

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, 2020 passed us by and 2021 has finally arrived. I can safely say Happy New Year! Last year was definitely uncertain for us all, with most of us working remotely from home alongside our kids, cats, and dogs. We've all been on a web call when something unplanned happens in the background. I would say this has become a normality of sorts. However, the Fort Worth Branch of ASCE is still working to ensure branch operations continue to run smoothly during this time.

We received a memo from ASCE Global regarding COVID-19 protocols (see page 6 of this issue for more details). Although we would all like to get back together, meet in-person, and enjoy a good meal, the memo is encouraging us to continue meeting online through June 30, 2021. At such time, we will re-evaluate the situation. Thus, we will continue to host an online web meeting each month until July. Hopefully we'll get to meet in-person come July for our Fort Worth/Dallas (FWD) joint branch meeting.

This year the Fort Worth Branch will host the joint meeting with Dallas. We don't have any details ready to share yet, but please think of a presentation you might want to share. We always love to hear from practicing industry professionals and their thoughts on a great project, the engineering practice, business practices, and technical reports.

Unfortunately, we have not held many fundraising events, social events, or volunteering opportunities due to the pandemic. However, the Fort Worth Branch younger member chairs are currently working to find some alternative events that cater more towards social distancing. An email was sent out, along with social media post, calling for activity ideas we can plan during the pandemic. If you have an idea please contact us!

Lastly, I'd like to encourage all of our members to visit our website and social media accounts for the latest information and updates!

Sincerely,

Andrew Wilson

UPCOMING EVENTS

Branch Meetings:

February 22, 2021
Virtual Meeting
Speaker TBA

March 2021
Virtual Meeting
Speaker TBA

April 2021
Virtual Meeting
Speaker TBA



Meetings From the Previous Quarter

December Branch Meeting

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Speaker: Dallas ASCE

Topic: Ethics Presentation

Attendance: 59

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January Branch Meeting

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Speaker: Trent Woodward of Environment One

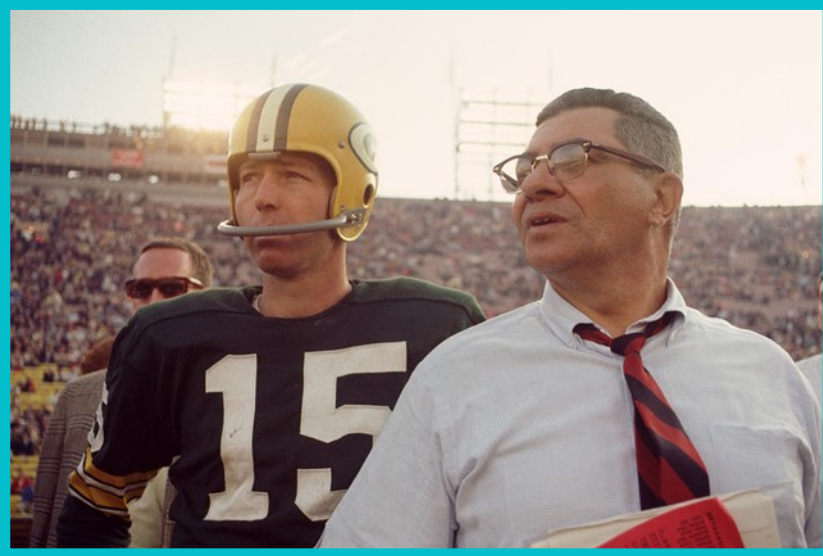
Topic: Introduction to Low Pressure Sewer

Attendance: 41

Mentor's Minute

By: Wayne E. Fowler, PE

The 200th pick in the 17th round of the NFL draft went to the Green Bay Packers. The year was 1956. During the next 16 seasons, that formerly obscure quarterback led the Packers to win three NFL championships and the first two Super Bowls. Bart Starr was resilient.



Starr's father was a military man. He raised his sons to be mentally tough as the family was constantly relocating. When Starr was 10, his 8-year-old brother died of tetanus.

Starr chose to play college ball at the University of Alabama because his sweetheart attended nearby Auburn University. They were married for over 60 years. In 1988, their son Brett died from a drug overdose at age 24. Years later, Starr said about marriage, "There are times when you are challenged, but just like everything else you accept the challenge and work your way through it."

Starr had the leadership grit to stand up to legendary Packers coach Vince Lombardi. After Lombardi yelled at Starr in practice one day, Starr insisted, "Would you

chew me out in the office so I can maintain the respect of our players?" It never happened again. One teammate, Jerry Kramer, described Starr as "a quiet, unassuming guy, a nice guy. But he had a lot of steel in him. He had fire in him."

Life has a way of offering opportunities to learn that kind of resilience, mental toughness. A simple definition of that is the capacity to adjust to difficulties while moving forward. It has to be learned from experience. It takes courage to face unexpected challenges. It takes grit to refuse simplistic solutions from the past, to try new approaches that hold promise, and to learn from failure.

Leaders can help their teams learn resilience. Daniel Goleman writes, "A leader should not protect employees from every tension or stress; resilience grows from a modicum of discomfort generated by necessary pressures at work." He adds why it matters: "If members of a work team are resilient, highly motivated, and good at what they do, a leader can be challenging and demanding and still get good results." (Social Intelligence)

Bart Starr's story shows that mentally tough leaders and team members make for a resilient team. When things go sideways, you better hope this describes you.

EIT Spotlight: Karyna Uribe, EIT

What company do you work for? I work at Dunaway Associates.

What is your role in ASCE? I am currently the UTA practitioner advisor.

What college did you attend? UT Arlington

What brought you to the civil engineering profession and ASCE? I always liked houses as a kid and the thought of building my mom one was my goal. In high school I took architecture electives and it sparked my interest in drafting. Every year we had a day where seniors could job shadow anyone, and my architecture teacher suggested I shadow a buddy of his who was a civil engineer. I had no idea what a civil engineer was until I did some research and job shadowed the guy. That was the turning point of choosing my career.

How has working in the field changed your view of the industry? I always thought civil engineers designed buildings, but I found out during school that there are many disciplines out there. Once I started working on the field, I noticed that even each discipline contains more specific fields.

What is something you see changing in the industry? Working virtually. Some companies are adopting new policies to create a schedule with part time work in the office and part time work from home. This decreases the time employees spend on the road, reduces expenses, and most importantly, keeps the employee happy. It also makes it easy to chime in when you need to do something quickly and not have to wait until the next day to go the office.

What would you like to learn from PE's or mentors? It's always a blessing when you have a mentor that cares about you and wants to help and guide you. One thing everyone wants to learn is how to become successful in life financially. But what about all the other aspects of becoming successful in life? Managing stress, staying positive, being healthy, investing not only money but time, self-care, etc., those are just a few. It's important to have balance and not let work take over our lives, especially when you start to move up.



Did you have any internships? How did that aid your career? I had an internship the summer before my senior year. The internship program was rotational, so I had the opportunity to work in both the Public and the Private Sectors and see which one I enjoyed the most.

Do you have any ASCE stories you would like to share? I have so many stories but they all have one thing in common: they are great memories with friendships that started in ASCE.

What is the most daring thing you've ever done? I jumped off an 855-foot building! I went to Vegas and jumped off the Stratosphere on a decelerator and it was the craziest thing ever. I found my addiction - adrenaline! My next adventure is going to be cliff swinging!



PE Spotlight: Angie Fealy, PE



Where and in what field of civil engineering do you work? I work at Jacobs in the land development department.

What is your role in ASCE? I am an active member of the Fort Worth Branch.

What college did you attend? Texas Tech

What brought you to the civil engineering profession? I've always enjoyed puzzles, which I feel is what engineering is – you have so many pieces that need to fit within a certain frame and at the end of the day you have a beautiful picture to present to someone.

What brought you to ASCE? I joined ASCE back in college to participate in the concrete canoe competition, met some cool friends and decided to stick with it.

What are some lessons learned in your career you wish you learned earlier on? Although it's scary or difficult, go seek out a mentor to help you grow your career and help you connect with other people in your company and the profession at large.

What software/ programs do you frequently use or recommend for young engineers to learn? I primarily use AutoCAD Civil 3D. I'm still learning about pipe networks and finding new shortcuts and tricks when grading surfaces .

Is there a project from your career you would like to share? I designed a sidewalk for DART at Arapaho Station! Although it's small, it's one of the FEW projects I've worked on stateside. The majority of the projects I've done are international and in remote locations that I cannot travel to or "showoff" to my family or friends.

Do you have any guidance you would like to provide to others? Technology is always evolving. Stay current on the updates, however make sure you understand the underlying design methods that are used.

ASCE YOUNGER MEMBERS



WE MISS YOU!!

We hope you all are staying safe! We can't wait to start planning our Younger Member events! If you have any virtual event ideas or if you would like to showcase the fun, creative ways you, your pets, or family and friends are surviving the pandemic, send your pictures to allison.stamper@pelotonland.com. Also, follow us on social media for details on upcoming events. We're on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram!

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Company Corner: Baird, Hampton & Brown

This section highlights current civil engineering projects designed by companies in the DFW area. Read about a few of BHB's ongoing projects below!

Weatherford Water Reuse Pipeline

Since 2014, BHB has partnered with the City of Weatherford and two other local firms on a water reuse pipeline at Lake Weatherford (*pictured on the right*). Now under construction, this project consists of a pump station and 6.7 miles of water line to recycle water from the city's waste water treatment plant back into the lake; BHB designed the northern 3.5 miles of the 16" water line as well as the out-fall site. As the primary source for the city's water, this pipeline will help keep the lake full.

North Riverside Drive

BHB provided civil and electrical engineering, landscape architecture, and land surveying for the design of North Riverside Drive from North Tarrant Parkway to Old Denton road as part of the City of Fort Worth's 2014 bond program. Construction on the nearly \$9 million project began in March 2020, and includes two roundabouts, turn lanes, medians, 10-foot multi-use trails, and street lighting.



Continuing Education Opportunities

Continuing Education opportunities continue to occur mostly in a virtual setting due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We are hopeful that the continued proliferation of the COVID-19 vaccine will result in our ability to host branch meetings and other continuing education opportunities. Until that time, we continue to urge our members to seek out virtual PDH opportunities. A list of some opportunities is presented below.

- **Virtual ASCE Branch Meetings** – The Fort Worth and Dallas branches are offering monthly virtual branch meetings to provide their membership with continuing education opportunities. Visit <http://branches.asce.org/ft-worth/events> or <https://dallasasce.org/news.php>. Stay tuned to branch emails and social media accounts for more details.
- **ASCE Texas Section** – The Texas Section is now hosting webinars twice a month! A listing can be found here: <https://www.texasce.org/events/category/webinars/list/>
- **ASCE National Webinars** – ASCE National allows all paying members access to 10-hours of PDH webinars with over 200 on-demand webinars from which to choose. This material can be accessed here: <https://sa360.asce.org/ASCEWebApp/Benefits/Membership/Freeondemandwebinars.aspx>
- **Texas Water 2021** – TAWWA's annual Texas Water Conference will be held virtually March 29–April 1. Visit <https://www.txwater.org> for details.
- **Texas Floodplain Management Association** – TFMA is hosting their Spring Conference April 13-16, offering a hybrid in-person and virtual format. For details visit <https://www.tfma.org>
- **TBPELS Ethics Webinars** – The Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors continues to host free ethics webinars on a near monthly basis. Register here: <http://www.tbpe.texas.gov/webinars.html>

COVID-19 Memo from ASCE Global



January 20, 2021

Dear ASCE Institute, Region, Section, Branch, Younger Member and Student Leaders:

Although the rollout of a vaccine offers hope for a return to normalcy, the coronavirus pandemic and its associated economic hardships continue to challenge our return to "business as usual." Today, we are writing to thank you once again for your continued leadership during these difficult times and to provide additional guidance on some important operational issues. As leaders, the choices we make for our operations today can position us to emerge from these challenging times more quickly and as a stronger, more effective organization.

As previously communicated, decisions on whether to hold in-person meetings, events, or other activities should be made on a case-by-case basis by the Institute, Region, Section, Branch, Younger Member or Student leadership, consistent with guidance from local, state and federal governments and health officials.

Unfortunately, recent weeks have seen sustained, and even increasing, community spread of the virus. In view of this concern, and recognizing our ethical obligation to protect the public health, safety and welfare, **we strongly encourage you to pursue alternative options, such as the use of virtual platforms for meetings to be held through June 30, 2021.** We also encourage that decisions to conduct an in-person event should be made only if in-person interaction is critical to meet desired objectives and all recommended safety protocols and procedures can be accommodated, in accordance with [CDC guidelines for events and gatherings](#). In addition to prioritizing the safety and health of the public and of potential attendees, virtual meetings can enable broader participation, reduce costs of participation for attendees, and reduce our carbon footprint.

Should you consider conducting face-to-face meetings, please recognize that all face-to-face meetings carry some risk. Measures such as requiring masks and adhering to social distancing may reduce risk but cannot eliminate it. These precautions will be necessary until the rate of community spread has been dramatically reduced, even once most or all participants have been vaccinated. Face-to-face meetings may also expose organizations to liability that may not be covered by insurance, reinforcing the importance of preventive and protective measures including attendee health certifications and liability releases.

Please share this guidance with your related units and members, and please reach out to ASCE General Counsel Tara Hoke at thoke@asce.org if you require legal assistance with meeting contracts and decisions. Note that ASCE staff continue to work remotely, and staff business travel remains restricted, at least until June 30, 2021, with any exceptions requiring Executive Director approval.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been a challenge unlike any other in our professional and personal lives, and we deeply appreciate your willingness to serve our members and the professional community even in the face of such a challenge.

Thank you again for all your efforts as we navigate through this process, and our best wishes to you and your loved ones for continued well-being and a Happy Healthy 2021.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Briaud".

Jean-Louis Briaud, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, Dist.M.ASCE
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Smith III".

Thomas W. Smith III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE
Executive Director

UTA Update

ASCE UTA students are excited to start a new semester this year and are working diligently to plan out events and opportunities for their members. Most classes are still virtual so the student chapter is taking precautions and trying to work under these circumstances. The student officers have been working on their ASCE annual report and have their first General Body Meeting on February 10th, via Teams. Wishing the all the students the best of luck this semester, MAV UP!!



TSU Update

We are looking forward to hearing from Tarleton State's ASCE student chapter and learning about their progress in the new semester!



SEEKING SPONSORS

2021 ASCE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM
APRIL 15-17, 2021
VIRTUAL

Hosted by the ASCE Student Chapter of the University of Texas at Austin

www.TexASCE.org/student-symposium

#TxMxASCE21

Don't forget to renew! The perks of being an ASCE member have gotten better! Now your membership includes **10 free PDH** on-demand webinars. To see a full list of member benefits visit the ASCE website at <http://www.asce.org/member-benefits/>

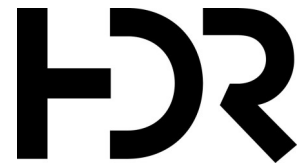
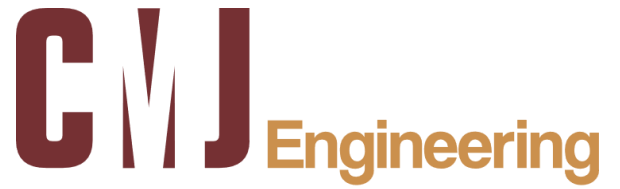
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Member Referral Program

All you have to do is click the link and refer up to five people to join ASCE. ASCE will do the rest. If your referrals join, they get 50% off their initial membership dues and you get a \$50 Amazon gift card. At the end of the year, the member with the most successful referrals will get a \$500 Amazon gift card! Refer a friend here: <http://message.asce.org/mgam>

This newsletter is distributed quarterly on the first week of February, May, August, and November. If you have any information you would like published in the newsletter, please contact Lindsay Lafferty, Newsletter Chair, at llafferty@bhbinc.com.

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2020-2021

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