

April 2020

Folks, this is the last message of my presidency, which ends May 7, 2020. Wish I was writing it at a better time than during the current COVID-19 pandemic. While COVID-19 continues to be a significant current issue, we remain optimistic and positive. The pandemic has transformed the way many of us work and live, and we are equally adjusting to the way we are planning our events and staying connected to local civil engineering issues.

Our Board met virtually last week and I'm excited to see how our group is responding to keep our community engaged. Although we have had to unfortunately cancel or postpone many of our recent events due to COVID-19, our Section and Institutes are quickly adjusting to the change and switching to virtual events. Innovation and technology are helping to fill the void quickly. Geo-Institute, for example, transitioned their March dinner to a webinar with huge success and their largest turnout!

ASCE continues to support its members nationally as well. The Society is working diligently with law makers on the Coronavirus Stimulus Packages to protect the civil engineering profession. Structures Congress 2020 took place virtually on April 7, and other upcoming conferences are looking at similar solutions. The Society has also put together the COVID-19 Resources Page which provides useful and practical suggestions for managing your professional needs from home here: <https://collaborate.asce.org/COVID-19/home>.

I would like to look at my presidency term as a small step toward continued success of the Section. To that end, I worked with the Executive Committee to develop a 3-year strategic plan in SMART Goals format. These goals focused on membership benefits, government engineers, and young members and students. Focusing on membership was important to me and I'm hoping that being able to focus on it over the last year with the Executive Board provided a stepping stone towards improving our Section to better serve our members.

We have had a lot to celebrate in the past year too! The section won 10 awards during the 2019-20 term including the coveted Outstanding Large Section Award for the fourth time in 6 years. We grew student and YMF participation and membership; 50 new student members were added in December. We had a sold out [E-week banquet](#), added two new student chapters (Slippery Rock and IUP), and garnered record Student Award Foundation (SAF) scholarship applicants thanks to being more active on our social media channels (Twitter and Facebook @ASCEpgh).



Sam delivering President's Message at the 2020 E-Week Awards Banquet (Feb 15, 2020)

Please stay connected with ASCE-Pittsburgh Section virtually. Read our emails and send us your questions and comments. This is a good opportunity in disguise to expand your professional network, improve your professional skills at home, catch up with your PDH requirements, and sharpen your resume. Choose up to 10 on-demand 60-90 minute webinars on more than 200 topics worth 1-1.5 PDHs—that's up to 15 FREE PDHs valued at \$1,500 from ASCE's comprehensive continuing education library – just for being a member! Please stay safe, stay connected with the facts, and most of all remain positive! There is so much to look forward to!

Best regards,

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