



Official Newsletter of the American Society of Civil Engineers Southeastern Michigan Branch

October 2011



Dear Jacob,

Welcome to the first edition of the 2011-12 ASCE Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Branch! I hope you are all enjoying the splendor of color across the Great Lakes during these autumn months.

You may have noticed a few changes in the delivery and presentation of this newsletter. I am pleased to announce that in this progressive digital age, the Southeastern Branch continues to develop new ways to distribute valuable information to its members. Please provide your feedback to the Newsletter Editor and President-Elect, Jacob Rushlow.

The Southeastern Branch has been working on bringing its members a number of technical and professional programs. Look for more details on upcoming programs in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Jacob Rushlow, President-Elect
ASCE Southeastern Michigan Branch
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(734) 466-4517

Annual Meeting 2011

The 2011 Southeastern Branch Annual Meeting was held on September 24th at Pallazzo di Bocce in Orion Township. The evening included dinner, awards ceremony, induction of the 2011-12 Branch Board members, fun and a few rounds of bocce on world class italian designed courts. Thanks to Evans Bantios for organizing this years annual meeting.



In This Issue

[Annual Meeting 2011](#)

[Detroit Port Authority](#)

[Governor Signs SB77](#)

[1st Annual MiTEC](#)

[SEAMi Technical Session](#)

[Night of Terrors](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Michigan Section News](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

Please continue to update your e-mail address and always contact ASCE National for any changes to your contact information.

1st Annual Michigan Transportation Engineering Conference (MiTEC)

The Institute of Transportation Engineers Michigan Section would like to invite you to participate in the first annual Michigan Transportation Engineering Conference (MiTEC).

MiTEC is a day-long conference with keynote speakers, exhibitors, and informative sessions

Congratulations to the 2011 award recipients!

Joseph B. Alberts, II - Outstanding Civil Engineer of the Year

Dana M. Suggitt - Young Civil Engineer of the Year

University of Michigan Central Campus Transit Center - Hubbell, Roth & Clark - Outstanding Civil Engineering Project of the Year

Village of Pinckney Mill Street "Green Streets" - Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc. - Quality of Life Project of the Year Award

The Detroit / Wayne County Port Authority Dock

The Detroit / Wayne County Port Authority has just completed the new public dock and terminal building, located in a prominent area on the Detroit River adjacent to the Renaissance Center. The 250-foot long dock was built offshore to allow sufficient depth of major cruise ships. The project also rehabilitated the existing shoreline, constituting the final linkage to the East Riverwalk between the recently renovated Civic Center and GM Promenades. The dock will be used for cruise ships and other important docking on the Detroit River.

Charles J. Roarty, Jr., P.E. with NTH consultants will be presenting on the variety of design and permitting issues along with challenges during construction. The presentation is scheduled for November 17, 2011 and will include a site visit and lunch at nearby Andiamo restaurant.

[Click Here for more Information and Registration!](#)

Governor Signs SB77

Legislation returns statute of limitations to 2 years for Professional Engineers / Architects / Surveyors and prevents stale claims - 10/7/2011

After a 5+ year effort by the ACEC Political Affairs team, Senate Bill 77 was signed into law by Governor Rick Snyder on October 4, 2011 and becomes Public Act 162 of 2011.

In February 2006, a Michigan Supreme Court decision (Ostroth v. Warren Regency) overruled existing case law and lengthened all limitation periods for claims against Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Contractors. Based on an ACEC National survey, Michigan's statute of limitations for design professionals became the longest in the country.

ACEC/Michigan, along with industry partners, first introduced legislation in September 2006 to correct the decision. Throughout two legislative sessions (2007-2008 and 2009-



covering the latest development in the transportation industry.

[Click Here for MiTEC Registration Information!](#)

Structural Engineers of Michigan (SEAMi)

SEAMi is hosting a technical session on structural anchorage with guest speaker Jeff Warmolts of Powers Fasteners. The presentation is scheduled for October 25th at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills and starts at 6:00 P.M. Dinner is included in the registration fee. Attendees will earn 1.25 contact hours of continuing education (NCSEA Diamond CE Program approved).

For more information or to register contact Jamison Fox (jcfox@IICCUSA.com).

Night of Terrors with CYM

Come out and join the ASCE Committee on Younger Members (CYM) October 22nd for a frightful night of haunted hay rides, barns, mazes and more!

[Click Here for more Information!](#)

Upcoming Events

October 20-23, 2011
ASCE National Annual Conference - Memphis, Tennessee

October 22, 2011
CYM Night of Terrors - Wiard's Orchards, Ypsilanti

October 25, 2011
SEAMi Structural Anchorage Technical Session - Vladimir's Banquest Hall, Farmington Hills

November 2, 2011

2010) bills passed the Senate but died each session on the floor of the House of Representatives. In January 2011, design professionals recruited Senator Tonya Schuitmaker to introduce Senate Bill 77. In February, the bill was voted out of the Senate 35-1 and on September 20 the bill was voted out of the House 87-21. The bill will take effect on January 1, 2012.

SB 77 solves the problems created by Ostroth by restoring the applicable limitation periods to their previous durations and restores the long-established rules that govern them. The legislation will bar stale claims and require plaintiffs to be diligent in bringing claims forward in a timely manner. It puts Michigan's statute back in line with the other states across the country and makes Michigan more business-friendly for Professional Engineers, Architects and Surveyors.

Although it took over 5 years, the correcting of this decision was of great importance to A/E firms and contractors and will reduce the costs of litigation and risk for years to come. Limitation periods have long been part of Michigan's public policy and were established to encourage prompt recovery of damages while the information is fresh and the individuals involved are still readily available.

Pictured in photo above (from L to R): Paul Wade, ACEC/M Past President; Ron Brenke, ACEC/M Executive Director; Governor Rick Snyder; Senator Tonya Schuitmaker (bill sponsor); Kirk Branson, ACEC/M President.

About ASCE Southeastern Michigan Branch

We are the Southeastern Michigan Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), a non-profit national organization. ASCE's mission is to provide essential value to our members, their careers, our partners and the public by developing leadership, advancing technology, advocating lifelong learning and promoting the profession.

Our Southeastern Michigan Branch serves members of the civil engineering profession in the greater Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

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Monthly Branch Members
Meeting - Nello's
Restaurant, Royal Oak

November 10, 2011
MiTEC - Crystal Gardens
Banquet Hall, Howell

November 17, 2011
Detroit-Wayne County Port
Authority Dock project
technical program

December 7, 2011
Monthly Branch Members
Meeting - Nello's
Restaurant, Royal Oak

Monthly Branch Members
Meetings take place the first
Wednesday of each month.
As always, all members are
welcome to attend to
discuss ideas and get
involved with Branch
activities.

Michigan Engineering Newsletter Article Deadlines

ASCE, MSPE & ACEC have
collaborated to produce a
new joint, bi-monthly
newsletter. Please send
article(s) to be considered
for publication to:

Cindy Schmitz, ACEC/ASCE
Executive Assistant
cschmitz@acecmi.org

Article Submission Dates:
Due - October 21
Published - October 31

Due - December 9
Published - December 23

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Southeastern Branch
Website](#)

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