, and not “where they are incompatible with the environment.”
- Authorizing an amendment to the ASCE Constitution to add a third Technical Region Director to the Board, subject to a vote by Society membership that will be included on the May 2017 election ballot.
- Approval of the bulk of recommendations from the Raise the Bar Review Committee, including its call to better define and communicate the initiative, focus solely on civil engineering, and explore the possibility of additional approaches to advance educational requirements for licensure, ultimately to make the concept of raising the educational bar more universally accepted.
- A briefing on early plans for ASCE’s first Technical Congress in 2017, which will unite various divisions’ specialty conferences into a single event.

We’re well into planning the next **International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure**, which we will run jointly with the New York City Department of Design and Construction next October. It promises to be the most significant ICSI yet, staged around the theme Sustainable Cities for an Uncertain World. NYC DDC Commissioner Feniosky Peña-Mora, P.E., M.ASCE, an ASCE Industry Leaders Council member, is serving as ICSI chair. To fortify the agenda, we’re eager to have the **National Academy of Engineering’s** participation, which was a topic of discussion at a recent meeting I attended with the ICSI leadership and NAE Executive Officer Alton Romig.

Further communicating ASCE’s global sustainability activities, we published an article in the newsletter of the **European Council of Civil Engineers** titled “Sustainability: For ASCE, It’s a Global Issue.” [Read it on page 6.](#)

Along with all the buzz about *Dream Big* coming next year, another ASCE signature achievement is coming to the public – the 2017 **Report Card for America’s Infrastructure**, which is on track for release in March. The Committee on America’s Infrastructure met to continue hammering out what the grades will be in each of 16 categories plus the overall GPA. ASCE’s Government Relations staff has been readying online editions, including a handy app, and a media strategy for maximum impact during what will be the first weeks of a new U.S. presidency.

You may have seen our *ASCE News* coverage of the **International Code Council’s** consideration of our new edition of ASCE 7 for inclusion in its 2018 International Building Code. I’m pleased that ICC members gave [provisional approval to ASCE 7-16](#), *Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures*, at its annual conference, but it now goes up for a further vote in November. I join ASCE 7-16 Chair Ron Hamburger, P.E., F.SEI, in encouraging you to contact local ICC governmental members – typically building officials or fire marshals – to urge their support for ASCE 7-16.

Since customer service is one of our top priorities year-round, the annual **Customer Service Week** at ASCE is a fun way to reinforce that commitment among our employees. Thanks go to our Customer Service staff for staging activities each day that also served to reinforce ASCE’s staff values of teamwork, trust, and excellence.

In memoriam

I was sorry to learn of the passing of **Richard E. “Rick” Nelson**, P.E., M.ASCE, a leader in establishing our new Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute in its first year, including serving as co-chair of the Pipelines 2016 Conference in July. His CH2M Hill colleague and

fellow ASCE member Scott Williams remembered Rick as an “honest, open, hilarious straight-shooter [who] will be sorely missed.”

Congratulations to ...

... the six members of our ASCE staff honored with our first **Employee Recognition Awards** – COPRI’s Angie Lander, Conferences’ Mark Gable, EWRI’s Barbara Whitten, IT’s Gwen Blue, Susan Davis of the Committee on Technical Advancement, and grand prize winner Sharon Baber, executive assistant to Casey Dinges, who brightens every Thursday morning with a spread of bagels and pastries for everyone. The new award supersedes our former TENNIS awards.

... **Mike Sanio**, CAE, F.ASCE, ASCE Director of Sustainability, for receiving the PanAmerican Union of Engineering Organizations (UPADI) Golden Plummet Award recognizing his work to further cooperation and sustainability in the Americas.

Lastly, you may recall that last month I encouraged you to **take the ASCE Grand Challenge pledge**. I hope you did, but if not, please take a moment to [do so now](#). Add your name to our growing roster of support for the challenge’s mission to develop ways to achieve a 50 percent reduction in projects’ life cycle costs by 2025 and foster the optimization of infrastructure for society.

Until next time,



Section Informant

Team up with *Dream Big* at your local museum for Engineers Week

With ASCE’s giant-screen movie *Dream Big: Engineering Our World* premiering Feb. 17, Dream Big has been adopted as the theme for Engineers Week 2017. Learn how to amplify your Engineers Week outreach efforts with *Dream Big's* [suite of educational tools](#). Get details on how to partner with your local museum as well as how to keep promoting engineering year-round using the inspiring movie. [Get ready to Dream Big!](#)

Tap into new best practices for Sections and Branches in archived webinar

Participants from Sections and Branches across the country took part in a new best practices webinar earlier this month where current and former Region leaders offered ideas that you can apply in your local ASCE group. [Watch the archived event](#) hosted by ASCE’s Leader Training Committee and hear from these leaders:

- Former Region 8 Governor and the Region’s current Treasurer and Historian Tony Lau shares how Region 8 organizes the break-out sessions it holds at the Multi-Region Leadership Conferences.
- Region 7 Governor Edward Stafford talks about how his Region maintains great communication throughout the year through their regularly scheduled conference calls.
- Former Region 3 Director John Fraunhoffer offers what current Region leaders can do to revitalize struggling Section and Branches.

Encourage members to say ‘I’m in’ for the ASCE Grand Challenge

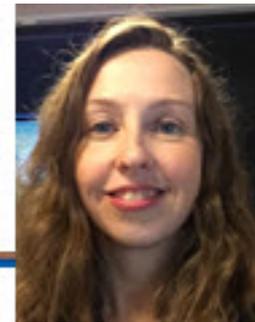
Civil engineers from around the world have begun [taking a pledge of support](#) for the ASCE Grand Challenge and its goal of cutting infrastructure life-cycle costs in half by 2025. At the new [ASCE Grand Challenge website](#), civil engineers can show they back the initiative by clicking an “I’m in!” button. While there, visitors can share relevant professional experiences, follow updates on outreach projects, and more. Are you in?

Be sure to check out the resources tab for ways to help spread the word in your Section or Branch. An outreach toolkit, “Closing the Infrastructure Gap” overview infographic, Grand Challenge news feed and focus areas are all available for you to make an impact.

Ask Counselor Tara: What should we know about laws regarding fundraising?

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

Ask
Counselor
Tara



Question: My Section is planning a fundraising drive. What should we know about state laws on charitable solicitation? [Read Tara’s response](#).

Join the 2017 Fly-In and influence lawmakers to fund infrastructure

Each spring, ASCE conducts its Legislative Fly-In program in the nation’s capital – and in 2017 you’ll make a great case for financing public works with an all-new Report Card for America’s Infrastructure. The intensive two-day program provides participants with an inside look at the political process. It includes:

- Meetings on Capitol Hill with your members of Congress or their staff
- Briefings on the new Report Card and key legislation active in Congress
- Training on how to influence elected leaders
- Networking with ASCE peers from across the country
- Special activities for Younger Members
- Tips on continuing relationships with elected officials once you return home

This year, participants visited nearly 240 congressional offices. Next year’s Fly-In will take place March 14-15. Contact ASCE [Government Relations](#) for details.

Find a speaker for your next Section and Branch event, or offer yourself

Take advantage of the [Online Speakers Bureau database](#) at ASCE’s website to find a speaker for your next event. The service allows potential speakers to sign up online and provide details on their areas of expertise, their availability and more to best connect with other members. Sign up to be a speaker or find one for your next meeting or event!

Know a potential New Face of Civil Engineering?

Is someone you know one of the next New Faces of Civil Engineering? Marking its 14th year, ASCE’s New Faces of Civil Engineering – Professional Edition recognition program highlights the accomplishments of civil engineers under the age of 30 and their unique contributions to society. [Applications are due](#) by Nov. 18.

Share your group’s achievements in the new ASCE News print edition

Celebrate the good deeds of your Section, Branch, Younger Member Group or Student

Chapter in the new print edition of *ASCE News* – [just let the editors know](#).

Activities of any scope are welcome, from school outreach events, networking fund-raisers and infrastructure site tours to achievements such as a local Report Card. Get national recognition for your success, and inspire other ASCE groups.

Your news also may appear in the Region news roundups appearing monthly in the *ASCE News Weekly* newsletter. If you haven't seen them, click below for a recent edition of yours:

[Region 1](#) | [Region 2](#) | [Region 3](#) | [Region 4](#) | [Region 5](#)
[Region 6](#) | [Region 7](#) | [Region 8](#) | [Region 9](#) | [Region 10 -- Global Link](#)

Submit details – especially photos, please – about your event in a brief form at [asce.org/localnews](https://www.asce.org/localnews). Content can be copied from what you've already posted to social media, created for a newsletter or your website. Please note that only news items about past successes are appropriate. Wondering whether your news is worthy? For any questions, contact *ASCE News* editor John Marston at jmarston@asce.org.

ASCE WORLD HEADQUARTERS | 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4382

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