

January 2017

# ALASKA CAPITAL ENGINEERS

## Upcoming Events

- January Luncheon (1/11/17) - Erich Schaal speaking on current projects from Docks and harbors
- February Banquet (2/25/17) - RADM Michael McAllister

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## November Menu Lunch Buffet

January, 2017  
Catering by Abby's Kitchen

House Roast Beef Sandwich Lettuce, tomato, cheddar,  
sundried tomato aioli on a French baguette

Roast Turkey Garden Sandwich Roast Turkey, Garlic  
Pesto Aioli, Spinach, Tomatoes, & Sprouts on a French  
baguette

Butternut Squash Bisque Soup  
Assorted Bag Chips



Contact Justin Kanouse or Mike Story to  
submit ideas for luncheon Speakers



# President's Message

Wishing a happy and productive 2017 to all Alaska Capital Engineers and Fellow Professionals,

I look forward to hearing Erich Schaal, PE, Port Engineer, from the City and Borough of Juneau Docks & Harbors at our luncheon next week. He will update us on all the things going on with Docks and Harbors. I heard Carl Uchtyl, PE, Port Director speak at the Chamber earlier this week and came away impressed and amazed at all the things Docks & Harbors is working on.

I assume most of you are currently busy putting together project of the year and engineer of the year proposals as the deadline is the January 31. Other January activity includes planning for what looks to be a very exciting February. Dates and locations are still a bit tentative, but please keep the following on your radar for February:

- 7<sup>th</sup>: The ASCE section plans to release their statewide report card on infrastructure this February 7<sup>th</sup> with a Media press conference followed up with meetings with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and ADOT directors.
- 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>: We are still coordinating a time with the Governor; but are tentatively planning to unveil the new historical ASCE plaque that replaces the original 1990's plaque in front of the Governor's House. The Governor and his staff have approved a much more prominent location for the new plaque.
- 8<sup>th</sup>: APDC Fly-in Luncheon tentatively planned for the Hangar Ballroom with lobbying efforts throughout the day.
- 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>: ASCE State Section meeting. We also hope to include another social where folks can mingle with the professionals in town from around the State and legislative staff.
- 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>: Engineers Week! It seems most of the K-12 teachers would like an engineer to visit their classrooms. We need everyone to help to make this successful, so please consider volunteering to speak in 2 or more classrooms. There is a free webinar on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 8 am that includes learning to effectively talk to students, tips on leading engaging activities and turnkey resources available to you/us from Discover E.
- 25<sup>th</sup>: Engineers Week Banquet at the Baranof. The guest speaker is Coast Guard Admiral McAllister. He graduated from the Academy with a degree in Civil Engineering and has spent parts of his career in the Coast Guard civil engineering and logistics communities. A good portion of his career has also been on the operational side of the Coast Guard.

I continue to challenge you to invite and bring a new person to lunch each month. Benefits include interesting speakers, good food at a great value, \$15, catered by Abby's Kitchen, 1 hour of continuing education units / professional development hours and networking opportunities.

Finally, I want to thank all the ACE officers that make serving as an officer so rewarding.

Please contact me or any of the other officers if you have any questions, ideas or concerns.

Happy New Year!

Michael C. Story, PE  
ASCE Juneau Branch Vice President

# ASCE to roll out Alaska Infrastructure Report Card in February

By Greg Kinney, ASCE Region 8 Governor

On February 7th, in conjunction with the annual APDC Legislative Fly-In, the Alaska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) will roll out the Alaska Infrastructure Report Card. With this event, Alaska will become the 37th state to publish a state report card, bringing the national report card to the local level. The event release is scheduled for 10 AM in the Downtown Library in Juneau on that date.

This is the culmination of a year-long effort, conducted by ASCE members and student members across the state, under the leadership of Tor Anderzen (Alaska Section Treasurer). As with the National Infrastructure Report Card, which has been updated every three years since 1998 for public and policymaker release, the report card will present a high level overview of the existing conditions, situation and prospects for many categories of public infrastructure.

Why are we doing this? It's because public infrastructure is vital to the functioning of our state. In instances where our infrastructure is deteriorating or underperforming, it is imperative to identify it, and to prioritize maintenance or reconstruction where needed. As documented in ASCE's "Failure to Act" reports, higher costs and inefficiencies related to infrastructure are estimated to cost each household about \$3400 per year nationally from 2016 to 2025. As with the nation, Alaska cannot afford this kind of drain on its competitiveness and well-being. Therefore, it's our goal to help frame these issues for our policymakers, so that short term and longer term budgeting policies can be appropriately shaped.

(continued on page 4)

# ASCE to roll out Alaska Infrastructure Report Card in February

For Alaska, the following categories will be reported in February:

- Aviation
- Bridges
- Dams
- Energy
- Marine Highway System
- Ports and Harbors
- Roads
- Solid Waste
- Water and Wastewater

Each of these elements of infrastructure was evaluated by a panel of ASCE members based on experience, research reports, official documents, and interviews. The following criteria were then used for evaluation:

- Capacity
- Condition
- Operations and Maintenance
- Funding
- Future Needs
- Public Safety
- Resilience
- Innovation

(continued on page 5)

## ASCE to roll out Alaska Infrastructure Report Card in February

In evaluating the infrastructure, the teams have identified a number of categories of infrastructure in which Alaska has done very well. This may be a result of Alaska's youth relative to other states, so that much infrastructure is still relatively new. It may also be a result of high levels of public and private investment spending in certain categories since the development of Prudhoe Bay in the late 1970s.

On the other hand, there remain many challenges, some of them environmental, such as permafrost, coastal erosion and other climate-related issues. These challenges are familiar to Alaskan engineers, and technical approaches have been developed to mitigate these effects; however, cost effective solutions are not always available.

Some of the greatest challenges are not technical at all, but rather are cultural and socioeconomic, and related to the low population density of the state. This is often referred to as the rural/urban divide, but there is no description or label that is without flaws. ASCE adopted the terminology "on-road" vs. "off road." While "on road" (generally highway accessible) areas of the state enjoy economies of scale, and a relatively high and diverse population capable of maintaining and supporting infrastructure, the "off road" areas are sparsely populated and often subsistence-based. These communities often lack the skill base and the economic stability for such support. In addition, these areas are burdened with high costs of imported fuel, goods and services. Finally, any improvement project in "off road" Alaska must confront high logistical barriers, making capital improvements both sporadic and expensive.

It's important to understand that engineering and new construction are not always a good solution. For many categories of infrastructure, investments in maintenance could avert the costs of new replacement infrastructure while providing stable service.

The full details of the report will be available upon release of the Report Card in February. We'll be writing a followup column to discuss the details at that time, and look forward to continuing dialog within and outside the engineering community on these issues.

# News Briefs



## [Young ASCE Leaders Share Civil Engineering New Year's Resolutions](#)

December 30, 2016

New Year's resolutions are tricky things. It's easy to say you want to eat less and exercise more this year. One week in, those plans usually fall by the wayside. But what about New Year's

[Read more >>](#)

## [Leadership Is Communication, Rising Engineers Told](#)

December 15, 2016

Civil engineers need to hone their abilities to read people and communicate – the so-called soft skills, says Brent Darnell, Aff.M.ASCE, president and owner of Atlanta-based Brent Darnell International. "These skills are no longer just...[Read More](#)

[>>](#)



Follow the links below to learn more about the condition of America's Infrastructure. The Infrastructure Report Card Process is underway with the scheduled report release in March of 2017.

[Failure to Act reports](#) [Report Card on America's Infrastructure](#)



### **Professional Development Hours**

The ASCE Juneau Branch will provide electronic continuing education development hour certificates for those who are interested in tracking development hours received by attending the Alaska Capital Engineers Luncheons to hear speakers present on engineering topics. Certificates can be found on the branch webpage <http://branches.asce.org/juneau/>

### **NSPE Statewide Meeting**

Mark Your Calendars: March 17-18, 2017 Statewide Meeting of the Board for the Alaska Chapter of the National Society of Professional Engineers is scheduled to be held in Juneau in the Spring. Stay tuned for more details. Banquet and installation of Statewide Officers at the Baranof Hotel on March 18. Save the dates, come and network with Officers from around the State of Alaska.

### **Engineer of the Year and Project of the Year**

It's time to think about our hard working friends and coworkers and their projects. Please consider nominating an engineer and/or project for this year's awards. Deadline is January 31st, 2017.







The Southeast Alaska Regional MATHCOUNTS Competition will be held at Juneau Douglas High School on February 11, 2017.

The Alaska State Competition will be held in Juneau this year at the University of Alaska Southeast Egan Library Facility on March 18, 2017. We are looking for volunteers for this years competitions, particularly the State competition in March. Please contact Doug Murray, State Co-Coordinator and SE Coordinator, if you are interested in helping with this events. Contact Doug at 780-6151 or [dougmurray@pdceng.com](mailto:dougmurray@pdceng.com).

***MC Problem of the Week:***

A mathematician decided to throw a party. When all the guests arrived, she joined the party with her husband. Including the mathematician and her husband, there were five couples, making the total number of people in attendance 10. After several minutes of mingling and introductions the mathematician asked each of the nine others in attendance how many people they shook hands with. Each person gave her a different answer from 0 to 8. If couples did not shake hands with each other, how many people did the mathematician's husband shake hands with? \*Answer see page 13





# New Branch Website

The Juneau Branch of ASCE has a brand new website. Bookmark this website for easy access to the events calendar, PDH certificates, new and archived newsletters, contact information and much more.



For questions or concerns regarding the Juneau Branch ASCE website please contact Ethan Roemeling

<http://branches.asce.org/juneau/>



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**Juneau Chapter**  
*Alaska Society of Professional Engineers*



## **Membership and Renewal**

Thank you for your continued membership and support for ASCE and NSPE. Our professional organizations provide a great opportunity to network with other members of the engineering profession. Select the links below for society membership information.

[ASCE Membership Information](#)

[NSPE Membership Information](#)

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INFORMATION.

### ***2016-2017 Alaska Capital Engineers Officers***

#### **ASCE**

President - Justin Kanouse, EIT  
Vice President - Mike Story, PE  
Treasurer - Matt McGuan, PE  
Secretary - Ethan Roemeling, EIT  
Past President - Sam Kito III, PE  
Emeritus - Don Gotschall, PE

#### **Special Committees**

DiscoverE Week - Please Volunteer  
Halibut Feed - Please Volunteer

#### **ASPE - Alaska Society Contacts**

Past President - Brad Fristoe, PE  
President - Angela Smith, PE  
President Elect - Leora Houtary, PE  
Secretary - Jordan Martin, EI  
Treasurer - Soo Choi, PE  
NSPE House of Delegates - Michael Dean, PE  
Anchorage Chapter Director - Joe Taylor, PE  
Fairbanks Chapter Director - Frank Wuttig, PE  
Juneau Chapter Director - Darrell Wetherall, PE

***Answer to MC Problem of the  
Week:***

4 people

