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# News

Vol. 56, No. 2  
Summer 2015

## The Power of Partnership and Collaboration in the E/C Industry

*By Andrew D. Walton, P.E.*

**T**he word Partnership brings to mind the simple maxim that “two heads are better than one”.

Simply stated, partnerships offer advantages that cannot be realized individually. They allow participants to collectively define a problem and explore potential solutions that meet the objectives of all parties involved. When organizations sharing common interests join forces, they're able to cast a much wider net to achieve their shared goals.



A quick Google search on “The Power of Partnership” will yield nearly 250 million results spanning across a wide

**Partnerships offer advantages that cannot be realized individually.**

**They allow participants to collectively define a problem and explore potential solutions that meet the objectives of all parties involved.**

array of concepts and disciplines. The resulting wealth of information alone is evidence enough to showcase that partnerships can be beneficial within any industry or service. However, this is especially true within the engineering design and construction (E/C) industries where positive trends toward partnership can be seen within the professional organizations serving the industry, the firms doing business within it, and in the way that business is being awarded and funded at the public agency level.  
(continued on page 9)

## President's Notes

Mike MacKinnon, P.E.



The Illinois Section has had a very busy start to 2015. In March, five of our section members flew to Washington, D.C. to participate in ASCE's annual legislative fly-in. The Illinois delegation met with their local house representatives, and met collectively with Senator Durbin and Kirk's offices. Our primary message to our elected officials was (i) fund the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) that was passed last year, and (ii) pass a long-term sustainable infrastructure funding bill. Both messages were well received, and we will be tracking the progress of these efforts. I encourage each of you to meet with your elected representatives. Members of Congress listen to their constituents. Please contact me if you wish to do so, and I can provide background information on the legislative issues for you prior to your visit.

On a similar note, the Illinois Section hosted its 8<sup>th</sup> annual legislative day in Springfield in April. We had over 50 of our members participate in this event, and coupled with 100 professionals from other organizations, we were well represented at the state capitol. Randy Blankenhorn, the Acting Secretary for IDOT spoke at our luncheon. Thanks to all who took the time to participate and make this year's event a success.

In April, the Illinois Section held its annual Student Scholarship Dinner. The event featured a presentation by Brian Pallasch, ASCE's managing director of government relations and infrastructure initiatives. He emphasized the need for sustainable, long-term funding sources for our local and national infrastructure. The event was well attended by professionals and student members. Over \$10,000 in scholarships were provided by the Illinois Section's institutes and technical groups to college students pursuing degrees in civil engineering. The Illinois Section also provided two grants to Engineers without Borders programs in Nicaragua and Honduras. If you would like to provide additional support to one of these projects, please contact me.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who participated in our Centennial Anniversary survey. The committee has incorporated the survey responses into the event planning. There are currently four to five large events being planned, with the Centennial Anniversary kickoff event at our annual dinner in October. Stay tuned for additional details.

ASCE Illinois Section

# News

## ILLINOIS SECTION NEWSLETTER

E-Mailed to all ASCE-IS dues-paying members  
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Section - Region 3

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# Centennial Anniversary News

By Jennifer Gora, P.E. and Thera Baldauf, P.E.

This October the Illinois Section will kick-off our Centennial Anniversary celebration and our committee is in the early planning stages of the celebration details.

To help gauge membership interest, the committee sent a survey to the Illinois Section membership in January/February of 2015. Over 259 members participated in the survey. The information gathered will be used in planning fun, interactive anniversary events for the entire membership. Feedback from the survey included the following:

Question #1 Activities to be held during the Centennial Anniversary: The activities listed and the survey results for each of the following:

- A civil engineering historic sites walking tour (81%)
- Community service projects (52%)
- K-12 outreach (44%)
- College networking activities (31%)
- Lifetime member outreach activities (21%)
- Gala event that includes dinner and dancing (26%).

Other creative suggestions included a boat cruise, visits to current civil engineering sites, display of engineering projects and tools throughout the years, media coverage, free PDH training courses, and planned events throughout the Chicagoland area and suburbs.

Question #2 inquired on how often events should be held: The survey revealed that the members prefer quarterly events.

Question #3 asked members to agree or disagree with the suggested items: The following suggested items and member agreement were:

- Billboards (47%)
- Newsletter articles highlighting civil engineering projects (92%),
- Displays to be placed at libraries, public buildings or other areas highlighting local civil engineering projects (88%)
- Centennial logo creation (69%)
- 2015 Annual October Section dinner to kick-off anniversary (78%)
- 2016 Annual October Section dinner to wrap-up anniversary (66%)
- Centennial Section gift creation (39%)
- Creation of Centennial link to Section webpage that highlights outstanding Section projects and Centennial events (87%).

During the May Centennial Anniversary committee meeting, the committee reviewed the survey results and developed a preliminary calendar of Section events that will include the following items:

- October 2015 Annual Dinner – Kick-off for the Centennial Anniversary

- Winter 2016 – Section and Institute event in Rosemont (TBD) with potential food drive or other community outreach sponsorship
- April 2016 – President-Elect / Scholarship dinner
- Summer/Fall 2016 – walking or boat tour of civil engineering works
- October 2016 Annual Dinner – Centennial Anniversary finale with potential gala event

Specifics for each event are still in the very early planning stages and will be released via the website, in the next newsletter, and as an email blast by mid summer.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the Centennial Anniversary committee, please send correspondence to [president@isasce.org](mailto:president@isasce.org).

Jennifer Gora is a Civil/Environmental Engineering graduate (BS/MS) of NDSU; currently with HNTB Corporation in the aviation service group.

Thera Baldauf is a Civil Engineering graduate (BS) of Marquette University and holds a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) with the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management. She is currently with MWH Americas, Inc. as a Project Manager for the Chicago Government and Infrastructure group.

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# Bid vs. Budgeted Costs: Concrete Prices Continue to Rise

By Monica Crinion, P.E.

**D**riving down any roadway in the Chicagoland area and you'll see signs that the 2015 construction season is in full swing. From Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) Bus Rapid Transit street reconfiguration projects to the replacement of aging state and county bridges and including the continuing improvements of the 15-year, \$12 billion "Move Illinois" capital program by the Illinois Tollway, infrastructure expansion and improvement projects are flourishing. A booming construction industry would indicate a rebounding economy and a positive outlook

**A booming construction industry would indicate a positive outlook for infrastructure improvement, but how does this influx in projects translate into actual project construction costs seen at state and local levels?**

for infrastructure improvement, but how does this influx in projects translate into actual project construction costs seen at state and local levels?

A review of recent bid results for state transportation projects shows that many awarded construction contracts have exceeded the Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost. Examining corrected tabulations of bids provided by Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for projects let in 2015 shows that on the March and April lettings nearly 38% of projects had exceeded the overall total project estimate of cost. Closer examinations of a small selection of projects from the 2015 lettings suggest that increasing concrete costs factor into the cost estimate disparity. (continued on page 5)



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Please visit the career page of our web site ([www.geosyntec.com](http://www.geosyntec.com)) to view descriptions of these positions and apply online.

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# Come Join the Sustainability Scene

By John Fraenhoffer, P.E., S.E., Region 3 Director

**Y**ou are invited to attend the Region 3 Assembly and earn **six PDH's**. The Region 3 Governors aided by Illinois Section Officers have been concentrating on ASCE's National Initiative:

**Sustainability.** Six hour-long presentations have been created ranging from Design Case Histories, Human and Social Impacts, and the ENVISION Rating System. This is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the **Sustainability Juggernaut**.

We will convene in Minneapolis on Friday afternoon, August 14 and Saturday morning, August 15. The Assembly will be hosted at the Marquette Hotel downtown. Transportation from the airport to

downtown is extremely easy on the light rail, which departs the airport terminal and travels directly downtown.

You will be interacting with Chuck Hookham, PE, learning about the Sustainability Return on Investment tool, a strong focus on lifecycle analysis. Michael Mucha, PE will deliver a thought-provoking workshop on the human side of **Sustainability**. John Lazzara, PE will demonstrate how ENVISION and its **Sustainability Concepts** can be incorporated into your next project. A case history on an ENVISION rated transportation project in Edina, Minnesota will illuminate **Sustainability Success**. That's just a taste!

Come to Minneapolis and get the full impact!

**The Governors have created this Assembly for you!**

**Come learn, enjoy, and have fun!**

**Contact John Fraenhoffer for info: [mustang2797@att.net](mailto:mustang2797@att.net)**

John Fraenhoffer, PE, SE, MASCE was president of Fraenhoffer and Associates, PC from 1980 to 2009, currently serves as Senior Structural Engineer for the successor firm, Engineering Resource Associates, Inc., and represents Illinois and five other states on the ASCE Board of Direction.

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## Bid vs. Budgeted Costs: Concrete Prices Continue to Rise

(continued from page 4)

According to the Illinois based Portland Cement Association (PCA), economic momentum resulted in an 8.7% growth in cement consumption in 2014. Cement is an essential component in the manufacturing of concrete used in all avenues of construction. Economic forecasts by PCA predict this growth trend to continue with 7.5% cement consumption increase in 2015 and 7.9% in 2016. However, in an October 2014 letter from the Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association (IRTBA), president and CEO Michael J. Sturino states that the State of

Illinois is experiencing a shortage in the supply of cement. Combining reduced cement and concrete availability with a large influx of work from Illinois Tollway, IDOT and municipal projects has resulted in higher contract unit prices for all concrete items. This affects nearly all transportation projects including those with roadway surface improvements, bridge deck rehabilitation, bridge reconstruction, and drainage improvements incorporating both concrete structures as well as concrete pipe.

**Increasing concrete costs factor into the disparity of construction costs at bid and the engineering estimate of construction costs**

Engineering consultants must be mindful of these rising concrete costs when developing overall construction cost estimates. Federally funded infrastructure projects use Project Program Information (PPI) forms for approval and tracking of project funding. For county and (continued on page 13)



# Illinois Civil Engineers Converge on Springfield

By Patrick Lach, P.E.

Members from Illinois Sections and Branches converged on Springfield, Illinois on Wednesday April 29, 2015 for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Drive-In. ASCE in conjunction with several engineering and surveying partner organizations visited officials and staff to discuss the need for infrastructure investment and the urgency of creating a long-term and sustainable funding source for transportation infrastructure.



Over 50 engineers attended the ASCE luncheon where Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn spoke about the desire to develop a better long term planning and funding mechanism that can create a steady revenue stream for transportation while encouraging longer term planning for infrastructure projects. Secretary



President Mike MacKinnon and Past-President Patrick Lach with IDOT Secretary Randy Blankenhorn

Blankenhorn also discussed the [Illinois Infrastructure Listening Tour](#) where the State construction agencies want to hear what are the needs and priorities for infrastructure from stakeholders throughout the entire state. The luncheon also included updates on legislation and possible funding scenarios in addition to instructions and tips for meeting with legislators. Following lunch, engineers visited the Capitol to meet with legislators and drop off important information including the [2014 Report Card on Illinois Infrastructure](#). Visits included meetings with party leaders and the Governor's staff. The key theme of developing a long-term sustainable funding solution for transportation infrastructure seemed to resonate well with legislators and the Governor's office. Although there are other issues that the State of Illinois is currently working on, there seemed to be some consensus that additional work to improve infrastructure is needed.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit the Illinois Section ASCE's [Government Affairs Website](#) and the ASCE's [Advocacy Website](#). We recommend that members of ASCE reach out to your legislators to introduce yourself and explain the need for infrastructure investment and long-term, sustainable funding sources for infrastructure maintenance and improvements. If you have any questions, please visit our website or contact Patrick Lach, Past President and Government Affairs Chair, at 773-693-9200x12 or [plach@heyassoc.com](mailto:plach@heyassoc.com).

Patrick Lach, P.E., CFM is a Senior Civil Engineer at Hey and Associates, Inc. and is Past-President of the Illinois Section. He has over 14 years of experience in civil engineering and water resources planning, design and construction.



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# Honor Your Colleagues, Recognize Outstanding Civil Engineering Projects, Engineering Firms, and Government Agencies – Nominate Them for 2015 ISASCE Awards

By, Karen Chou, P.E.

**A**nually Illinois Section ASCE honors individuals who have demonstrated exceptional accomplishment and services to the profession and society, recognizes outstanding civil engineering projects, public and private sectors employers and journalists. ISASCE needs your help to identify such individuals, projects, firms, and agencies. Nominations are now open until July 15, 2015. Please consider nominating one of your senior and/or junior colleagues, projects, firms and agencies you work with, or a reporter/reporters. The award winners will be recognized at the annual Awards Banquet to be held in October at Adler Planetarium.

Founded in 1852, ASCE is the oldest and one of the most prestigious national engineering societies in the United States. ASCE is dedicated to the advancement of the science and the profession of engineering to enhance the welfare of mankind. Illinois Section Award recipients may be nominated by the Section

to become candidates for the 2015 ASCE National Awards Program.

## NOMINATION PROCEDURE

The painless nominations procedure consists of a nomination form and supporting letter, a resume, and letters of recommendation for outstanding engineering professionals who meet the criteria of the awards category.

For project nominations, a nomination form and letter, a narrative and pictures highlighting the unique qualities of the project or construction aspects, and a statement of support from the owner/client are required.

Nominations for all 2015 awards are due by **July 15, 2015**. Application forms, instructions and additional information will soon be available at the Illinois Section website at <http://www.isasce.org/scholarships-rewards/>. Please submit the original nomination(s) to **Karen Chou** at 2145 Sheridan Road,

Room A236, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60208 and pdf version of the nomination(s) by e-mail at [karen-chou@northwestern.edu](mailto:karen-chou@northwestern.edu). Please feel free to call at (507) 382-7187 you have questions or comments.

## ILLINOIS SECTION AWARDS CATEGORIES

ISASCE established 11 awards and recognitions to honor individuals, firms, and projects. Description of each award/recognition is presented below.

### Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award

The Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award recognizes outstanding projects that contribute to civil engineering progress and to society. A project must be completed by the end of 2014 to be eligible. The following criteria will be given special weight in making the selection: (continued on page 11)



# The Power of Partnership and Collaboration in the E/C Industry

(continued from page 1)

There are a number of national and local professional organizations that share similar objectives, primarily aimed towards promoting the advancement of the engineering industry and the professionals working within it, serving the public good, and advocating for infrastructure and environmental stewardship. Over the past few years, the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers – Transportation & Development Institute (IS-ASCE T&DI) has partnered up with many organizations sharing these same goals, including the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), American Public Works Association (APWA), Illinois Society of Professional Engineers (ISPE), Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), Transportation for Illinois Coalition (TFIC), Advancing Women in Transportation (WTS), along with other technical institutes that fall under the Illinois Section umbrella. With these partner organizations, IS-ASCE T&DI has enjoyed the ability to jointly host events aimed at providing associated members with industry related updates and networking opportunities. The enhanced attendance resulting from these alliances allows for increased exposure of presenters' topics to a wider audience and provides a time-saving benefit for the presenter (typically public agency officials) by eliminating the need to commit to multiple events hosted by each individual

organization, in effect “killing two birds with one stone”.

The Illinois Section of ASCE (IS-ASCE) recently teamed up with ACEC, APWA, ISPE, IRTBA and TFIC for the annual legislative day, in which more than 100 design and construction professionals traveled to Springfield, Illinois to appeal to state legislators about the importance of infrastructure investment and the urgency to create a long-term and sustainable funding source for transportation infrastructure. The welcome reception, hosted by TFIC and IRTBA, had a large number of state representatives and senators in attendance. The following day, more than 140 meetings with state legislators took place in an effort to push the infrastructure investment agenda at the individual level. A large part of the success of this event can be attributed to the fact that these organizations came together to collectively plan and organize this event and pulled from their individual membership bases to maximize attendance accordingly. Likewise, collaborative efforts are taking place at the Illinois Section level to assist the Chicago Infrastructure Trust by lending professional engineering expertise from participating members, and the ACEC Design Professional Coalition, by way of financial support, to address the critical political and public policy issues that promote and protect the interests of the industry, its member companies, and the public good.

One of the biggest E/C-industry stories of 2014 was organizational consolidation, headlined by the acquisition of URS by rival firm AECOM. The partnership combines two major competitors to definitively position AECOM as number one on the ENR Top 500 Design Firms list and created the first \$10-billion design firm. The scale of this strategic transaction should help to drive profitability (as margins are typically very thin in the E/C industry) and gives AECOM, a firm typically known for its strengths in design and program management for buildings, transportation systems, and the education sector, a strong presence in the energy sector (in which URS generates over 70% of its revenues). Similarly, the combination of firms such as WSP and Parsons Brinckerhoff, Amec and Foster Wheeler, Arcadis-RTKL and Callison, POWER Engineers and Burns and

**Teaming agreements allow clients additional opportunities to distribute their workload among the large pool of consultants in the region.**

Roe Group, allows the resulting firms to present a wider range of services and opens up new opportunities that may not have previously been possible to either standalone firm. The combination of design capabilities,  
(continued on page 10)

# The Power of Partnership and Collaboration in the E/C Industry

(continued from page 9)

construction experience, and financing power realized by these major acquisitions allows these megafirms to provide design-build-operate-maintain services, an alternative delivery method gaining traction in the transportation industry.

Another recent trend towards partnership can be seen in the

of subconsultants performing work on these projects, further developing the partnering relationships resulting from these types of teaming arrangements. These teaming agreements allow clients additional opportunities to distribute their workload among the large pool of consultants in the region.

reduce operational budgets by turning maintenance and operations of facilities over to the private sector. The Indiana Toll Road, a P3 between the State of Indiana and two foreign companies, was awarded a contract in 2006 to operate a 157-mile stretch of Indiana's public roadways. Even though the project has failed to generate a profit for the private investors due to lower vehicular traffic than was initially forecast, it ultimately saved the taxpayers of Indiana more than \$100 million per year in operating costs. Similarly, a number of other states including California, Illinois, Michigan, Kentucky and Georgia are all courting investors in hopes of attracting corporations to fund P3 projects, assuming a portion of the risk and expense in exchange for a share of the profits.



teaming arrangements that have developed among firms competing for new business. This can be seen in the fact that a number of Illinois Tollway contracts were awarded to joint ventures<sup>1</sup> over the last several years. Additionally, on recent proposals, simple teaming agreements<sup>2</sup> have been submitted in lieu of formal joint venture/partnership agreements. Likewise, there is an extensive list

Lastly, partnerships between public agencies and the private sector, known as Public-Private-Partnerships (P3s)<sup>3</sup>, are continuing to make progress in the transportation market and are increasingly being seen as an innovative funding mechanism for major infrastructure initiatives. While P3s have been used successfully for decades in the United States, mounting financial pressure at the federal, state and local levels has resulted in agencies employing a renewed focus toward P3s as a way to

**Mounting financial pressure at the federal, state and local levels has resulted in agencies employing a renewed focus toward P3s as a way to reduce operational budgets by turning maintenance and operations of facilities over to the private sector.**

<sup>1</sup> Joint Venture: a combination of two or more persons or businesses in which the parties agree to form a single for-profit enterprise that shares assets, revenues, expenses and control over the enterprise for a finite period of time.

<sup>2</sup> Teaming Agreement: the action of joining forces with another vendor for submission on a proposal.

<sup>3</sup> Public-Private-Partnership (P3): a government service or private business venture which is funded and operated through a partnership of government and one or more private sector companies.

(continued on page 11)

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# The Power of Partnership and Collaboration in the E/C Industry

(continued from page 10)

In summary, partnerships within the E/C industry continue to carry great promise and offer huge advantages to all involved. Professional organizations sharing common interests are serving the industry together rather than competing within it; consolidating business organizations are expanding their portfolios in terms of the breadth and depth of services they offer; firms competing for new business are creating teaming agreements to

complement and strengthen their project teams; and partnerships between the public and private sector are being employed as an innovative funding mechanism for infrastructure improvements. All of these powerful alliances should continue to be fostered and encouraged to keep the industry moving forward together.

*Andrew D. Walton, P.E. is the roadway design lead for Primera Engineers, Ltd. He has worked on*

*numerous design projects for the Illinois Tollway, IDOT, and various counties and municipalities. He received his BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Dayton, is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois, and an NCEES Record Number holder. This article was written on behalf of the IS-ASCE Transportation & Development Institute (T&DI), of which Andrew is the current chair.*

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## Honor Your Colleagues, Recognize Outstanding Civil Engineering Projects, Engineering Firms, and Government Agencies - Nominate Them for 2015 ISASCE Awards

(continued from page 8)

contribution to the well being of people and communities; resourcefulness in the planning and solution of design problems, the pioneering use of materials and methods, innovations in construction: consideration of impact on the environment; usual aspects of a project or aesthetic values; and its contribution to the "quality of life." Three project size categories are established: projects having a cost of \$10 million or less, \$10 million to \$25 million, and higher than \$25 million. ***Projects may be nominated for the National OCEA award.***

### **Sustainability in Civil Engineering Achievement Award**

The Sustainable Project of the Year award recognizes creativity in the form of innovative sustainability. Projects may be any that demonstrate innovation in sustainability and that were constructed by the end of 2014. To be eligible for consideration, projects must, first and foremost, demonstrate adherence to the principles of economic, social and environmental sustainability. The criteria used to evaluate sustainable projects are: (a) the extent to which innovative design or construction methods improve economic, social and environmental sustainability; (b) the promise shown by the innovation to extend future

developments in sustainability; and (c) the degree to which the project extends public understanding of sustainability in construction.

### **Civil Engineer of the Year**

The Civil Engineer of the Year award recognizes an outstanding professional engineer: whose contributions to society by exemplary professional conduct in a specific outstanding instance and established reputation for professional service; with objectives and lasting achievements in improving the conditions under which professional engineers serve in public and private practice; who has made significant contributions toward improvement of  
(continued on page 12)

# Honor Your Colleagues, Recognize Outstanding Civil Engineering Projects, Engineering Firms, and Government Agencies - Nominate Them for 2015 ISASCE Awards

(continued from page 11)

employment conditions among civil engineers and the professional aspect of civil engineering education; and who provides professional guidance to young civil engineers.

## **Young Civil Engineer of the Year**

This award will be presented to a civil engineer with EIT or PE registration who is employed in the private sector and is 35 years of age or less on February 1, 2015. The candidate will be judged on having attained significant professional achievement by the degree to which the candidate has shown service to the advancement of the profession, evidence of technical competence, high character and integrity, contribution to public service, and other evidence of merit that has advanced the Society's objectives.

## **Government Civil Engineer of the Year**

This award will be presented to a distinguished registered professional civil engineer, employed in public service, and has sustained outstanding civil engineering performance in the public sector, shown evidence of high character and professional integrity, provides professional guidance to young civil engineers, and has made significant contributions towards the

improvement of employment conditions among civil engineers.

## **Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year**

This award will be presented to a civil engineer with EIT or PE registration, who is employed full-time in public service for a minimum of five years, is 35 years of age or less on February 1, 2015, and has shown excellent performance that has demonstrated leadership potential in the public sector, evidence of high character, and professional integrity.

## **Citizen Engineer of the Year Award**

This award will be presented to a member who has made volunteer efforts that better our world in such areas as local or national legislation, education at all levels, non-profit volunteer organizations, community activities, etc. The nominees will be evaluated on the positive impact and overall contribution as a result of their efforts, number of people involved or reached by their effort, originality, and level of effort.

## **Public Involvement Award**

This award will be presented to an ASCE Illinois Section member group (two or more individuals) which has made volunteer efforts that better our world in such areas

as local or national legislation, education at all levels, non-profit volunteer organizations, community activities, etc. The nominees will be evaluated on the positive impact and overall contribution as a result of their effort, number of people involved or reached by their effort, originality, and level of effort.

## **Public Sector Employer Recognition Award**

This award will be presented to a public sector employer who encourages their engineers to actively participate in ASCE. Special recognition will go to those organizations who exhibit exemplary support as evidenced by: providing a model for involvement through agency-wide participation in local, regional, and national ASCE activities; allowing engineers time off to attend ASCE meetings and seminars; supporting and encouraging technical and professional growth; encouraging engineers to prepare articles for publication in ASCE professional and technical journals; and assisting in the payment of society dues.

## **Private Sector Employer Recognition Award**

This award will be presented to an employer in the private sector that encourages their engineers to  
(continued on page 13)



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## Honor Your Colleagues, Recognize Outstanding Civil Engineering Projects, Engineering Firms, and Government Agencies - Nominate Them for 2015 ISASCE Awards

(continued from page 12)

actively participate in ASCE. Special recognition will go to those organizations who exhibit exemplary support as evidenced by: providing a model for involvement through agency-wide participation in local, regional, and national ASCE activities; allowing engineers time off to attend ASCE meetings and seminars; supporting and encouraging technical and professional growth; encouraging engineers to prepare articles for publication in ASCE professional and technical journals;

encouraging participation in ASCE by younger members; and assisting in the payment of Society dues.

### **ASCE Excellence in Journalism Award**

This award was founded in 1994 for the ASCE National Awards. This award is given annually to a reporter or reporters whose news coverage enhances public understanding of civil engineering issues and the impact of civil engineers in this state (or nation).

Only reports from general (non-trade) print publications are eligible. The publications must be regional or local. News stories must be published: a) in English; b) in Illinois; and c) between May 1, 2014 and April 30, 2015.

Karen Chou, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE is assistant chair and clinical professor at Northwestern University with over 30 years of academic and structural engineering experience and is Director of ISASCE.

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## Bid vs. Budgeted Costs: Concrete Prices Continue to Rise

(continued from page 5)

municipal agencies budgeting based on the Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost, underestimated projects would require resubmittal of the PPI to update the shared project funding and lead to project delays. By

taking a more in depth look at the most recent trends in unit pricing of concrete items, the design engineer can help avoid construction cost busts at bid time and also aid agencies in properly budgeting funds for their

infrastructure improvement projects.

Monica Crinion, P.E. is a bridge engineer with Wills Burke Kelsey Associates and is the Outreach Director for ASCE YMG.

**June 2015**

In an effort to inform Illinois Section members of the discussions at the monthly Board meetings, the Section Secretary contributes this quarterly article to the newsletter. Any questions or comments on the Board activities are welcome by contacting John Lazzara, at [John.Lazzara@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Lazzara@hdrinc.com).

### ■ *Treasurer's Report*

▲ A treasurer's report was presented at the March, April, and May meetings. All reports were approved with no changes.

### ■ *Group Reports*

Groups presented a written report outlining previous and current month's activities.

▲ **Annual Awards Dinner** – Planning for the 2015 Annual Awards Dinner continued and the Adler Planetarium was selected as the venue. This year's event will continue the tradition of exciting locations with exceptional views of Chicago.

▲ **Chicago Infrastructure Trust (CIT)** – The Illinois Section will be working with CIT in the areas of roads, transit, and water/wastewater. If you are interested in supporting this effort please contact President MacKinnon for further details.

▲ **2016 Multi Region Leadership Conference (MRLC)** – The MRLC will be held in Chicago on January 15/16, 2016. The Illinois Section agreed to support the Younger Member Group's efforts with \$5,000 in funding.

▲ **Annual Legislative Day** – Past President Lach organized the Annual Legislative Day which included a drive-down to Springfield on April 29, 2015. The event was well attended and provided an opportunity to meet many of the state elected officials to discuss infrastructure issues.

▲ **IDOT/Public Agency Involvement with ASCE** – Representatives from the ASCE Illinois Section met with IDOT District 1 leadership on March 18, 2015 and discussed opportunities to provide ASCE membership information to IDOT staff. An outreach program will be implemented over the next several months to engage public agency staff in ASCE activities.

▲ **Region 3 Assembly** – Plans have been confirmed for the Region 3 Assembly in Minneapolis, Minnesota on August 14-15, 2015.

▲ **Funding Support** – The Illinois Section supported the Northwestern University Student Chapter helping them participate in the Great Lake Conference. Funding support was also approved for the IIT Pre-Trans summer camp. This program mentors local female and minority high school students and informs them about engineering fields with hands-on activities. Four scholarships will also be awarded to high school students attending a Notre Dame University engineering summer camp.

▲ **Student Scholarship Dinner** – The dinner event was well attended

on April 22, 2015. Brian Pallasch (Managing Director of ASCE National Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives) gave an informative keynote speech. Numerous student scholarships were also presented with most of the student recipients in attendance.

▲ **Annual Awards** – The Civil Engineering Achievement Awards will be split into three categories this year so nominations will be requested for project categories of \$0-10M, \$10-25M, and >\$25M.

▲ **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee** – The committee sent out a membership questionnaire seeking interest on possible events. Volunteers are always welcome to join the committee.

The Illinois Section Board Meetings are held every first Monday of every month with the exception of holidays. The next board meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2015 at 5:30pm at MWH Americas, Inc., 175 West Jackson Blvd, 19th Floor. Meetings for the second quarter of 2015 will be held on April 6, May 4, and June 1.

*By John Lazzara  
John.Lazzara@hdrinc.com*

## Illinois Section

## Activities

### ASCE IL Section EWRI

#### *Monthly Committee Meeting*

Date: Tuesday, June 9  
Time: 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm  
Host: Baxter & Woodman  
Place: 8430 West Bryn Mawr  
Avenue  
Suite 400  
Chicago, IL 60563

RSVP: [ewr.ilasce@gmail.com](mailto:ewr.ilasce@gmail.com)

### ASCE IL Section EWRI / ISPE

#### *Bowling Social Event*

Date: Thursday, June 25  
Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm  
Place: Southport Lanes & Billiards  
3325 North Southport Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60657  
Cost: \$10 per person; cash bar  
(\$35 per lane, per hour; \$3  
shoe rental)

Join YMG, ISPE, and EWRI for a  
night of bowling, pool, ping pong,  
and of course drinks!

Please RSVP by Tuesday, June  
23rd.

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#### *Monthly Committee Meeting*

Date: Tuesday, June 9  
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Host: Baxter & Woodman  
Place: 8430 West Bryn Mawr  
Avenue  
Suite 400  
Chicago, IL 60563

RSVP: [ewr.ilasce@gmail.com](mailto:ewr.ilasce@gmail.com)

### Engineers Without Borders

#### *4th Annual White Sox Fundraiser*

Date: Wednesday, July 22  
Time: 7:10pm  
Cost: \$45 gets you a ticket in  
sections 106/107 and tailgating with  
all you can eat and drink!

Purchase tickets at:  
[ewbox2015brownpapertickets.com](http://ewbox2015brownpapertickets.com)

### Annual Dinner

#### *(Save the Date)*

Date: Wednesday, October 21  
Time: 6:00 pm Cocktails  
7:00 pm Dinner  
Place: Adler Planetarium

**For all Section, Group and  
Committee events, check out the  
Section website at:  
[www.isasce.org/web/  
section/calendar.html](http://www.isasce.org/web/section/calendar.html)**