



Wyoming Engineering Society Newsletter

Fall 2019

The 100th Annual Wyoming Engineering Society Conference - February 5-6, 2020 Cheyenne, WY

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED! We need your help as we prepare the program for the 100th Convention. Please send your abstracts to rkobbe@uwyo.edu no later than October 15, 2019. This is an excellent way to share your expertise with your peers in a friendly, social setting. Peer-to-peer programming is essential to WES' continued success.

WES Members,

As summer draws to a close, and we settle into fall, I'd like to encourage you to block out February 5-6, 2020 in your calendar as we prepare to gather in Cheyenne for the 100th Annual Wyoming Engineering Society Convention. 100 years of WES is quite an achievement, and the board, standing committees, and executive director have been working hard to make this year's convention worthy of this milestone. We have some new changes this year that we are excited to share with you in February. Here are a few of things to expect as we finalize plans for the 100th annual WES Convention.

Gary Grigsby – Executive Director

PROGRAM UPDATE

Back for 2020, we will kick off the Convention with a key note address. This year's keynote will pertain to the Capitol Construction Project, the largest capital construction project in the state of Wyoming, where Suzanne Norton - Architectural Project Manager with the Wyoming State Construction Department, will provide us with a look at this project from an engineering and architectural perspective. Capitol tours will also be available at the Convention.

The first call for presentations for the 100th Annual Convention went out in July, this call received modest response, BUT I NEED YOUR HELP. I am encouraging my WES compatriots to get involved. I know you are all doing great things in Wyoming and the surrounding states, and we want to hear your story! Some of the topics received so far include:

1. Value Engineering from a Contractor's Perspective
2. Wildlife Crossings Across the West – Long Term Cost Savings by Reducing Car and Animal Collision
3. Updating and Implementing the Grade Severity Rating System (GSRS) for Wyoming Mountain Passes
4. Tax Saving Opportunities for Engineering Firms / What Tax Reform means for Engineering Firms
5. ACCELERATED BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION: It's Not a One-Size-Fits-All Solution

6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIES: Outreach & Communication for Today's Public
7. Challenges, Advantages, and Disadvantages of 2-dimensional Modelling for Defining Special Flood Hazard Areas (i.e., floodplains)
8. The importance of Licensure for Professional Engineers in protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public
9. Increasing Purchasing Power for Transportation Infrastructure through Competition
10. Best Concrete Practices to Mitigate Deicer Distress
11. Crucial Communication

This year's convention will also feature one additional change from previous years. At the behest of our members, I have made changes to help restore some of the "social traditions" that draw many of us to WES. For many years, the Convention has concluded with a sparsely attended semi-formal awards banquet on Thursday night. This year, that programming has been re-envisioned, and we will be moving that content around from what you've seen in the past.

I have planned a Scholarship Lunch where we will celebrate and recognize the achievements of the students that WES scholarships help to support. We will also receive a brief update from the College of Engineering and Applied Science as they introduce us to our scholarship recipients on Thursday afternoon. The Convention will conclude with a "Hosted Reception" rather than a banquet. We will use this time to recognize our engineer of the year, receive updates from our constituents (society Leaders, the State Board of Registration, etc.), and handle any last minute business before we adjourn for the year. My hope is that we can all gather together in a more casual environment as we wrap up our convention in time for you all to network with your friends and colleagues following the reception. ASCE professional development classes will continue on Friday morning following the conclusion of the WES Convention.

I encourage you to **send me your presentation abstract ASAP**. I will be finalizing the program in October, so I need to have everything in by October 15, 2019. I also encourage your feedback. Feel free to contact me directly with your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns. Never forget that the Board is here to serve you, and we value your input.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ryan Kobbe – Program Chair
rkobbe@uwyo.edu or 307 343-0155

BOARD UPDATE

You will notice one change as you register and check-in at this year's convention. Starting with registration, both attendees and exhibitors will be able to register on-line through the same system. Our new on-line registration system will accept credit cards, checks, and vouchers. You will be able to pay your dues at the same time as you register for the conference and you will see the complete schedule of classes being offered. In addition, you will be able to set up your own personal schedule of classes that you want to attend and that will also transfer to your smart phone so that you can see your schedule during the conference. If you want to attend the ASCE class on Friday you will be able to sign up for it at the same time.

You will also see on-site check-in different when you arrive at the conference. No longer will you need to wait in line to pick up your packet. There will be a kiosk at the registration desk

where you type in your name and a printer will create your badge immediately. Registration should take less than 20 seconds.

No longer will you need to sign a sheet during class start-up to prove you attended. There will be a scanner at the door that will read the bar code on your badge, check you in, and set you up for a certificate that will be issued after the conference as proof of attendance. This certificate will be emailed directly to you in case you are audited by the Board of Registration.

The mobile app on your phone will be able to tell you, based on the schedule you picked, what room to go to and at what time. You will have the freedom to change your schedule at any time you choose right from your smart phone. (By the way, for those of you who don't currently possess a smart phone we will still have the old fashioned paper schedule. We will also have the paper schedule just in case the Executive Director fails to program the new software correctly and we have to fall back to the old fashioned method. 😊 😊)

Murray Schroeder – President

2019 CONVENTION UPDATE

This year's convention was a great success. We had 303 registrants and 43 exhibitors. The students who received awards and scholarships attended with guests bringing the total attendance at the convention to approximately 375. The opening program "Race to save Fontenelle Dam" put on by Mark Baker, PE drew a lot of compliments and enthusiasm. We hope to have that same level of enthusiasm this coming convention if not more since it will be our the 100th anniversary.

Gary Grigsby – Executive Director

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

No Report

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

No Report

SITE SELECTION UPDATE

We will be in Cheyenne for the 100th (2020) convention. Cheyenne was the location of the first annual convention of WES so we are holding the 100th in Cheyenne. Little America Hotel and Convention Center will be the host hotel. As soon as the hotel opens up the registration window we will notify all the members so they can start to get their rooms for the convention.

The 2021 convention will be in Sheridan at the Holiday Inn.

PUBLICITY UPDATE

No Report

FINANCE UPDATE

Annual balance sheet as of September 16, 2019:

Income:

Convention Income	\$82,159.85
Member Dues	20,620.66
Total Income	\$102,780.51

Expenses:

Convention Expenses	\$71,639.18
Other Expenses	21,959.39
Total Expenses	\$93,598.57

Net Gain to date: \$9,181.94. Projected expenses for balance of the year, \$6,500.00.

Gary Grigsby – Executive Director

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