

# THE NEBRASKA CIVIL ENGINEER



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEBRASKA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Volume XLVII

March 2000

Number 6

1999-2000  
Nebraska Section  
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## Meeting Information

**DATE:**  
Thursday, March 16, 2000

**HOST:**  
Environmental Group  
Nebraska Section ASCE

**TOPIC:**  
"The Dallas Arena Project"

**SPEAKER:**  
Michael Covert, RPG  
HBC/Terracon, Dallas, Texas

**TIMES:**  
5:30-6:30.....Social Hour  
6:30-7:30.....Dinner  
7:30-9:00...Meeting and Program

**LOCATION:**  
Tony Roma's  
2510 South 132nd Street  
Omaha, Nebraska  
330-5955

**MENU:**  
The Roma Feast - Our slow-cooked Carolina Honeys ribs, barbecued chicken, our special sausage, corn on the cob and coleslaw.

Top Sirloin - 10 oz. Top sirloin steak, cut from perfectly aged USDA Choice Angus beef. Served with baked potato and vegetables.

Marinated Boneless Breast of Chicken - A tender breast lightly marinated in teriyaki sauce and grilled. Served with baked potato and mixed fresh vegetables.

**ALL CHOICES: \$16.00**  
(Includes Tea, Coffee, or Soda, and Gratuity)

## DINNER RESERVATIONS

RSVP by noon on **Monday 3/13/00**

**In Omaha Area and Eastern Nebraska:**  
contact Bob Kalinski at (402) 894-2678  
or [rdgge@rdgge.com](mailto:rdgge@rdgge.com)

**In Lincoln and Central or Western Nebraska:**  
contact Daryoush Razavian at (402) 474-6320  
or [drazavian@oaconsulting.com](mailto:drazavian@oaconsulting.com)

## Michael Covert

Mr. Covert is the National Director of Environmental Due Diligence for Terracon and has more than nineteen years of professional experience in the environmental and petroleum industries, including two years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region VI office. Mr. Covert has a B.S in Geology from Southern Methodist University and a M.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Texas at Dallas.

In his professional duties, Mr. Covert has participated in regulatory review workgroups in Washington D.C. and has overseen numerous solid waste and hazardous waste assessments, investigations and remediation projects at the state and federal levels. Mr. Covert currently serves as a member of the ASTM E-50 committee and is involved with the ASTM standards pertaining to environmental issues.

*Continued, Page 4*

## President's Comments



Joe Waxse, President  
Nebraska Section, ASCE

Greetings Fellow Engineers,

Once again, the dedication and hard work of ASCE Nebraska Section members has achieved noteworthy results!

February's geotechnical section meeting and seminar were both quite successful, in spite of bad weather that would have decimated attendance of most functions. Dr. Ralph B. Peck lived up to everyone's lofty expectations and all of the speakers at the seminar gave first-rate presentations. Dr. Peck and Dr. Benak were honored with formation of the Peck-Benak UNO

Geotechnical Scholarship to be funded from excess proceeds from the seminar. Chairman Loras Klostermann, Dr. Joe Benak and the rest of the Geotechnical Committee deserve our recognition and gratitude!

The section meeting sponsored by the Environmental Committee on March 16<sup>th</sup> should be very interesting and potentially relevant to current events in Omaha. Mr. Mike Covert will give an overview of an award-winning environmental remediation program for Dallas's new convention center site. Hope to see you at Tony Roma's!

The Professional Engineering Coalition (PEC) now has a Lobbyist, Mr. Gordon Kissel. The purpose of PEC is to increase the awareness and involvement of each of the member professional organizations with legislation affecting our profession and to build consensus on the issues. Mr. Kissel will attend our Annual Banquet in May to give us some insight on relevant current and future legislative issues. In that vein, remember to get out and vote on May 19<sup>th</sup>!

Did you see the ASCE advertisement in the World Herald Engineering Supplement during National Engineer's Week? We also had an article in the Midlands Business Journal and sponsored an anti-drug message spot on WOW radio that week. The E-Week Banquet showcased the IST&E facilities and programs and ACEC did a great job sponsoring it this year. NSPE's "Truss Busting" competition at Oakview Mall capped off a very effective overall public relations campaign by local engineers for E-Week 2000.

We are continuing to accomplish much for the engineering profession this year! Thanks again to all of you who are so generously contributing your time and efforts. You really are making a positive difference!

Sincerely Yours,

## 2000 Geotechnical Seminar

The annual geotechnical seminar was held during February and was a huge success. On the evening before the seminar, about 60 people gathered for our monthly Section meeting at Anthony's Restaurant in Omaha to meet the seminar speakers and to hear the world-renowned Dr. Ralph Peck provide a presentation on foundation design of the Rion Bridge in Greece. This 7,500-foot-long bridge is being constructed across the western end of the Gulf of Corinth. Innovative design approaches were used to support the structure in 200 feet of water and upon at least 350 feet of soft sediments located in an earthquake-prone country. Loras Klostermann presented Dr. Peck with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Nebraska Section of ASCE for his work in the advancement of the geotechnical engineering profession at the end of the Section meeting.

The 2000 geotechnical seminar was held on February 18. In spite of scheduling the seminar on the same day as the heaviest snowfall of this winter season, the program on geotechnical construction attracted a large number of participants from Nebraska and surrounding states. About 180 registrations were received. Only a small percentage of persons that were registered were unable to attend due to poor road conditions. After a short delay to allow participants to arrive, interesting and informative presentations were made by the eight scheduled speakers. Topics included the minimization of construction effects to existing structures; the foundation design below the world's tallest building, Petronas Towers; the design, installation, and quality testing of augered cast-in-place piles; the design and construction of a shallow reservoir; and the construction of a deep water intake structure. Many favorable comments were received after the seminar. Joe Waxse announced the formation of the Peck-Benak Geotechnical Scholarship for geotechnical engineering students in honor of Dr. Ralph Peck and University of Nebraska, Omaha professor Dr. Joseph Benak. Profit from this seminar will be used to establish the scholarship. Individual donations are also encouraged.

*Loras A. Klostermann, P.E.  
Chairman, Geotechnical Committee*



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and renew your membership today!



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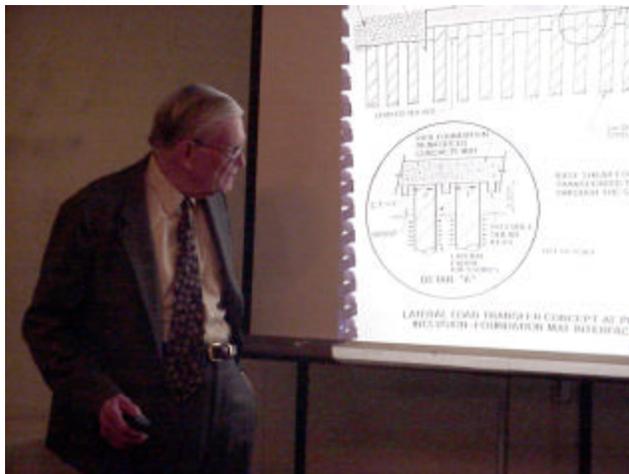
The February Section Meeting at Anthony's in Omaha was well-attended, with some very special guests. At left, Mr. Clyde Baker, Dr. Lymon Reese, and Section President Joe Waxse (L to R).

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At right, Joe Waxse, Section Geotechnical Committee Chair Loras Klostermann, Dr. Ralph Peck, and Dr. Melvin Esrig (L to R).

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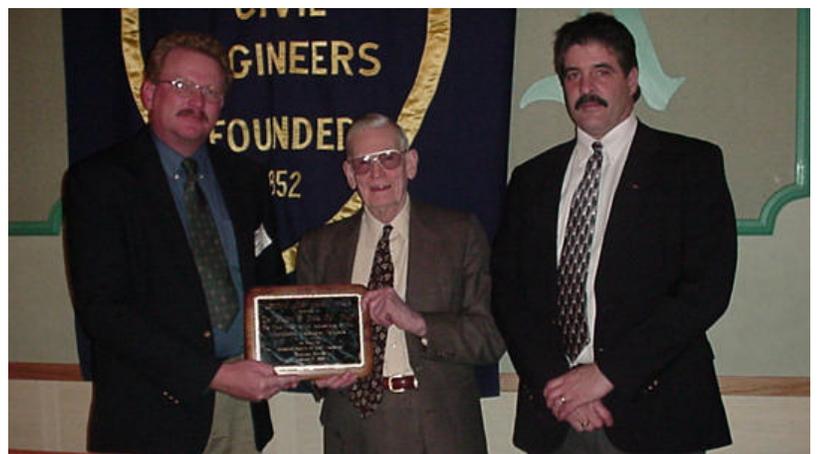
At left, Dr. Peck, during his presentation on the foundation design of the Rion Bridge.

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At right, Loras Klostermann, Dr. Ralph Peck, and Joe Waxse (L to R). Dr. Peck is displaying the award presented to him by the Nebraska Section. The plaque reads, "Lifetime Achievement Award, Presented To Dr. Ralph B. Peck, P.E., Ph.D. For Your Work In The Advancement Of The Geotechnical Engineering Profession, On Behalf Of American Society of Civil Engineers, Nebraska Section, February 17, 2000."

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**Speaker, Continued from Page 1**

Recently, Mr. Covert was a guest speaker at the National Brownfields Forum, sponsored by the USEPA, discussing the assessment, investigation and remediation of the Dallas Arena Project. The Dallas Arena project was recently awarded the Consulting Engineers Council of Texas (CEC) 2000 Environmental Project of the Year.

Mr. Covert will present an overview of the Dallas Arena Project from site selection through ongoing development. The focus of the presentation will be to provide insight and solutions to the numerous issues that arise from coordinating environmental remediation of multiple urban brownfields properties with a complex multi-use development. Various issues including site investigation techniques, soil recycling/management, reimbursement arrangements and alternative approaches to establishment of clean-up goals will be discussed.

The history of the properties, which comprise the Dallas Arena Project, and the distribution of contaminants of concern will be reviewed. The technical approach to the project including an overview of the regulatory requirements will be provided. Remedial and development activities will be summarized, and a question and answer session will follow the presentation.

**Last Month's Meeting**

Sixty-eight people attended the February meeting at Anthony's in Omaha.

Loras Klostermann	Daniel Owens
John Hill	Jeff Kopocis
Daren Thomas	Ryan Paradis
Ed Prost	Rick Kaufmann
Mike Baumert	Jeff Thompson
Nelson Jacobs	Ken Pollard
Rod Determan	Scott Gilliland
Mark Stillmock	Joseph Sherrard
David Klostermeyer	Frances Sherrard
Joe Waxse	Thomas Strauss
Steve Bottum	Steve Nickel
Helen Bottum	Tim Papstein
Al Nelson	John Hartwell
Brian Havens	Craig Denny
Aaron Buettner	Cheryl Jankowski
Al Rahman	Colleen McGovern
Kevin Miller	Dan Thiele
Jim Bertsch	Tim Anderson
Mike Ginsburg	Sandi Keehn
Don Lieberknecht	Kristi Nohavec
Ralph Peck	Tom Scotese
Lymon Reese	Nathan Dickerson
Steve Saye	Daren Konda
Ray Moore	Brad Levich
Mike Kemery	Scott Miller
Carol Glendenning	Matt Kralik
Dick Becker	Bill Gonzalez
Troy Rohret	Mike Heer
Jim Cunningham	Brad Chambers
Larry Davidson	Steve Kathol
Jody Ruckman	J. Z. Vizba
Ryan Beckman	Jason Proskovec
Bryan Cisar	Dan Mahrt
Tom Marnik	Mark Duey

**New Faculty Members Hired in Architectural Engineering**

Two new faculty members have just been hired in the Architectural Engineering Program of the College of Engineering and Technology of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. They are Dr. Clarence Waters, an expert in lighting and electrical systems for buildings, and Dr. Lily Wang, who specializes in building acoustics. These two hires bring the faculty of the Architectural Engineering program to a total of eight, four specializing in building mechanical systems, three in lighting and electrical systems, and one in building acoustics.

Dr. Waters joined the Architectural Engineering faculty at the beginning of January 2000. From 1986 until 1999 he was at Kansas State University, where he was the Head of the Architectural Engineering Department from 1995 to 1998. Before he began his teaching career at Kansas State University, Dr. Waters spent seven years with a consulting engineering firm, designing lighting and electrical systems. Dr. Waters has a B.S. and an M.S. in Architectural Engineering from Kansas State University, and a Ph.D. in Architectural Engineering from Penn State University.

Dr. Wang will join the Architectural Engineering faculty at the beginning of March 2000. Dr. Wang has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Princeton University, and a Ph.D. in acoustics from Penn State University. Since earning her Ph.D. she has spent a year doing post-doctoral research in building acoustics at the University of Denmark.

The Architectural Engineering program is part of the College of Engineering and Technology of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, but its courses are taught at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, in the new Peter Kiewit Institute building.

**Nebraska Section in the News, On The Air**

This advertisement ran in the Omaha World Herald's Engineering Supplement on Sunday February 20, to commemorate Engineers Week 2000. The Section also sponsored a public service announcement about the dangers of drug abuse, which aired on WOW radio in Omaha during Engineer's Week.



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## Officer's Spotlight

This month, we feature Mr. Tom Marnik of Lamp Rynearson & Associates, the Nebraska Section Secretary.



Tom Marnik is the Secretary of the Nebraska Section of ASCE. This is the first year Tom has served on the board and has found it to be a challenging and rewarding opportunity. Mr. Marnik is currently the department manager of land development for Lamp, Rynearson & Associates' (LRA)

and has been with the company since 1992. In this capacity, Tom has acted as Senior Project Manager for some of LRA's high profile projects such as the First National Business Park, Bennington Lake Residential Development, Lakeside Hill Mixed Use Development and Bellevue Volunteer Fire Department Fire Training Center. He is currently involved in the Omaha Convention Center/Arena. Prior to joining LRA, he worked for Olde Boston Engineering in Massachusetts. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He resides in Bellevue with his wife Kathy, son Michael and daughter Jennifer. Tom has also served the community for 15 years as a volunteer firefighter. He is currently a Fire Lieutenant with the Bellevue Volunteer Fire Department.



## ASCE National News

### Opal Awards

The first annual Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) awards dinner is set for April 29, 2000 in the nation's capital. Join ASCE leaders in honoring the people and achievements that make us all proud to be civil engineers. We'll be celebrating leadership, creative spirit and commitment to excellence for past achievements and contributions yet to come.

You and your colleagues will find this prestigious gathering to be rewarding and inspiring. You may reserve individual tickets (\$175 each) or a table of eight (\$1,400). A limited block of rooms has been reserved at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Patty Montgomery at 800-548-ASCE (x-6101) or [pmontgomery@asce.org](mailto:pmontgomery@asce.org).

### Getting Involved in Elections 2000

Why would a civil engineer want to become involved in the upcoming elections? Because civil engineers, and especially leaders of the profession, have a unique opportunity to help elected officials. Most lawmakers aren't civil engineers, but it's the engineers who are experts when it comes to issues that affect many citizen's health, safety, welfare, not to mention the civil engineering profession. Providing information and advice to policy makers allows them to make informed decisions about the quality of people's lives.

How does a civil engineer become more acquainted with policy makers? One of the best ways is to participate in the upcoming elections. Here are ten ways to get involved in Elections 2000:

1. Register to vote.
2. Vote in your state's primary.
3. Vote on November 7, 2000.
4. Watch the Presidential, and other, debates.
5. Visit with candidates at Candidate Forums.
6. Invite candidates to your workplace/job site.
7. Gather information on the candidates.
8. Write to your newspaper about who you feel the best candidate is and why.
9. Contribute money to your favorite candidate (within the confines of the law, of course)
10. Volunteer to work on a candidate's campaign.

For more information on getting involved in Elections 2000, visit [www.asce.org/govnpub/election2000.html](http://www.asce.org/govnpub/election2000.html).

## ASCE National Student Members

In an effort to assess the number of students enrolled in Civil Engineering (CE) Programs in proportion to the number of ASCE national Student Members, we recently sent a questionnaire to all CE Department Heads. In most cases, the information provided illustrated that ASCE is attracting a relatively small percentage of national Student Members. Your assistance is needed to improve these percentages and help ensure the continued success of ASCE by working to build Student Membership.

As a Section member, please remind Student Chapter/Club members that they must complete an application to become an ASCE National Student Member. Applications may be accessed at the ASCE web site at [www.asce.org/membership/member.html](http://www.asce.org/membership/member.html) or obtained through calling ASCE Headquarters at 800-548-2723. ASCE policy requires that a national Student Member be a Student Chapter member, but it is not mandated that a Student Chapter member be a national Student Member. Unfortunately, we encounter continued confusion about this important distinction. As opportunities arise to interact with students, please reinforce the following benefits, only available to National Student Members:

- **Monthly issues of *Civil Engineering* magazine and ASCE News;**
- **Eligibility for \$75,000 in scholarship and financial support for under- and post-graduate studies;**
- **Free access to Resume-Link, a national resume referral database connecting members with prospective employers;**
- **Access to Engineer-In- Training courses and videotapes;**
- **Unlimited networking opportunities with practicing engineers through the ASCE Members Only web site and through meetings with Sections, Branches and Younger Member Committees;**
- **Leadership development and training at national Workshops and Conferences;**
- **Opportunities to participate in the National Concrete Canoe Race and Steel Bridge Competition;**
- **Up to 75% off on all ASCE publications and discounts on conferences, seminars, and self-study courses; &**
- **Automatic upgrade to Associate Member or Affiliate immediately following graduation.**

Challenge the Chapter/Club student leaders in our Section to participate in the 1999-2000 National Student Membership Drive.

## A Note from the Editor

The deadline for the April edition of *The Nebraska Civil Engineer* is Friday, March 31, 2000. Send ideas for items that could be included in this newsletter, articles, or information to:

ASCE Newsletter Editor  
c/o Rick Kaufmann  
Terracon  
2211 South 156th Circle  
Omaha, NE 68130-2506  
Office No.: (402)-330-2202  
Fax No.: (402)-330-7606  
email address: [rakaufmann@terracon.com](mailto:rakaufmann@terracon.com)

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS?**

Please notify ASCE national of any address changes by calling 1-800-548-ASCE (2723) or contact them through their web site at <http://www.asce.org>. Address changes made at the national ASCE office are updated monthly at your local Nebraska section.

### **Upcoming 2000 Meetings**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Organizer</u>
Mar 16	Environmental	Omaha	John Hartwell
Apr 13	Transportation	Omaha	Massoum Moussavi
May	(Annual Meeting)	TBA	Daryoush Razavian

### **We Need Your E-Mail Address**

In order to provide better lead time for our monthly meetings, the Nebraska Section of ASCE will now send email messages to our members when the monthly newsletter is published on our web site. If you did not receive an email prior to receiving this newsletter, it is because we do not have your email address or the address we have is outdated. Please send your updated email address to Brad Chambers at [neasce@radiks.net](mailto:neasce@radiks.net)

**Visit Us**



**on the Web**

**[www.radiks.net/~neasce](http://www.radiks.net/~neasce)**

**Please note: Our URL and email address have changed.**

Our goal is to make the Nebraska Section website a valuable reference source for the Members of the Section. Current and past editions of this newsletter, Section news, and information about ASCE-sponsored and other events can be found on the site, as well as links to our underwriters, and to other organizations. Direct any items of interest or comments to the Section Webmaster, Brad Chambers, at 444-6866 or [neasce@radiks.net](mailto:neasce@radiks.net)

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