



Illinois Section
Founded 1916

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News

Vol. 66, No.2
Summer 2025

My Strategies to Overcoming Challenges as a Refugee Woman in Engineering

Written by Samhar Hoz

There is no denying the fact that women are shining in engineering! It's a testament to our determination, for women to be where we are today. Women tend to be organized individuals and natural born leaders. They lead in a collaborative manner and generate logical solutions to problems. Still however, women only make up a small percentage of the construction engineering workforce in the United States. Being a woman in the engineering/construction industry comes with its own set of unique challenges, but it's also extremely rewarding.

As a War refugee, I faced unique challenges that hindered my professional growth. I am lucky to have colleagues in the field that helped me achieve my goals and overcome many challenges. I have a deep appreciation for those who have

made a difference in my career path. That's why I believe that we all can play a significant role in supporting someone's efforts or progress. The industry is a collaborative one, so let's dive into the biggest hurdles we face and how we can overcome them together.

I've heard some women express frustration that their voices are often ignored in the workplace, with colleagues failing to take their input seriously. As a result, even when they put significant work into a proposal or project, they struggle to convince decision-makers to consider their contributions, leading to wasted work.

Similarly, female engineers have shared experiences of being disregarded on construction job sites—giving instructions only to be met with resistance and (Continued on page 7)

President's Notes

Thomas Janicke, P.E., S.E.



As we all prepare for the summer, I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight a few things going on with the Society: the 2025 election & the catalogue of available webinars. ASCE offers a robust array of webinars designed to enhance the professional development of its members. These webinars cater to a wide range of interests, from technical skills to career advancement, and are accessible through various formats to suit diverse learning preferences.

ASCE provides an extensive library of over 400 on-demand webinars, covering topics such as construction engineering, geotechnical practices, structural design, and water resources. Members can access these webinars at their convenience, allowing for flexible learning schedules. Each webinar is eligible for Professional Development Hours (PDHs), aiding members in meeting licensing requirements. Notably, members receive 10 free PDHs annually, with additional access available through the All-Access Pass, which offers unlimited access to the entire catalogue for a year.

For those seeking more interactive and current content, ASCE's eLearning webinars provide live sessions on various topics. These include leadership development, entrepreneurship, and transitioning from student to professional roles. While these sessions are free for members, they do not offer PDHs or certificates of participation. ASCE's Career Booster Series is tailored to support younger members in navigating their professional journeys. These webinars focus on

topics like job search strategies, industry advocacy, and personal branding, featuring insights from seasoned professionals and ASCE leadership. To participate in any of these webinars, members can log into their ASCE accounts and register for upcoming sessions or browse the on-demand library. The All-Access Pass can be purchased individually, and members will receive a promo code via email to unlock their access.

Additionally, there have been a plethora of webinars available to Section, Branch and Regional leaders put on by the Leader Training Committee. Recent offerings have included "How to Access and Utilize Annual Report Information", "Life Members as an Invaluable and Untapped Resource", "Top Legal Questions Related to Section and Branch Operations", "How to Access and Utilize Annual Report Information", "Ask the President", "Section and Branch Best Practices Webinar", "Section and Branch Idea Exchange", and "How to Join an ASCE Committee". For more info on these webinars, feel free to email me.

ASCE's webinar offerings are a valuable resource for members aiming to advance their careers and stay abreast of industry developments. By leveraging these educational opportunities, civil engineers can enhance their skills, earn necessary PDHs, and connect with a community of professionals committed to excellence in the field.

The official 2025 ASCE election opened for voting on May 1 and closed on June 1, offering

ASCE Illinois Section News

ILLINOIS SECTION NEWSLETTER

E-Mailed to all IS-ASCE dues-paying members
American Society of Civil Engineers Illinois
Section - Region 3

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members a significant opportunity to influence the future direction of the organization. In addition to electing new leadership, members (Continued on page 10)

Optimizing Change Order Management: The Future of Infrastructure Projects in Illinois

Written by Muaz O. Ahmed, PhD, PE, M. ASCE & Ibrahim Osman, PhD, M. ASCE

Introduction

Change orders are inevitable in the world of infrastructure construction. They often arise from unforeseen conditions, design modifications, or miscalculations in initial cost estimations. In Illinois, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) oversees numerous large-scale projects each year, ranging from highway improvements to major transit infra-

Change orders remain a persistent challenge in infrastructure project delivery.

structure developments. With the state's expansive transportation network, managing change orders effectively is critical to avoiding and/or reducing project delays and budget overruns, which can quickly spiral out of control if not properly addressed. This article explores strategies for change order management and integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in order to minimize their impact on Illinois' critical infrastructure projects.

The Role of Change Orders in Illinois Infrastructure Projects

Illinois' roadways spanning over 145,000 miles are the backbone of

the state's economy and daily transportation needs. Yet, a significant portion of these roads remain in poor condition, contributing to congestion, delays, and high maintenance costs (ASCE 2025). These roadways serve not only as conduits for transportation, but also as a reflection of Illinois' long-term commitment to infrastructure investment and economic development. For major infrastructure projects, the impact of change orders can be particularly severe and is considered one of the main challenges faced by infrastructure projects in Illinois (CST 2020). Between 2017 and 2019 alone, over \$8.8 million in change orders were incurred on a single mega-infrastructure project (the Jane Byrne Interchange project or the Circle Interchange), adding about 11% to the project's overall contract value (Assaad et al. 2022).

A central challenge arises: how can change orders be managed proactively before they escalate into costly, project-threatening issues? Effective change order management demands a coordinated effort among all stakeholders, including engineers, contractors, and public agencies. However, collaboration alone is insufficient. A strategic framework that integrates both professional expertise and advanced technological

tools is essential for enabling project teams to anticipate disruptions,

Strategic management can mitigate risks and significantly improve project outcomes.

maintain control, and ultimately transform the delivery of infrastructure across Illinois.

Strategic Approach to Managing Change Orders

As explored in a recent study on change order management for Illinois infrastructure projects (Assaad et al., 2022), co-authored by Muaz O. Ahmed, a strategic approach for managing change orders involves mainly three key elements:

Clear Contractual Provisions

Establishing comprehensive and unambiguous contract terms regarding change orders is crucial. This includes defining what constitutes a change order, the procedures for its approval, and the compensation structure for any adjustments made to the contract. In Illinois, IDOT's Construction Manual outlines the steps to be followed for handling change orders.

(Continued on page 8)

Best Ways to Advance Your Career as a Young Engineering Professional

Written by Emily Neeson, Trevor Cannon, and Jeremy Metz

Why do this & am I too late?

Technical skills are the foundations of any successful career in civil engineering. It can be challenging for anyone in the in-

Foundations for Success

dustry to competently understand and explain our work without having a sufficient technical background. However, don't fret, as you are never expected to know it all! Continuous learning is one of the greatest benefits in our field.

Upgrading your soft skills while new to the industry is a must. It can be challenging to have opportunities to engage in critical tasks such as meeting clients, running meetings, or giving presentations while also being new. Luckily for us, there are numerous ways to



advance your skills outside of everyday office activities.

Involvement in professional organizations such as ASCE, ACEC, or APWA can provide significant exposure to opportunities for developing your soft skills. Many organizations like those previously mentioned offer opportunities for their members to develop their “soft skills” by attending events such as seminars, annual conferences, or joining committees. Participating in opportunities such as these helps develop soft skills in communication and leadership and is a great way to practice preparing for future cli-

Strategies for Development

ent interactions. Utilizing these opportunities will help build trust with your manager in your ability to interact with clients.

Like most, the post-covid workplace for civil engineers looks significantly different. Remote work, while often convenient and increasingly more common for engineers at all levels of experience, can present difficulties for early career professionals to receive the much-needed mentorship that comes from working in-person



alongside experienced and licensed engineers. Other opportunities within your company may exist for you to get involved such as joining a company committee,

Opportunities for Growth

or volunteering for company-sponsored events. This can show your manager you take the initiative. Consequentially, your experience assisting with company opportunities provides a base to grow personally and professionally, while benefiting both you and your employer with the time generously offered and help provided.

Author Bios: The authors of this article was a collaboration between Jeremy Metz with CMT, and Emily Neeson and Trevor Cannon with Chris Burke Engineering, whom all are Actively involved in the ASCE-IL Section Younger Member Group.



Region 3 Update

Written by John Lazzara

Region 3 leadership expanded geographically this year with the addition of two Regional Governors: Amiy Varma / North Dakota Governor – (1st Term: 2024-2027) and Alex Hu / Central Canada Governor – (1st Term: 2024-2027). It's great to see new members joining ASCE as well as new Sections and Branches forming. The Central Canada Section includes the Provinces of Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut Territory. They have drafted Bylaws for their Section and elected new officers that are excited to start planning local events.

Last Fall the Region 3 Assembly was held in Chicago with approximately 30 ASCE members attending representing branches and sections throughout the region. Presentations included innovative projects and thought-provoking topics:

- IL DOT Circle Interchange
- Milwaukee I-794 Lake Interchange Study
- Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern Dredged Management Facility (DMMF) Design & Construction
- ASCE Report Card and Failure to Act
- Civil Engineering Certification / Water Resources update

- Best Practices for Section/Branch & Institute Collaboration

- Proposed Changes to ASCE Membership Grades

A student/YMG Panel offered the group insights into issues from an entry level perspective. We also were fortunate to have the President-Elect at the time (Marsha Anderson Bowmar) talk to the group about the State of the Society. The Chicago River Boat Tour provided some picturesque views of the city, especially nice for some of the out-of-town participants. Each year the Region 3 Assembly rotates to a new City/State and it's a great networking opportunity so please consider attending this year's Region 3 Assembly being planned for Milwaukee, WI. In addition to the Region 3 Assembly, you can also take advantage of other resources available to you including the Multi Region Leadership Conference, Region 3 newsletter, and the ASCE Region 3 Website.

As I wrap up my term representing Illinois as an ASCE Region 3 Governor, I would like to say thanks to all the energetic and dedicated ASCE members from the Illinois Section. I have had the chance to greatly expand my network with new acquaintances, business partners, and friends that have made a significant impact on both my professional and personal life. As we all struggle to find our way through the daily challenges of work, it's great to know there are a lot of

people in similar situations looking to connect and be a resource. Personally, I look forward to staying engaged in ASCE so I hope to see you at a future Region 3 or Illinois Section event.

Author Bio: John Lazzara is an ASCE Region 3 Governor and serves as the Transportation Market Leader for Stanley Consultants focused on professional transportation engineering services.

IL Section of ASCE 2025 Awards: Time for Nominations

Written by Michael Kowalski, P.E. & Joe Wilk, P.E.

It's time to nominate your peers, projects, firms, and agencies for their contributions to civil engineering, our communities, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Illinois Section of ASCE award winners will be acknowledged during our Annual Awards Dinner taking place on October 30, 2025 at the Double Tree by Hilton – Magnificent Mile.

HOW TO NOMINATE?

Information on award requirements, nomination forms, and complete nomination instructions can be found on our website, <https://isasce.org/awards>. Nominations for the 2025 awards are due by June 27, 2025. Please submit a pdf of the nomination packet electronically to

illinoissection@isasce.org.

Any questions can be emailed to Mike Kowalski at mkowalski@ciorba.com.

Help the Illinois Section of ASCE to identify and recognize qualified individuals, projects, firms, and agencies for their contributions to civil engineering, our communities, and our Society. IL Section Award recipients are eligible to be nominated by the Section to become candidates for the ASCE National Awards Program.

WHAT ARE THE AWARD CATEGORIES?

- Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award (Four Project Size Categories Available)

- Sustainability in Civil Engineering Achievement Award
- Construction Engineering Person of the Year
- Civil Engineer of the Year
- Young Civil Engineer of the Year
- Government Civil Engineer of the Year
- Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year
- Citizen Engineer of the Year
- Public Involvement Award
- Government Agency Employer Recognition Award
- Private Sector Employer Recognition Award

As a reminder to the inclusivity revisions made last year, the IL-Section has updated the requirement for both Young Engineer awards to also accept nominees who are not limited by age but qualified by years of experience. We strongly encourage those who are over 35 years old with four years to 13 years of experience to participate in Young Civil Engineer of the Year (Government and Non-Government).

For additional information and a look at past winners, please go to the IS-ASCE's website www.isasce.org/awards.



2024 Young Civil Engineer of the Year Winner
David Wilkinson, P.E. (SWE Solutions).



Cassandra Rouse, Executive Director of the Illinois Tollway, accepting the 2024 Sustainability in Civil Engineering Achievement Award.



2024 Awards Dinner

The 2024 Awards Program can be viewed here as an e-book. Nominations for the 2025 awards are **due by June 27, 2025**.

Author Bios:

Michael Kowalski, PE, is the Construction Group Manager at Ciorba Group Inc. He serves as a Director of the IS-ASCE to 2025 and the Awards Committee Co-Chair.

Joe Wilk is a Water Resource Project Engineer at Christopher B. Burke Engineering. He serves as a Director of the IS-ASCE to 2025 and the Annual Dinner Committee Co-Chair.

My Strategies to Overcoming Challenges as a Refugee Woman in Engineering

(Continued from page 1)

arguments until a male colleague arrives and repeats the same directions. At that point, the team follows through without hesitation. This is not the case for all, but many women share these same challenges. Beyond these challenges, a lack of female role models and limited mentorship further hinder professional growth. Based on my experience, several key factors can support your success throughout your career. These include having access to valuable resources, developing both technical and non-technical skills, sharing your knowledge, and actively engaging with your professional community.

To be successful in engineering/construction; we will need to prepare well and work hard. The first factor when looking for a position is to fulfill most of the job qualification requirements. In any job, specific requirements help us effectively in our careers. I would say having at least 70 percent of those requirements is beneficial; the rest of the list can be achieved

with experience on the job. There are a lot of ways to be certified and gain more knowledge.

In addition, I believe that soft skills, interpersonal skills, and leadership skills are essential for engineers and construction professionals to complement technical expertise, enhance teamwork, and improve project outcomes. I created the chart below for one of the presentations I had to do on “Engineering in Leadership and Management” and how to advance your career using essential soft skills.

Effective communication skills, teamwork, and the ability to explain complex technical concepts to non-technical stakeholders is vital to understanding client needs and team feedback. Other important factors that help advance your career are conflict resolution, problem solving, and critical thinking. These factors require you to analyze situations, identify issues, and develop practical solutions

under pressure. Even without an official management position, we can all be leaders in our own way. My favorite part of my job is leading project teams, motivating team members, and managing conflicts.

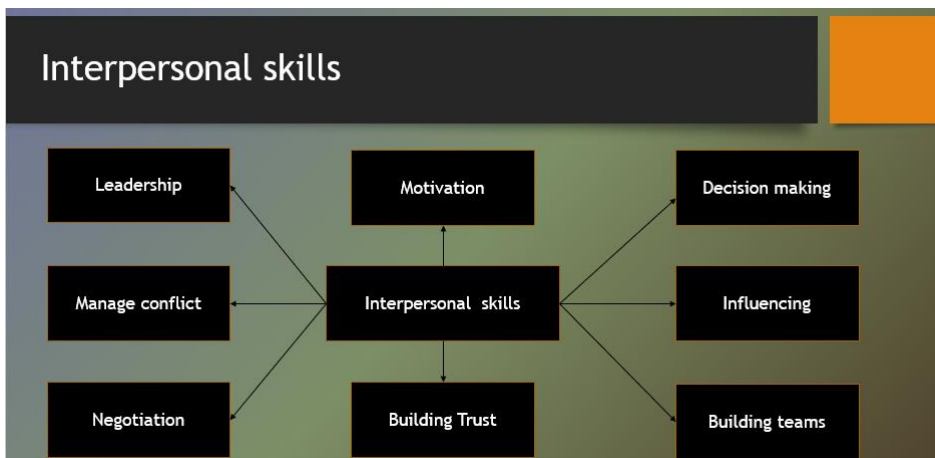
While taking some of my master’s classes at Harvard Business School, I learned that there are many unexpected skills that can help you achieve your goals. Active listening is a skill that is often

Active Listening is a win-win negotiation strategy.

overlooked. Active listening leads to win-win negotiation strategies. Remember while actively listening to solve an issue, it is important to separate the people from the problem and focus on interests, not positions. For more complicated situations or projects, another skill I utilize is BATNA, which is an acronym for Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement. BATNA gives an advantageous alternative that a negotiator can take if negotiations fail. It requires developing a list of actions you can take if no agreement is reached. For example, you would improve some of the ideas and convert them into practical options to reach an agreement.

One of my biggest challenges at first was to find a role model in the construction industry.

(Continued on page 8)



My Strategies to Overcoming Challenges as a Refugee Woman in Engineering

(Continued from page 7)

The lack of female leadership can make it harder for women to envision themselves in those roles. A role model I eventually found was a woman in engineering named Nancy Brazell Brooks who earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from Alabama Polytechnic Institute and became the first woman to earn a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois in 1953. Finding a mentor, supporting other women, sharing knowledge and experiences, and building a community of

empowerment are the key takeaways I've found to help me in my career.

In conclusion, as challenging as engineering and construction is, the benefit for women to choose this field is the potential to make a meaningful impact in the world and have a successful career. Being qualified with practical experience, professional development, and interpersonal soft skills paves the way and accelerates career progression. At the same time, creating supportive environments,

mentorship, and role models helps individuals grow and accomplish goals. **All women should shoot for the stars!**

Author Bio: Samhar Hoz, LEED Green Assoc., Strategy Execution certificate program- Harvard Business School On., is a staff engineer in the IC. She has a bachelor's degree and master's degree in Engineering.



Optimizing Change Order Management: The Future of Infrastructure Projects in Illinois

(Continued from page 3)

Early Identification and Mitigation of Risks

The earlier a change order is identified, the better the chances of mitigating its impact. This can be achieved through proper site investigations, thorough design planning, and clear communication between design teams and contractors. For example, the Jane Byrne Interchange project faced challenges with late identification of design changes, leading to significant costs.

Stakeholder Collaboration

Effective collaboration among all project stakeholders; including engineers, contractors, and public agencies, contractors, and other

public agencies, is essential for managing change orders. Regular meetings, reviews, and transparency in decision-making processes ensure that changes are addressed in a timely manner.

AI in Change Order Management: A Game Changer

AI is not just a tool—it is a transformative force in the construction industry. Imagine a future where technology steps in to make these inevitable challenges easier to manage, where AI and emerging tools become essential partners in transforming how these changes are handled. By embracing AI and other emerging technologies, Illinois has the opportunity not only to

manage change orders more effectively but also to establish a model for innovation that can guide infrastructure practices nationwide. This article explores how these advancements are positioned to drive meaningful improvements across the sector.

Strategic Tip: What if every contract came equipped with an AI-powered assistant that checks for inconsistencies in real-time and provides instant feedback on whether a proposed change order complies with predefined terms?

(Continued on page 9)

Optimizing Change Order Management: The Future of Infrastructure Projects in Illinois

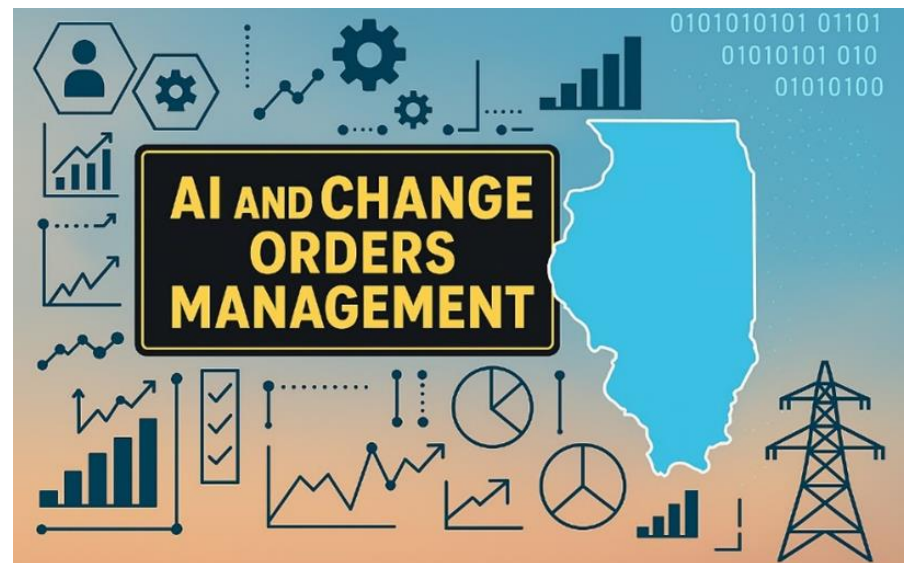
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This is not just a “nice-to-have” feature—it is a game-changer in ensuring projects stay within scope and budget. AI tools, such as Procore's AI-driven Contract Analysis, can help automate contract review, flagging potential issues

Leveraging AI and technology minimizes the impact of change orders and enhances efficiency.

such as ambiguous terms, missing clauses, or non-compliance with established protocols. By automatically scanning contracts, AI tools can save hours of manual review, reduce human error and ensure better alignment between teams and stakeholders.

Furthermore, AI-driven predictive analytics can evaluate historical data, detecting patterns that signal potential risks—whether from design alterations, environmental changes, or unforeseen site conditions. This proactive approach enables project teams to adjust designs, schedules, or resources before a change order is even necessary, saving both time and money. What if collaboration could be automated to the point where machines, not just people, work seamlessly together? AI-integrated project management tools, such as Autodesk BIM 360, can analyze ongoing projects in real time, offering recommendations for optimizing



workflows, adjusting schedules, and anticipating potential delays.

Conclusion

As Illinois continues to invest in its transportation infrastructure, change orders will remain an unavoidable challenge. But, as we have seen, technology offers a multitude of solutions to help streamline the process. The question is no longer whether technology can help, but how fast can we adapt and integrate these tools into our daily operations. By embracing these technologies, Illinois can revolutionize its approach to infrastructure projects, making them more cost-effective, efficient, and adaptable to the challenges of the future. In conclusion, AI and technology are more than just tools—they are the future of infrastructure management. By embracing these innovations, Illinois can not only address the challenges posed by

change orders but also transform how we build and maintain the infrastructure of tomorrow.

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Optimizing Change Order Management: The Future of Infrastructure Projects in Illinois

(Continued from page 9)

Author Bios:

Muaz O. Ahmed, Ph.D., P.E., M. ASCE, is Senior Construction Engineer at Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. and Adjunct Faculty at Missouri S&T. He has over 10 years of experience working on infrastructure projects across the U.S., Middle East, and Africa. His diverse project portfolio includes highways, bridges, water resources, and commercial developments. He holds a

Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Missouri S&T, where his research focused on construction bidding and contracting as well as the integration of AI technologies in construction management.

Ibrahim Osman, Ph.D., M. ASCE, is Assistant Vice President at Bowman Consulting Group Ltd., and Adjunct

Faculty at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). With over 30 years of international experience in civil engineering, Dr. Osman has worked on billion-dollar infrastructure projects and taught graduate courses in construction engineering. His research focuses on construction law, dispute resolution, and infrastructure resilience. He earned his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois.

President Report

(Continued from page 2)

will vote on a crucial proposal to streamline the Society's membership structure. The election will feature two distinguished nominees for the 2026 president-elect position. Carol Ellinger Haddock, P.E., MPA, F. ASCE has over 30 years of service in ASCE and a notable tenure as the director of Houston Public Works, bringing extensive leadership experience and a commitment to inclusivity and community engagement. Kenneth H. Rosenfield, P.E., ENV SP, F. ASCE is a senior project manager at Ardurra Group and former director of public works in Laguna Hills, California, emphasizing collaboration and transparent communication to achieve shared goals. Members in good standing by April 1, are eligible to vote online via the ASCE website or with paper ballots if requested before May 20.

Concurrently, ASCE members will vote on a proposed amendment to the Society's Constitution aimed at simplifying the membership grade structure. The proposal seeks to consolidate the current affiliate, associate, and member grades into a single revised member grade. The rationale behind this consolidation includes reducing complexity and expense, making it easier for prospective members to join, and fostering a more inclusive environment for allied professionals in the civil engineering field. All existing member grades currently share the same dues, benefits, and voting rights. The proposed change is intended to align with ASCE's strategic plan and improve pathways toward a more diverse and inclusive profession. However, others contend that they prefer the current official distinction between licensed professionals and other facets of ASCE membership.

The outcomes of these votes will significantly impact the future of ASCE and the civil engineering profession. Electing a president-elect who embodies the values and vision of the Society will shape leadership for the coming years. Meanwhile, the decision on the proposed member grade consolidation may reform membership processes and affect what ASCE membership looks like in the future. ASCE members are encouraged to participate actively in these elections every year and to cast their votes thoughtfully, as these decisions will influence the trajectory of the Society and the profession at large.

Yours sincerely,
Thomas Janicke, P.E., S.E.
ASCE Illinois Section President
2024-2025

ILLINOIS SECTION BOARD 2025 NOMINATION FORM

The Illinois Section (IS) has a strong history of leadership and welcomes any member to run for open Board positions. The requirements and election process for each position stated in the Illinois Section Bylaws located on the IS website:

<https://isasce.org/about/governance-and-guiding-documents/>

Each year in the spring, per the IS Bylaws, a Nominations Committee is formed to identify and select nominees for open board positions, Nominees:

- President- Elect:
Kris Salvatera
- Treasurer:
Jeana Gowin
- Director to 2027:
Josh Starzyk
- Director to 2027:
Jimmy Canning
- Director to 2027:
Hugh Regan

Submittal Schedule & Procedures:

1. Nomination form and supporting petitions to file additional nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary no later than July 15th and shall be signed by no less than 15 active and dues paying IS members. Petition validity is subject to review by the Board of Directors.

2. Should there be no valid petitions filed for additional nominations, the Board of Directors shall declare the nominees for the non-contested offices elected.

which includes the President-Elect (1-year term with automatic transition to President), either Secretary or Treasurer (alternating 2-year terms), and three Directors (2-year term). The Nominations Committee presents their nominee recommendations to the IS Board, which is then voted on and presented to IS-Membership a minimum of three months prior to the annual meeting. A petition period is then initiated for any IS member(s) to run for any of the open board positions, and then a vote is solicited

3. Should there be valid petitions filed for additional nominations, a ballot bearing the names of those nominated for officer position shall be provided to all active and dues paying IS members of record not less than 30 days prior to the Annual meeting. The targeted ballot date is September 15th, 2025.

a. The polls close at 12:00pm on the tenth (10th) day preceding the Annual meeting, October 20th, 2025.

b. The ballots shall be counted, and the candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected. In case of a tie, the Nominating Committee shall elect the office from among the tied nominees.

4. All officers will be sworn in at the Annual meeting on October 30th, 2025.

from membership to elect the candidate for that position. If no petitions are filed, the IS Board declares the below nominees for the non-contested positions elected.

In accordance with the IS Bylaws, the IS Board approved the following nominees at the June 2nd, 2025, IS Board meeting and are being made public more than three (3) months prior to the Annual meeting scheduled for October 30th 2025.

Submittal

Requirements:

1. A completed nomination form (this form).
2. A completed petition form(s) with 15 active and dues paying IS members.
3. (Optional) A current resume or CV
4. (Optional) A nominator or nominee can submit additional supporting information, reference letters, etc.

Please email this form along with no less than fifteen active dues paying IS members **no later than JULY 15th, 2025,** to:

Tom Borges

ISASCE Secretary
Bloom Companies, LLC
150 North Wacker Drive, Suite
1650 Chicago, IL 60606
Phone (312)248-8628
Email: tborges@bloomcos.com

ILLINOIS SECTION BOARD POSITION NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name: _____

Employer: _____

Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Office

Mobile

Email: _____

PE Registration No.: _____

State: _____

ASCE Member No.: _____

Illinois Section Board Position: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

To inform Illinois Section members of the discussions at monthly board meetings, the Section Secretary contributes this article to the newsletter covering the months of March 2025 through May 2025. The Illinois Section typically offers both in-person and virtual attendance options for board meetings. Access to historical meeting minutes and governance documents, including the Constitution and Bylaws, can be found on ASCE Collaborate at <https://collaborate.asce.org/home> and on the Illinois Section website at <https://isasce.org/about/governance-and-guiding-documents/>.

Any questions or comments on Section activities are welcome by contacting Secretary Thomas Borges at tborges@bloomcos.com.

■ *Treasurer's Report & Meeting Minutes*

▲ A Treasurer's Report was presented and approved at the March 2025, April 2025 and May 2025 board meetings. The February 2025, March 2025, and April 2025 board meeting minutes were approved.

■ *Highlights from Illinois Section Activities and Institute/Group Reports.*

▲ *Regions 3, 6 & 7 Workshop for Section, Branch and Institute Leaders (WSBIL)* – The 2025 WSBIL (formerly the *Multi-Region Leadership Conference*, or MRLC) took place February 28th through March 1st in Cleveland, OH. The conference connects Section, Branch, Younger Member and Student

Member leaders to discuss challenges and successes experienced at the local ASCE chapter level. Directors Colleen Miller and Brian Castro, along with a group of YMG members, attended on behalf of the Illinois Section.

▲ *Legislative Fly-In* – The 2025 *Legislative Fly-In* was held between March 25th and March 28th in Washington, D.C. Treasurer Kris Salvatera and Director Brian Castro attended on behalf of the Illinois Section.

▲ *Legislative Drive-Down* – The 2025 *Legislative Drive Down* took place on April 30th in Springfield, with several IS members in attendance.

▲ *WGL Student Symposium* – The IIT, UIC, and Northwestern ASCE Student Chapters competed at the 2025 Western Great Lakes (WGL) Student Symposium which was co-hosted by Marquette University, Milwaukee School of Engineering, & the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in Milwaukee between April 10th and April 12th. There were 19 student chapters in attendance at the event which included 11 different competitions over the course of the weekend. A big congratulations to UIC for placing 1st in the surveying competition and will travel to California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo in late June to compete at the society-wide finals.

▲ *IL Section ASCE Scholarships & Spring Dinner* – The Spring President-Elect / Student Scholarship Dinner was held on Thursday, April 17th at Maggiano's Little Italy in downtown Chicago. There were 82 attendees, including ASCE

Technical Region Director Karen Kabbes, eight (8) IS past presidents and twelve (12) scholarship winners. A total of thirteen (13) scholarships were awarded to IS students from IIT, UIC, and Northwestern University. During the dinner, IS Member Darren Olson (Chair of the ASCE Committee on America's Infrastructure) presented on the recently-released 2025 Report Card for America's Infrastructure.

▲ *Call for Awards Nominations* – The 2025 IS-ASCE Award nominations are open and will close on June 27, 2025. There are fourteen (14) different award categories. Award requirements, forms, and nomination instructions can be found at <https://www.isasce.org/awards/>.

▲ *IS-ASCE Officer Nominations* – The nominating process is underway for the FY 2025-2026 IS Board positions, which include President-Elect, Treasurer, and three (3) Director to 2027 positions. Per the IS Bylaws, a nominating committee has been formed to consider and select candidates for these IS Board positions. For more information about the Illinois Section Board nominations process, please refer to the Bylaws Article III (<https://www.isasce.org/about/governance-and-guiding-documents/>)

▲ *Construction Institute (CI)* – CI held their board meetings on March 11th and April 1st. On February 27th, CI held a joint event with CMAA at IIT. The institute also co-hosted a Utility Coordination/Relocation lunch presentation at IDOT's District 1 office in Schaumburg on March 11th with UESI and IAACE (Continued on page 14)

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as well as a happy hour with CDOT Construction & Materials on March 18th. On May 1st, the institute hosted a happy hour featuring Illinois Tollway staff at Tivoli Bowl in Downers Grove. Please contact CI Chair Katherine Au at

Kat.Au@jacobs.com for any questions or information related to CI activities.

▲ *Environmental & Water Resources Institute (EWRI)*

EWRI held their board meetings on March 18th, April 8th and May 13th. The institute participated in the Friends of the Chicago River organization's *Chicago River Day* event at Eugene Field Park on May 10th which featured a watershed-wide cleanup along the 156-mile Chicago-Calumet River system. Please contact EWRI Chair Gary Gifford at ggifford@hwlochner.com for any questions or information related to EWRI activities.

▲ *Geo-Institute (GI)*

GI held their board meetings on March 7th and May 1st, the latter of which was a joint meeting with the newly-formed COPRI committee. On February 11th, the institute hosted an In-Situ Testing presentation at UIC featuring speaker Andrés Matos. The institute also hosted March and April dinner meetings at Pazzo's in Chicago; the March 11th dinner meeting featured a presentation by Dr. Kord Wissman, while Mark Meyer presented on *Geotechnical Challenges and Foundation Solutions for Mercedes-Benz Stadium* at the April 23rd dinner meeting. Please contact GI Chair Thierno at Tkane@Geosyntec.com for any questions or information related to GI activities.

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▲ *Structural Engineering Institute (SEI)*

SEI held their board meetings on April 2nd and April 24th. On March 17th, the institute hosted a webinar featuring Sasan Dolati from Stantec presenting on the topic of "Case Studies for Seismic Research". The institute also hosted a lunch meeting at Pazzo's in Chicago on April 29th featuring CDOT Chief Bridge Engineer Arsalan Khan. Please contact SEI Chair Ashutosh Ranade at Ashutosh.Ranade@mbakerintl.com for any questions or information related to SEI activities.

▲ *Transportation & Development Institute (T&DI)*

T&DI held their board meetings on March 11th, April 8th and May 6th. The institute hosted a luncheon at Maggiano's Oak Brook on March 26th featuring Illinois Tollway Chief Engineering Officer Manar Nashif. On April 24th, the institute hosted a luncheon at

Maggiano's Chicago featuring Jim Harper, Chief Engineer of the CTA. Please contact T&DI Chair Josh Starzyk at jstarzyk@gfnet.com for any questions or information related to T&DI activities.

▲ *Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute (UESI)*

UESI held their board meetings on March 10th, April 14th and May 12th. The institute co-hosted a Utility Coordination/Relocation lunch presentation at IDOT's District 1 office in Schaumburg on March 11th with CI and IAACE as well as a dinner event with CI on May 15th at the DuPage County Administration Building which featured JULIE's Damage Prevention Manager, Dave Van Wy, speaking on recent updates to JULIE law. Please contact UESI Chair Bethany Turk at bturk@hbkengineering.com for any questions or information related to UESI activities.

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▲ Younger Member Group (YMG)

– YMG held their board meetings on March 12th, April 16th and May 14th. On March 27th, YMG hosted a March Madness-themed social event at Jefferson Tap in Chicago. YMG also hosted a presentation at WSP on April 30th on the topic “Transforming the AEC Industry with AI”. Please contact YMG Chair Ryan Cummings at ryan.cummings@nicholsonconstruction.com for any questions or information related to YMG activities.

▲ Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute (COPRI) Committee –

The newly-formed COPRI committee held their first meeting on March 4th at SmithGroup, with over 22 members in attendance, and followed with well-attended meetings in April and May. Stay tuned for upcoming COPRI-hosted events, with the first expected to take place at Pazzo’s on June 10th. Please contact COPRI Co-Chairs Mark Wagstaff (mark.wagstaff@smithgroup.com) and Siena Van Horne (si-ena.vanhorne@stantec.com) if you are interested in becoming involved with this exciting new committee.

The Illinois Section Board Meetings are typically held the first Monday of the month, except for holidays.

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2025 and will be in-person at AECOM (One Prudential Plaza, 130 E Randolph Street, Suite 2400). The board historically does not meet in July, and will meet again on August 4, 2025 at a location to be determined. For any guests or board members that cannot attend in-person, a virtual option will be provided via MS Teams. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please contact President Thomas Janicke at Tom.Janicke@stantec.com.

Secretary Report

By Thomas Borges, P.E.

ASCE Illinois Section Secretary
2024-2026

tborges@bloomcos.com

Illinois Section

Activities

GI/COPRI June Dinner Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 8

Time: 5:15pm-9pm

Place: Pazzo's, 311 S Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606

We, the Geo-institute (GI) and The Coastal, Oceans, Ports & Rivers Institute (COPRI), are excited to announce our FIRST EVER Joint GI/COPRI dinner meeting. Stratalock USA will present on the urgent need for seawall maintenance and Michael Wysocky, PhD, PE and John Wysocky, MBA Thatcher Foundations will present on Marine Construction in the Chicago Area. You'll find the event details in our [Constant Contact Landing Page](#). The **deadline to register** is on **Tuesday, June 10 at 9AM CST**.

IL Section T&DI's Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 10

Time: 5:30pm-6:30pm

Place: TBD

Board meetings are open to all members, if you plan to attend, please inform T&DI Chair, Josh Starzyk, at jstarzyk@GFNET.com

IL Section ASCE EWRI & Metropolitan Industries, Inc. - Design Advancements & Upgrades for Pump Stations Joint Presentation

Date: Wednesday, June 18

Time: 9am-1pm

Place: Metropolitan Industries, 37 Forestwood Dr., Romeoville, IL 60446

Registration: RSVP to Keith Girup

(kgirup@metropolitanind.com)

Comprehensive class covering hydraulic calculations, pump selection, operation theories, code compliance, and so much more!

IL Section ASCE T&DI's June Luncheon – IDOT's Jose Rios

Date: Wednesday, June 25

Time: 11:30am-1:30pm

Place: Maggiano's Oak Brook - 240 Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook, IL 60523

Registration: [https://lp.con-](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/96sjpmf/lp/5e3e8c5f-412d-43ba-b794-9a996cd274b0)

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