

## THE ARIZONA CIVIL ENGINEER

Volume 93 Issue 2 - November 2017

### A Message From the President

Fausto Burruel, MPA, PE, CPM, M.ASCE, President, ASCE Arizona

Are you familiar with the ASCE 2017 Infrastructure Report Card for the United States? In March of this year ASCE released the document and America received a grade of D+, the average of the grades across all the various infrastructure categories that were studied. I am not going to go into great detail of the 2017 Infrastructure Report Card, but for those who wish to educate themselves further, please click [here](#). I know there are some that will have opinions on whether the grades assigned within the Report Card are an accurate reflection of our country's infrastructure condition. This is a valid discussion as a common view is we, as engineers, tend to lean more towards the doom and gloom while others argue that lower grades equate to requesting more funds and/or projects.



While there may be differing views when it comes to the Report Card and the assignment of grades, I believe this is an item the document does excel at as it gets people talking about infrastructure needs and the funding required. Whether the argument is everything's fine, needs improvement or the situation is dire, discussions are being held which is a good thing. Those who believe our infrastructure is adequate understand the need for continued maintenance to keep those acceptable levels. Others that debate improvement is required understand the continued maintenance aspect along with the need for additional capacity or updating of older systems. Those who see the situation as dire see the need for maintenance, adding to and updating existing infrastructure, and replacing old or implementing new systems.

That being said, did you know that Arizona has an Infrastructure Report Card? In May of 2015 the Arizona Section released Arizona's Infrastructure Report Card which gave our state an overall infrastructure grade of C based on nine categories. Again, I won't dive into the specifics of the Report Card but for those who aren't familiar or need to refresh their memories, please click [here](#). I know at this point many of you are asking, "Where is he going with this?" Well, there is a method to my madness and here it is: the Arizona Section of ASCE has made it a goal to update our Report Card.

Currently, the discussion within the Board is when is the best time to perform the update and release the Report Card. As mentioned previously, Arizona's Report Card was originally released in May of 2015 which placed its publication after the newly-elected legislators take office. The question is whether it is better to maintain the four year update schedule or update early and have the document released prior to elections? Does having the report card published prior to elections give us a talking point that can be presented and implemented into each candidate's campaign? Is it better to insert these discussions during the election process or is it better to release the Report Card after the new legislative session begins and use it as a talking point when performing government relations activities? I would like to know your opinions, please email me your views [here](#).

If the consensus is that we need to release the Report Card during the election process, the obvious question becomes whether there's enough time to have the report ready by mid-2018? Through discussions with ASCE Society it appears that updating the Report Card is a somewhat streamlined process and one that we should achieve in 6 – 9 months from start to finish. It does help that Arizona has a completed Report Card, and the current version is very detailed and an overall good report. However, updating such a document is quite an undertaking and one that requires a considerable amount of time to achieve and strong leadership to guide the effort. Fortunately, the Arizona Section has several members that would do an excellent job in leading this effort. If you are interested in taking an active role in the update process of the Arizona Infrastructure Report Card please feel free to contact [me](#) or any of the ASCE Arizona Section Board officers and keep a look out for updates and calls for help as we move forward with this mission.

## 2017 ASCE Convention Arizona Section Award Winner

### Huber Research Prize

Congratulations Dr. Mikhail Chester, A.M.ASCE, Arizona Section, for receiving the Huber Research Prize at the 2017 ASCE Convention!

## Upcoming Events

### November

Phoenix Branch Luncheon (with APWA), November 8, 2017

Southern Arizona Branch Luncheon, November 8, 2017

Northern Arizona Branch Luncheon, November 9, 2017

AZ Water Slossball Event, November 11, 2017

Yuma Branch Luncheon, November 14, 2017

PBYMF Monthly Meeting, November 14, 2017

### December

SABYMF 21st Annual Sunstroke Golf Tournament, December 2, 2017

Phoenix Branch Holiday Party, December 6, 2017

Yuma Branch Luncheon, December 12, 2017

Northern Arizona Branch Luncheon, December 14, 2017

PBYMF Holiday Party, December 14, 2017

[For more information visit the ASCE Arizona Calendar](#)

# Phoenix Branch News and Notes

Larry Hanson, PE, M.ASCE, Vice President, Phoenix Branch



## Recap of October Luncheon

At the October 11 Branch luncheon, Dr. Larry Head and Russell Brooks provided a presentation on engineering the future of transportation with connected and autonomous vehicles. Dr. Head is a Professor of Systems and Industrial Engineering and Director of the Arizona Transportation Research Institute at the University of Arizona. Mr. Brooks is the Senior Operations Manager-Southwest for Uber.



## Joint APWA/ASCE November Luncheon: Infrastructure in the Southwest – Heat And Flooding In A Climate Impacted Future

**Date:** November 8, 2017

**Location:** Arizona Country Club, 5668 Orange Blossom Lane, Phoenix, AZ

**Time:** 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**Speaker:** Dr. Mikhail Chester, A.M.ASCE

Dr. Chester will present a suite of projects showing the challenges and opportunities for infrastructure systems in a future with more frequent and intense heat and flooding.

Advanced registration required.

For more information contact Rob Lyons (480.222.5715)

## Holiday Party

**Date:** December 6, 2017

**Location:** Aunt Chilada's, 7330 N. Dreamy Draw Drive, Phoenix, AZ  
**Time:** 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Holiday party featuring a Mexican buffet. ACEC Arizona, ASCE EWRI, and ASHE Phoenix Sonoran are being invited.

Advanced registration required.

For more information contact Larry Hanson (480.231.4023)

## ASCE High School Chapter

The Phoenix Branch is working with the Chandler Hamilton High School to establish an ASCE chapter at the high school. Immediate Past President Frederick Tack is currently leading this outreach effort. If you are interested in finding out more about this effort and/or would like to work with Frederick, please [email](#) him.

## Branch Awards

In November the Phoenix Branch will be soliciting nominations for the following awards:

### ASCE Phoenix Branch Government Civil Engineer

This award is presented annually to a distinguished civil engineer employed in the public sector, located in Gila County, Maricopa County or Pinal County. The nominee must be an ASCE member in good standing and preferably a licensed professional engineer. Qualifications of the award nominees will be judged on the following:

- Sustained outstanding civil engineering performance in the public sector
- Evidence of high character and professional integrity
- Civic and humanitarian activities
- A minimum of 15 years in public service as a civil engineer
- Five of the 15 years at the senior administrative level
- Currently employed in the U.S. public sector at the time of application submittal
- Participation in ASCE
- Letters of recommendation

### ASCE Phoenix Branch Project of the Year – Small and Large

This award is presented annually to one project with total design and construction cost under \$10 million and one project with total design and construction cost equal to or greater than \$10 million. Projects must be substantially completed in 2017.

Qualifications of the project award nominees will be judged on the following:

- Engineering significance
- Implementation of innovative engineering or construction techniques
- Impact on quality of life or improvement of the performance of the infrastructure
- Use of ASCE programs such as the Envision Rating System
- Letters of recommendation

Nomination packets will be due by January 6, 2018.

## Leadership Opportunities in the Phoenix Branch

The Phoenix Branch leadership team currently has two openings – Outreach Chair and Social Media Chair. The anticipated time commitment is approximately two hours per month. If you are interested, contact President [Rob Lyons](#).

# Southern Arizona Branch Luncheon

ASCE Southern Arizona Branch



## November Luncheon

**Date:** November 8, 2017

**Location:** Hotel Tucson City Center, 475 N. Granada Ave (St. Mary's and Granada, SW Corner)

**Time:** 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

**Speaker:** Jason Carlaftes

Jason will give a presentation of his experience with Bridges to Prosperity on a project in Bajo Cobre, Panama.

[Register here.](#)

## Phoenix Branch YMF News and Notes

Skye Gentile, PE, M.ASCE, President, PBYMF

### November Member Meeting - Tempe Street Car Overview!

This month's meeting will be held Tuesday, November 14th, at 5:30pm at Half Moon Sports Grill at 2121 E. Highland Avenue (near SR 51 at the Highland Ave/Camelback Rd exit).

The Phoenix Branch YMF board would like to invite all members to this meeting where Tom Wilhite, City of Tempe Civil Engineer, will present on the Tempe Streetcar project. The Tempe Streetcar is a future streetcar extension of the Phoenix Valley Metro Light Rail system that will link various parts of the city's downtown as well as the Tempe campus of Arizona State University! This is a great opportunity to hear about a unique transportation project from the City's Civil Engineer close to it's design.

Be sure to come out, bring your business cards, and enjoy a drink on us. It is a great way to get to know your fellow local engineers and make life long connections that will help immensely during your career.

### AZ Water Slobball Event

Phoenix Branch YMF has been challenged to join AZ Water and ASCE/ITES in a Kickball Tournament on Saturday, November 11th at 4 pm. YMF will pay for all YMF members' entry fee, so please RSVP to [Courtney Anderson](#) by Tuesday, November 7th to either reserve your spot on the YMF team or attend the event as a supporter!

Unlimited food and beverages (bring ID) will be provided! [Check out the flyer.](#)

### 2017 Holiday Party

Phoenix Branch YMF will be hosting our Annual Holiday Party on Thursday, December 14th at 5:30pm at Half Moon Sports Grill! We'd like to invite all of our members and their spouses or significant others to come join us for food and drinks provided by YMF. Hope to see you all there to celebrate the holidays and another great year!

# Southern Arizona Branch YMF News and Notes

## Southern Arizona Branch YMF



ARIZONA SECTION  
Southern Arizona Branch  
YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM

### 21<sup>st</sup> Annual YMF Sunstroke Golf Tournament



*Proceeds Benefit  
The UofA Civil Engineering  
Student Scholarship Fund*

Arizona National Golf Club  
9777 E. Sabino Greens Drive  
Tucson, Arizona 85749

Saturday, December 2, 2017

7:30 a.m. Registration

8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Lunch, Awards & Raffle to follow

*Prizes for:  
1st Place  
Longest Drive  
Longest Putt  
Closest to the Pin  
& RAFFLE PRIZES!*

Individual ( <i>Includes play for one, gift bag, and lunch</i> ) .....	\$125
Foursome ( <i>Includes play for four, gift bag, and lunch</i> ) .....	\$500
Tee Sponsorship ( <i>Sign with company name &amp; logo at tee box</i> ) .....	\$250
Special Package ( <i>One Foursome &amp; One Tee Sponsorship - SAVE \$100</i> ) .....	\$650
Tournament Sponsorship .....	\$1250

*(Special Package, plus company logo displayed prominently at tournament  
and on SAB YMF website for ONE YEAR)*

**Make Checks Payable to:**  
ASCE SAB YMF  
OR  
**Pay Online!**

**Please Register By:**  
**Monday, November 20th**

Questions: [ascesabymf@gmail.com](mailto:ascesabymf@gmail.com)

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