

# THE ARIZONA CIVIL ENGINEER

Volume 96 Issue 2- December

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## A Message from the President

**Gary Miller, PE, M.ASCE,**

**ASCE AZ**

With Thanksgiving just behind us and Christmas and New Years on the horizon I often find myself questioning where has the time gone and reflecting on the events of the past year. For me personally, I finished out my position as AZ Section President Elect and started my role as president, a second kid started high school, my oldest kid got his driver's license, and my wife changed jobs.

While my personal experiences this year are unique to me, there have been many experiences in the last year that we all share. Our year started off with news of the Australian Wildfires that was quickly overshadowed by the impending pandemic. This had differing impacts that ranged from trying to find toilet paper at the store, not having social interactions outside of our own home, to learning how to work from home. Finally, we end the year with an election and trying to social distance with our family during the holidays. What a strange year.

Lastly, I wanted to highlight some of the accomplishments throughout the AZ Section over the past year. The Arizona Section, under the leadership of Jose Aguilar, has been working diligently over the last year and half to update and release the 2020 ASCE Arizona Infrastructure Report Card from our last release in 2015. In addition to the Government Relations/Public Relations University that was held, the report card release on September 16<sup>th</sup> was well attended. All in attendance are looking forward to the future opportunities and discussions this creates with the communities and elected officials throughout the State. To learn more please see the 2020 Report Card for Arizona's Infrastructure section below.

As the past ASCE AZ Section President-Elect and now incoming Section President, one of my first responsibilities was to organize a Section Conference that was held virtually Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Typically, the conference is a day long with many speakers and topics, but given the current circumstances was changed to a two-hour virtual event. While I was disappointed to change such a successful event, I was grateful to the volunteer conference committee who took their time to attend

meetings and help make important decisions.

During the conference, not only did we have a great panel discussion, but we got to hear from the Society President, Guna, who also conducted a virtual induction of officer's ceremony for the section. However, one of the highlights for me was delivering the section awards. Those that received these awards worked diligently this last year to continue to provide ASCE members with the benefits that we all have come to appreciate. Examples of these include a virtual career fair at the University of Arizona, virtual luncheons, and virtual happy hours.

It certainly has been a strange and challenging year. I look to the future with hope knowing that all ASCE members are working and striving towards a better tomorrow.

Thank you,  
Gary Miller, P.E., M.ASCE  
ASCE Section President

## Phoenix Branch News

**Joseph R. Dietrick, PE, PLS, CPSWQ, M.ASCE, Vice President, Phoenix Branch**

On Thursday November 19, 2020, the Phoenix Branch of ASCE along with APWA hosted a joint virtual meeting. Speaking at this event were Eric Anderson, Executive Director, Maricopa Association of Governments, Heather Shelbrack, Public Information Manager, City of Phoenix Aviation Department and Jose Aguilar, PE, ENV, SP, M.ASCE, Vice President, ASCE Arizona Section.

Jose Aguilar presented the ASCE 2020 Infrastructure Report Card, released virtually on September 16, 2020. Arizona averaged a C on its statewide infrastructure, which is the same score that Arizona received in 2015. This compares with a national average rating of D+. Recommendations from the report card include creation of a statewide asset database, adjustment to the current tax structure, education of the public on infrastructure issues, inclusions of more sustainability in the infrastructure and regular statewide infrastructure inspections.

Eric Anderson discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on transportation projects throughout Maricopa County. Eric provide a first look at the upcoming Broadway Curve Design/Build project on I-10. This much-needed project is scheduled to begin in 2021 and be completed by 2025.

Heather Shelbrack provided updates on two major construction projects. The Sky Train Stage 2 construction including the 24<sup>th</sup> Street Station and the Rental Car Center. She also presented a look at the Eight Concourse project on going at Terminal 4.

## Southern Arizona Branch News

**ASCE SAB Virtual Luncheon  
Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

- 11:50 am: Online meeting open to join
- Noon: Announcements
- 12:05 pm: Featured Speaker Presentation
- 12:55 pm: Scholarship Raffle Drawing
- When: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 Noon to 1:00 PM MST

- Where: Online - Zoom Link will be provided after registration.

Welcome ASCE-SAB Members and Guests!

This month's featured speaker is: Matthew Junak, P.E., Senior Project Manager at HNTB

Presenting on Emerging Mobility Solutions, impacts of COVID, and infrastructure-based solutions.

[Click Here to Register!](#)

## Phoenix Branch YMF News

Cynthia Alvarez, PE, M.ASCE, President, Phoenix Branch YMF

### 2020 Phoenix YMF Holiday Party

**Tuesday - December 15 at 5pm**

As we are quickly approaching the end of 2020, Phoenix YMF would like to get together for one last time in 2020. Break out your ugly Christmas sweater and join us for some holiday cheer to close out 2020!! YMF will be hosting their annual Holiday Party on December 15 at 5 pm. During the inaugural **virtual** holiday party we will be playing games for prizes and doing a photo contest for ugly Christmas sweater. Send in your photos to [Shane](#) with your ugly Christmas sweater to enter into the contest. First place gets a prize! Sign up [here](#) to receive the Teams link. Hope to see you there!

Contact [Shane](#) if you have any questions.

### Shadow Ridge High School - Success!

On Thursday November 12, six YMF members participated in a panel to answer engineering related questions to students at Shadow Ridge High School. The students asked questions about education requirements, day to day activities, and favorite projects. It was a very successful event and panel members continued responding to questions after the event to ensure all questions were answered. See photo below of the students in the classroom engaged with the panel members via Teams.



### 2023 Western Region Younger Member Conference - Volunteers Needed

Phoenix YMF is preparing a proposal to host the Western Region Younger Member Conference in 2023! We need volunteers to help produce a proposal video highlighting why Phoenix is the best choice to host the conference in 2023.

Also, we would like to gauge if anyone has any preliminary interest in heading a planning committee or being involved in a conference planning committee. See below for a list of committees:

Finance Committee

Agenda Committee

Registration Committee

Field Trip / Technical Tours Committee

Program Committee

Banquet Committee

Social Committee  
Awards Committee  
Website Committee  
Pre-conference Networking Event Committee  
Pre-conference Volunteer Event Committee  
Transportation Committee

If you are interested in helping with the proposal video, planning committees, or if you have any questions please reach out to [Derek Smith](#).

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