

ASCE

TEXAS SECTION
Austin Branch

ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH NEWSLETTER

March 2021

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in loving memory of
GARABED (GARO) ARDASH HARUTUNIAN

NOVEMBER 12, 1942 - MARCH 4, 2021



Garabed (Garo) Ardash Harutunian, a Fellow and Life Member of ASCE, was awarded the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award from the ASCE Texas Section during CECON 2020. It is with a heavy heart the Texas Section acknowledges Garo's recent passing on March 4th, 2021. His dedication to his profession and service to his community will not be forgotten.

Garo was born in Baghdad, Iraq on November 12, 1942. He was baptized in the "old church" of Baghdad and received his First Holy Communion at the Saint Joseph Church in Baghdad. As a youth, Garo attended French Carmelite and Jesuit school. He received his Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering from Al-Hikma University of Baghdad in 1964, a Master's of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland in 1968, and his Master's of Science in Environmental Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin in 1970.

Upon graduation from UT Austin, Garo started his engineering career by joining Freese and Nichols in Austin and then Bryant Currington. Garo became a registered Professional Engineer in 1973 and obtained his Professional Surveyor License in 1980. In 1977, he became the cofounder of Triad Engineering and then became one of the directors and co-founders of Harutunian Engineering in 1988. Garo also founded Kurkjian Engineering, which he operated until the fall of 2014 when his battle with cancer forced him to retire. Garo honored his Armenian heritage by using Armenian words to name streets of his civil engineering projects.

Garo has been a long-time member of ASCE and particularly the Austin Branch where he served as the Branch President from 1998-1999. He also served ASCE Texas Section as Vice President for Technical Affairs. His tireless volunteerism has earned him numerous awards including

- ASCE Austin Branch - 2000 Civil Engineer of the Year Award
- ASCE Texas Section - 2001 Service to People Award
- ASCE Texas Section - 2005 Professional Service Award
- ASCE Texas Section - 2010 John A. Focht, Jr. Citizen Engineer Award
- City of Austin - 2014 Distinguished Service Award
- ASCE Texas Section - 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award

Outside of his career and service to ASCE, Garo has always been active in the Catholic Church. He was very involved with the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Saint Mary Cathedral in Austin where he helped the poor with bills and food and donating toys for children at Christmas time. Through the Catholic Church Garo was also involved with the Knights of Columbus organization. Garo has served the Catholic Church, the Diocese of Austin, Saint Mary Cathedral and the Saint Mary Cathedral Knights of Columbus Council Number 14055 with honor, grace and a humble heart. He is loved and respected by his fellow parishioners of Saint Mary Cathedral and his brother Knights of Saint Mary Cathedral Knights of Columbus Council Number 14055. In October 2019, the academic scholarship awarded by the Saint Mary Knights of Columbus Council Number 14055 to a deserving student graduation from the Cathedral School of Saint Mary was renamed the Garabed Ardash Harutunian Honorary Scholarship.

Garo loved engineering and it showed in all he did. Over the course of his successful career, he worked on numerous engineering projects throughout Texas, Iraq, Scotland, and Colombia. He found that his membership in ASCE provided him the opportunity to network, make lifelong friends, learn, and exchange solutions to solve engineering problems.

He was loved and respected by those that had the privilege of knowing him. Please keep his wife Francia and his son and daughter in your thoughts and prayers. Visit the [full obituary](#) for Garabed Ardash Harutunian to leave a condolence message or share a memory.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY BRADLEY L. EAST, M.S., P.E.



The winter storm we experienced a couple weeks ago was a very harrowing event for all. I hope everyone has thawed out and has regained power, water and heat utilities. We are a very resourceful bunch, but we are not always the most vocal when we need a helping hand. I want to remind everyone that we have a vast network of engineers within Austin ASCE. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me personally or fellow engineers within our ASCE family should you need assistance or just someone to talk to.

This was mentioned in last month's newsletter, but it bears repeating... Congratulations to Dr. William J. O'Brien, Ph.D., P.E., NAC, M.ASCE! Dr. O'Brien has been selected by ASCE's Computing Division to receive the 2021 Computing in Civil Engineering Award for "his leadership in linking science, public policy and the construction industry to drive technology development and progress." Let's all give him a virtual round of applause.

As you are aware, the ASCE Austin Branch made a fairly sizeable donation to the Central Texas Food Bank at the end of the calendar year. Thanks to everyone who donated! Moving forward and throughout the rest of the fiscal year, we will be accepting donations at each of our upcoming luncheons for Central Texas Discover Engineering and Girlstart of Austin. These are both non-profit organizations that expose students to STEM activities and encourage students to pursue technology careers. Each and every donation, no matter the size, is greatly appreciated.

Do you have a vision for ASCE Austin? The nominations committee will soon be working to put a slate of officers together for the 2021-2022 board to present to the current board for approval. The 2021-2022 board will be voted on at the June membership luncheon and installed at the September luncheon. If you or someone you know may be interested in the board or any one of our committees, please contact me (512-971-3911, beast@polarisforensics.com) or another officer for more information.

Follow us on Facebook, Linked In and Instagram for event recaps, upcoming events, relevant news, and updates.

Thank you for everything you do to support ASCE!

Bradley L. East, M.S., P.E.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH & APRIL 2021

- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/23 ASCE General Meeting
- 3/23 ASCE Texas Section Webinar (see pg. 8 for details)
- 3/30 EWB Virtual Trivia Night
- 3/31 ASCE Student Symposium Sponsorship Deadline
- 4/1 ASCE Texas Section Webinar (see pg. 8 for details)
- 4/15 ASCE Student Symposium
- 4/16 ASCE YMF Scholarship Application Due
- 4/29 ASCE Texas Section Webinar (see pg. 8 for details)

MARCH BRANCH MEETING

BY PAUL HAHN, P.E.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING WAS DELAYED ONE WEEK TO AVOID CONFLICTS WITH UT AND AISD SPRING BREAKS

REGISTRATION

REGISTER BY 3/23 AT 2PM

- ▶ **DATE** | 3/23/2021, 11:45am - 1:00pm
- ▶ **LOCATION** | Zoom Virtual Meeting
- ▶ **LINK** | [Click here to register](#)

MEETING TOPIC

Q2 STADIUM FOR THE AUSTIN FC MLS CLUB

Please join us for our March virtual branch meeting. We will receive a presentation about the "Q2 Stadium for the Austin FC MLS Club" from Mark Waggoner, Principal at Walter P Moore.



MEET THE SPEAKER

MARK WAGGONER, PRINCIPAL, WALTER P MOORE

Mark is a leader in the field of long-span roof design and has contributed to the design of more than a dozen long-span roofs for professional sports facilities, including SoFi Stadium. Mark has special expertise in the development of innovative structural systems including kinetic structures and alternative materials as well as delivery of digital design models for downstream manufacturing use. He frequently works with contractors to develop erection plans and design connections for complex structures in collaboration with the firm's Construction Engineering practice.

In addition to project work, Mark is active in a variety of national technical committees including the ASCE/SEI Disproportionate Collapse Standards Committee and the Tensioned Membrane Structures Standard Committee. He earned his Master of Science in Structural Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Washington University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Mark is licensed as a professional engineer in Texas, California, and Manitoba.



Mark Waggoner, PE, CE

Source: <https://www.walterpmoore.com/mark-waggoner>

THANK YOU TO THIS MONTH'S SPONSOR!

Polaris Forensics (Polaris) is a forensic engineering consulting firm. Polaris is headquartered in Dallas with other offices/employees throughout Texas, as well as in Florida and Colorado. Polaris and its employees are licensed throughout the US and its territories.



Polaris provides a variety of services related to the analysis of building, building component, material, and infrastructure failures. Services include claims investigation, expert witness, due diligence, and construction troubleshooting. Polaris and its employees have a significant amount of experience evaluating construction and design deficiencies and providing repair/retrofit design services.

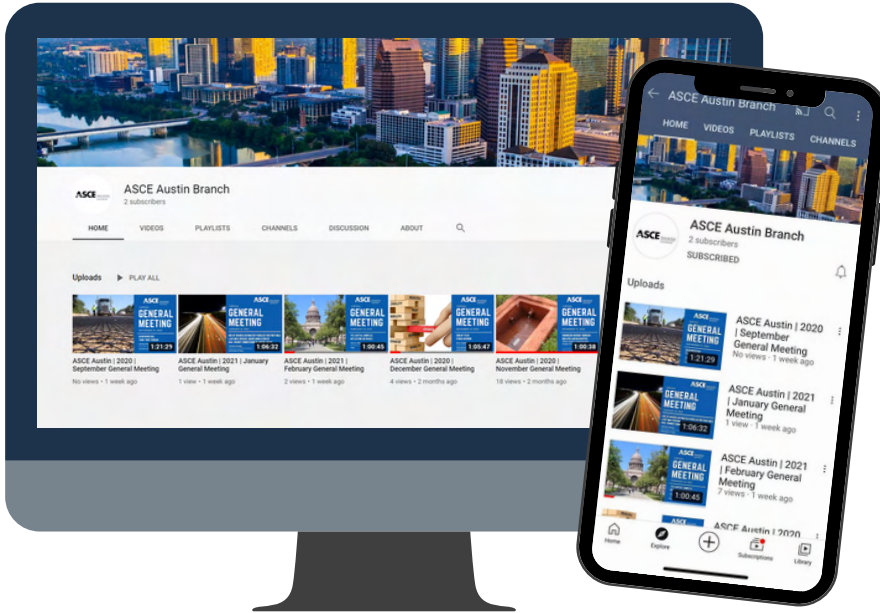
Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if you need assistance on a project. We can be reached at info@polarisforensics.com or 1-888-806-5654.

MEETING RECORDINGS AVAILABLE NOW

BY GRISELDA QUINTERO, E.I.T. & LEANNE CANTALUPO, E.I.T.

Miss our February meeting? Don't sweat it! You can now watch past virtual meetings on our YouTube channel.

Watch last month's meeting here: [ASCE Austin | 2021 | February General Meeting](#). Paul Bielamowicz, Principal and Senior Project Manager at Page, speaks on the TFC Capitol Complex project.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY AYAH ALOMARI, E.I.T.

Austin ASCE hopes everyone has been able to recover successfully after the winter storm. Below we have some opportunities for to donate and volunteer if you are able.

WHERE TO VOLUNTEER

Austin Disaster Relief Network



ADRN is looking for volunteers to help clean-up efforts, clearing homes, and removing debris as a result from the recent winter storm. They have locations all over Austin that need assistance. Please reach out to volunteer@adrntx.org to get more information on where you can assist. For more information check out their volunteer page [here](#).

Austin Mutual Aid

Austin Mutual Aid is a non-profit that works on assisting Austin's most vulnerable populations. They were stars and housed many people during the ice storm. They still need help! You can sift through donations and deliver them to families in need through their distribution site (the Long Center). Sign up [here](#).

WHERE TO DONATE

Good Work Austin

Good Work Austin is working with many local Austin restaurants to offer warm meals to those in nearby counties. They advocate for local small businesses and support many great initiatives. Consider donating [here](#).



Austin Mutual Aid

If you cannot volunteer with Austin Mutual Aid, consider [donating to their efforts!](#) They have almost reached their goal of \$1M!



ASCE TEXAS SECTION UPDATE

BY SEAN MERRELL, P.E., ASCE TEXAS SECTION PRESIDENT

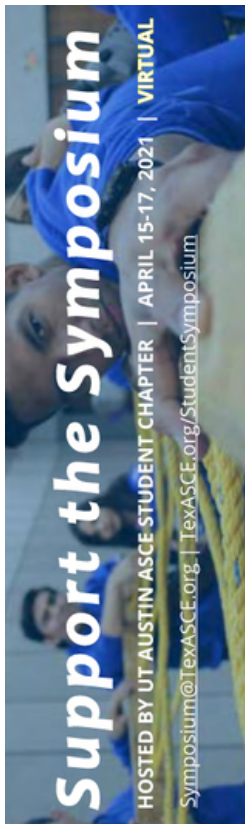
SEEKING SPONSORS & CAREER FAIR PARTICIPANTS FOR 2021 ASCE TEXAS STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

ASCE Texas Section's annual Student Symposium has something for everyone! The event fosters close association between engineering professionals and university students. The Student Symposium combines the Texas-Mexico Student Conference's concrete canoe student competition as well as a variety of other student competitions, a career fair, and seminars into one event. This year's seminars include technical seminars hosted by the ASCE Austin Branch and professionals from across the state are invited to attend the virtual sessions.

The event would not be possible without the support of our generous sponsors and this year's opportunities are a great deal! View our [sponsorship flyer](#) here for more details. And, if your company is looking to hire, you CAN'T MISS the Student Symposium Career Fair. Here, employers meet with over 400 students from universities from across Texas and Mexico in one place. Why attend (and pay for) dozens of career fairs this spring, when you can come to one and meet the brightest civil engineering minds engaged in leadership, teamwork, and professionalism?! Join us and experience the 2021 Student Symposium Career Fair using a highly-rated virtual career fair platform.



The Symposium will be held virtually on April 15-17, 2021 and hosted by the ASCE Student Chapter at The University of Texas at Austin. Visit www.texasce.org/our-programs/student-symposium/ for more details.



SYMPOSIUM SPONSORSHIPS			
BENEFITS	Supporter	Advocate	Champion
	\$500	\$1000	\$2500
Company logo on event website, platform, & marketing materials	X	X	X
Website URL, description, & social media handles in event virtual platform	X	X	X
Banner ad in event virtual platform	X	X	X
One (1) sponsored push notification in event virtual platform		X	X
Website URL, description, & social media handles in Career Fair virtual platform		X	X
Career Fair virtual booth		X	X
Two (2) comped registrations for Career Fair virtual booth		X	X
Two (2) months of a TexASCE Career Center job posting		X	X
Prerecorded video for virtual Career Fair virtual booth		X	X
Access to list of Career Fair candidates info and resumes		X	X
Opportunity to set 1-on-1 chats or video calls with candidates		X	X
Opportunity to list available jobs in Career Fair virtual booth		X	X
Banner ad in Career Fair virtual platform		X	X
One (1) sponsored push notification in career fair virtual platform		X	X
Breakout session sponsor (up to 2-min speech or video)		X	
Keynote session sponsor (up to 3-min speech or video)			X
One (1) sponsored email blast to attendees			X
½ page ad in PDF event program (8" w x 5.25" h; 300+ dpi; PDF, AI, or EPS)			X
Featured Sponsor (Preferred logo placement on event platform and Career Fair platform, plus a mention during evening socials and awards celebration)			X

Only 3 Available

Benefits in BLUE are Career Fair-specific

The average career fair cost is \$600+ to meet one university. The Symposium Career Fair includes 400 students from 15+ universities.

SPONSORSHIP DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2021



ASCE TEXAS SECTION UPDATE, CTD.

UPCOMING TECHNICAL WEBINARS

If you are interested in presenting a Texas Section Webinar, please email vpotech@texasce.org for more information. You can also go to the [webinars page on the Texas Section website](#) for a list of upcoming sessions, including:

- March 23** CDBG-DR/MIT Programs: Texas' Disaster Recovery, Mitigation and Planning Programs
- April 1** Geotechnical and Environmental Considerations for Civil & Transportation Engineering Project Design Pt 1
- April 29** Geotechnical and Environmental Considerations for Civil & Transportation Engineering Project Design Pt 2

SHARE YOUR IDEAS FOR CECON 2021

We want to hear how YOU define the future of sustainability. ASCE Texas Civil Engineering Conference (CECON) 2021 speaker and topic proposals will be accepted on the theme: Laying the Foundations of Sustainability. Help shape our flagship conference this September by [submitting a topic today!](#) The priority deadline was February 26, 2021, but we're still accepting topics.

ICYMI: 2021 TEXAS INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD RELEASE

Every four years, the ASCE Texas Section's Infrastructure Report Card (IRC) Committee is charged with preparing a Texas Infrastructure Report Card update. The 2021 report grades were released February 2021 and this report card will be an important advocacy tool used to support the ASCE Texas Legislative Drive-In during the 87th Texas Legislative Session and beyond.

On February 10, 2021, ASCE Texas Section held a virtual news conference to announce the 2021 Texas infrastructure grades: [Watch the 2021 Report Card release news conference here.](#) You can also view the [2021 Texas IRC Summary Brief and Full Report on our website.](#)



NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AWARD!

The ASCE Texas Section Excellence in Journalism Award honors journalists for outstanding coverage of civil engineers, civil engineering projects and civil engineering issues. The media has tremendous impact on public opinion. ASCE Texas Section would like to recognize journalism that enhances public understanding of the role civil engineers and civil engineering projects play in their communities. Learn more here.

TEXAS CIVIL ENGINEER: TECHNICAL ARTICLES

Did you know ASCE Texas Section's Editorial Committee regularly procures and publishes technical articles? The most popular 2020 technical article was [Lightweight Cellular Concrete for Geotechnical Applications](#) (January) with more than 2,000 views. The second most popular article was [I-10 Connect Project - TxDOT, El Paso District](#) (August) with nearly 700 views. Never miss a technical article by subscribing for monthly content releases at www.texasce.org/news/.



EWRI UPDATE

BY TRAVIS KAATZ, P.E.

The EWRI-Austin 16th Annual Continuing Education Workshop is in the works. The workshop date is still being finalized with mid to late July timeframe. Keep an eye out in the next few months for our Save the Date and workshop theme!

YMF UPDATE

BY KATHERINE SMITH, EIT

For the second year in a row, ASCE YMF is offering a scholarship for high school seniors pursuing Civil Engineering or STEM! We are looking for 2020-2021 high school seniors interested in pursuing Civil Engineering, STEM, or a related field to apply.

The application is 6-pages long. Transcripts, SAT/ACT scores, 2 recommendation letters, and a video or essay are required for entry. The deadline is Friday April 16th, 2021.

Find the application and more information here: <https://www.austinasce.org/awards-and-scholarships>

ASCE
TEXAS SECTION
Austin Branch
YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM

High School Scholarship!

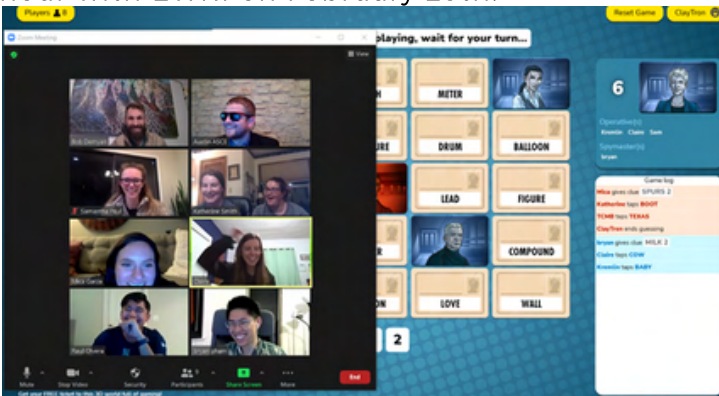
For high school seniors pursuing a degree in **Civil Engineering or STEM**

Application Deadline: **April 16, 2021**

[austinasce.org/awards-and-scholarships](https://www.austinasce.org/awards-and-scholarships)

Apply Now!

Thanks everyone who joined in our joint happy hour with EWRI on February 25th!



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

@ymfaustin

ASCE YMF ATX

[austinasce.org/
younger-members](https://www.austinasce.org/younger-members)

If you are interested in learning more about ASCE YMF ATX, please contact our president Kaylyn Hudson at kaylyn.hudson@freese.com.

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS UPDATE

BY JENNA GARDNER, P.E.

Join the Greater Austin chapter of Engineers Without Borders on Tuesday, April 13th at 6 PM for our virtual General Meeting! If you are interested in attending, please contact Jenna Gardner for the meeting information, operations@ewbgrreateraustin.org.

Additionally, the chapter will be hosting a virtual trivia night on Tuesday, March 30th at 7PM! The winning team will receive a prize. Invite your friends, families and coworkers. Max team size is 6 people. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per individual, but all are welcome to participate. Please consider donating to benefit the Tanzania water rehabilitation project and to help us host more fun trivia nights like this! If you are interested in sponsoring a trivia night or have any other questions, please email Lizzie Wilson, projects@ewbgrreateraustin.org.

Please see our latest blog post for more information: ewbgrreateraustin.org/2021/03/09/trivia-night-3-30/

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS
Greater Austin Chapter
PRESENTS

Virtual Trivia Night

SPONSORING EWB-GA'S TANZANIA PROJECT

30 | MARCH | 2021
VIA ZOOM

MAY THE LUCK OF THE IRISH BE WITH YOUR TEAM

TO REGISTER, VISIT [EWBGREATERAUSTIN.ORG](https://www.ewbgrreateraustin.org) OR USE THE QR CODE BELOW

POT OF GOLD PRIZE(S) AWAIT OUR WINNERS!



The impacts of CoVID-19 have been felt for over a year now and still require that many activities be done remotely. As we carry out our mission to advance and serve the Structural Engineering profession, SEI will therefore continue to offer virtual resources for you. Following is information on our Professional Meetings, Structural Engineering Talks (SET) and on-line resources to help you make the best use of your screen time.

PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

Major League Soccer (MLS) has come to Austin and the season begins in April. In preparation for this new addition to the Austin scene, SEI is providing a presentation that should be of interest to engineers and soccer fans alike at the March ASCE mtg. SEI has invited Mark Waggoner, Principal at Walter P Moore to present on their work on the new Q2 Stadium for the Austin FC MLS club at McKalla Place in north Austin. To see this presentation register for and attend the March 23rd ASCE Meeting.

Additional information will be provided in the upcoming SEI e-blast. You can register at the ASCE website at <https://www.austinasce.org/>.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING TALKS (SET) 2021

Planning continues for SET 2021. As Texas continues to open up and get back to in-person activities, we are watching closely for the right time to hold SET 2021 in person. Updates and all available information will be maintained at <https://www.austinasce.org/sei/set>.



ADDITIONAL ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

New SEI Standards Series



SEI STANDARDS SERIES

Join live, virtual sessions for exclusive interaction with expert ASCE/SEI Standard developers on state-of-the-market updates. Participants will learn about technical revisions and review a design example. Attendees are encouraged to join and participate in Live Q&A. REGISTER NOW at <https://cutt.ly/9hQDTEo>

SEI Structures 2020 Virtual Event

This recording is free and open to all. It features content on Generations@Work, Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety CROSS-US, and Performance-Based Design taken from the canceled 2020 Structures Congress. View the recording [here](#).

SEI Structures Congress 2020 Proceedings

This site provides access to the papers that were to be presented at the 2020 Structures Congress. View the papers [here](#).

ASCE Collaborate

This is a [collaboration page](#) normally reserved for ASCE members but now open to all. It contains several events that can be joined. Most events are free of charge.

ASCE Library Highlights

This site contains some available resources highlighted for the month. View them [here](#).

Stay plugged into the SEI Austin Chapter via our [website](#), where you'll find the latest and greatest on upcoming events. We always welcome your thoughts on future technical presentations and other special events - particularly during these challenging times. If there is something you would like to do, then we would like to hear about it. Please drop us a line at sei@austinasce.org.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SPONSOR THE ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH FOR 2021!

BY AUSTIN HELTON, P.E.

BECOME A SPONSOR



We ask that all members consider supporting your local ASCE branch during these uncertain and difficult times. Almost all the functions of the organization are dependent upon these sponsorships and we cannot do all the great things that we do, without YOUR SUPPORT!

For more information about the benefits of sponsorship visit www.austinasce.org/sponsors.

If you have any questions or for more information please email sponsorship@austinasce.org.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$300 | ANNUAL SPONSORS

- Valid for 1 Year after date of purchase.
- Company logo is displayed on newsletters, mailers, and at ASCE branch meetings.
- Free postings on the ASCE job board.

\$350 | MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING SPONSORS

- Company highlight in event promotion emails.
- Special recognition at branch meeting event.
- Opportunity to give a brief introduction of your Company during the event.

\$300 | CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT (2021)

- Company highlight in event promotion emails.
- Several additional levels of sponsorship available.

\$850 | SPECIAL BUNDLE RATE

- Save \$100 when you pledge to support all three!
- Includes Annual Sponsorship
- Includes one credit for monthly branch meeting sponsorship.
- Includes sponsorship at Continuing Education event.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



GESSNER
ENGINEERING



Kimley»Horn



THE RIOS GROUP
SUBSURFACE UTILITY ENGINEERING | UTILITY COORDINATION



ASCE AUSTIN LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

If you're looking for ways to get more involved with your local ASCE branch, you're in luck! We're actively recruiting for multiple open positions for ASCE Austin, EWRI, SEI, and more. If you are interested in any of our committees, please contact our and our Nominations Committee Chair, Travis Isaacson, at tisaacson@rios-group.com.

2020-2021 ASCE AUSTIN OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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