

"Those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything ."

– George Bernard Shaw

From the Executive Director

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



Dear ASCE Member,

At ASCE we take pride in the service we provide our members and the civil engineering profession. A strong second source of pride is the high esteem our Society is held in by our peers among professional associations – based on our quality of service.

The American Society of Association Executives has honored ASCE with its **2016 ASAE Power of A Gold Award** for our National Concrete Canoe Competition. ASAE praised our “unique” program for how it has inspired thousands of students in its 29 years and counting, helping them to be better-prepared young professionals by challenging their technical talents, project management abilities and leadership skills.

We’re also beaming over a second Power of A Gold Award given to the **American Association of Engineering Societies**, which ASCE belongs to and manages as secretariat. ASAE honored the [Engineering Competency Model](#) as a “vital” tool for achieving a common understanding of the core competencies required of engineering professionals.

AAES created and launched the model last year with the U.S. Department of Labor and funding from the United Engineering Foundation.

Congratulations to the AAES and Concrete Canoe volunteer and staff teams who worked on each of these outstanding programs.

Inside this edition

- ASCE honored by fellow associations for Concrete Canoe
- Asian sister societies meet in Hawaii at CECAR 7, hosted by ASCE
- “I’m in”: Take the ASCE Grand Challenge pledge
- Overview of ASCE Society-level budget process

Section Informant

- New *ASCE News* print edition seeks to highlight your successes
- Upcoming webinar to offer tips on growing membership
- Process of establishing Student Chapters revised

Dates to know

September

29-Oct. 1 ASCE 2016 Convention, Portland, OR

October

1 Outstanding Section and Branch Award nominations due

November

30 Section and Region annual reports due

December

15 Section federal tax filing due to ASCE

This year, ASCE's hands-on support also extended to our role in the 13-member [Asian Civil Engineering Coordinating Council](#). For the first time, ASCE served as host for the **Civil Engineering Conference in the Asian Region**, this year held in Waikiki, Hawaii. The conference was the seventh in the series, held once every three years. ASCE was one of three societies behind the founding of ACECC in 1998.



Courtesy Mark Woodson

President Mark Woodson and I joined delegations from Australia, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam. We enlightened each other on sustainability advances in our respective homelands, and dove into related topics. Mark delivered a keynote presentation, and I moderated a discussion on the ASCE Grand Challenge, including its relation to asset management, with panelists including Industry Leaders Council member Tony Bartolomeo, president of Pennoni, and Rutgers University civil engineering professor Frank Moon, who oversees the Bridge Evaluation and Accelerated Structural Testing lab, or BEAST.

U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, who serves Hawaii in the House, provided an impressive opening plenary address that captured the need for greater sustainability in infrastructure and noted the significance of civil engineers in making that happen.

The [CECAR 7](#) steering committee, comprised largely of international ASCE members with support from ASCE Global Programs and Conferences staff, deserves thanks for the success of a highly complex event. The Japan Society of Civil Engineers will manage the 2019 conference in Tokyo.

ASCE and the **Army Corps of Engineers** reaffirmed our bonds at connected events that I took part in along with President-elect Norma Jean Mattei and Senior Managing Director Casey Dinges. We joined in wishing Director of Civil Works Steven Stockton well at his retirement ceremonies. After a 40-year career, Stockton departed as the Corps' top civilian employee, one who oversaw 25,000 employees and a \$10 billion budget. We look forward to working with his successor, James Dalton.

Casey and I then engaged in a privileged discussion with 30 of the top Corps leaders at the Washington, DC, home of the commanding general and chief of engineers, Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, who was just appointed in May. Taking part in the Executive Governor's Reception provided valuable representation for ASCE, enabling us to talk about mutual challenges and interests. Notably, the leaders were intrigued by our ASCE Grand Challenge and its quest for innovation.

The **ASCE Grand Challenge** has ramped up quickly in the year since it was made one of the Society's three strategic initiatives, notably with the launch of the Innovation Contest, which helped inspire civil engineers to bring forth ideas that could transform infrastructure and have the innovations seen by industry leaders. In year two, the ASCE Grand Challenge will take the next step with two major campaigns that have just launched. First, the [latest version of the Innovation Contest](#) has expanded to welcome submissions focused on next generation transportation and removing lead from drinking water. Second, and just underway, is something I hope you will join me in, and encourage other members to be a part of: [take the "I'm In" pledge](#) demonstrating a professional commitment to the Grand Challenge principles to reduce the life cycle cost of infrastructure 50 percent by 2025 and foster the optimization of infrastructure for society.

We're a step closer to a new federal **Water Resources Development Act** with passage of the bill in the Senate, thanks to the efforts of our many active ASCE volunteers and our ASCE's Government Relations team. The package features several [programs ASCE has sought](#) for years, including a program to repair nonfederal high hazard dams, QBS for federally supported drinking water projects, plus water and wastewater facility upgrades. Help [encourage the House to vote](#) on the bill before the election.

Overview of ASCE budget process

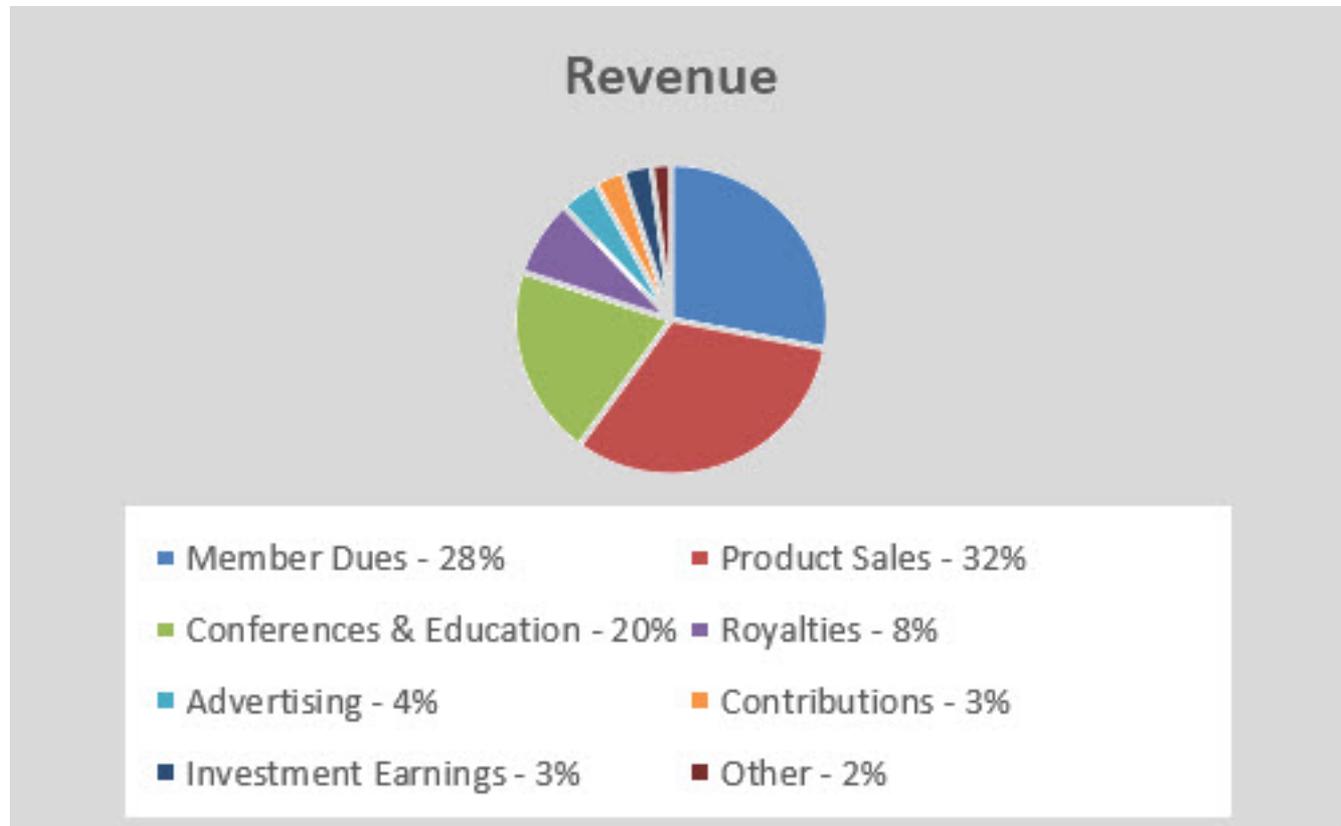
At a Region 8 Assembly meeting in Boise, ID, Past President Bob Stevens received a number of questions from members interested in ASCE and its many programs and activities. At Bob's suggestion, Chief Financial Officer Pete Shavalay has prepared the following overview as further response to a question about how ASCE's budgeting process works.

ASCE uses a clearly defined process to develop a budget that allocates limited resources in an efficient and effective manner for the benefit of members. Our budget process draws input from committees, Institutes, staff, and the Program and Finance Committee of the Board (PFC). When the budget is ready, the PFC presents it to the Board of Direction for final review and approval. The following describes our budget process and our sources and uses of funds:

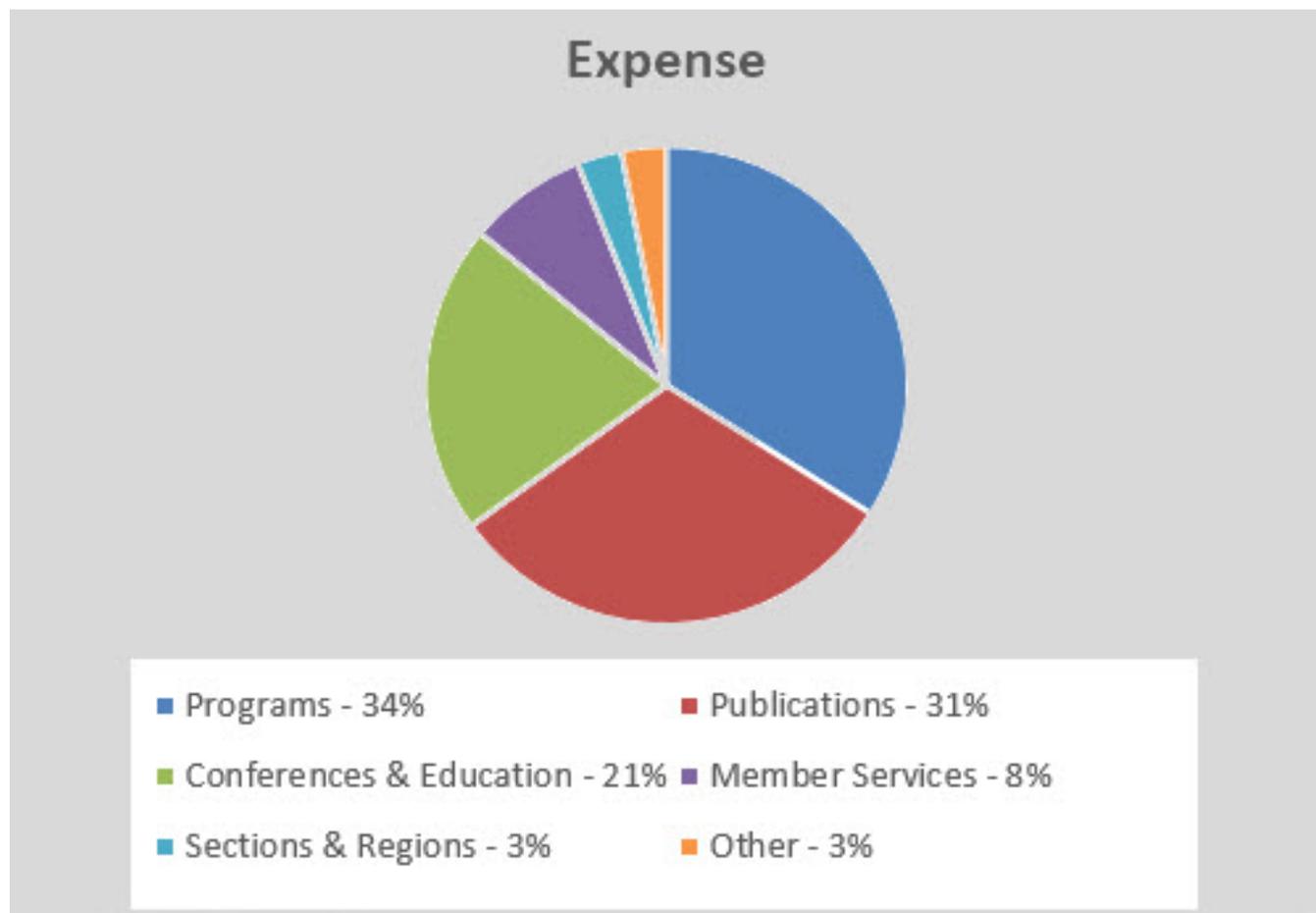
- The five Standing Society Committees and three Standing Strategic Initiative Committees (collectively referred to as PAES Activities) compile detailed information on their projects and programs with the assistance of staff and submit their budget requests. In order to provide the staff Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and PFC with alternatives to recommend priority-based modifications to the proposed budget, the activities which fall under our Program Assessment and Evaluation System (PAES) present their budgets by grouping their projects in prioritized funding levels.
- ASCE's staff Program Team (the Managing Directors for the PAES areas, the ASCE Foundation, and the Executive Office) holds meetings with the staff of all PAES activities to gain background on programs and budget requests. The Program Team then creates PAES funding-level scenarios, including a recommended level, and provides that as further input to the SLT's process.
- ASCE's financial staff works with all departments and Institutes to produce a budget for the whole organization, including the budgets requested by PAES Activities.
- The SLT reviews the budget for the whole organization in detail and agrees on adjustments to submitted budgets. Any modifications that the SLT proposes to programs or external revenue sources are highlighted for consideration by the PFC.
- The finance staff presents the draft budget produced by the above process to the PFC for its review.
- The PFC reviews and evaluates the budget in detail, makes modifications and submits

their recommended budget to the Board for review and approval at their July meeting.

Our ability to financially support a wide variety of Society programs is limited by revenues generated and remains a challenge as expenses increase. The following chart shows our sources of revenue:



For expenses, we have revenue-generating areas, such as publications and program activities. Our active members donate a substantial amount of time and effort in support of our organization that is not included in our expenses. The following chart summarizes where we spend our money:



To help elected and staff officers understand each other's leadership styles and work toward common goals successfully, last month we held a **Leading Together workshop** at ASCE headquarters. 2017 President Norma Jean Mattei, 2017 President-elect Kristina Swallow, and I took part, along with several Institute and Committee volunteer and staff leaders, and we were pleased to be joined by the current leaders of ABET, Executive Director Michael Milligan and President Wayne Bergstrom, an ASCE Fellow. Conducted by founder and the CEO of Association Options, William Pawlucy, the workshop covered association trends, leadership competencies, risk management, strategic direction and board relations.

Speaking of leadership, few people play a larger role in inspiring student members to transition to full Society membership than the ASCE members who volunteer as **Student Chapter advisors** – both practicing pros and civil engineering professors. I enjoyed meeting and speaking with the 30 or so who came to ASCE headquarters for the annual Practitioners and Faculty Advisors Workshop, and we thank them for their leadership and service with student development and engagement within ASCE and the profession.

Student engagement and development are critical topics at ASCE, and I was pleased to receive a testimonial from Pat Natale, vice president for business development at Mott MacDonald, praising our **Construction Institute's Student Days** program. Noting how Mott MacDonald student co-op engineer Derek Harzinski benefitted, Pat mentioned how "students are the future of our profession" and "ASCE's technical Institutes have embraced the responsibility to assist and prepare students for our profession. The Student Days recently hosted by the Construction Institute (CI) are one example. We all have an obligation to make the profession better so that we can protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Working with the next generation of the profession goes a long way toward meeting this goal." Pat is ASCE's former Executive Director and we look forward to honoring him this week in Portland as a new 2016 Distinguished Member. Find out more about the [Student Days program](#).

In addition to ongoing ASCE programs and activities that benefit our profession and the public, ASCE members don't hesitate to step up to help their community in an emergency. Following the August storm that flooded parts of Louisiana with three times the amount of water of Hurricane Katrina, **Baton Rouge Branch** members volunteered their labor and engineering expertise to aid in the recovery. The Branch issued an appeal for financial donations to assist rebuilding. [Read about their efforts](#) in *ASCE News* and consider making a contribution. The month before, ASCE [members in West Virginia](#) also pitched in when flooding ravaged that state.

In memoriam

I was saddened to learn of the sudden loss of **Gary Gilbert, P.E., G.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE**, the immediate past president of California's Orange County Branch, at 43. He jumped right into leadership positions in ASCE after joining in 1995, including Student Chapter president at California State University, Long Beach, and Los Angeles Section treasurer before he was elected Orange County's 2014-15 president. Gilbert enjoyed volunteering for Engineers Without Borders–USA, taking a lead in its Orange County Chapter's work in Honduras.

We also lost a former Board member from 1979 through 1982, **D. Allan Firmage, P.E., Dist.M.ASCE**, who has died at 98. His ASCE activity began in 1940, and during World War II he conducted research and development on military bridges for the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Belvoir, VA. He was Utah Section president in 1967-68, where he developed the state's first technical committee on bridges. In his years on the Board, Firmage was known for his focus on international contacts.

Congratulations to ...

... **Bob Stevens**, current past president who served us well as 2015 president and who now will do the same as the next president of the United Engineering Foundation. Bob's selection was affirmed at the UEF Board's September meeting.

... **H. G. "Gerry" Schwartz, Jr.**, who served as ASCE President in 2002, and was recognized recently as the 2016 recipient of the W. N. Carey, Jr., Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his outstanding service to transportation research and to the Transportation Research Board.

In closing, I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the [ASCE 2016 Convention](#) in Portland, OR, starting Wednesday. It's sure to be an inspiring time, right from the opening reception, which will feature a sneak peek at our IMAX giant-screen movie *Dream Big: Engineering Wonders of the World*. See you at the convention and get ready to *Dream Big!*

Until next time,



Section Informant

Watch for a new *ASCE News* in print; your events sought

Starting in November, ASCE members will receive an all-new *ASCE News* print edition in their mail, paired with *Civil Engineering* magazine. Ten times a year, each lively, concise issue will feature Society activities, including a Local News page highlighting achievements of Sections, Branches, Younger Member Groups and Student Chapters. Take a look at a [prototype](#).

Spread the word of your group's accomplishments in the new *ASCE News*. Successful activities of any scope are welcome, from school outreach events, networking fundraisers and infrastructure tours to efforts such as a local Report Card on infrastructure. Feel free to forward things you've shared in social media, newsletters or on your website. Submit links and contact information, and attach a photo if you have one, to asce.org/localnews.

Your group will be recognized nationally and inspire others. Wondering whether your news fits the bill? Contact *ASCE News* editor John Marston at jmarston@asce.org.

Get tips on growing local membership in upcoming free webinar

ASCE is ready with the tools and knowledge you need to be effective in retaining existing members, recruiting new members, and transitioning students. Learn about the wealth of resources ASCE has to help you achieve your membership goals and how to best leverage the [Membership Champions](#) program in a webinar for ASCE leaders coming Oct. 19 at 2 p.m. ET/11 a.m. PT. [Register online](#) and find out more at asce.org/champions.

Launching a new Student Chapter? Welcome – and note the revised procedure

The ASCE Student Chapter application process has been revised as of the 2016-17 year. A Statement of Intent to Establish must be submitted at the start of the one-year establishing period. [Get the details](#). If your group is well into the one-year establishing period, the previous application form may be used through March 2017. For questions, write student@asce.org.

Ready-made presentations now available on variety of ASCE topics

Talking points and PowerPoint presentations are now available for Section and Branch leaders on a multitude of ASCE topics. Ethics, the Dream Big movie, Life Membership, ASCE strategic initiatives, transitioning students to members, and many other areas are covered. Access the folders and files via the [Section and Branch resources page](#) at the ASCE website - scroll to the link for Talking Points.

Latest ASCE Interchange video makes a great meeting activity

Rick De La Guardia, president and founder of DLG Engineering of south Florida, discusses how to start, own, and manage an engineering firm in the latest edition of ASCE Interchange, the video series on current civil engineering issues. Drawing on first-hand experience, De La Guardia explains how being an entrepreneur doesn't require innate ability, but can be learned. [The 5-minute video](#) is available on ASCE's YouTube channel for screening at one of your future meetings.

Four Sections celebrating centennials of launching in 1916

In a testament to the longevity and unity of ASCE and the profession it has served for generations, four Sections are commemorating the 100th year of their founding – Illinois, Michigan, National Capital, and Utah. [Explore the festivities](#) each has staged.

Help encourage adoption of the new ASCE 7-16

Standards are extremely important in providing technical guidelines for promoting safety, reliability, productivity and efficiency in civil engineering. In the face of organized opposition, ASCE 7-16 Chair Ron Hamburger, S.E., P.E., SECB, F.SEI, is urging ASCE members to contact their local building officials to ask them to support adoption of the 2016 edition of ASCE 7-16, *Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures*. [Find out what's at stake](#) at ASCE News.

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

jagueste@jgwdsolutions.net is subscribed to **Board Updates for All Leaders**.

[Unsubscribe me from this type of communication](#) | [Unsubscribe from all](#) | [Manage my email preferences](#)