

# November 2018

## ASCE Austin Branch Newsletter

### In this Issue:

[President's Message](#)

[November Branch Meeting & Sponsor](#)

[Younger Member Forum News](#)

[Government Affairs Committee Update](#)

[EWRI News](#)

[2019 Engineer of the Year Nominations](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

### Next Branch Meeting

[November 13, 2018 11:30a-1:00p](#)

Topic: The Independent

RSVP [online](#) by 11/9 at noon

### President's Message by Kacey Paul, P.E., CFM

I love the Fall for a number of reasons – football season, time with family, getting ready for that 2-month period where I get to wear my winter clothes. One of my favorite reasons I love the Fall is that this season symbolizes transition to me. As I performed my civic duty, I reflected on an element of voting that can get lost in the campaigning. Now that the votes are cast, it's time for our newly elected and re-elected officials to get to work! And, with a grade of C- on our 2017 Texas Infrastructure Report Card, there is much work to be done. ASCE is at the forefront in Government Relations, with our Infrastructure Report Card, Legislative Fly-in, and serving as a consultant when called on by law-makers.



As we start preparing ourselves for the upcoming holiday season, I'd like to remind our membership that the ASCE Austin Branch is working hard to give civil engineers the opportunity to give back to the community. As always, check out our [website](#) and [calendar](#) for a full listing of events. Here are just a few ways to contribute:

- **Capital Area Food Bank:** We are collecting contributions during the November and December Branch meetings. Be on the lookout for donation boxes at each table or donate using your credit card at the registration table. ASCE Austin will be matching donations to this organization.
- **Science Thursday:** ASCE is sponsoring Science Thursday at the Bob Bullock on November 15th and we are looking for volunteers to help. Volunteers will help lead students in fun activities in the museum and talk to them about engineering. This is a fun event and I hope you will join us and help encourage our next generation of engineers. Volunteers are needed from 10:00 to 1:30 pm. Please contact Linda Barlow at [LBarlow@hvj.com](mailto:LBarlow@hvj.com) for additional information.
- **Legislative Drive-in and Fly-in:** Each year, ASCE Global hosts a Legislative Drive-In. If you'd like to apply to be part of that, applications for travel assistance are due by November 19. Additionally, Texas ASCE is hosting the legislative Drive-In on February 26. This is an opportunity for us to meet with our state law-makers, learn more about the process, educate them on the status of our infrastructure and profession, and weigh in on bills and measures that impact our profession.



## November Branch Meeting Speakers



**Shane Tanner, P.E.** is an associate in the Austin office of DCI Engineers. He has been involved in the engineering world in Austin for more than a decade, working on several well-

known projects throughout the city and state. He has worked on a variety of structural systems with particular focus on light gage steel and concrete. Shane is extremely process driven and enjoys finding new ways to bring innovation to the industry. He serves as a mentor to emerging engineers both in the company and throughout the City of Austin.



**Kris Swanson, P.E., SE,** is the principal in charge and an original founder of the Austin office of DCI Engineers. He has over twenty years of structural engineering experience on a

wide variety of projects including specific expertise in high-density residential projects such as multifamily, hospitality, and student housing. Kris has particular expertise in hybrid structural systems and has worked around the country on a variety of innovative projects. He worked very closely with the design and construction team to incorporate many innovations used on *The Independent*. Kris stays ahead of building trends through his active participation in groups such as the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitats, Real Estate Council of Austin, and AIA. Kris loves to give back to the local community including work at Habitat for Humanity and ACE Mentors.

...President's Message cont'd

The Austin Branch submitted their nomination for the 2018 ASCE Outstanding Large Branch Award. Our Branch received 2nd for this award in 2017. This award application was an opportunity to highlight the many accomplishments of the past year under Glenn Goldstein's leadership, as well as share those of our institutes and Younger Members. We have such dedicated volunteers running this organization and our institutes! Big thank you to Travis Isaacson for his efforts in preparing the application and making sure our Branch has a chance in the spotlight!

Do you know a Branch member who has distinguished themselves in their service to the profession, the Branch, and the community? Nominate them for the 2019 Civil Engineer of the Year Award to be presented during the Texas Society of Professional Engineers' banquet in February. Look for nomination forms on our website.

If you have not renewed for 2018, take the time to complete the membership process. Encourage your peers to join ASCE as a way to stay plugged into the profession. Remember that in most cases, individuals nominated for Branch awards and scholarships must be current ASCE members. If you're not feeling the benefits behind membership, let us know – we're here for you!

Are you looking for additional ways to be more active in ASCE, get involved and stay connected in 2018? Get a head start and jump in now! There are a lot of great opportunities that fit into every schedule and interest level and we'd love to have you! Be on the lookout for upcoming opportunities with our Continuing Education Committee, Scholarship Committee, Social Outreach Committee, Government Relations Committee, Community Outreach Committee, and Younger Member Forum (YMF), or contact me anytime (830-798-6265, kpaul.pe@gmail.com). We value your participation in ASCE!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and I look forward to seeing you at the next Austin Branch meeting.

**November Branch Meeting** by Bradley L. East, M.S., P.E.

**Topic:** The Independent (aka, the "Jenga Tower") – [RSVP by 11/9/18 at noon](#)

**Location:** Phillips Event Center (8140 Exchange Drive, Austin, TX 78754)

**Date:** 11/13/2018 11:30 am -1:00 pm

**November Meeting Sponsor** by Colton Fisher, P.E.

Frost is the banking, investments and insurance subsidiary of Cullen/Frost Bankers, Inc. (NYSE: CFR), a financial holding company



with \$31.2 billion in assets at Sept. 30, 2018. One of the 50 largest U.S. banks by asset size, Frost provides a full range of banking, investments and insurance services to businesses and individuals in the Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Permian Basin, Rio Grande Valley and San Antonio regions.

Founded in 1868, Frost has helped Texans with their financial needs during three centuries and is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2018 by committing to at least 150 acts of service throughout Texas this year. These activities include things like volunteering with nonprofits, sponsoring events and conducting a statewide food drive. The initiative will finish up with a holiday toy drive. For more information, visit [www.frostbank.com](http://www.frostbank.com).

## VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Science Thursday  
November 15, 2018

10:00 am - 1:30 pm

Bob Bullock  
Museum, Austin  
Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)



Please arrive by 9:30am so you can become familiar with the activities.

Parking is free in the garage below the museum. Identify yourself as a Science Thursday/Central Texas Discover Engineering volunteer to the parking attendant.

If you have a Science Thursday t-shirt already, please wear it or bring it with you. If you don't have one, we'll have one for you.

Snacks and water will be available.

You are welcome to visit the museum's exhibits afterward.

### Food Bank Donations Ongoing



ASCE Austin Branch has proudly supported the Central Texas Food Bank for years now. Hunger affects people from all walks of life. Working

families, retired seniors on fixed incomes, grandparents with custody of grandchildren, the chronically ill and the disabled all turn to the Food Bank for help in emergencies or as part of their regular meal planning. The Central Texas Food Bank has been at the front line of hunger relief with the help of Partner Agencies in 21 counties across Central Texas. Together, they provided more than 45 million pounds of food to families in need during the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the largest amount distributed since the organization's establishment in 1982, when only 330,000 pounds of food was provided. For every \$1 donated, the Food Bank can turn that into 12 meals. There will be donation boxes on tables for the November luncheon.

## Younger Member Forum News by David Contreras



Our 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of this Fall semester will be **November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**. We will meet at the second floor of the food court of **The Central Market** of Lamar & 40th street.

The 2018 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Texas Section Younger Member

Camping Trip took place at McKinney Falls State Park in Austin, Texas on September 21st-23<sup>rd</sup>. This year there were twenty younger members of ASCE Texas, who came together from Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, the Rio Grande Valley, and San Antonio.

We will be having a service event early December this year. We are still working on the specifics.

We are looking into creating an ASCE YMF team for rec sports. Given winter is coming we are looking at the possibilities of indoor volleyball, basketball or soccer, kickball, ping pong, or chess. These options will be narrowed down based on feedback received.

### Government Affairs Committee Update

by Augustine Verrengia, P.E. and Sid Edmonds, P.E.

### Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2018 Signed Into Law

This week, President Trump signed S. 3021 (Public Law No: 115-270), the America's Water Infrastructure Now Act of 2018, or the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018, into law. The Senate passed this bill by a vote of 99-1, while the House passed it by voice vote. Read ASCE's official statement on the House's September passage of WRDA, as well as the press release issued by us and our partner organizations on the Water Infrastructure Now (WIN) coalition. We urge you to contact your Members of Congress and thank them for their vote for this important legislation bill. We also want to sincerely thank ASCE's Key Contacts for their hard work and support throughout the legislative process.

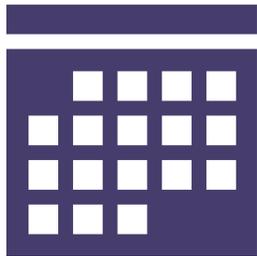
#### About WRDA

#### ASCE National Fly-In

Are you an ASCE Key Contact interested in walking the halls of Capitol Hill and learning firsthand how policy is crafted? Every spring, ASCE holds its Legislative Fly-In Program in Washington, DC, an intensive two-day program that provides participants with an inside look at the public policy process. In 2018, over 210 ASCE members visited over 270 Congressional offices, advocating for aviation, water, and water resources infrastructure, as well as urging Members of Congress to draft a comprehensive infrastructure bill. Applications are due by November 19, 2018. Listen to a webinar for guidance on what we're looking for in your application.

Don't forget to apply to attend, the deadline to submit your application is November 19, 2018.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### November YMF Meeting

11/12/2018

Central Market (Lamar @ 40th), 2nd floor

### November Branch Meeting

11/13/2018

Phillips Event Center

### ASCE 8th Forensic Congress

11/29/2018 - 12/2/2018

Sheraton Austin Capitol Hotel

### ASCE National Fly-in Application Deadline

11/19/2018

### 2018-2019 ASCE Austin Scholarships Due

11/16/2018

### December Board Meeting

12/6/2018

Location TBD

### December Branch Meeting

12/18/2018

Phillips Event Center

### Kealing Engineering Blitz Photos

Join 200+ fellow Key Contacts in Washington, DC for two days of legislative training and meetings on Capitol Hill. The 2019 Fly-In program includes:

- Meetings on Capitol Hill with your Members of Congress or their staff
- Briefing sessions on key legislation active in Congress.
- Training on lobbying and influencing elected leaders
- Networking with ASCE peers from across the country
- Tips on maintaining relationships with your elected officials once you return home
- A Younger Member Program
- Presentation of the 2019 Outstanding Civil Engineer Advocate of the Year Awards.

### Texas Legislative Drive-In

Save the date for bi-annual Texas Legislative Drive-In scheduled for February 26, 2019 at the Capitol in Austin. Every other spring, we hold our Legislative Drive-In program in Austin, Texas, concurrent with Texas Legislative Sessions. This intensive one-day program provides our members with an inside look at the public policy process.

Attend the **ASCE Texas Legislative Drive-In** and join us as we:

- Discuss engineering and infrastructure related issues within each specific legislative district,
- Educate legislators on ASCE's state priorities and position on key infrastructure bills, and
- Increase the visibility of ASCE Texas Section – we are a group of civil engineers, leaders, and infrastructure experts.

At our inaugural 2017 event, 30 members visited over 50 senate and house offices, advocating for transportation, water, and water resources infrastructure as well as urging law makers to identify adequate funding.

Our Drive-In program includes:

- Meetings at the Capitol in Austin, Texas with your State Senator and Representative, or their staff
- Briefing sessions on key legislation and ASCE's legislative priorities
- Training on lobbying and influencing your elected leaders
- Building relationships with your ASCE peers from across the state
- Tips on continuing relationships with your elected officials once you return home



GET INVOLVED WITH ASCE

We always encourage our members to get more involved in the branch on whatever level they feel compelled. We are currently seeking folks to help us out with the following. If any of these sound like something you may be interested in, please contact Kacey Paul at [kpaul.pe@gmail.com](mailto:kpaul.pe@gmail.com).

Social Outreach Committee

- Chair and members needed

Scholarship Committee

- Members needed

Public Relations and Community Outreach Committee

- Members needed

E-Week/Student Outreach Committee

- Members needed

Continuing Education Committee

- Members needed

Government Relations Committee

- Members needed



The EWRI Austin chapter was well represented at this year's national EWRI Leadership and Council Weekend. The event was held in Reston, Virginia from October 20-21 and included EWRI leaders from around the country. Sunit Deo (President-Elect) and Michelle Adlong (Continuing Education Chair) presented on the various successes that the Austin Chapter has experienced over the past years which led EWRI Austin to winning the 2018 EWRI Outstanding Institute Chapter award. EWRI Austin members Lee Sherman, Eric Loucks, and Steve Niemeyer were also in attendance representing various EWRI National committees.

Save the Date! Upcoming SWMM training opportunity

The EWRI-Austin chapter is partnering with the National Center for Infrastructure Modeling and Management (NCIMM) to host a local training, **Introduction to EPA SWMM 5.1**. This 2-day workshop will cover the most recent release of SWMM software for urban stormwater hydrologic/hydraulic analysis, planning, and design. The course be held on **January 31 - Feb 1, 2019** at UT's JJ Pickle Center in Austin, TX. PDH's will be available. Stay tuned for registration details!

2019 Engineer of the Year Nominations by Kacey Paul, P.E., CFM



It's the time of year to reflect on the many accomplishments of yourself and those around you. We are currently soliciting nominations for the following awards.

We have had the privilege of recognizing great engineers in our community for 20 years! If you know someone you feel would be a good candidate for this award or would like additional details, visit our website here.

Thank You To Our Branch Sponsors!

A collage of logos for various engineering and construction firms, including Pape-Dawson Engineers, Forterra, Jacobs, Walter P Moore, Encotech, MWM Design Group, Dynamic Reprographics, PE Structural Consultants, U.S. Pipe, and Aguirre & Fields LP.