

WYOMING ENGINEERING SOCIETY

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Wyoming Engineering Society Newsletter

Summer 2020

The 101st Annual Wyoming Engineering Society Conference - Postponed to February 2-4, 2022 in Sheridan, WY

WES Members,

As summer draws to a close and fall settles in, typically we would be preparing for the upcoming 101st WES Annual Convention in February. Instead, the global pandemic has decided to stay its course and continue to affect our daily lives, even here in Wyoming where social distancing is the norm. Through close communication with our WES constituents (ASCE, PLSW, ACEC, NSPE, Committee and Convention Chairs), the Executive Board has decided to postpone the live 2021 convention in Sheridan until February of 2022. The convention will still be held at the Holiday Inn Sheridan Convention Center and, hopefully, will follow the old format we are accustomed to. This has been a very difficult decision for the Board to make, and we do not make it lightly.

Though WES will not have a live, in person convention in February of 2021, we plan on providing an online platform where WES members can sign-up for and attend online Continuing Professional Competency (CPC) classes. ASCE and PLSW are organizing speakers to provide content for their members, and WES will round out the schedule such that members will continue to receive the same number of CPC credit offerings as they are accustomed to. Additionally, WES will be acknowledging a majority of the awards typically presented at the Convention: Student Engineer of the Year, Student Scholarship and Award Recipients, and the 2020 Project of the Year. As the fall season carries on into winter, we will issue another newsletter with details pertaining to the registration, dates, and presentation topics.

Following the 100th Convention in Cheyenne, the Executive Committee accepted the resignation of vice-president - Jeff Bates. We would like to thank Jeff for his service and for providing input as to his eventual replacement. As directed by Article IV Section 6, of the WES Constitution, this vacancy was filled by appointment of the Executive Committee. We would like to welcome Harrison Carter, who will fill the role of vice president until the next election.

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www.wyomingengineeringsociety.org ~ ggrigsby@wrld-ltd.com or wesofficers@gmail.com

PROGRAM UPDATE

Though the convention will be postponed to February of 2022, we understand that many members rely on the convention in order to gain necessary CPC units for licensure. In an effort to continue to provide that member value, we plan on providing online classes and the associated CPC units so many of us rely on. We plan on providing the opportunity to gain approximately 12 CPC units with a focus on engineering, while PLSW plans on providing approximately 8 CPC units focused on surveying. Though specific dates and times have not yet been established, we plan on providing the continuing education classes over a 2 to 3-week period in February. Due to the limited number of classes we are offering this year, we are not currently soliciting abstracts for presentations.

While we will not be soliciting presentations as broadly this year as we have in the past, we are still looking to round out our course offerings with interesting and relevant topics. If you or your firm have topical ideas or would like to make a presentation during the virtual aspects of the WES programming this year, please reach out to Harrison Carter – Program Chair at hcarter@jorgeng.com or (307) 690-2843.

CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS UPDATE

Board members have recently completed work to propose revised and updated Constitution & Bylaws and Operating Practice documents. A big thank you goes out to the Bylaws Task Force, which was established at the 99th Convention Business Meeting, who put in considerable time and effort to provide the Executive Committee with a well-crafted draft for consideration. While the basic intent and function of the Wyoming Engineering Society remains unchanged, the Bylaws Task Force has done a fabulous job reenvisioning these documents, which have been in place since 2005 and were out of date.

Crafted as companion documents, the Constitution & Bylaws include 14 articles which establish the purpose, principles, regulations, organization, and norms of the society, while the Operating Practices is a governance document which delineates operational details as well as establishing a mission statement and responsibilities/duties associated with the organization's leadership and committees.

While these documents represent a significant revision and update to the current Constitution & Bylaws, the most significant changes can be summarized as follows:

- Rename the society: Wyoming Engineering and Surveying Society
- Updated mission statement
- Additional officer: Immediate Past President (shall serve in a non-voting, advisory capacity to the Executive Committee)
- Delineate the responsibilities of the Executive Director

Remaining changes were generally editorial or stylistic in nature. Members are encouraged to consider both the current Constitution (which can be found on the WES website by clicking [HERE](#)) and the amended proposal during the open comment period conducted in late September.

Per the current Constitution:

“The Articles of this Constitution may be amended at any Annual Meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members voting; or the ballot may be by mail. If the vote is to be conducted by mail ballot the Secretary-Treasurer shall send a copy of the proposed amendment, together with a ballot, to each member. After sixty days from the time when ballots are sent out by the Secretary, the ballot shall be closed. The Secretary shall examine the ballot and advise the President of the vote of the amendment.”

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Given the current uncertainty regarding an in-person Annual Meeting in 2021, the Executive Committee will be routing a draft of the proposed Constitution & Bylaws to membership in September for open review and comment. Following review of the comments and suggestions received, a final proposed draft will be sent via email to each member, along with a ballot, to be formally voted on.

2020 CONVENTION RECAP

The 100th Annual WES Convention was held on February 5-6, 2020 at Little America Hotel and Convention Center in Cheyenne Wyoming. At the time of the 100th Convention, WES membership had grown to more than 600, of which 329 were in attendance. Wyoming's 33rd Governor, Mark Gordon, provided opening remarks and presented members with a proclamation commemorating the Wyoming Engineering Society's 100th Annual Convention. Opening ceremonies were followed by a keynote address from Suzanne Norton, AIA – State Construction Department, Architectural Project Manager, who presented members with a historical tour of Wyoming's Capitol through the lens of the recently completed Capitol Construction Project. Suzanne was also kind enough to provide a series of guided tours of the project to members who acted quickly and signed up for these coveted field trips.

The 100th Convention offered members an opportunity to attend 28 different hour-long courses covering a variety of technical subjects, industry presentations, and professional society meetings. In keeping with tradition, Wednesday was capped off by the "Exhibitors Beer Break" where exhibitors raffled off various prizes with proceeds going to support the WES Scholarship Fund. This year WES members and exhibitors donated an additional \$3,718 of scholarship money at the Convention. Thursday's Scholarship Lunch gave members an opportunity to receive an update from Dr. Cameron Wright, Interim-Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science, followed by a celebration of the 2019-2020 WES Scholarship recipients. Each year, WES members contribute \$20,000 in scholarships to support Wyoming's future engineers and surveyors. Thursday afternoon, WES members gathered at the annual WES Business Meeting, where WES President, Murray Schroeder, organized a group photo to commemorate WES' 100th convention. Framed copies of the photo, along with an associated name key, are available. If you or your firm are interested in a framed copy of this commemorative photo, please contact Gary Grigsby, WES Executive Director, at ggrigsby@wrld-ltd.com.

The 100th Convention concluded with a hosted reception. The Wyoming Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors, represented by Shelley Macy (Chairperson) and Bob Norton (Vice Chairperson), provided a Board update and recognized new PE, LS, EI, and SI recipients in the state. Next, Dr. Dave Whitman recognized BenchMark Engineers, P.C. and the City of Cheyenne as the 2019 Presidential Project Award winner for their work on the Civic Center Commons Park. To wrap up the 100th Annual Convention, WES' out-going president, Murray Schroeder, honored Dave Engels of EnTech, Inc. in Sheridan, WY as the 2020 Engineer of the Year. Congratulations Dave, well deserved.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee awards ~\$20,000 each year to aspiring engineers and surveyors in Wyoming. This money is drawn from two sources: ~\$10,000 from interest earned on an endowment held at UW plus an additional \$10,000 in awards from WES' annual budget.

In 2020, the scholarship committee created two additional \$2,000 awards as a result of an accumulation of interest in the endowment. The additional awards will be reevaluated on an annual basis and adjusted as required. This year, the scholarship committee, in consultation with their UW partners, are exploring options for increasing the WES endowment with hopes of growing WES' ability to support the next generation of engineers and surveyors.

PRESIDENTIAL PROJECT COMMITTEE

The annual WES Presidential Project Awards competition seeks to recognize excellence in engineering and surveying projects utilized by and benefiting the people of the State of Wyoming. Separate awards are bestowed under the categories of engineering projects and surveying projects. Applications are not restricted to constructed projects but can include studies and computer applications.

The WES Presidential Project Award Committee rewards project excellence:

David Whitman, Chairman

8379 S. Allison St. ~ Littleton, CO 80128

(307) 760-3187 ~ whitman@uwyo.edu

Committee members:

Albert "Boots" Nelson ~ Duane Klamm ~ Edward Scott

Shelby Carlson ~ Shelley Macy ~ Keith Fulton

The deadline for submitting applications for the 2020 competition is Wednesday January 6, 2021. Projects substantially completed in calendar year 2020 are eligible for the competition. Applications shall consist of a 3-ring binder notebook and a display panel. Guidelines for preparation of applications can be obtained by contacting Committee Chairman Dave Whitman, or by download: [Click here Project Award Guidelines](#).

2019 Engineering Project – Grand Award

Civic Center Commons Park Entrants: BenchMark Engineers, PC

Owner: City of Cheyenne

Other Entities: DHM Design, Terracon, Steil Surveying Services, San Engineering, The Irrigation Engineers, Clanton Associates, Reiman Corp

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

No Report

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

No Report

SITE SELECTION

We will be in Sheridan for the 101st (2022) Convention. Holiday Inn Sheridan Convention Center will be the host hotel.

The 2023 convention will be in Casper, WY.

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PUBLICITY UPDATE

No Report

FINANCE UPDATE

Annual balance sheet as of July 3, 2020:

Income:

- Convention Income \$79,771.78
- Member Dues 16,020.00
- Total Income \$95,791.78

Expenses:

- Convention Expenses \$69,848.97
- Other Expenses \$11,880.00
- Total Expenses \$81,728.97

Net Gain to date: \$14,062.81. Projected expenses for balance of the year, \$9,000.00.

Net Gain for 2019 was \$2,858.74.

Our reserve account dropped by \$5,768.48 due to the drop in the Dow Jones investments (Covid-19) issue. This is starting to recover and should within the next year. Industry standard is to keep one full year of operating expenses in reserve for non-standard years. I think we are experiencing one of those non-standard years going into 2021. We do not know what impact the virus is going to have on our convention income and expenses for 2021. A perfect example of why we keep a reserve account to cover operating expenses when unforeseen events occur.