

Alaska Capital Engineers

A branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers

April 2025 Newsletter

April Monthly Luncheon Topic: 2024 ASCE Project of the Year, Anan Bay Cabin and Bear Observatory

Location: RESPEC Conference Room

Date: April 30th at 12 PM

Cost: \$20 (includes lunch)



**Mark Sams
PE, PND Engineers**

Mark Sams is a principal engineer at PND Engineers, Inc.'s Juneau office with over 17 years of professional civil and structural engineering experience throughout Alaska. Mark has designed and managed numerous projects with both large and small clients. Mark has experience in structural, civil, and marine projects, specializing in servicing remote project sites and communities. His extensive experience includes designing all facets of buildings and marine structures utilizing a wide variety of materials. Mark appreciates working with clients from both the public and private sectors and strives to provide valuable engineering assistance with every project he is involved with.



The Anan Bay cabin and bear observatory underwent major upgrades to improve safety, accessibility, and visitor experience due to outdated and inadequate existing facilities. PND Engineers led a multi-year improvement project that included cantilevered viewing platforms, a spiral staircase, cedar shelters, and trail enhancements, all designed to minimize environmental impact. The remote location and ecological sensitivity of the site required careful logistical planning, seasonal construction windows, and novel structural solutions like rock anchors and breakaway foundations.

Visit our website at <https://branches.asce.org/juneau/> for the following:
PDH Certificates, Recorded Presentations, Newsletters, ASCE Membership,
Job Postings

Announcements and More!

Volunteer Opportunity - MathCounts

MathCounts is a national program aimed at improving math skills through engaging competitions. Volunteers are needed for proctoring, grading, and timing during next years competition season. If you would like to volunteer or donate, please contact Janice Wells at Janice.Wells@respec.com.

2026 ASCE Board Openings

As the 2025 ASCE season comes to a close, we are looking ahead to next year. The board will have an opening in the secretary position, with opportunities to advance in the organization each year. If you are interested, send an email to events@alaskacapitalengineers.org or eva.melancon@gmail.com. We hope to see you on the board next year!

Scholarship Applications Due

Do you know a graduating senior or undergraduate college student who is planning to pursue an engineering discipline? Let them know that the ASCE Juneau Branch is currently accepting applications for scholarships until April 30th. Applications and instructions can be found on our website at under the resources tab at <https://branches.asce.org/juneau/resources>

Current Job Postings

PND - Structural Engineer - EIT ProHNS - FHWA Construction Project Engineer
PND - Civil Engineer - EIT DOWL - Transportation Project Engineer
Respec - Structural Engineer DOWL - Aviation Project Engineer
AELP - T&D Project Manager

Local Branch Officers:

2024-2025 ALASKA CAPITAL ENGINEERS OFFICERS	
ASCE President – Eva Melancon, PE Vice President – Zach Miller, EIT Treasurer – Jimmy Spriggs, EIT Secretary – Jake Gemlo, EIT Past President – Chris Bydlon, PE Emeritus – Mark Pusich, PE	ASPE - Alaska Society Contacts Past President – Chris Miller, PE President – Craig Blesdoe, PE President Elect – Vacant Secretary - Leora Houtary, PE Treasurer – Iain McPHerson, PE NSPE House of Delegates - Brad Fristoe, PE Anchorage Chapter Director – Craig Blesdoe, PE Fairbanks Chapter Director - Frank Wuttig, PE Juneau Chapter Director - Darrell Wetherall, PE
Special Committees School Outreach/STEM Coordinator - Please Volunteer Dream Big Coordinator - Please Volunteer	

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