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The Southeast Branch News is published monthly by the Southeast Branch of the Wisconsin Section of ASCE. Change of street and/or e-mail address should be sent to ASCE, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston VA 20191 (800/548-ASCE). You may update your own information at the Members Only page of WWW.ASCE.ORG

The deadline for articles for the next newsletter is the first of the month.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Southeast Branch!

Much has changed since our last newsletter. Our way of life has been upended in the face of this global pandemic.

First and foremost, I'd like to offer sympathies to those whose families have been touched by COVID-19 and express sincere gratitude to the healthcare professionals on the front lines and essential workers who are keeping things running.

Many of us are adjusting to working remotely and if you're like me, you're struggling at times to balance professional responsibilities with your family's needs. I've been trying to take things one day at a time and remain optimistic that we're making progress.

If there is a silver lining to be found in this situation, it may be a newfound appreciation of those who are closest to us and a realization of how interdependent we are as a society.

As engineers, we are also reminded of the importance of our profession. For example, the US Army Corps of Engineers has been instrumental in responding to the areas most affected by COVID-19. Access to critical infrastructure is of utmost importance to those who are battling the disease.

Whether large or small, we all play a role in getting our communities through these challenging times. Thank you for doing your part!

ASCE has assembled a webpage full of information to help you navigate the new "normal." <https://collaborate.asce.org/covid-19/home> You may find some useful resources.



Stay safe!

Sincerely,

Nick Bobinski, P.E., M.ASCE
Wisconsin Section, Southeast Branch, President
nbobinski@kapurinc.com

[2020 High School Rube Goldberg Competition](#)

The regional high school Rube Goldberg competition was held on Friday March 6, 2020 at Discovery World. This year's high school challenge was to "Turn Off A Light" in 20 or more steps; the completed machine must also fit in an overall space of 10'x10'x8' and run for no more than three minutes. As in past years, the Southeast Branch sponsored the Special Award for "Most Creative Use of Materials." This year, the award was granted to Chatfield High School out of Chatfield, MN (pictured below), who also took 1st Place overall.

Additional information on runners up and other Special Award winners can be found on [STEM Forward's webpage](#).



Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card

ASCE Wisconsin Section's development of the 2020 Report Card for Wisconsin's Infrastructure is nearing completion. The report card depicts the condition and performance of Wisconsin infrastructure in the familiar form of a school report card—assigning letter grades based on the physical condition and needed investments for improvement.

A fundraising event to help cover the costs of the Report Card Release was held at City Lights Brewing Company on Tuesday, March 3rd. Approximately 40 people attended and heard about the importance of infrastructure from Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Glendale Mayor Bryan Kennedy, and MMSD Executive Director Kevin Shafer. Thank you to all attendees, sponsors, and speakers for making this a successful event!



Southeast Branch Events Update

With the governor's "Safer-at-Home" order, we are working to adjust our monthly meetings from in-person to web-based. Our first offering is tentatively set for mid-May. Registration and more details will be coming in the next few weeks, so please be on the lookout for those. As always, if you need PDH's before the end of the Wisconsin Biennium, we strongly encourage you take advantage of [ASCE's 10 free PDH credits](#).



Registration for our annual Scholarship Golf Outing is currently on hold. The Golf Committee will provide updates when we know more.

[Call for Southeast Branch Board & Committee Positions](#)

Elections for next year's Southeast Branch Board of Directors will be here before you know it. If you or someone you know is interested in a board position for next year, please feel free to reach out to Tony Castle (tony.castle@aecom.com) for more information. There are also several Committee positions open if a board position is not quite your style. We are always open to new, fresh ideas to help make our Southeast Branch membership the best experience it can be.



[2020 ASCE WI Section Annual Meeting](#)

The Southeast Branch is hosting the Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting in the Fall of 2020, and we need your help! We are seeking speakers and topics for the general and technical sessions.

Please contact Nick Bobinski via email at nbobinski@kapurinc.com with suggestions.

[Annual Wisconsin Section Awards](#)

Do you know of an outstanding civil/environmental engineer? Do you have an amazing project that you believe needs recognition? Then check out the [ASCE Wisconsin Section's awards page!](#)

Section awards are given annually to individual Wisconsin Section ASCE members or projects. The award nominations are **due on June 1st**. The awards include multiple individual awards, in addition to several project-based awards. Links for the awards are provided below. Please consider recommending an individual to be nominated by the Southeast Branch board. Nominations to be sent to the Wisconsin Section will be determined at the May Board of Directors meeting on May 6th. Send nomination and information to the Past-President, at KyleBareither@Ramboll.com.

- [Engineering Achievement Awards \(project-based awards\)](#)
- [Individual Merit Awards - with awards categories including Education, Consulting, Government and Private Practice](#)
- [Distinguished Service](#)
- [Excellence in Journalism Award](#)
- [Young Civil Engineer of the Year](#)

Younger Member Group News

Silver Spring Neighborhood Center

The YMG visited the SSNC on Tuesday February 25th and explored kinetic and potential energy by making roller coasters out of foam pipe insulation and marbles. The students made some loop-de-loops and even a full 270-degree turn!



Brewers Game Tailgate

The YMG Brewers game outing will be postponed to a later date – stay tuned! We look forward to safely gathering to take in a game at Miller Park.

STEM Expo

Planning is underway for the next STEM Expo. Keep an eye out for details!

[Check us out on Facebook and Instagram!](#)



[Meeting Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

Is your company interested in a unique sponsorship opportunity? Our monthly member meetings are a great way to connect with Civil Engineers in Southeast Wisconsin! Contact Kyle Bareither (Kyle.Bareither@ramboll.com) to discuss upcoming sponsorship opportunities.

[Speakers](#)

The Southeast Branch is developing a speaker list. If you would like to present at one of our monthly meetings in the area, please reach out to Kyle Bareither (Kyle.Bareither@ramboll.com). This would also be used to provide speakers to our three local student chapters; please consider reaching out and passing on your knowledge!

[10 FREE PDH hours through ASCE](#)

Annual ASCE membership now includes TEN free on-demand webinars worth up to 15 PDHs! Take advantage of this benefit before the end of the year!

[Courses are available in numerous disciplines!](#)

[Free on-demand webinars](#)



[Newsletter Publication](#)

We welcome your articles, letters & news items for publication in the ASCE SE Branch Newsletter.

Advertisements and job postings are also accepted by contacting:

Kyle J Bareither, P.E. – 414-837-3574 – Kyle.Bareither@ramboll.com

or by visiting the employment page on our website (<http://www.ascewise.org/employment/>)

*Deadline for next issue is the first of the month.

The following are paid advertisements and are not affiliated with ASCE.