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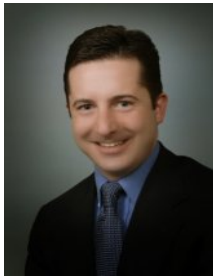
Official Publication of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, Western District

November-December 2009 Vol. 63, No. 12

President's Message

Michael Sanderson, P.E., PTOE

Over the last several months my presidential duties have given me the opportunity to travel to a number of local section and chapter meetings including: New Mexico, Arizona, Northern California, and Montana. During these visits it was my privilege to meet many ITE members for the first time, and what I consistently found were members who are active and engaged in ITE. These individuals confirmed for me that ITE's real strength is at the local level. While ITE is a large international organization, the real progress is being made by members who are engaged in their communities on a daily basis solving the real challenges of mobility and traffic safety, and planning the future of our transportation infrastructure. I can say



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International Director's Report

Ken Ackeret, P.E. PTOE, PHD

Randy McCourt, Zaki Mustafa and I represented the Western District at the recent International Board of Direction meeting held on October 16 and 17, 2009 in Washington, D.C. Your three Directors were joined by Dalene Whitlock, your 2010 International Director-elect. Randy's term will be completed at the end of this year and we all need to thank Randy McCourt for his commitment to ITE and his valued representation of our District's and ITE members' interests as he completes his 3-year term in office. Dalene will have a large role to fill in following Randy on the Board as she assumes her duties as our newest International Director on January 1, 2010.



Also in attendance at the meeting from the Western District was Coordinating Council Chair, Pat Noyes. Pat was joined by Board meeting guests Ray Davis and Rock Miller, each of whom were interviewing with the Board's Nomination Committee for the opportunity to run for next year's International Vice President.

The meeting was opened by President Ken Voigt with the first order of business being the swearing in of our new International officers for next year: Paul Eng-Wong, President and Robert Wunderlich, Vice President. New incoming Board of Directors: Dalene Whitlock, District 6; Robert Seyfried, District 4; Russell Brownlee, District 7 and Hugh McGee, District 2. The October Board meeting serves as a transition meeting in which the four incoming Directors from across the Institute have a chance to observe the meeting and have an orientation of ITE Headquarters and its staff, along with an overview of the membership services that are provided by ITE.

The Board allocated a half day to the topic of sustainability. At the August Board meeting in College Station, a scan report on the state of sustainability practices was commissioned. Alan Pisarski presented the findings from this commissioned report. Alan Pisarski is a well-known writer and consultant in transportation policy, travel behavior and statistics. He is frequently invited to testify before Congress based upon his expertise.

Mr. Pisarski was joined by a panel of distinguished guests to discuss "sustainability" in the context of transportation. The panelists included: Dr.

(Continued on page 2)

Anthony Kane, AASHTO, April Marchese, USDOT/FHWA, William Millar, APTA, and Tim Torma. EPA. The presentations were very insightful to the Board and included such informational items as:

The cities of Portland, Seattle, and Honolulu (all in our Western District) have good case studies for advancing sustainability in transportation.

ITE's future role in sustainability could be related to establishing the following:

Methodologies/modeling applications for determining baseline conditions

Climate or Sustainability action plans

Provide a clearinghouse of case studies (a center for transportation sustainability excellence)

Identify low cost Green House Gas (GHG) reduction measures

The presented keys to advancing sustainability in transportation include:

Better fuels

More efficient vehicles

Transportation network operational efficiency

Demand management measures

The "Triple Bottom Line" concept of sustainability was presented. The three components are a set of nested activities that include the:

Economy

Society

Environment

In general, we are seeing a verbiage shift from the term "environmental" to "sustainability". Following the panel discussions, a Sustainability Advisory Committee was established by the Board to continue to advance the next steps for ITE. The Committee is to be chaired by Jim Gough (Canadian District), with the initial committee members including Coordinating Council, Chair Pat Noyse and Director Ken Ackeret.

For the rest of the next two days, the following topics and actions were addressed by the Board:

Finances

The 2009 ITE operating budget was carefully reviewed. Executive Director Tom Brahms is on top of the institute's financial situation. As income has fallen below annual budget projections this year, expenditure cost cuts have been made while maintaining member services. It is expected that capital reserves will be used to address any budget offsets for 2009. The 2010 budget was discussed in detail and was approved with a deficit of approximately \$170,000. A significant expense item of this budget is the planned relocation of ITE headquarters next year. The current ITE headquarter lease is good through August 2010. Capital reserves will be used as part of the 2010 budget to move our headquarters next year. All agreed that this is the time to take advantage of the market and have Tom Brahms negotiate a new lease that will save money in future headquarter operating costs.

In reviewing and approving the 2010 budget, the Board recognized the strong Capital Reserves of ITE. However, the Board was also clear that the 2011 budget will need to be developed as a break-even budget for operations.

International ITE Traffic Bowl

The procedures and funding to conduct the first ever International Student Traffic Bowl at our next Annual Meeting in Vancouver were accepted by the Board. This means that the winner of the Western District Student Traffic Bowl at our meeting in San Francisco will advance to the Vancouver, BC competition. The Board is expecting all 9 Districts of ITE to send student teams to the Traffic Bowl Competition.

Membership

Good news was reported with respect to membership. As of September 30, 2009, paid voting membership as up by 4.76% over September 30, 2009. At the end of 2008, ITE had 13,379 voting members. As of September 30, 2009, there was 13,105 paid voting members. ITE staff will be taking every effort to retain our existing membership as we go into 2010.

Climate Change Policy

Based upon the hard work from the Policy and Legislative Committee, the developed Climate Change policy, as presented and reviewed by membership, was approved by the International Board of Direction.

Student Initiatives

In an effort to further integrate students into the Annual ITE meetings, a Student Initiatives Advisory Committee was established by the Board. Zaki Mustafa will be serving on this committee.

Your Directors were kept very busy during the D.C. meeting. Please remember that as your District Directors, we present you and your interests at the highest level of ITE. All three of us are available to attend Chapter and Section meetings throughout the District. Do not hesitate to contact any one of us with your ideas on improving ITE member services.



MUTCD Now Available for Presale The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released a comprehensive update to the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) on December 16, 2009.

ITE, in cooperation with AASHTO and ATSSA, will print FHWA's *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD), 2009 Edition. This book will ship in mid-March 2010. If you order by March 1. www.ite.org for ordering information.

(President's Message Continued)

that the future of our profession is brightened by the knowledge, skill and character of ITE members that I have been fortunate enough to witness firsthand.

An ITE member that embodied these traits and represented the best of ITE was Bill Kloos. Bill, who retired after 25 years as the signals and street lighting division manager for the City of Portland, recently succumbed to cancer after a long battle. Bill was a problem-solver and an innovator who contributed significantly to the field of traffic engineering and mentored many young members of the profession. In honor of his contributions, the Western District Board of Directors recently voted to name the Western District traffic bowl the "William C. Kloos Traffic Bowl." This is a significant honor that will be officially dedicated at the 2010 Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

Unfortunately, I never had the opportunity to know Bill having only met him in passing once or twice. It was only recently that I learned of some of his many contributions to the profession, and learned that Bill was a native of my home state of Montana and fellow alumni of Montana State University. There was much I could have learned and I cannot help but wonder how many other accomplished and distinguished members are in our local sections and chapters waiting for younger members to tap into their vast knowledge and experience? Attend your local meetings and make a point of reaching out to the wealth of knowledge and experience that is all around you. Take advantage of one of the greatest services that ITE provides, the opportunity to network with professionals of the caliber of Bill Kloos.

I am looking forward to meeting more ITE members as I travel and to learning about the interesting and exciting things our members are accomplishing in their communities. In the meantime, your board of directors and technical committee chairs are working hard. One of the projects we are working on is updating the District's strategic plan. We will be discussing the plan and mapping the District's future at our mid-year board meeting, which will be held February 5, 2010, in Las Vegas. To prepare, we will be soliciting input from the membership via an electronic survey that you will receive in the coming weeks. Please take the time to respond and provide us with your thoughts. This is your opportunity to participate, but as always, if you have comments, concerns or suggestions, please email me at msanderson@sandersonstewart.com.



Editor's Corner

It is really hard to believe that we have been so successful with our student endowment fund. Just after the election where I was established as your president Julia Townsend, Randy McCourt and I were discussing how great it would be if we were to establish an endowment fund for our students and presently we are almost half way there. Thank you all for your generous support with this program. You might have noticed that is the condensed version of our newsletter. From now on we will only have two printed versions of our newsletter per year; one in May and one in September. Fear not, there will be a web version that will be updated on a monthly basis. Nathan Mustafa will be updating the web version with our section updates, legislative reports, presidential messages and technical papers on a each month and any hot transportation issues on a daily basis at www.westernite.wordpress.com. The upside of moving to a primarily web based format is that much more content can be posted, including both articles and photos that would have taken too much space in a physical newsletter. From this point forward, I would like section updates, technical papers and any other prospective articles to be sent to ntmustafa@gmail.com. The newsletter's new format is exciting for us all, and I cannot say enough how much I appreciate the readership.



Together We Are the Best—Zaki Mustafa

Student Chapter Spotlight

Colorado-Wyoming Section / University of Wyoming

The Student Endowment Fund has surpassed the \$200,000 mark and is well on its way to our \$500,000 goal. Our success can be attributed to the strong support that the fund has received from our Sections and members. At this year's Annual Meeting in Denver, the Colorado-Wyoming Section became our second Platinum Level group contributor. The following is a message from Craig Faessler, President of the Colorado-Wyoming Section:

The Colorado-Wyoming Section had the honor and pleasure of hosting the Western District annual meeting this past July. Our local arrangements committee worked very hard to pull together another successful event for the District. To kick off the event, the Colorado-Wyoming Section became only the second group to reach the "platinum" level of sponsorship for the Student Endowment Fund by donating \$5,000 at the opening address. We are continuing our efforts to raise funds for the Student Endowment Fund, as well as for our very energetic and successful Wyoming Student Chapter – Student Bowl Champions – and encourage other Sections to join us in the race to become the first "emerald" group contributors.



The University of Wyoming (UW) student chapter was pleased to contribute an article for the Nov-Dec spotlight. This spotlight is written by Scott Koch, President of the UW Student Chapter and the following is an excerpt from his article:

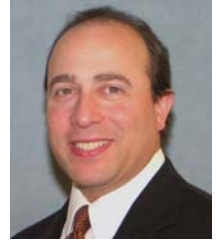
The UW student chapter strives to be a known member of the university community; both the Laramie, Wyoming community, and the Colorado-Wyoming ITE community. The chapter has made a determined effort to attend the Western District Annual Meetings as well as Colorado-Wyoming ITE meetings. Each year, the chapter tries to send at least two members to the Annual Meeting. In the past two years, UW sent eight students to Anaheim and six students to Denver for the Western District Annual Meeting. The UW Student Chapter represented well at this year's Annual Meeting in Denver. UW students actively participated in the James H. Kell Student

Competition and some were nicely rewarded for their efforts. Also, the UW ITE Student Chapter were the first ever champions of the newly introduced Western District Student Traffic Bowl. GO POKES!!

This year the chapter has participated in many events; at the University level the UW ITE Student Chapter hosted a Snow Fence Design Competition for E-week. In the Laramie community, UW ITE student members volunteered for a Walk to School day at the local elementary schools. The chapter also provided traffic counts for the City of Laramie. The chapter holds bi-monthly meetings where professionals in the transportation industry are invited to be guest speakers. The chapter has also gone a number of field trips such as visiting the Denver TMC, the Cheyenne TMC, and the Colorado TMC in Golden, Colorado. Finally, the chapter connects with professionals by attending the Colorado-Wyoming ITE meetings.



The San Francisco Bay Area Section welcomes you to "Leave Your Heart and Find Solutions" at the 2010 Western District Annual Meeting! We'll be gathering at the historic Palace Hotel in downtown San Francisco from June 27-30, 2010. The Palace Hotel is located on Market Street above the Montgomery BART/MUNI Station, with easy access to Cable Cars, Union Square, Fisherman's Wharf, Alcatraz, the Ferry Building, AT&T Park, and the Golden Gate Bridge. So much to see and do - you'll want to spend the week! With BART trains from two Bay Area airports right to the Palace Hotel, and everything so close, you won't need a car.



In addition to providing ample opportunities for networking, sightseeing, and socializing, the LAC is working hard on a high-quality technical program that will include multiple technical tracks, training workshops, and several tours.

For those that want to explore San Francisco a la The Amazing Race, we are planning the inaugural Western District mITEy Race on Sunday June 27th. Teams of students, professionals and families can compete in this awesome adventure that's not to be missed.

Visit our website for updates on the program and activities.

<http://www.sfbayite.org/2010/>

I look forward to seeing all of you in San Francisco in 2010!

Mark Spencer
2010 General Meeting Chair
mes@dksassociates.com



See You in San Francisco !

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Call for Traffic Bowl Questions

ITE is assembling a database of questions to be used by ITE International, districts and sections in conducting student traffic bowl competitions. In the coming years, ITE is planning on conducting an Institute-wide competition among the student chapters, culminating with a competition among the district winning student chapters. Individual members, companies and student chapters may submit questions.

All who submit questions are entered into a drawing for \$500 worth of ITE Script, which can be redeemed for meeting registrations, professional development courses publications, etc. The more questions you submit, the greater your chances

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