



**California/Nevada Section
Bimonthly Update
July 5, 2023
Ninety Seventh Edition**

- ❖ AIM 2023 – What’s in it for me?
- ❖ Section Membership Update
- ❖ School Updates – Graduation 2023!
- ❖ The Value of Standards
- ❖ 1-2-3-4-5 Member Highlight
- ❖ Do You Feel A Calling?

❖ **AIM 2023 – What’s in it for me?**

If you've never attended an ASABE Annual International Meeting, you may be asking, *Why should I go? What's in it for me?* In any given year, our annual meeting packs a lot of program content that, on first glance, can be a bit overwhelming to a newcomer.

We know those challenges! ASABE has come up with **Meeting Orientation tool** to help you zero in on relevant activities. This custom-built web app will pose a few questions to determine your interests and career stage, then identify **technical sessions, networking opportunities, and tours** that meet your needs. [Check it out!](#)

Don't forget! There will be a section luncheon on Tuesday, July 11th from 12:00-1:00 pm at The Old Spaghetti Works, 502 S. 11th Street, Omaha, NE 68102. All past and present CA/NV section members are welcome! Please RSVP [here](#).

Please don't confuse the orientation tool with the AIM Meeting App, which will launch for registrants just prior to the meeting.

❖ **Section Membership Update**

The CA/NV section of ASABE gained several new members this year, especially students and young professionals. Some of the new members signed up after learning about ASABE at outreach events earlier this year. Unfortunately, due to several existing members not yet renewing their membership, the overall membership is down since the end of last year.

Time Period	New	Reinstated	Total Members
Nov/Dec 2022	8		317
Jan/Feb 2023	8	5	
Mar/April 2023	14		263

❖ School Updates – Graduation 2023!

Congratulations to all the recent graduates! There were 32 students who received associate degrees from the Agriculture Tech program at Hartnell College. 60 students graduated from the BioResource and Ag Engineering and Ag Systems Management programs from Cal Poly SLO. About 42 students from the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department at UC Davis graduated this past term. Finally, there were over 400 grads from the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at Fresno State.

While others are still finalizing the degree conferral, we want to take this opportunity to recognize the academic achievements of these graduates who have successfully completed the rigorous requirements of their respective programs. You have dedicated years of hard work, perseverance, and determination to reach this milestone. Now, you are equipped with valuable knowledge and skills to pursue your dreams, and make a positive impact on the society.

The ASABE CA/NV section extends our heartfelt congratulations to each and every graduate here. We wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors!

❖ The Value of Standards

Standards! We see them often as engineers, and know that we have to follow them while on the job.

Having a consistent set of best business practices makes the design process more quantitative and helps ensure that engineering works have an expected level of quality.

However, how often do we ask ourselves how standards are developed?

From the International Standards Organization (ISO), an international non-governmental organization, standards are developed by experts in their fields to ensure that the latest technology and practices being used in industry are consistent, including the elements of the design protect public health, safety, and welfare. This creates a higher confidence of the rules that people follow, given that they are being made by technical experts, and not exclusively biased stakeholders.

Ultimately, whether standards are being developed by the ISO, American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), or ASABE, it is important that we stay up to date on the latest developments and keep design quality high.

If you are interested in staying up to date, the best way to do that is through [ASABE Engage](#). ASABE committees "own" individual standards and the committee members are responsible for reviewing standards, proposing new standards, and proposing changes to existing standards. As an ASABE member you can join those committees and get involved in standards review and development. If you are applying existing standards in your work, or if you see a need for a new standard, then you know enough to get involved! Whether you choose to join the committee as a voting member or an auditing member, your expertise can make a valuable contribution to the engineering profession and the public that we serve!

❖ 1-2-3-4-5 Member Highlight

This month's member highlight is Julie Meyers. Julie is a licensed Agricultural and Biological Engineer for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the San Francisco Bay area, and the LGBTQI+ Special Emphasis Program Manager at NRCS CA. They graduated from the UC Davis BAE department for both their Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

One - piece of advice I'd give new graduates: My best piece of advice, in general, for students and recent grads alike is to get sleep! Also, take a break for a few months, or a gap year if you can! Don't be burnt out when you enter the workforce. Finally, networking and communication are just as important as technical skills and knowledge.

Two - things I learned on the job that I didn't learn in college: I've learned a lot about how to design specific systems (livestock watering systems and wildlife/livestock ponds), as well as how to work with contractors and producers to determine what will work best for them and consider that in my designs. I've also learned a lot about US civil rights policy and issues as part of my collateral duty as LGBTQI+ Special Emphasis Program Manager.

Three - concepts I learned in college that I use regularly: My undergraduate lab work helped me get familiar with working in the field and gave me hands on knowledge about sensors and irrigation management in permanent crops. While getting my Master's degree, I found the process of writing my thesis to be a valuable learning experience. I was also able to take more specialized courses, such as GIS and groundwater hydrology, that I didn't have time to take as an undergraduate that have been extremely helpful in my career.

Four - favorite technical aspects of my job: I enjoy doing the hydraulics for livestock watering system designs, as well as livestock/wildlife pond embankment designs. They can be more challenging to design, but are very rewarding to see implemented.

Five - places I've been or things I've seen in my career: I have gotten to see a lot of lovely regional parks, great scenic views, and local wildlife while doing field work in the East Bay hills. I have also had the opportunity to travel occasionally for trainings and conferences, mostly through NRCS or for ASABE. Some of my favorite places I have traveled to are Boston, MA and Spokane, WA.

❖ Do You Feel A Calling?

Would you like to get more involved with ASABE and the CANV Section? Do you have ideas for Agricultural and Biological Engineering activities?

We have several opportunities to work on various committees. If you would like to get more involved, want some exposure to fellow professionals, or have some interesting new ideas of ways to improve the CA/NV Section please contact any of our officers through <https://asabecanv.wordpress.com/officers/>.

- For previous editions of the Update, please visit <https://asabecanv.wordpress.com/newsletter/>.
- If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Joseph Sexson (joseph.sexson@usda.gov)
- If you have ideas for update items or would like to get involved in the Section, please let us know!