

Transportation Infrastructure and Congestion

Shirley Ybarra, Senior Transportation Policy Analyst at Reason Foundation

The National Capital Section's (NCS) February meeting will focus on transportation. The keynote speaker for the event will be Ms. Shirley Ybarra, who will continue our recent discussion on the topic of infrastructure with particular focus on transportation infrastructure and congestion. The presentation will describe the latest thinking on ways the states are addressing congestion, such as High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, HOT arterials, cue jumpers, rebuilding interchanges, and other challenges to the transportation network. Ms. Ybarra will comment on funding challenges that lie ahead in the area of transportation infrastructure. She will address what's worked in the past and what holds promise for the future.



Ms. Ybarra will also comment on some of the pros and cons of MAP 21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, the first long-term highway authorization enacted since 2005). What's the future of long-term transportation funding bills in light of the current political and economic climate? Ms. Ybarra will discuss the political options such as mileage based user fees, tolling the interstate (Interstate 2.0), and other options.

Shirley Ybarra is a senior transportation policy analyst at Reason Foundation, a nonprofit think tank advancing free minds and free markets. She served as Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1998 to 2002, overseeing a budget of \$3.2 billion and a staff of 13,000 people. Between 1994 and 1998, Ybarra was Virginia's Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

Ms. Ybarra also served as senior policy advisor and special assistant for policy for U.S. Secretary of

Transportation Elizabeth Dole from 1983 to 1987. In that role, Ybarra managed the transfer and privatization of Dulles and National Airports to the Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority. She also authored Virginia's Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995, considered the model public-private partnership legislation in the United States. In 2001, Ms. Ybarra received the American Road and Transportation Builders Association's "Public-Private

Ventures Entrepreneur of the Year Award" for her leadership in designing innovative infrastructure financing. She holds a Master's degree in Economics and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Please join us for this informative and pertinent presentation on **Tuesday, February 19, 2013**. The meeting will be held at our usual meeting place, the



Hilton Arlington, 950 North Stafford Street in Arlington, VA, on the second floor in the Gallery Ballrooms. Parking is available at the hotel (\$8), at the Ballston Mall garage (\$1 after 6 p.m.), and on the street (free after 6 p.m.). This location is in the same block as the Ballston Station on Metro's Orange Line. Registration and networking will be from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner. The program will conclude by 8:30 p.m. The cost will be \$10 for students, \$40 for those who pre-register, and \$50 for walk-ins. **Please RSVP by February 14, 2013**. One Professional Development Hour will be awarded to attendees. Click <http://www.cvent.com/d/tcq4mn/1Q> to register. For questions, please contact Qamar Kazmi at qkazmi@sch-nabel-eng.com or 240-238-2218. ■



President's Corner

During our January meeting, Mr. Erik Sohn, P.E., with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., made a great presentation discussing evaluation of interior and exterior seismic damage to the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, DC, after the August 23, 2011 magnitude 5.8 earthquake centered in Mineral, VA – the most widely-felt earthquake in U.S. history and one of the largest to affect the east coast. He also mentioned how private funds are being raised – and more are needed – to properly restore the cathedral. Funding for fixing the buildings and infrastructure alike is a major issue.

Available funds are limited and because as a nation we have chosen to defer addressing repair needs in the past, the current needs to maintain our infrastructure are even more daunting. Recently, ASCE has released a *Failure to Act* report which points out the consequences of underinvestment in infrastructure on the U.S. economy.

If you visit the ASCE website, you will learn that with an additional investment of \$157 billion each year



between now and 2020, the U.S. can eliminate this drag on economic growth and protect:

- \$3.1 trillion in GDP, almost the equivalent of Germany's entire GDP;
- \$1.1 trillion in U.S. trade value, equivalent to Mexico's GDP;
- 3.5 million jobs, more than the jobs created in the U.S. over the previous 22 months;
- \$2.4 trillion in consumer spending, comparable to Brazil's GDP; and
- \$3,100 in annual personal disposable income.

I urge all of you to please download this report from the ASCE website and understand the consequences of our inaction. As a group as well as individuals, we need to reach out to our lawmakers to take steps to protect our economy.

Our February meeting will be timely in this regard. It will feature Ms. Shirley Ybarra, a senior transportation policy analyst at Reason Foundation and former Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia. She will comment on funding challenges that lie ahead in the area of transportation infrastructure

including past successes and promising ideas for the future. Ms. Ybarra will also address some of the pros and cons of MAP 21 Act (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century). In addition, she will discuss the future of long-term transportation funding bills in light of the current political and economic climate. Ms. Ybarra will discuss the political options such as mileage-based user fees, tolling the interstate (Interstate 2.0), and other options.

The details of the program appear as the newsletter's lead article.

I am sure you will find this meeting informative and it may give you some talking points when you approach your respective legislators to express your opinion regarding infrastructure spending.

And, even as you reach out to your legislators this month, don't forget to wish a special someone a Happy Valentine's Day!

Take care,



Qamar A. O. Kazmi, P.E.
President, ASCE-NCS

Newsletter

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Call 1-800-548-ASCE, email member@asce.org, go to <http://www.asce.org>, or write: ASCE – Membership, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191. Remember to include your membership number.

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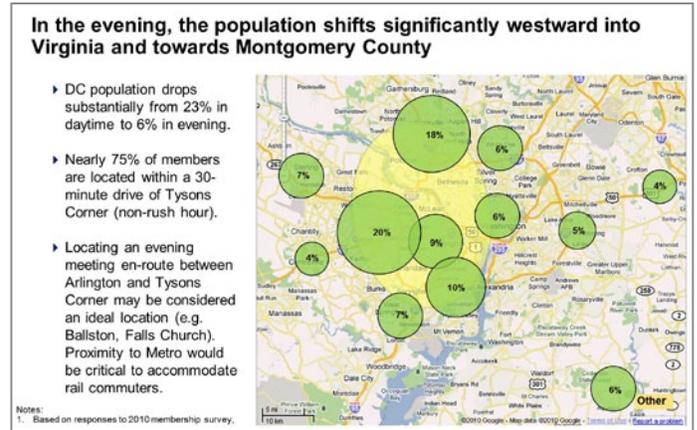
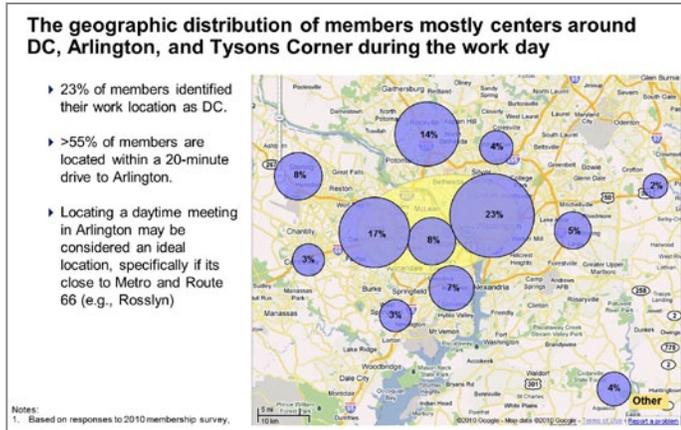
Committee Chairs

Please refer to the NCS website at <http://www.asce-ncs.org> for a current list of NCS committees and chairs.

Improving the Value of ASCE-NCS Membership

In July 2010, the NCS commissioned a new Management and Best Practices Subcommittee to evaluate Section activities and identify means for optimizing the value of NCS membership. After conducting an exhaustive set of interviews, surveying the membership, and analyzing collected data, the Subcommittee's findings were presented to the NCS Board of Directors in July 2011.

We are presenting graphical representations of the Subcommittee's findings as a monthly feature, "At a Glance...". For more information about the Subcommittee, please contact Christian Manalo at manalo_christian@bah.com. This month's graphic led us to relocate our monthly dinner meetings to Ballston. ■



The Future City Competition Need Volunteers!

What is the Future City Competition?

Thirty-three thousand students in grades 6, 7, and 8 will work in teams with their engineer mentor and educator to imagine, design, and build cities of the future. Along the way, they learn about engineering, develop their writing and public speaking skills, and apply math and science to real world issues.

To enter the competition, student teams:

1. Design a city using SimCity software.
2. Research and write an essay.
3. Write a narrative describing their city.
4. Build a physical model of the city using recycled material that has at least one moving part.
5. Present their city to a panel of judges. Learn more about Future City at www.futurecity.org.

We need Judges!

We'll give you assessment tools (called rubrics) and electronic score sheets, and we need *you* to volunteer as a judge for the following activities:

Virtual City Designs

(will require 5 to 6 hours in your home or office)

Are you familiar with SimCity 4? Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that you can do from your home or office?

Then a Virtual City Design Judge is the perfect role for you! Using SimCity 4 Deluxe software, you will evaluate the cities of the future. Judging will take place February 4 – 11, 2013.

City Narratives

(will require 5-6 hours in your home or office)

Are you curious how students imagine the future? Then you'll want to volunteer to evaluate 6-7 City Narratives. These short narratives (maximum 500 words) describe a future city's key features and design attributes. You'll evaluate the strength of the student's writing, their city's infrastructure, and public services. Judging will take place February 4 – 11, 2013.

Research Essays

(will require 3 hours in your home or office)

As a research essay judge you'll read six to seven research essays describing "Rethinking Water Run Off". Judging will take place February 4 – 11, 2013.

Models and Presentations – In sight, Hyatt Regency Crystal City

Are you looking for a chance to see tomorrow's leaders in action? As a preliminary judge, you and your fellow



judges will see six teams present their city's unique features, learn how they came up with their ideas, and have a chance to ask them questions. The 2013 Future City National Finals will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at National Airport, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, on Monday, February 18, 2013, from 7:30 am – 2:00 pm. (Continental Breakfast and Lunch Buffett provided.)

Volunteer Today!

Please register at at <http://www.futurecity.org/register>. If you have any questions, contact Bill Knight, National Program Manager, at bknight@futurecity.org. ■

Last Call for Annual Award Nominations

The Annual Awards Banquet is always one of the highlights of the NCS year because it allows us the privilege of honoring and celebrating individuals who have contributed to our society and our community. Individual awards include:

- Community Service Award
- Meritorious Service Award
- Life Member Awards
- Student of the Year Awards
- Student Scholarship Awards

We are currently requesting nominations for the following three annual awards:

Community Service Award

The Community Service Award recognizes contributions to enhance community life. *The nomination shall briefly describe the achievements and contributions of time and talent toward a civil*

engineering-related activity that has furthered the welfare of the community within a 3-year period preceding the nomination.

Meritorious Service Award

This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the Section. *The nomination shall briefly describe how the member contributed time and talent for the benefit of the Section, and how he/she sets a high standard of professionalism through service.*

Outstanding Civil Engineering Project of the Year

This award recognizes a civil engineering project in the National Capital region which demonstrates high skill, contributes to civil engineering progress, and is substantially completed within the preceding 3 years. Selection criteria are:

- contribution to regional quality of life,
- resourcefulness in planning,
- resolution of design problems,
- pioneering use of materials and methods,
- innovation in construction,
- impact on the physical environment (i.e., sustainability), and
- aesthetic values and/or unique aspects.

Click [HERE](#) to download the outstanding project nomination form. Please submit letter or e-mail nominations by **February 28, 2013** to:



John Casana, P.E., Chair
ASCE-NCS Awards
Committee
Booz Allen Hamilton
8283 Greensboro Drive
McLean, VA 22102
casana_john@bah.com

Last Call for the 2013 ASCE-NCS Sustainability Award Nominations

The 8th annual presentation of the ASCE-NCS Sustainability Award will recognize either private-industry outreach initiatives/projects or public legislation/programs in the metropolitan Washington, DC area that advance or promote the responsible and sustainable development of infrastructure, the built environment, or the conservation of natural resources. Last year (2012), the award recipient was the Architect of the Capitol.

Award/Recognition Criteria

1. The nominated initiative or project advances or promotes sustainable development as defined by the ASCE's Code of Ethics:
"Sustainable development is the challenge of meeting human needs for natural resources, industrial products, energy, food, transportation, shelter, and effective waste management while conserving and protecting environmental quality and the natural resource base essential for future development."

2. The nominated initiative or project must adopt a long-term view, cognizant of environmental, social, and economic implications, and place heavy emphasis on the impact of choices made now on succeeding generations.

The nominated initiative or project must be located within the geographical limits of the NCS, i.e., the jurisdictions of Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Loudoun County, Fairfax County, City of Alexandria, Arlington County, or the District of Columbia.

Please provide a succinct description of project or initiative (limit to 100 words). *Your nomination should address the following:*

- the public or private entity responsible for the program (include point of contact information, if available), and
- how the nomination meets the general criteria outlined above.

The nominating individual must provide his/her name, affiliation, telephone number, and e-mail address, and all nominations should be submitted by **February 15, 2013**. For more information or to submit a nomination, contact the Chair of the ASCE-NCS Sustainability Committee, Alex Rosenheim, P.E., LEED AP, M. ASCE, at alex.rosenheim@gmail.com. This year's winner will be announced at the NCS Sustainability Banquet in March 2013. Anyone interested in becoming involved with the Sustainability Committee should contact Mr. Rosenheim. ■

Volunteers Needed for Discover Engineering Family Day at the National Building Museum



A previous Discover Engineering Family Day where high-rise structures were designed and tested.

Volunteers are still needed to host the NCS activity at the National Building Museum's (NBM) Engineering Family Day on **Saturday, February, 16, 2013**. ASCE President Greg DiLoreto, P.E., P.L.S, has been invited, but more help is needed.

Engineering Family Day is an annual event enjoyed by thousands of children of all ages and their families. The NBM is located at 401 F Street NW, Washington, DC, and is easily accessible by the Metro Judiciary Square Station on the Red Line. Parking is available on neighborhood streets (2 hour limit) and at nearby public parking garages.

This year, NCS volunteers will be advising children on the construction of high-rise structures made of paper straws, cardboard, and lots of tape. Each high rise structure will be tested with a live wind load (simulated by an electric fan).

Volunteers for two shifts are needed. The first shift starts at 9 a.m. and the second shift starts at 1 p.m. Shifts are approximately 4 hours each, but volunteers are welcome to come in at any time and stay for as long as they like.



The NBM serves refreshments to volunteers throughout the day. NCS will provide all materials. Contact Dean Westman at dwestman@wrallp.com or Emily Dean at dean.emilyanne@gmail.com to volunteer or for additional information. ■

Other Upcoming Volunteer Events

- **March 16, 2013 – Cub Scout Day** will be held at the NBM from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year, we will assist Cub Scouts with construction of arch bridges. Contact Dean Westman at dwestman@wrallp.com to volunteer or for additional information.
- **April 19-21, 2013 – the EPA National Sustainable Design Expo** will be held on the National Mall between 3rd and 4th Streets (near the U.S. Capitol). Check the March and April editions of the newsletter for additional information. ■

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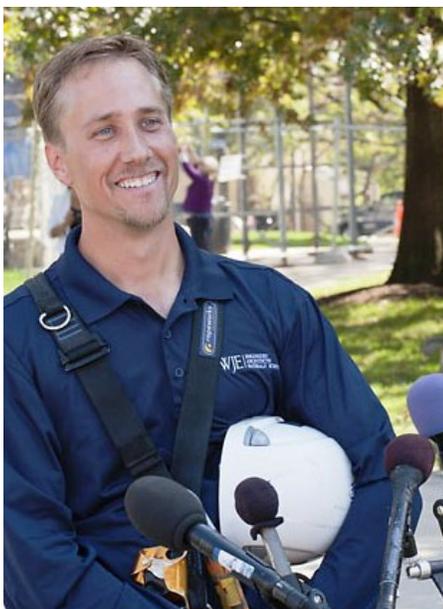
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January Meeting Recap – Seismic Assessment of the Washington National Cathedral

Presented by Erik C. Sohn, P.E., Senior Associate for Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

The NCS kicked off its first meeting of the New Year with a presentation by Mr. Erik Sohn, P.E., of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE), who discussed the post-earthquake evaluation of the Washington National Cathedral and Washington Monument following the magnitude 5.8 earthquake that shook the east coast on August 23, 2011. The presentation focused primarily on the efforts related to the inspection and damage assessment of the National Cathedral, with a question and answer session held later in the program to address specific questions regarding both structures.

Although its epicenter was located roughly 90 miles to the south in Mineral, VA, the 2011 earthquake was widely felt in Washington, DC, and was the largest to affect the east coast since 1944. Following the earthquake, officials at the National Cathedral reported damage to several of the pinnacles on the central tower and the building was closed until damage investigations could be completed. With extensive experience in the forensic investigation of building enclosure failures, WJE was called upon to perform an assessment of the damage and to develop a system for prioritizing repairs in order to make the building safe for visitors.



Erik Sohn discussing the inspection at the National Cathedral.

As part of WJE's Difficult Access Team, Mr. Sohn helped to inspect the structure by utilizing industrial rope-access techniques since conventional approach methods were not feasible for much of the building façade — especially for the tall and slender pinnacles on the Cathedral's towers. The hard-to-reach areas were inspected by climbing and rappelling down each face using a minimum of two rope lines — one working line and one safety-backup line. For each climber, two additional team members were employed above and below to observe the anchor area, keep a watchful eye for any obstructions, and provide ground assistance for the suspended crew.

With Hurricane Irene looming and set to strike the DC area just a few days after the earthquake, the team members rushed to identify critical areas of the towers that would require protection during the storm. Temporary shoring, scaffolding, and cable supports were installed to prevent many of the already damaged elements from shifting or coming loose and causing further damage to the structure. The shoring and scaffolding was used afterwards as a platform for inspection access and to facilitate reconstruction of the pinnacles and other damaged elements.

Mr. Sohn went on to describe some of the damage observed during the inspection of the Cathedral. Several of the pinnacles rotated and twisted out of alignment while some collapsed entirely; many of the finial stones on the pinnacles were broken off; areas of roof below were damaged from falling stones and other loose carvings; some of the gargoyles were damaged and loose; mortar joints were loose and falling out; spalls were observed in some of the stones; and cracks were observed in several of the flying buttresses at their connection to the wall. Since many of the reinforcement details were improved upon throughout the construction period from 1907 to 1990, a majority of the damage occurred in older areas of the structure, where extension of dowel reinforcement between stone courses was minimal when compared to more newly constructed areas.



Collapsed pinnacle at the National Cathedral.

Detailed photos and descriptions of damaged areas were recorded by the climbers using an electronic tablet device, while team members on the ground used binoculars to spot potential areas of concern. Although damage to the interior was not as extensive, some cracking was observed at joints and many small pieces of stone and mortar had come loose. A safety-net was installed in the nave to prevent loose pieces of debris from falling and injuring people below.

The Difficult Access Team completed its survey of the Cathedral in roughly one week of total inspection time, and the building was safely reopened to the public in November 2011. Repairs for the National Cathedral, estimated to cost around \$20 million, are being performed piecemeal as funds become available.

The post-earthquake evaluation of the Washington Monument was recently featured in the December 2012 issue of ASCE's *Civil Engineering* magazine. Design for the repairs were recently completed and issued for bidding, and the contractor is currently mobilizing for installing the repairs during the 2013 construction season. ■

MATHCOUNTS Needs You!

MATHCOUNTS is providing today's students with the foundation for success in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers. MATHCOUNTS (see www.mathcounts.org) is a national enrichment club and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement through grassroots involvement in every U.S. state and territory. To secure America's global competitiveness, MATHCOUNTS inspires excellence, confidence, and curiosity in middle school students through fun and challenging math programs.

MATHCOUNTS is in its 30th year and is one of the country's largest and most successful education partnerships involving volunteers, educators, industry sponsors, and students. The National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) provides leadership in coordination with the Virginia Society of Professional Engineers at the state level (see www.vspe.org). Locally, the Northern Virginia region will have its 2013 competition with over 440 MATHLETES on **February 2, 2013**.

Program Details

Starting in the fall (at the beginning of every school year), educators, former MATHLETES, and hundreds of volunteers work together to coach future MATHCOUNTS competitors. All coaches are provided with a free MATHCOUNTS school handbook and work with students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades for months before finally choosing who will participate in one of 10 chapter/regional competitions in Virginia.

Students compete either as part of a school team of four or as individuals. The first placed team, plus the top three scoring individuals from each chapter/regional competition, then goes on to the state competition, where the four highest-scoring individuals are chosen to travel to the national competition. The coach of the winning state team is also chosen as the coach of the National Virginia State Team and will travel with the team to the national competition.

Donations and Volunteers

Individual and corporate donations are also always needed to help fund both the chapter and state level competitions. National sponsors include Raytheon, Northrup Grumman, NSPE, and Texas Instruments. Local sponsors are needed for our Northern Virginia competition to fund such things as test facility rental, student awards, and printing costs. Checks should be made payable to "VSPE Educational Fund" with a notation in the memo section that you are supporting the Northern Virginia region. Checks should be mailed to VSPE Educational Fund, PO Box 4969, Midlothian, VA 23112. The VSPE Educational Fund is a 501(c)(3) corporation (Tax ID No. 54-1531409) and your contribution should be deductible as a charitable contribution.

Volunteers are needed to encourage and assist the students, as well as to help conduct and grade the annual competition. More information is available from the local volunteer coordinator, Don Swygert, at drswygert@rcn.com. ■

March NCS Meeting – Sustainability Award & Lecture

Courtney Lorenz, SKANSKA USA Buildings, to Deliver Keynote at March 12th NCS Meeting

Please join us on **Tuesday, March 12, 2013**, as we celebrate sustainability in civil engineering in the region served by the NCS.

This year's program will feature the 7th Annual ASCE-NCS Sustainability Awards, aimed at recognizing sustainable development projects, programs, and initiatives in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The program will be followed by the 8th Annual ASCE-NCS Sustainability Lecture/Keynote by a distinguished civil engineering champion of sustainability. This year, we are honored to host Ms. Courtney Lorenz, Director of Environmental Management with SKANSKA USA Buildings, in Durham, NC.

Recent keynote speakers have highlighted design issues, not-for-profit institution efforts, and public policy initiatives. Ms. Lorenz will discuss issues relating to how the private sector is dealing with sustainability issues and environmental impact in the construction industry. She will be highlighting SKANSKA's sustainability efforts and her involvement in incorporating sustainability into the triple bottom line of environmental, economic, and social considerations. ■

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Upcoming Events *(Also available on the NCS website under the Events tab)*

February 7-9

2013 ASCE Eastern Regional Younger Member Council Meeting in Providence, RI. Contact Chris Manalo (manalo_christian@bah.com) or Kelly Cronin (KCronin@wje.com) for additional information.

February 15

Deadline for submitting nominations for the 2013 ASCE-NCS Sustainability Award. For more information or to submit a nomination, contact Alex Rosenheim at alex.rosenheim@gmail.com. (See newsletter article.)

February 16

Discover Engineering Family Day at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC. The NCS will be staffing a table to introduce kids of all ages to the fascinating world of civil engineering. Volunteer and join in the fun! Additional details can be obtained from Emily Dean at EDean@mragta.com or Dean Westman at dwestman@wrallp.com. (See newsletter brief.)

February 19

NCS monthly meeting at the Hilton Arlington. The program will feature a presentation by Shirley Ybarra, a senior transportation policy analyst and former Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia, on transportation infrastructure and congestion. (See newsletter lead article.)

February 20

The NCS Water Resources Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Booz Allen Hamilton office, 1550 Crystal Drive, in Arlington (Crystal City metro stop). Lunch will be provided. For more information and to RSVP, please contact manalo_christian@bah.com or 703-377-1697.

February 20

NCS Younger Members will meet for the next Professional Development event from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at a location to be announced. The speaker will be Mike Drerup of Walter P. Moore, who will discuss "Tools and Techniques for Forensic Investigations." Mr.

Drerup is currently serving as the Executive Committee Chair for the ASCE Technical Council on Forensic Engineering. Contact Jordan Pitt (WJPitt@mbakercorp.com) or Kelly Cronin (KCronin@wje.com) for additional information. Watch for an e-mail announcement in the near future identifying the event location.

February 28

Deadline for submitting nominations for the 2013 ASCE-NCS Annual Awards. For more information or to submit a nomination, contact John Casana at casana_john@bah.com. (See newsletter article.)

March 12

NCS monthly meeting at the Hilton Arlington. The program will feature the 7th Annual ASCE-NCS Sustainability Award. The 8th Annual Sustainability Lecture will be presented by Courtney Lorenz of SKANSKA USA Buildings. (See newsletter brief.)

Employment Clearinghouse

Position Available

Engineers: KPFF is looking for five engineers to join our new Washington, DC Structural & Civil Team. This new office is being established to support KPFF's long-standing DC client base as well as our national and international workload. We are seeking highly motivated engineers who demonstrate excellence within the engineering profession. For additional information about KPFF, please visit our website at www.kpff.com. Please send resume and cover letter to danny.kahler@jonelle.dean@kpff.com. KPFF is an equal opportunity employer.

Then ASCE-NCS provides the Employment Clearinghouse as a free service to its membership. The Clearinghouse allows members to post short notices for available positions or candidates seeking employment. All employers listed herein are equal opportunity employers. If you have questions or would like to post a position, please contact the Employment Conditions Committee, National Capital Section ASCE, 8502 Buckhannon Drive, Rockville, MD 20854-3503; phone: (301)983-9777; fax: (301)983-1953; or e-mail sassi22@verizon.net.

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