



## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

### Region 1 Assembly

#### *September 26-27, 2009 Meeting Minutes*

The Region 1 Assembly met on Saturday and Sunday September 26 and 27, 2009 at the Hilton Hotel in Providence, Rhode Island

#### Friday, September 26, 2009 8:00 – 5:00 pm

- 1.0 Call meeting to Order – Puntin (Chair RIBOG)  
The meeting was called to order by Anthony Puntin, Regional Director. Chair Board of Governors. Tony Puntin welcomed all attendees to Providence, RI and thanked our host, the Rhode Island Section.
- 2.0 Introduction of Attendees
  - Governors, Section/Branch Delegates\GuestsAttendees made a self introduction with name and representation. Attendance list attached. (Attachment A)
- 3.0 Amend/Approve Agenda  
Anthony Puntin distributed copies of the proposed Agenda for the Region 1 Assembly meeting. (Attachment B) A motion to accept the agenda was open for discussion and the following revisions were put forth:
  - 3.1 The Connecticut Section requested that they be allowed to present their Section Report first.  
Bill Merwarth made amended his motion to accept the agenda as modified, seconded by Rick Kotecki and accepted by the Assembly unanimously.
- 4.0 Minutes from September 20, 2008 Meeting  
Russ Porter distributed copies of the Minutes of the Region 1 Assembly held on April 3-4, 2009 in Albany New York.
  - 4.1 Bill Merwarth noted that he was not shown on the attendance list even though he was at the meeting. This modification was noted and confirmed by Russ Porter  
A motion was put forth by Lauren Sweet to accept the Draft Minutes of the Meeting as amended. (Attachment C) The motion was seconded by Jeff Bjrz and accepted by the Assembly unanimously.

- 5.0 Appointment of Secretary  
Anthony Puntin made a motion to nominate Russ Porter as Secretary for the Assembly. The motion and it was accepted by the Assembly unanimously.
- 6.0 Treasurers Report – Cilli  
Len Cilli, Region 1 Treasurer, distributed copies of the Region 1 Treasurer’s Report for review and discussion. (Attachment D).
- 6.1 Assessments for each Section for 2009 -2010 have yet to be sent out. They will be going out soon, with no change in the assessment. The Region 1 treasury shows a balance of \$30,249.54, which includes \$14,000 as an allocation from National from regional grants.
- 6.2 There have been two grants that have been accepted by the Region. One in the amount of \$10,000 for a New York State Legislative Fellow and another in the amount of \$4,000 for a New York State Report Card. A brief discussion occurred in which it was generally agreed that the grants should be utilized to their fullest extent or else they may be lost. A brief discussion was conducted regarding the need to put together an Activity Report for the grants and to show the Board of Governors and National that progress is being made on the utilization of the grants. Not all of the regional grant monies have been spent and some of the resources are being reallocated by the Regions for similar activities.
- 6.3 Allotment from National has remained about the same. Regional grants have been cut from the National budget which accounted for approximately \$78K, nationally.
- 6.4 A discussion then ensued regarding the possible redistribution of some of the assets back to the Sections. Proposals included suspension of assessments for 2010 – L. Cilli, redistribution back to the sections for program funding - S. Weissman, payment of membership dues for disadvantaged members – S. Weissman, partial payment of dues – L. Swett and stipends for members or sections on new programs - B. Cunningham. It was concluded that it would be best to keep the present assessment and to keep the assets in reserve for a rainy day.
- 7.0 Section and Branch Reports  
Tony Puntin then opened up the meeting for the presentation of Section and Branch Reports from the delegates.
- 7.1 *Connecticut* (Ron Nault) – membership and treasury has remained in good shape; current activities: section awards for projects possibility expand into individual achievements; collaborative lobbying statewide for infrastructure investment with contractors, unions, and municipalities ‘Keep Connecticut Moving’; looking into a paid administrative staff, large student involvement; Continuing education is not being pushed; scholarship applications are down. (See Attachment E-1)
- 7.2 *Vermont* (Amanda Hanaway-Corrente) –current activities: ski day at Sugarbush ski resort and an inspection of the recent expansion of the lodge; awards week

and spouse event with a robotics program by students; multi sectional meeting with New Hampshire Section and with multiple disciplined engineers.(No Attachment)

- 7.3 *Syracuse* (Bill Merwarth and Russ Porter) – No delegates were present for the Assembly from the Syracuse Section. The notice of the meeting date should not have been a problem. Bill Merwarth mentioned that the section was very active and that the three schools (Clarkson, Syracuse and Potsdam) in the area helped promote the profession. Can struction and a booth at the NY State Fair were mentioned as important programs put on by the section. Russ Porter mentioned that the visits to the section were invigorating and that he was impressed with the enthusiasm of the members.
- 7.4 *Rochester* (Russ Porter) - The section has seen a drop in membership since last spring of about 10%. The section is developing a history and heritage brochure of significant civil engineering projects. A post tension concrete bridge in the area may be considered, if nominated, as a national award. Officers from the section were at the multi-regional conference in Cherry Hill last spring. (See Attachment E-2)
- 7.5 *Rhode Island* (Bill Young) – recent passing of Justin Monaghan has affected the section. Membership to the section has increased slightly. Recent excursions to the Pawtuxet Red Sox baseball game with the Younger Member Group has proved successful. Installation of officers at the Squatum. EWRI is scheduling their conference in Providence in May 2010. There is typically a faculty member on the Board. There is no paid staff and the annual budget is about \$20,000.
- 7.6 *New Jersey* (Ted Green –Northern Branch) - continuing education is being discussed in the state. NJSPE is looking at model laws and working with NCEES to determine ways to structure the process. A Bridge Committee has been developed at NJDOT, the infrastructure report card is still going strong after its release in 2007, scholarships have been awarded, and Farleigh-Dickinson hosted the concrete canoe competition.
- New Jersey* (Sarah Weissman–Central Branch) – Some programs have received PDH accreditation, College of NJ at Rutgers have constructed a drinking water well, Future Cities and Lego League competition is doing well, Younger Members involved in a wine tasting and bowling activities, resume writing and interview skills have been provided to recent graduates, the newsletter and postcards have been used for contacting the members, green technology is being developed at the NJDOT.
- New Jersey* (Inchul Yoon–Southern Branch) – 800 member branch, Rowan University is involved in the activities of the branch
- 7.7 *New Hampshire* (Jeff Bjrz) Green infrastructure is a topic that is getting a lot of discussion in New Hampshire recently, held a webinar between the Geo-Institute and the NHDOT, Section at 840 members and rising, held alumni awards dinner with students at the University of New Hampshire, joint meeting was held between the Vermont Section and the Upper Valley Branch, participated in E-week activities, the state has spent most of their stimulus monies.

- 7.8 *Mohawk-Hudson* (Tony DeFranco) Young professionals and students attended a baseball game, a golf outing provided to be successful, with more than 84 attendees, new website for the section, Poughkeepsie pedestrian bridge is being dedicated and the section is involved in a presentation ceremony on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- 7.9 *Metropolitan Section* (Otto Maatsch) The Section started to e-mail their newsletter to the members, no paid staff for the section, the section has a very good inclusive website, meetings are difficult in midtown Manhattan so many are located outside of the Manhattan, the section may have a candidate for president elect, 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brooklyn Bridge, Met history and heritage booklet published, YMG updates website in real time, Infrastructure Report Card was chaired by Andy Herrmann.
- 7.10 *Maine Section* (Lauren Swett) The Section has seen a decrease in student membership, may increase with back to classes, April meeting with students to rank and inspect projects, transportation conference in December, in March there will be a daylong PDH seminar, annual meeting in Bangor with spouses and Tour, ASCE involvement at the Discover children's museum and the with Lowe's in rebuild together and build houses for the disadvantaged and handicap, volunteers and promoting diversity.  
(Ellen O'Brien) Infrastructure Report Card for Maine issued, PR worked well with the focus on the economy and stimulus monies, need more public involvement and priorities set for spending, legislative lunch and history and heritage activities proceeding.
- 7.11 *Ithaca Section* (Bill Merwarth) Officers filled in the Section, less than 200 members, Cornell and Broome County Community College have an active student participation, meeting at Cornell in April with a view of the lake, resume writing, engineering symposium with NYSPE, three scholarships per year (2 BCCC and 1 Cornell)
- 7.12 *Buffalo Section* (Jeff Fick) 400 members, new collaboration with Calspan and University of Buffalo on a full size home which will be tested against multi-hazards, typically have breakfast board meetings, YMG and students had a golf outing, student shadowing, career days, and resume writing, involved with habitat for humanity, multiple student scholarships, newsletter via website or e-mail, contact via listserv.
- 7.13 *Boston* (Steve Rusteika) 3,050 members with 676 students, strategic plan awards and recognition, government affairs, TV series, public awareness, ten technical groups.

Break for Lunch 12:00-1:00pm

- 8.0 *New England Council Report* (Jeff Bjrz) The Council passed two resolutions of commemoration one for Jean Guy Beaulieu and another for Justin Monaghan who both passed this recently. The Council discussed and resolved to endorse Andy Herrmann for

President-Elect for 2010-11. Discussed the structure of the Council and the advantages of rotating the chair and the requesting the attendance of a Governor from the New England area.

- 8.1 New York State Council Report (Anthony DeFranco/ Steve Kaufmann) The Council passed and accepted a new Rules and Bylaws for the Section. Bud Griffins is working on a New York State Infrastructure Report Card but is in need of volunteers for assistance. Regional grants for the Report Card and the proposed legislative fellow have been allocated but not yet dispensed. The Council also passed a Resolution in support of additional funding of the tuition assistance program (TAP) NYS Assembly Bill A-07771 for engineering, mathematics and sciences. Steve Kaufmann then updated the Assembly on the status of the NYS legislative fellow (See Attachment F). The NYS fellow is too similar to the national legislative fellow program and could be championed by State Senator Eric Schneiderman (D - 31<sup>st</sup> District) who has been contacted about the possibilities. The NYS legislature is in disarray but Sen. Schneiderman has offered the possibility of assisting in the funding the fellow through the NYS legislature. Steve Kaufmann mentioned that candidates for the fellowship position are limited due to the available funding. There have been some concerns about the funds allocated to this endeavor by ASCE National and the NYS Council needs to move forward on this activity or return the funds.
- 9.0 Younger Member Council (Ed Twiss) Ed reminded all delegates of the upcoming activities in conjunction with the National Conference in Kansas City, Mo., October 29-31, 2009 (Leadership Symposium) and the Multi-Regional Conference in Atlanta, Ga. on February 12 and 13, 2010.
- 10.0 Installing New Governors  
Tony Puntin congratulated Billy Cunningham and George Moglia in their election to the Region 1 Board of Governors for 2010. Tony Puntin then presented George Controneo with a plaque in appreciation of his duties as past Governor of Region1. Bill Merwarth then presented a plaque to Tom Donnelly in appreciation of his dedication during his service as Governor of Region1. Tom thanked Otto Maatsch for getting him more involved with ASCE. Mark Rucsnica mentioned that upcoming elections for new Governors are open and applications are due by December 15, 2009. An elected Governor position from the New Jersey Section and an appointed Governor position are to be filled by the end of September 2010.
- 11.0 Committees
  - 11.1 Membership (Billy Cunningham) - Billy is working with Angela Sullivan and Sue Blogett in an effort to reach out to the Sections in the Region to assist in their efforts to retain and expand the membership base. They are trying to put together a list of membership chairs from each Section and to set up webinars in

which techniques can be discussed for membership expansion. National is going to run a contest during the membership renewal this fall.

- 11.2 Strategic Planning (George Controneo) – The committee has been meeting in teleconferences for the past year and they are putting together a listing of priority issues. Some of these issues include competition, student retention, benefits of the profession, and others. The committee will request the input from the Presidents of the Sections on the professional issues that they believe are at a priority, including the influx of baby boomers.
  - 11.3 Governmental Affairs (Tom Donnelly) - Activities of the government affairs committee included the ongoing Key Contacts program, the Legislative Fly-In to D.C. and meeting with the various congressional delegations. The committee is trying to promote local governmental committees. The New York State Council is trying to set a similar communication program as the national Key Contacts program.
  - 11.4 Region Website (Kelley) – Shawn Kelley gave an update of the regions website and the information available. Shawn asked that the delegates inform their Section’s webmasters that the information on the regions website is current and to contact Shawn with any updates.
- 12.0 Engineering Outreach (Reed Brockman) This agenda item was rescheduled for Sunday’s session on September 27.
- 13.0 Technical Tour (Bill Young) – Bill Young and Patty Steere, P.E. from the McGuire Group gave a brief overview of the Fox Point Hurricane barrier and the construction of the I-195 Providence River Bridge. The Assembly then walked to the site where they were met by William Bombard, City of Providence Engineer and received a description of the hurricane barrier and its operation. (See Attachment G)

Assembly Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday September 25 and reconvened on 8:00 a.m. Sunday September 26, 2009. Anthony Puntin opened the second session by stating that the theme for Sunday’s meeting was to be more of a national theme.

- 14.0 Board of Director’s Report (Anthony Puntin) - The Board of Director’s met in Keystone Colorado in July and at the meeting they discussed, the new branding and logo, sustainability for civil engineering projects, and rebuild and develop a new website which is tentatively scheduled for launch in spring. The budget was discussed along with the reduction in travel by the administration, regional grants that were discontinued, 15% cut in expenses overall and the freeze on filling vacated positions. Tony reminded the delegates that the National ASCE Conference is scheduled for October in Kansas City Mo. (See Attachment H)

15.0 Headquarters Report (Daryl Morais) – Daryl Morais gave a brief outline of the report submitted to the Assembly. These topics included a good governance policy, a precollege website and a speaker’s network for critical infrastructure. Other topics discussed included ASCEville.org, an outreach survey, the member’s resource guide, conference calls and webinars, officer training, fly-in, membership pizza party, multi-regional conference resources, older members, public outreach and younger members and student members. (See Attachment I)

16.0 Engineering Outreach (Reed Brockman) – Reed presented a power point presentation that is used by the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) and BSCES which to promote the engineering profession to children and parents. Other activities include future cities competition and bridge building competitions. Websites include [www.nae.edu](http://www.nae.edu), [www.engineeryourfuture.org](http://www.engineeryourfuture.org), and [www.futuresinengineering.com](http://www.futuresinengineering.com).

Break 9:45 – 10:00

17.0 National Finances (Andy Herrmann) – The treasury and budgets have been decreased for 2010. There has been a decrease in membership slightly the past year and budget and expense cuts to try to break even. Total income is approximately \$55 million from about 140,000 members, publications, conferences, education and training, and other sources. Tax accounting will change this year with the individual sections responsible to file their own federal and state taxes. The first step is for the Section’s treasurer’s to fill out a questionnaire and return to national. (See Attachment J)

18.0 Critical Infrastructure (Joe Manous) – Joe presented a discussion on the principles for the protection the public safety, health and welfare through the continuing operation and maintenance of the nation’s critical infrastructure. ([ciasce.asce.org](http://ciasce.asce.org)) Also discussed engineering ethics and mentoring programs. (See Attachment K)

19.0 New Business

19.1 Jean-Guy Beliveau (Tony Puntin) – The passing of Jean-Guy Beliveau will be brought up at the Board of Governors for discussion.

19.2 Multi-Regional Leadership Conference (Tony Puntin) – Tony reminded the Assembly that the meeting is scheduled for February 12 and 13, 2010 in Atlanta.

19.3 Engineers without Borders (Mark Rusnica) – Mark presented a slide presentation on the work of Engineers without Borders. ASCE members are encouraged to join and participate at a reduced rate while starting a local chapter. (See Attachment L)

19.4 Region Operation Handbook (Mark Rusnica) – The skeleton of the document is located in the e-room and is available for modification and updating. The manuscript is a living document that is to be updated and modified as necessary.

19.5 Section and Branch Best Practices (Mark Rusnica) – The mailing that went out a couple of months ago has shown that only seven of the 14 questionnaires have been returned.

- 19.6 Region Awards (Russ Porter) – Russ suggested the possibility of starting Regional awards. A brief discussion suggested that this might be a viable option but the details of the award, nomination, selection and award criteria need to be developed.
- 20.0 Old Business
  - 20.1 Ithaca Section (Bill Merwarth) – Bill stated that the Section has made a drastic turnaround and that all officer positions have been filled and the Section is vibrant and energetic.
- 21.0 Proclamations (Anni Autio) – Proclamations thanking the Rhode Island Section, Bill Young and Patty Steere will be written into the record.
- 22.0 Next Region 1 Assembly Meeting – **April 17th and 18th 2010 in Albany, NY**
- 23.0 Comments to Improve the Assembly Meeting
  - 23.1 Involve more municipal engineers and academia in the Section and Region activities
  - 23.2 Have more and different people involved in the Assembly
  - 23.3 Include nameplates or badges in the meeting
  - 23.4 Volunteers needed for meeting activities in 2010.
  - 23.5 Use Linked In (Website) as a resource for the Region
  - 23.6 Have senior and life members be involved in the Region
  - 23.7 Update and expand the Region website
- 24.0 Motion to Adjourn - Motion by George Cotroneo and Seconded by Tom Donnelly (passed unanimously)

Meeting Adjourned 11:00 am September 27, 2009

Minutes by  
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