



Civil Engineer

KANSAS CITY

THE NEWSLETTER

October 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

**6th – ASCE
Geotechnical Evening
Seminar**

**8th – YMG Highway
Cleanup**

**10th – UMKC/Kansas
City Section Lunch
Meeting at
UMKC/Linda Hall**

**18th – YMG Monthly
Meeting**

**19/20th – Kansas City
Section Wild & Scenic
Film Festival**

**23rd – YMG Sporting
Kansas City Game**

November

**5th – YMG Meet the
STEM Mentor**

ASCE and APWA Joint Meeting at Burns and McDonnell's New Auditorium!



On Monday September 12th, the Kansas City Section of ASCE and APWA KC Metro Chapter held their Annual Joint Meeting. Our Speaker was Patty Hilderbrand (Board of Director from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) and Coordination Services Division Manager, Kansas City Public Works Department). Ms. Hilderbrand presented about Shaping the Future, and the efforts in Kansas City and our region, in being a leader in the creation of an innovative framework now taking hold across the globe, now known as

Envision.

This was the first KC Section ASCE meeting for the 2016-2017. Our President John Blancett kicked off the event with a recap of the summer events. Additionally, he introduced John Warren with ASP Enterprises, who kindly sponsored the event. The backdrop at the new Burns and McDonnell Auditorium was wonderful with 45 attendees, who got to network, enjoy Ms. Hildebrand's presentation, and get a sneak preview at two film events coming out in October and into next spring by the ASCE Sustainability Committee led by Mr. Doug Dietrich.

One very special guest during this meeting was Ms. Nicole Tauheed from DuBois Consultants. Nicole was recognized by ASCE National for her leadership within our Kansas City Section's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Over the last two years this committee has made great strides in putting together some quality programs in Kansas City for civil engineers. Among those to be highlighted are the Diversity and Inclusion Meeting in 2015, the Networking and Volunteering Events with minority groups in Kansas City, such as Society of Women Engineers, Women Transportation Seminar, National Society of Black Engineers, and Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. Congratulations Nicole for your leadership and dedication to the profession!

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From the President**Here's to a new year...**

It is an honor and surprise to serve as the Kansas City Section President. In May, I was sworn in as President-Elect and Adrian Keller as President, but in early June he resigned to pursue a career in the beautiful country of New Zealand. He will be missed and we wish him the best! Last year's President, Tom Jacobs, helped lead us through a solid year to make this transition smooth. I thank them both for their

leadership. Also there had to be some shifts in the Board positions, and the May election runner-up Ernie Longoria was inducted to the Board with one position still open.

During the past summer, we've been planning for the coming year. Our luncheon planning is underway, and each month is shaping up to provide our members with a variety of presentation topics and venues. We will continue to co-host these meetings with other engineering organizations in the area. These meetings are great networking opportunities, and the presentations allow the attendees to earn PDH's. Also, our Younger Member's Group has become the foundation of our Section. They always find a way to loosen up engineers through a variety of regular gatherings, STEM activities, and the ever-growing Make-A-Wish Golf Tournament. Our Environmental Water Resource Institute (EWRI) and Geotech Committee are also planning their yearly activities. There are also opportunities to revive our Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) and we are looking for volunteers to champion this effort.

In previous years we regularly focused on the ASCE Kansas City Kiosk in the Berkley Park. Last April, we finally

From the President (cont'd)

completed that landmark, and had the National President-Elect Norma Jean Mattei help cut the ribbon with other dignitaries and Roy Bravo, our own past-President and Kiosk Committee Chair. If you have not been down there (just SW of the ASB bridge abutment on the River Heritage Trail), it is certainly worth the visit.

With the Kiosk effort behind us, we have a clean slate to embrace other activities, to bring attention to our profession, and to provide new experiences to our members. This year has a pronounced focus on exposing the Engineering field to the public with the release of the "Dream Big" IMAX movie. In February, we are planning that activity at Union Station. Doug Dietrich as has also been planning sustainability activities, such as the September joint meeting with APWA regarding the ISI Envision process, a potential workshop, and the "Wild and Scenic" film festival in October.

The past 5 years have gone by quickly. It seems like yesterday when Vince Zink and I were drafting a portion of the Missouri and Kansas ASCE Infrastructure Report Card in 2012 for the 2013 release. In spring of next year, we need to start planning for the early 2018 release. This is a great opportunity for engineers to partner with other government entities to grade various components of civil infrastructure that desperately need attention. Fortunately, both presidential candidates understand the relationship between our infrastructure and economy. However, our state governments need accurate and convincing information, clearly assembled, to escalate the concern and financial need. From a national perspective, the Report Card is only one component of the Infrastructure Initiative. Other components of the Initiative are Failure to Act Reports and the Infrastructure Policy Reports. Other initiatives include Sustainability and Raise the Bar.

There are many opportunities within the Section. If you or someone you know has time to commit to the profession and an interest in networking with clients and colleagues, please reach out to anyone on the Board. There are various committee positions open. Back in 1999 Scott Gorsuch reached out to me to chair the Membership Committee. Then, in 2011 Alysén Abel asked if I had an interest in participating on the Board as a nominee. Those were both key turning points in my life, for the better. As Jon Krakauer once said, "A challenge in which a successful outcome is assured isn't a challenge at all." I can say those already involved in ASCE have been very supportive to keep each other, including me, on the right path. I look forward to the coming year and seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

John Blancett, P.E., ENV SP

President, Kansas City Section ASCE

Wild & Scenic Film Festival coming to Kansas City ASCE – October 19th & 20th, 2016!



Times: 6:30 pm. Doors Open. Films Begin at 7:00 pm. Program Concludes by 8:30 pm.

Where: Glenwood Arts Theater at Ranchmart South, 95th and Mission Road (southeast corner).

Address for GPS is: 3707 West 95th Street, Overland Park, KS 66206

Parking available on south side of 95th Street or north side of 95th Terrace.

Tickets available online at the [Glenwood Arts website](#) (same program both nights & tickets are date-specific):

Advance purchase for adults: \$9	Day of show for adults: \$10
Advance purchase for students with ID: \$2	Day of show for students with ID: \$3



The Wild & Scenic Festival focuses on films which speak to the environmental concerns and celebrations of our planet. This fast-paced collection of 14 short films reminds us of the awesome natural beauty around us and our interdependent connections within a global ecosystem. Come network, learn, and get inspired to make a difference!

100% of festival proceeds benefit educational outreach and community service programs organized by local student groups, non-profits, and philanthropists: The SME Coalition, U.S. Green Building Council, American Society of Civil Engineers, Bridging The Gap, Jeffrey L. Bruce & Company, ASP Enterprises, Fine Arts Theatres, and Kansas International Film Festival.

UMKC offers PE Review Course and Kansas City ASCE Awards Four Scholarships!



On Tuesday, August 23rd, the UMKC School of Computing and Engineering kicked off their Civil PE Review Course for 2016. Dr. John Kevern led the course welcome and invited KC ASCE Licensed Professional Engineer members to participate in a discussion panel about strategies for preparing for the exam. Several of the panelists had recently completed the UMKC Civil PE Course.

Additionally, the ASCE Kansas City Section offered up to four scholarships to our members who were interested in participating in this course. Fortunately, there were several applicants. Thanks to Ronnie Williams' (Burns and McDonnell) leadership, the Kansas City Section was able to partially support our members. The course will continue through the fall until Saturday, October 8th, where the class members will take a proctored morning portion of the Principles and Practices of Engineering (P.E.) exam. The P.E. exam will take place on Friday, October 28th, 2016.

Geotechnical Committee

The Kansas City Geotechnical Group kicked off the 2016-2017 year with an evening committee meeting at the Black & Veatch P Building on September 1st. For the 2016-2017 year, the committee is planning a Specialty Conference in January, 2017, and an Annual Conference in the latter part of April, 2017. Three Geotechnical Evening Seminars are planned at the UMKC Diastole Scholars Center (2501 Holmes Street, Kansas City, Missouri) on Thursday evenings including October 6th, December 8th, and March 9th.

The October 6th evening seminar will feature a presentation by Dr. Dunja Peric, Kansas State University, titled "Unsaturated Soil Mechanics: Background and Relevance for Engineering Practice". The committee organized 3 evening technical seminars and two conferences in 2015-2016 that resulted in proceeds of approximately \$17,500 that will be contributed to the KU Endowment Sponsorship Program and the ASCE/AEG/UMKC Peck-Garstang-Williams Scholarship Endowment program at UMKC.



Diversity & Inclusion Committee Corner

Spotlight: Richard Parmeter, PE

Hometown: Born in Walnut Creek, California. Grew up in Kirkwood, Missouri, and graduated from Kirkwood High School in 1971.

College: Richard attended what is now University of Central Missouri and graduated in 1975 with a degree in Industrial Arts. He graduated Cum Laude in 1990 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the MU/UMKC Coordinated Undergraduate Engineering Program. He also earned a Master's degree in Civil Engineering in 2004 from UMKC. He is currently is an Adjunct Professor teaching Design of Timber Structures and guest lectures for the Civil Engineering Department.

Career: Richard started as a Drafter with the Marley Cooling Tower Company in September 1975. He worked 5 years in the Factory focusing on assembled towers, group detailing, cooling towers, and air-cooled heat exchangers. In 1980, he moved to sales and worked in a customer service position for the next 11 years before returning to an engineering position after graduating from UM/UMKC. Richard got into structural design of cooling towers and enjoyed that engineering discipline more than others. He left Marley Cooling Tower in 2002 looking for better opportunities and more stable employment and came to Kansas City, Missouri Water Services Department as a Project Engineer managing mostly wastewater projects, and is planning on staying until retirement. That nasty smell is green to him.

Future Plans: At the time of this article, Richard has retired from Water Services (August 2016), and will probably continue to work part time but in a contract position. He is active in Boy Scouts and has a great grandson who will probably start Scouting in the next few years. He will possibly do more volunteer work in retirement, and is thinking about Engineers without Borders.

Tidbits: He can be bought off with a dozen snickerdoodles and is willing to give anyone a chance.

Information you may not have known: Richard has lived on a pacemaker the past 18 ½ years, experiencing considerable electrical problems with heart block and atrial arrhythmias and structural degradation of the heart's pumping ability.

In Other News: The Kansas City Section won the 2015 Section & Branch Diversity Award! I would like to thank the Board for their continued support of this committee. Special thanks go to Jennifer Taylor and Alysén Abel for their vision and encouragement.

Younger Members Group Past Events

Tyler's Treehouse

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KCymg/>

Each year, the YMG hosts a golf tournament benefitting Make-A-Wish Missouri with funds going directly toward children's wishes. This year, we had the pleasure of taking part in the reveal of "Tyler's Treehouse" – a long-awaited collaboration of several contractors and donors from the Kansas City area. One picture shows the grandeur of the treehouse, which is actually a multi-level hangout, with room for Tyler's friends to visit and play. Another shows a few YMG members with Tyler and his family. Tyler's reveal brought together all those involved in creating this wish and is a great example of the wonderful rewards the golf tournament pays back to our community. Thank you to all our sponsors and we hope to see you back on the course next year!



Golf Tournament 2016



The YMG hosted the 11th Annual Charity Golf Tournament benefitting Make-a-Wish Missouri on August 12th. We had great turnout, despite the rainy morning, with 92 golfers, 30 volunteers and over 20 companies represented. Together we raised \$13,250! We were fortunate enough to have Abe and his family with us for the day. Abe was able to race around in a golf cart and helped pass out the awards and prizes as shown in the second photo. Abe had his wish granted a few weeks prior as the third photo shows Abe in front of his new swimming pool. We still plan to participate with the Make-A-Wish reveal for Aiden's transformed wheelchair later this year. Thank you to all those who participated in this incredible event! We are already looking forward to next year's tournament.

YMG Past Events (cont'd)



Royals Game & Tailgate



Members of the YMG, as well as a handful from the KC APWA-YP organization, met at Kauffman Stadium on June 24th for a social and tailgate before watching the Kansas City Royals take on the Houston Astros. The entire tailgate food and drinks were sponsored by our friends at BHC Rhodes. Weather cooperating, the tailgate hosted a whopping 125 members, family and guests of all ages. Thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers, the tailgate was an enjoyable experience for all. Unfortunately, the Royals lost but we got to see fireworks afterwards.

EWRI Past Events

The Environmental & Water Resources Institute (EWRI) hosted August's monthly professional meeting at Gaslight Grill in Leawood. The usual luncheon was topped by an informative presentation and top notch food. Attendees had to choose from the Almond-crusted Tilapia, Gaslight Grill Hamburger, or the Chile Lime Chicken Salad. The presentation featured Mr. Brian Rast, PE, CFM, PMP, whose work in the City of Manhattan after the 2011 flood made notable headway in the flood risk management arena. After the flood event, a non-structural assessment was performed which identified issues in specific locations and organized items per their urgency and risk. This tool is now available to be used in better preparing our communities for a resilient future.

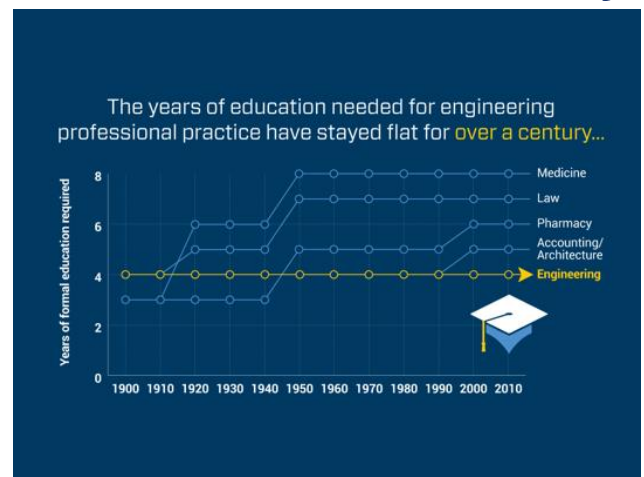


Raise the Bar Workshop in St. Louis University

Ernie Longoria and Tony Kulesa attended a Raise the Bar Workshop hosted by St. Louis University with fourteen other ASCE members from around the nation to learn how to communicate the initiative. ASCE's Mark Killgore and past ASCE president Blaine Leonard presented reasons to Raise the Bar and the answer to many false arguments against the initiative.

ASCE is proposing to [Raise the Bar](#) for licensure because of the increasing demands placed on our infrastructure and the designers of the future. With a coalition of engineering associations, ASCE is communicating the need for increasing education requirements laid out in [ASCE Policy Statement 465](#). Some states have recognized that a four-year degree is not enough to demonstrate competence in Structural Engineering. Other professions such as Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Law, Accounting, Physical Therapy, and Architecture have already recognized the need for advance technical education and require at least a master's degree if not more education.

If you question the need to Raise the Bar, please reach out to ernie.longoria@opkansas.org or akulesa@burnsmcd.com for more information!



Government Public Relations Update



It's been a busy summer in Government Public Relations. Here's what you need to know:

Federal - Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

ASCE Key Contacts and other concerned organizations have been calling on Congress to pass reauthorization on the nation's [Water Resources Development Act](#). The act is passed every two years and authorizes a number of programs related to water infrastructure. If you use water in this country, WRDA affects you. This year it's received more attention with the flooding in Baton Rouge, threats from Zika, and publicity about lead in the Flint, MI public water supply. The act passed the Senate and now we need to reach out to our House members to bring H.R. 5303 to the floor for a yes vote before leaving town on another long recess.

States - Gas Tax and Transportation Funding

Kansas, Missouri and other states continue to struggle funding transportation. In Kansas, [T-Works](#), the 10-year program of road projects, has been deferred indefinitely as the dedicated funding stream has been [diverted](#) to the general budget. Missouri was wrestling with running out of money for its Department of Transportation until state tax receipts showed an unexpected boost in revenues. It's expected that [Missouri](#) will revisit the same problem next year.

Government Public Relations Update (cont'd)

Kansas - Efficiency Audit Report

Over the summer, the Kansas state government underwent an efficiency audit. Some critics believe there is too much waste in the state government and wanted to know other ways to save the State money. An [audit report](#) was provided by Alvarez and Marsal and a number of recommendations impacted Infrastructure and Engineers. One particular item recommended elimination of Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) in favor of the lowest bid selection for State services. QBS is recommended as a best practice by ASCE and other Engineering organizations in that it bases selection on who is best qualified to do the work. If the Owner and the Designer cannot agree to a fee, the Owner can select the next best qualified bidder and negotiate with them. The Kansas City Section provided testimony to State Hearings and the recommendation was not adopted. We will continue to monitor to see if the recommendations return next Legislative session.

Key Contacts

In Kansas and Missouri, over 200 ASCE members are registered as Key Contacts. They receive weekly updates on legislative issues affecting engineers and contact elected officials to let them know how it impacts their ability to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. If you are interested in joining this dynamic group, visit ASCE's [website](#) and sign up today.

Fall Elections

There's still time to register to vote in this Fall's elections. Besides selecting legislators, there a number of ballot issues and selection of judges up for consideration. In Kansas, visit the Kansas Secretary of State's [website](#) and in Missouri's Secretary of State's visit [website](#) to register.

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