

# THE ARIZONA CIVIL ENGINEER

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- Southern Arizona Branch Engineers



### **A Message from the President**

**Breanna Connolly, PE, M.ASCE,  
ASCE AZ**

What is "good communication?" People always say the key to good relationships and effectiveness at work is "good communication." But what does this really mean?

Wikipedia says communication is from Latin *communicare*, meaning "to share." Dictionary.com notes it as "the imparting or exchanging information or news." And my personal favorite, "activity by one organism that changes or has the potential to change the behavior of other organisms."

There are 4 main categories of communication:

- **Spoken or Verbal Communication:** face-to-face, telephone, radio or television and other media.
- **Non-Verbal Communication:** body language, gestures, how we dress or

**December 11**

- Southern Arizona Branch December Luncheon

**December 12**

- Phoenix Branch and YMF Holiday Party

**December 20**

- Southern Arizona Branch December Community Service

**January 6**

- Phoenix Branch Awards Nomination Packets Due

**January 18**

- Southern Arizona Branch YMF 23rd Annual Sunstroke Golf Tournament

**January 23**

- Region 8 Winter Assembly Meeting

**January 24 & 25**

- ASCE Region 8 & 9 Multi-Region Leadership Conference

**March 11 & 12**

- ASCE Legislative Fly-In

For more information visit the [Calendar](#).

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**Job Openings**

**City Engineer**  
City of Sierra Vista

**Civil Engineering Designer**  
Perry Engineering

**Civil Engineering Project Manager**  
Perry Engineering

**Building Inspector I**  
Town of Marana

**Project Manager/Senior Civil Engineer**  
DOWL

For more information visit the [Job Bank](#).

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act, where we stand, and even our scent.

- **Written Communication:** letters, e-mails, social media, books, magazines, the Internet and other media.
- **Visualizations: graphs and charts,** maps, logos and other visualizations - ([www.skillsyouneed.com](http://www.skillsyouneed.com)).

Good communication can be hard to put your finger on. You want to get the intended outcome, based on the information provided, with minimal misunderstandings. Some would say good communicators **listen** carefully, **speak** or write **clearly**, and **respect** different opinions. They understand their audience and know the best method of getting information across; (Is it a detailed email? Or in person discussion? Or through visual aids?). Some would say its politeness, professionalism or a quick response.

Each person has their own preference, and sees information through their own unique lens, based on their specific background. This makes it difficult to define “good communication.” Good communicators can adapt to all sorts of recipient’s styles to **make a connection**. As you improve in this skill, to check if your message is understood, it is often helpful to have feedback from recipient(s) to communicate back what they believe the message is.

In our work, I believe, the more communication the better. We are like detectives collecting information and piecing clues together to find the best solution. As seen on tv, detectives will say “let me know if you think of anything, even if it doesn’t seem important.” I find that often the case for engineering. Each piece of information leads to a clearer picture of what is existing to account for in design and construction or what is needed to make the system operate better. This happens through distributing information often and by all 4 communication categories: (verbal, non-verbal, written, and visualizations), including: sharing of emails, design plans, as-builts, conversations with clients and operators, asking questions and talking about lessons learned based on your experience or someone else’s. The more people you can loop in, often the better.

If you have more thoughts on this topic, please start a dialog in **ASCE Collaborate**.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

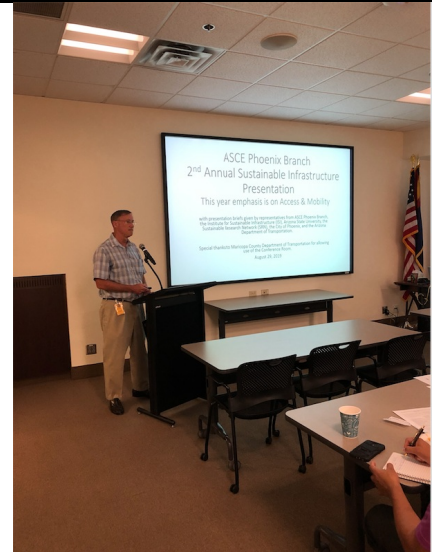


# Phoenix Branch News and Updates

Skye Gentile, PE, Vice President, Phoenix Branch

## Sustainability Presentation

On August 29<sup>th</sup> the Branch hosted presentations on sustainable infrastructure, access, and mobility. Branch Sustainability Chair Michael Naber, PE, organized and led the presentations. There were 33 attendees. Presenters also included: Brian Fellows, Streets Transportation Department, City of Phoenix; David King, School of Geographical Sciences & Urban Planning, ASU; Steven Olmsted, ADOT; Kevin Thornton, PE, Psomas; Samuel Markolf, Global Institute of Sustainability, ASU; Deborah Salon, School of Geographical Sciences & Urban Planning, ASU; and Elias Valencia, Village Planner-Light Rail, City Of Phoenix. Photo of Brian Fellows not available.



*Phoenix Branch Sustainability Chair  
Michael Naber, PE*



*David King, School of Geographical  
Sciences & Urban Planning, ASU*



*Steven Olmsted, ADOT*



*Kevin Thornton, PE, Psomas*





## Recap of October Luncheon

At the October 9 luncheon, Tim Strow, Maricopa Association of Governments Director of Transportation Policy and Planning provided, provided an overview of long range transportation planning and regional values mapping results for the Phoenix metro area. Forty-five were in attendance.



*Tim Strow, Maricopa Association of  
Governments Director of  
Transportation Policy and Planning*

## Young Engineer Leadership Workshop

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Branch hosted a four-hour workshop for 23 young civil engineers. Branch Past President Laura Spencer, PE, organized the workshop. Nicolai Oliden, PE, led the workshop which included sessions on productivity tips and work-life balance, and how to develop a vision for your life. The workshop ended with a panel discussion on early career lessons learned. The panelists included Brent Borchers, PE, James Barr, PE, and Frederick Tack PE.



*Nicolai Oliden, PE*



*L-R, James Barr, PE, Frederick Tack, PE, Brent  
Borchers, PE*

## Branch Support for SHPE National Convention

From Oct 3 to November 3 the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) held their national convention at the Phoenix Convention Center. Approximate 7,000 were in attendance. On Friday night, ASCE HQ hosted "Conversations with Civil Engineers", which was a speed career mentoring session aimed at inspiring, advising, and informally mentoring the next generation of civil engineers. Approximately 75 college students and young professionals attended. During the

session, Phoenix Branch members Nicolai Oliden, PE, and Larry Hanson, PE, led roundtable discussions.

## Holiday Party

The Branch and YMF are co-hosting the annual Holiday Party:

Date: December 12, 2019

Location: O.H.S.O. Brewery+Distillery  
4900 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix, 85020

Time: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

[See flyer for more details.](#)

The following organizations have also been invited: Geo-Institute, Utility Engineering and Survey Institute, EWRI, ASHE Phoenix Sonoran, and ACEC Arizona.

Advance registration required.



*Join the ASCE  
Phoenix Branch and YMF*

# HOLIDAY PARTY

@ O.H.S.O.  
Brewery + Distillery

Thursday, December 12th  
5:30 pm – 7:30pm



**4900 E. Indian School Rd | Phoenix, AZ 85018**  
Appetizers and drinks included with registration!  
Cost to Register - \$45  
Register [HERE](#)

Drawing for Door Prizes!  
Bring your business card

**Free Valet Available!**



The Phoenix Branch is working with the Chandler Hamilton High School Civil Engineering Club. Branch Outreach Chair, Andrew Chill, PE, is leading this outreach effort. If you are interested in finding out more about this effort and/or would like to work with Andrew, [please contact him](#).

## Branch Awards

The Phoenix Branch is 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 2019. Qualifications of the project award nominees will be judged on the following:

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

Nomination packets are due January 6, 2020.

Nomination forms are available on the Arizona Section website <http://www.azsce.org/azsce-news/awards/phoenix-branch-awards/>

## What's Happening in Southern Arizona

Chelsi Remme, PE, M.ASCE, President-Elect, Southern Arizona Branch

### Engineers Week Committee Meeting



It is almost time for the Engineers Week meeting! The next meeting is scheduled for

**December 6th at noon**  
**Lunch will be provided at La Botana!**

E Week is a week long series of events in February promoting and celebrating Engineering. ASCE partners with other associations during E Week to host a number of event during E Week including:

- Introduce a Girl to Engineering
- Engineering at the Mall Day
- Tech Tour
- Engineers Week Banquet and Awards Presentation
- If you would like to be a part of any or all of these events, please email [Chelsi Remme](#).

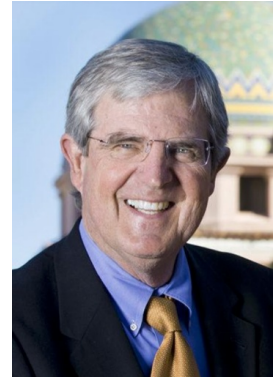
## December Luncheon

Please join us for a presentation from **Chuck Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator**

Pima County Update

Wednesday, December 11th @ 11:30am

[Register Here](#)



## December Community Service

We are confirmed with the Community Food Bank for volunteering at the Winterhaven Festival of Lights on **Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 PM to 10:30 PM**. We will be helping the Community Food Bank with their largest annual event, collecting shelf-stable donation and cash donations from visitors to the Festival of Lights for the food bank. All ASCE folks, friends and family are invited to attend.



We'll meet at the neighborhood entrance at Ft. Lowell and Christmas at 5:30 PM and pick up our supplies from orientation. Then we'll try for our usual Kleindale at Country Club entrance. Folks interested in volunteering, either for a few hours or the whole night, should email me to RSVP. Snacks, hot coco and hand warmers will be provided by ASCE. Feel free to dress festively!

For further questions ask [Deirdre](#).



## Phoenix Branch YMF News

**Andrew Moreno, PE, M.ASCE, President, Phoenix Branch YMF**

## Joint Christmas Party with Phoenix Branch - Thursday 12/12/19

Come join us for some holiday cheer to close out 2019!! YMF will be co-hosting their annual Christmas Party with ASCE Phoenix Branch, Thursday November 12th, at O.H.S.O. Brewery Arcadia.

[Register Here](#)



## New Chair Position - PE Review Course Proctor

YMF is looking for candidates interested in proctoring the yearly Spring and Fall YMF PE Review Course classes. The Chair will work with the YMF Board to schedule and manage the classes for course registrants.

Expected commitment is approximately 18 afternoons a year, 9 each in the Spring and Fall. In addition to holding a YMF Chair position, the PE Proctor position will be PAID!

If you would like to submit your name for consideration, or have any questions about the position requirements, please contact [Andrew Moreno](#).

## **2019 Fundraising Tournament Thank You!**

On Saturday October 26th YMF hosted their annual Cornhole Fundraising Tournament. This year saw a record number of players come out and spend the day networking and playing cornhole for a good cause. A HUGE thank you to our sponsors that made it all possible, as well as the volunteers that worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Over \$10,000 were raised that will help fund YMF's outreach events throughout the year as well as the YMF Foundation!





ARIZONA SECTION

Phoenix Branch

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM

Thank You to All Our 2019  
Fundraiser Sponsors!!!

**TOURNAMENT SPONSOR**



**BOARD SPONSORS**



**BURGESS & NIPLE** **PARSONS**

**BEVERAGE AND LUNCH SPONSOR**

**Terracon**

Southern Arizona Branch YMF December Announcements

Title Sponsored by:



Saturday, January 18th,  
2020

# 23rd Annual Sunstroke Golf Tournament



Help the ASCE SAB YMF scholarship fund that benefits The University of Arizona, Civil Engineering Students. Your tax deductible sponsorship not only benefits the students, but it is also a great way to gain visibility for your company, reward your staff, or have a great day with friends!

## Title Sponsorship • \$1000

- One (1) foursome of players with gift bags and lunches provided.
- Company Logo display in all advertisement, such as, website, social media, flyer, posters, emails and more.

## Foursome • \$500

- Four (4) players with gift bags and lunches provided.

## Tee sponsorship • \$250

- Company Logo at the Tee Box.



## Special Package • \$650

- Four (4) players with gift bags and lunches provided.
- Company Logo at the Tee Box.

## Raffle Sponsorship • \$250

- Company Logo at the prize table.

## Food Sponsorship • \$300

- Company Logo at a food table.

## Single Player • \$150

- One (1) player with gift bag and lunch provided.

[Register Here](#)

*The Arizona Civil Engineer is a publication of the Arizona Section of ASCE.*

*Information published in the newsletter must be consistent with ASCE Arizona Section Board policy.*

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[ASCE Arizona Section | www.azsce.org](#)