



TEXAS SECTION
Austin Branch

ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH NEWSLETTER

December 2021

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY SAM SHORTER P.E.



Greetings Austin Branch and welcome to the last message of 2021! We are excited for a great start to our 2021-2022 events and will conclude the calendar year virtually at our December 14th monthly luncheon. The meeting will include an ethics presentation by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors and will help fulfill your PDH requirements. In addition to our upcoming meeting, we want to remind you to renew your membership as the annual deadline is upon us. Please see below for other great news we want to share with y'all.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Thinkers

The next generation of engineers and scientists need to engage practicing engineers to help guide their educational path, and the Austin Branch strives to help meet the need. Our recent Engineering Blitz at our adopted school, Kealing Middle School, was held virtually and we connected with almost 450 students to engage in fun activities and introduce them to our profession.

Hybrid Meetings & New Meeting Venue

The Austin Branch will return to in-person meetings starting with our January 18th, 2022 monthly luncheon at our new venue, the Balcones Country Club. The new venue is necessary since our prior location is no longer available to host our group and will be temporary for the Spring as we look to find a long-term home over the next coming months. We also plan for the meetings to be available virtually for those who are unable to attend or are uncomfortable with an in-person setting. Mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces!

Engineer of the Year

We are still seeking applications for the 2022 Austin Branch Garabed A. Harutunian Engineer of the Year Award with nominations due no later than January 7, 2022. Each year we select one candidate who demonstrates the highest levels of character and professionalism in our profession and recognize them at the Texas Society of Professional Engineers banquet in February. Please look to our website for application forms and connect with David Matocha (david.matocha@forterrabp.com) to make a nomination.

Impacts in the Community

Our membership demonstrates their commitment to the community with a number of activities to help those in need. We are proud to highlight the efforts of YMF and our younger members as they have recently hosted a creek cleanup event and participated in a community forum on transportation planning. Later in December YMF will participate with the Coats for Kids clothing drive. We commend these efforts and congratulate them for representing civil engineers well and giving back to those in need. In addition, the Branch is planning a volunteer day at the Mobile Loaves and Fishes transitional housing community (Community First!) on January 15th, 2022. The event will be on a Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and we hope you can attend. Please see the website for additional details and be sure to sign-up via the Eventbrite link.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Thinkers

The next generation of engineers and scientists need to engage practicing engineers to help guide their educational path, and the Austin Branch strives to help meet the need. Our recent Engineering Blitz at our adopted school, Kealing Middle School, was held virtually and we connected with almost 450 students to engage in fun activities and introduce them to our profession.

In order to fulfill this important duty, we need TWO volunteers to lead our E-Week/Student Outreach Committee. Please reach out to me or any other board member to get connected with this fantastic opportunity.

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year

The Austin Branch truly hopes you have a joyous and safe holiday season and a Happy New Year. We are excited for the return of in-person meetings and great events in 2022. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at (512) 861-5300 or president@austinasce.org.

DECEMBER BRANCH MEETING

BY TYLER DUBE, P.E.

REGISTRATION REGISTER BY 12/14 AT 12PM

- ▶ DATE | 12/14/2021, 11:30am - 1:00pm
- ▶ LOCATION | Zoom Virtual Meeting
- ▶ LINK | [Click here to register](#)

MEETING TOPIC

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE UPDATES AND ETHICS

Please join us for our December virtual branch meeting. Investigator with the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors will give a presentation on professional practice updates and ethics.

MEET THE SPEAKER

Virginia Essary started her investigative career with the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (Board) in September of 2012 – starting as an Investigator I and working her way up to Investigator IV in the Compliance & Enforcement Department. Prior to joining the Board, Virginia worked with the Texas Department of Public Safety in Austin, Texas. She is a native of Austin, Texas, and holds a B.S. in Political Science with a minor in Economics from Texas State University.



Virginia Essary

THANK YOU TO THIS MONTH'S SPONSOR!

Three decades after the founding of MWM DesignGroup, we continue to embody the core values of personal integrity, responsibility, and service to our clients, to each other, and to our community embraced by the company's founders. MWM DesignGroup's core values have been the foundation for our continued success.



Calendar of Events

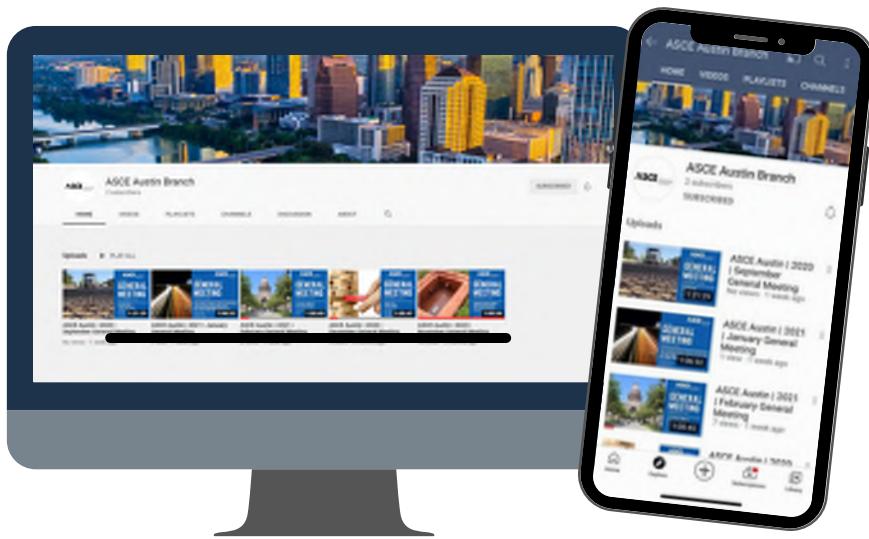
- 12/7 YMF Coats for Kids
- 12/8 Legislative Fly In Applications Deadline
- 12/13 EWRI Monthly Meeting
- 12/14 ASCE Austin Branch December Meeting

AUSTIN BRANCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL

BY ANTHONY GAVLIK, P.E.

Did you miss a past meeting? Don't sweat it! You can now watch past virtual meetings on our YouTube channel. Click [here](#) to check out the YouTube page, and click below to view the following meeting recordings:

November 2020	"EWB Austin in Tanzania" by Lizzie Wilson, EIT and Mazen Zee Alameddine
December 2020	"Professional Practice Updates and Ethics" by Rick Valdes, PE
January 2021	"Use of Shared Automated Vehicles for First-Mile Last-Mile Service: Micro-simulation of Rail-transit Connections in Austin, Texas" by Yantao Huang
February 2021	"TFC Capitol Complex – Reflecting on Phase I" by Paul Bielamowicz, PE
May 2021	"2021 Texas Section Government Affairs Update" by Austin Messerli, PE



EWRI UPDATE

BY SARAH DAVIS, P.E. C.F.M.

EWRI Austin is now hosting our monthly meetings in-person (and virtually) at outdoor spaces around the city. Our monthly meetings are hosted on the second Monday of every month. Our next meeting will be Monday, December 13th at noon.

Contact ewri@austinasce.org or check out our website <https://www.austinasce.org/ewri> for more info.

JANUARY MEETING LOCATION

BY PAUL HAHN, P.E.

NEW LOCATION

Mark your calendars everyone, we're getting together in-person again! On January 18 we'll be getting together at a new location:

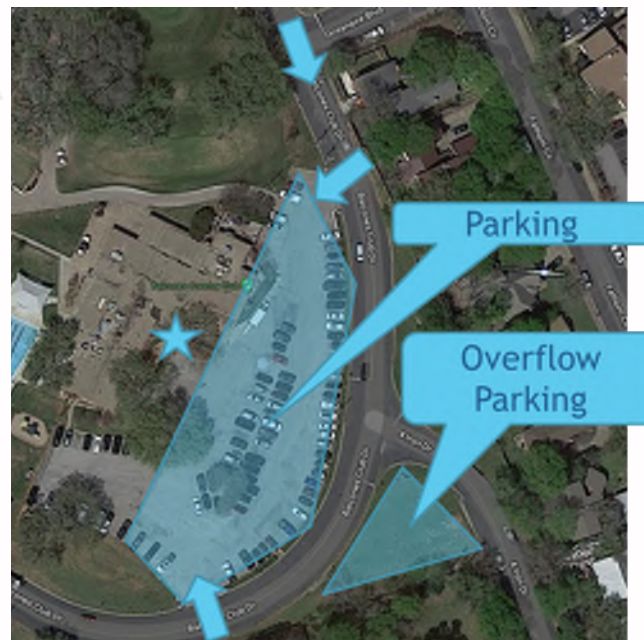
Balcones Country Club at 8600 Balcones Club Dr, Austin, TX 78750.

We haven't committed long-term to this location, so please give us your feedback after the meeting. Tell us about food, location, parking, venue, or any other thoughts you have. We're really excited to see you all again!



Balcones Country Club

**8600 Balcones Club
Dr, Austin, TX 78750.**



BY ANDREA BRYANT, P.E.

LEGISLATIVE FLY IN APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

This event is an outstanding opportunity to join and be proactive in the public policy process and a chance to interact directly with Capitol Hill staff. This year's event is a planned hybrid event, with attendees having the option to participate in person or virtually. Mark your calendars for the events on March 2-4, 2022, in Washington DC. The 2022 Fly-In program includes:

- Meetings on the Hill with your Members of Congress or their staff;
- Exclusive briefing sessions on key legislative activities in Congress and ASCE's legislative priorities;
- Exclusive briefing sessions on key legislative activities in Congress and ASCE's legislative priorities;
- Interactive training on lobbying and influencing your elected leaders — including pre-event webinars;
- Networking with your ASCE peers from across the country;
- A Younger Member Program designed to prepare you as an emerging leader; and,
- Tips on continuing relationships with your elected officials once you return home



If you are interested, here is a link to the application [2022 Legislative Fly in Application Survey](#). Just make sure to complete your application by December 8th, 2021.

COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS

BY LAURA FRIELLO, P.E. AND MICHAEL CHAVEZ, P.E.

GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING AT COMMUNITY FIRST

Date: Saturday, January 15th, 2022

Time: 9 am – 12 pm

Details: Everyone should arrive by 8:45am so there's plenty of time to get everyone checked in, oriented, and into the right spot by 9am.

Recommended attire is close-toed shoes and long pants or socks.

Additionally, you will need to bring a water bottle and a pair of gardening gloves.



Mobile Loaves & Fishes
Serving Goodness.®

[Register Here](#)

Registration links including waiver/release forms will be sent at the beginning of January.

Please email communityoutreach@austinasce.org with any questions.

Younger Member Forum Update

BY CLINT SMITH, E.I.T. C.F.M.

We are excited to see everyone at our upcoming events!

Upcoming Service Event!

Come join ASCE YMF as we partner with the Junior League of Austin to help sort out coats and jackets for local families!

Coats for Kids

When: Tuesday, December 7th from 6 pm – 9 pm
Where: 5300 Bluffstone Lane Austin, TX 78759

Come join us as we sort through coats and jackets for families in the Austin Metro area!

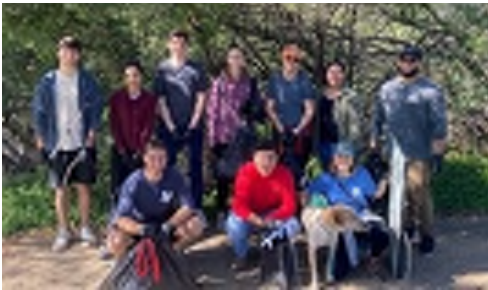


November Recap:

We had many events happen and want to thank everyone who came out to support all our events and helped make this a successful month for ASCE YMF!

ASCE YMF hosted a 13-mile bike ride starting in east Austin with some drinks and food after at Lazarus Brewing on November 20th!

We learned about an alternate plan to TxDOT's for the IH-35 widening from Reconnect Austin with some UT ASCE students as well as YMF members!



Thank you to everyone who came out to our Shoal Creek Clean Up on November 6th!



We had a Joint UT Student Chapter and ASCE YMF Tailgate on November 13th for the UT vs KU football game! Special thanks to HVJ Associates for sponsoring!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



[@ymfaustin](#)



[ASCE YMF ATX](#)



[austinasce.org/
younger-members](http://austinasce.org/younger-members)

If you are interested in learning more about ASCE YMF ATX, please contact our president David Contreras at dcontreras@gad.com

Honors Committee Requests

Nominations for the 2022 Austin Branch Engineer of the Year Award are due January 7th, 2022. The winner will be announced as part of the Engineer's Week festivities in February. Now is the time to think about the many wonderful engineers that serve the Austin Branch and the civil engineering profession and show them your appreciation by nominating them for the Austin Branch Engineer of the Year Award. The past winners of this award are literally a "Who's Who" of the Austin civil engineering community. Surely you know someone deserving to be considered for this award.

Please reach out to me at david.matocha@forterrabp.com for a nomination form or if you have any questions. I am happy to help you with your nomination.



As we head into the holiday season, SEI Austin continues to advance and serve the Structural Engineering profession. Although mostly on-line, we're looking forward to getting back to in-person activities. Below you'll find information on our offerings planned through next spring:

Professional Meeting:

SEI offers Professional Meetings every other month, September through May. These meetings feature a presentation on current projects, research, or developments in the Structural Engineering profession. Our November Professional Meeting featured Dr. Wassim Ghannoum, Associate Professor at UTSA and one of the founding members of SEI Austin. He presented his latest research on Bridge Load Testing using Digital Image Correlation (DIC) Technology. It was a fascinating presentation on a cutting-edge technology. Our next Professional Meeting will take place in January 2022 and will be a joint Texas Section event with the Houston, Dallas, and Austin chapters

SEI Texas Joint Chapter Event:

SEI Austin Chapter invites you to join us virtually for the inaugural SEI Texas Section annual meeting on Tuesday, January 25, 2022. This seminar is jointly organized by SEI Houston, Austin, and Dallas Chapters and aims to bring together Texas structural engineers across the state to engage in three seminar sessions including The Dallas Southern Gateway Bridge Overview; Houston's First Hybrid Steel & Mass Timber Building; and the Structural Design of Q2 Stadium. The event provides an opportunity for structural engineers to learn more about some of the fascinating and technically challenging engineering projects in Texas. This event will also provide an opportunity for Texas engineers to connect more broadly at the state level. More details and registration information can be found at the SEI Texas Section website or future SEI-blast emails.

Structural Engineering Talks (SET) 2021/2022:

Planning continues for SET. As Texas continues to open up and get back to in-person activities, we are watching what the experts are saying and our membership's comfort level for the right time to hold SET in person. Currently we are considering holding it in Spring 2022. Until then you'll find links to past SET presentations as well as updates at <https://www.austinasce.org/sei/set>



Additional Opportunities & Resources:

1. New National SEI Website

Take a look at the new more user friendly design: Visit SEI Now

2. SEI Standards Series

Join live, virtual sessions for exclusive interaction with expert ASCE/SEI Standard developers on state-of-the-market updates. Participants will learn about technical revisions and review a design example. Attendees are encouraged to join and participate in Live Q&A. The next one is on Sept 16th and will focus on ASCE/SEI 59 Blast Protection of Buildings. REGISTER NOW at <https://cutt.ly/9hQDTEo>

3. Structures Congress 2022

To be held in person in Atlanta April 20-23, 2022. Registration and additional info will be available mid-September here: [Learn More](#) Scholarships are available through the SEI Future Fund for students or young engineers. To apply or get more information go here: [Apply Today](#)

4. SEI Structures Congress 2020 Proceedings

<https://ascelibrary.org/doi/book/10.1061/9780784482896>This site provides access to the papers that were to be presented at the 2020 Structures Congress.

5. ASCE Collaborate

<https://collaborate.asce.org/events/events200>

This is a collaboration page normally reserved for ASCE members but now open to all. It contains several events that can be joined. Most events are free of charge.



ASCE AUSTIN LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

If you're looking for ways to get more involved with your local ASCE branch, you're in luck! We're actively recruiting for multiple open positions for ASCE Austin, EWRI, SEI, and more. If you are interested in any of our committees, please contact our and our Nominations Committee Chair

2020-2021 ASCE AUSTIN OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT

Sam Shorter, P.E.
Miller Gray
president@austinasce.org

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Paul Hahn, P.E.
Aguirre & Fields
presidentelect@austinasce.org

VICE PRESIDENT - PROGRAMS

Tyler Dube, P.E.
Pape-Dawson Engineers
vicepresident@austinasce.org

SECRETARY

Leanne Cantalupo, E.I.T.
Garver
secretary@austinasce.org

TREASURER

Genest Landry, P.E.
City of Austin
treasurer@austinasce.org

TREASURER-ELECT

Augustine Verrengia, P.E.
WGI
treasurerelect@austinasce.org

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Austin Messerli, P.E.
K Friese + Associates
communications@austinasce.org

SECTION DIRECTOR

Kat Lauer, E.I.T.
Garza EMC
texassection@austinasce.org

YOUNGER MEMBER DIRECTOR

Kaylyn Hudson, E.I.T.
Freese & Nichols
yymfdirector@austinasce.org

PAST PRESIDENT

Bradley East, P.E.
Polar Forensics, Inc.
pastpresident@austinasce.org

EWEEK/STUDENT OUTREACH COMMITTEE

OPEN

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Robyn Ito
SSFM
Reid Johnson
Garver
scholarships@austinasce.org

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

Amos Emerson
Millennium Engineers Group
sponsorship@austinasce.org

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Griselda Quintero
Miller Gray
membership@austinasce.org

WEB PAGE & SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

Lily Aung, P.E. WSP &
Marita Moya, P.E. C.F.M.
Half Associates, Inc.
Web Master
webmaster@austinasce.org
Anthony Gavlik P.E.
Social Media Chair
HNTB

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bradley East, P.E.
Polar Forensics, Inc.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

Laura Friello P.E.
Garver
Michael Chavez, P.E.
Garver
publicrelations@austinasce.org

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tony Buonodono, P.E.
MWM Design Group

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David Matocha
Forterra Pipe & Precast

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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MWM DesignGroup
Jane Ellen Carter, E.I.T.
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Asmita Raut, E.I.T.
Building Diagnostics, Inc.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Andrea Bryant, P.E.
Freese & Nichols
governmentrelations@austinasce.org

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Tony Buonodono, P.E.
MWM Design Group

UT AUSTIN MENTORING COMMITTEE

Robert Ramon, P.E.
(Practitioner Advisor)
Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.

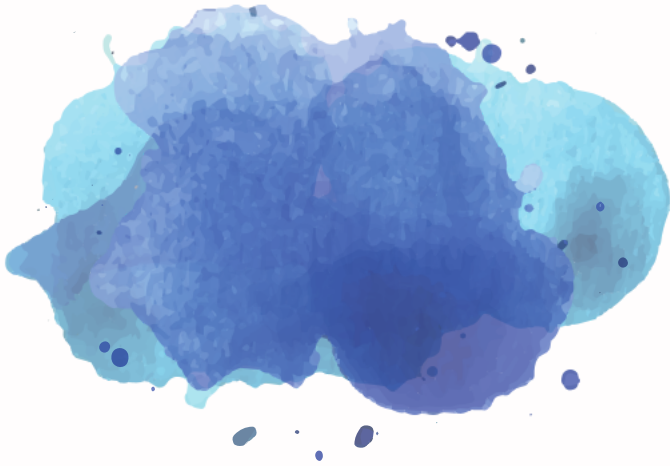
STUDENT CHAPTER CONTACT COMMITTEE

OPEN

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SPONSOR THE ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH FOR 2021!

BY AMOS EMERSON, P.E.



We ask that all members consider supporting your local ASCE branch during these uncertain and difficult times. Almost all the functions of the organization are dependent upon these sponsorships and we cannot do all the great things that we do, without YOUR SUPPORT!

For more information about the benefits of sponsorship visit www.austinasce.org/sponsors.

If you have any questions or for more information please email sponsorship@austinasce.org.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$300 | ANNUAL SPONSORS

- Valid for 1 Year after date of purchase.
- Company logo is displayed on newsletters, mailers, and at ASCE branch meetings.
- Free postings on the ASCE job board.

\$350 | MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING SPONSORS

- Company highlight in event promotion emails.
- Special recognition at branch meeting event.
- Opportunity to give a brief introduction of your Company during the event.

\$300 | CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT (2021)

- Company highlight in event promotion emails.
- Several additional levels of sponsorship available.

\$850 | SPECIAL BUNDLE RATE

- Save \$100 when you pledge to support all three!
- Includes Annual Sponsorship
- Includes one credit for monthly branch meeting sponsorship.
- Includes sponsorship at Continuing Education event.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



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