

# THE NEBRASKA CIVIL ENGINEER



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Volume L

April 2003

Number 7

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## Meeting Information

**DATE: Thursday, April 24**

**CO-HOSTS:** Transportation Group, Nebraska Section ASCE; UNO Student Chapter

**SPEAKERS:** Future City 2003 National Champions: Megan Horton, Casey, Laski, and Mitchell Laski. Mission Middle School

**TOPIC:** Candeo Glacia, model city on the coast of South Carolina

### **TIMES:**

5:30 – 6:30 Social Hour  
6:30 – 7:30 Dinner  
7:30 Meeting & Program

**LOCATION:** Jerico's Restaurant, 11732 West Dodge Road – Omaha

### **DINNER RESERVATIONS:**

RSVP by noon on **Monday, April 21**  
Contact Mabelle Krajewski at 493-4800  
or [mkrajewski@schemmer.com](mailto:mkrajewski@schemmer.com)

### **MENU:**

Prime Rib - \$23.00  
Boneless Butterfly Pork Chops - \$22.00  
Chicken Cordon Bleu - \$20.00  
(Price includes tax and gratuity)

## Future City National Champions

Megan Horton, Casey Laski, and Mitchell Laski, comprised the National Champion Team of eighth graders that created and built the model city **Candeo Glacia** or "glowing ice." Candeo Glacia refers to the hydrogen fuel extracted from underwater methane deposits which fuels the clean city. For the teams engineering excellence they received a trophy and a one-week trip to U.S. Space Camp.

With the help of their mentors, **Lt. Commander Freddie Bazen**, a U.S. Navy engineer based at Offutt Air Force Base and Bellevue teacher, **Susan Hester**, the team completed a computer model, a large 3-D scale model, an essay on how biotechnology fights pollution, and an abstract describing the city and its services. The team was also prepared to explain aspects of Candeo Glacia to judges who asked team members about any and all aspects of their model city.

The team also won the award of "Best Indoor Environment" for features such as centrally controlled housebots, restocking refrigerators and voice controlled homes.

The competition's goal is to educate seventh- and eighth-graders about engineering. More than 30,000 students from more than 1,000 schools nationwide participated in the contest.

## President's Comments



Brad Levich, P.E.  
NE-ASCE President

Cheers,

The Environmental meeting was a huge success. The meeting was held at the Country Inn and Suites in Lincoln, Nebraska. **Mr. James B. Gulliford** was the featured speaker. He is the Region 7 administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Gulliford provided an interesting look at what some of the issues are facing the EPA today. I would like to thank **Chris Talley** for organizing this meeting.

I attended the award presentation for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual "truss bustin'" event that was completed during E-Week. This year **Mr. Dan Wilwerding** of North High school took 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. The winning truss load to weight ratio was the highest in 15 years. I would like to thank **Bruce Harris** for organizing this event. It is great to see high school students use engineering principals.

The April meeting will be held on April 24, 2003 at Jerico's Restaurant in Omaha, Nebraska. The speakers will be **Megan Horton, Casey Laski, and Mitchell Laski** of Mission Middle School, winners of the 11<sup>th</sup> annual National Engineers Week Future City Competition. They will be accompanied by their parents, teacher **Susan Hester** and mentor **Lt. Commander Freddie Brazen**. Please congratulate them on this great accomplishment.

I would like to challenge every member of the Nebraska Section to encourage a co-worker, friend or other engineer to join ASCE and get involved in the Nebraska Section. Please contact **Dan Mahrt** if you need information about joining ASCE.

Finally, I would encourage everyone to show his or her support for our troops in Iraq and around the World. These are the people who volunteer to protect our freedom.

*Bradley A. Levich*

## *Huskies*

The UNL ASCE Student Chapter would like to extend thanks to ASCE for the \$1600 donation towards the Concrete Cano and Steel Bridge Competitions.

With an excited young team, the *Huskies* are looking forward to making the trip to Wildcat country where they can hopefully show the region what *Husker Power* is all about!

# ASCE Younger members *Nebraska* FAC

Join us for some bowling,  
fun, food, and spirits!

**SCORZ SPORTS CENTER**  
7602 Main St.  
Downtown Ralston, NE  
402-339-7771

**FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2003**  
4:30pm - ???

Contact Marie Maly or Lindsay Madsen  
with any questions

402-493-4800 or [mmaly@schemmer.com](mailto:mmaly@schemmer.com) or  
[lmadsen@schemmer.com](mailto:lmadsen@schemmer.com)

# PEC UPDATE

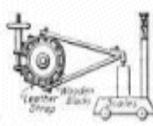
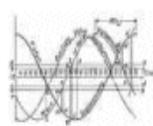
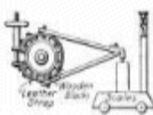
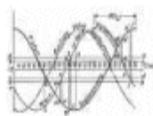
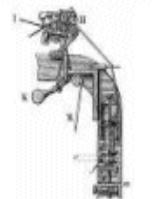
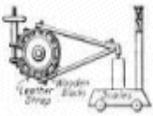
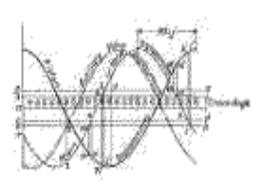
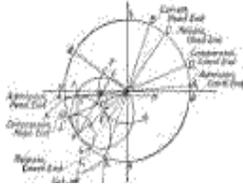
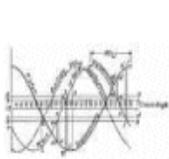
BY MARK STARK, P.E., PRESIDENT - ELECT

There are approximately 30 days left in this year's legislative session so the legislature is now debating bills that were introduced this year. The attached table has several bills that are being watched including the PEC priority bills that were listed in last month's newsletter. Several of the priority bills have been killed in Committee, however there are a few of them that we are still concerned about since they can be modified and attached to other legislation as amendments. Now that the public testimony portion of this legislative session has ended, the general public does not have a direct opportunity to influence the senators unless you have time to watch the debates and personally contact the senators. This is exactly the reason why we hired a lobbyist to watch over these proceedings and protect our interests.

I want to thank all of you who contacted your State Senator concerning LB809, a bill introduced that would have taxed engineers who provide services for non-public clients. The legislation as introduced would have taxed engineers with less than five years of experience \$250 annually. Those with five or more years of experience would have been taxed \$1,200 annually. This legislation was introduced as a safety measure in case the legislation taxing engineering services, LB 453, died in committee. Luckily, that bill has been held in committee so it is unlikely it will make it to the floor this year. The possibility still exists that it can come out of committee and be tacked onto other legislation as previously mentioned. We will keep you posted.

| Legislative Bill   | Committee         | Status                          |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| LB 16 (Brashear) Change filing requirements for professional services businesses   | Business          | General File, 3/11              |
| LB 32 (Schrock) Authorize storm water management programs for certain political subdivisions   | Natural Resources | General Filew/ComAM811, 3/14    |
| LB 37 (Price) Adopt the Wage Replacement Savings Plan Act which allows eligible employees to put away money into a trust to withdraw for future otherwise unpaid leaves of absence | Business          | General File                    |
| LB 127 (Quandahl) Eliminate a restriction on limited liability company business  | Banking           | Final Reading -3/14             |
| LB 135 (Thompson) Change the allocation of the Highway Trust Fund  | Transportation    | Gov. Approv. - 3/20 IPP'd - 3/6 |
| LB 164 (Schrock) Change the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Construction   | Natural Resources | Final Reading, 44-0-5           |
| LB 187 (Baker) Require subdivision plat reviews within highway corridors   | Transportation    | Gov. Approv., 3/20 Select File  |
| LB 201 (Burling) Change construction lien notice provisions  | Judiciary         | Held                            |
| LB 453 (Aguilar) Impose sales tax on engineering, architectural, legal, and accounting services  | Revenue           | Held                            |
| LB 500 (Smith) Adopt the County Highway and City Street Superintendents Act  | Transportation    | <b>Select File, 4/1</b>         |
| LB 541 (Dw. Pedersen) Change competitive bidding requirements for school districts   | Education         | Held                            |
| LB 552 (Hartnett) Change provisions relating to the Highway Trust Fund   | Education         | IPP'd, 3/6                      |
| LB 581 (Bourne) Change sales tax provisions relating to services exemptions  | Revenue           | Held                            |
| LB 587 (Bourne) Change sales tax provisions relating to services   | Revenue           | Held                            |
| LB 591 (Quandahl) Provide for attorney's fees in contract actions  | Judiciary         | Held                            |
| LB 599 (Tyson) Change and eliminate requirements for use of engineers and architects   | Health            | Held                            |
| LB 612( Bourne) Change factors considered in developing the state road plan  | Transportation    | Held                            |
| LB 626 ((Preister) Provide requirements for contracts for services   | Government        | <b>Select File, 4/1</b>         |
| LB 639 (Schrock) Transfer funds from the Highway Trust Fund to NE Environmental Trust Fund   | Appropriations    | Held                            |
| LB 640 (Schrock) Transfer funds from the Highway Trust Fund to the NE Resource Development Fund  | Appropriations    | Held                            |
| LB 643 (Hartnett) Change provisions relating to the state building code  | Urban Affairs     | Held                            |
| LB 649 (Hartnett) Authorize additional tax levy authority for school buildings   | Revenue           | IPP'd, 3/10                     |
| LB 655 (Schimek) Change provisions relating to construction liens  | Judiciary         | Held                            |
| LB 732 (Connealy) Provide restrictions and requirements on construction contracts  | Judiciary         | Held                            |
| LB 763 (Brashear) Provide a preference for Nebraska products, businesses, and taxpayers in certain bidding procedures  | Government        | Held                            |
| LB 765 (Bourne) Require legislative approval of road projects  | Transportation    | Held                            |
| LB 770 (Legislative Program Evaluation Committee) Change provisions for public contracts for personal services   | Government        | IPP'd, 3/20                     |
| LB 780 (Beutler) Transfer funds from the Highway Cash Fund to the General Fund   | Appropriations    | Held                            |
| LB 784 (Janssen) Adopt the Public Facilities Construction and Finance Act  | Government        | General File w/ComAM733         |
| LB 809 (Appropriations) Impose an occupation tax on certain professions  | Revenue           | IPP'd, 3/20                     |

# The Order of The Engineer



The Order of the Engineer is an association of engineers dedicated to the teaching, administration, or practice of their profession. Initiation into the Order includes adherence to a Creed and acceptance of a stainless steel ring to be worn on the working hand. There are no further meetings to attend, or dues or subscriptions to pay. The Obligation is voluntary and for life. It does not replace or compete with NSPE, ASCE, AIEE, or any other educational, scientific, or engineering organization, but lends dignity and significance to those who are members.

In the midst of a career, it is possible to lose sight of goals so that dreams grow dim in the press of earning a living and establishing a vocation. The ring is a constant reminder of the wearer's calling, a bond of strength in adversity and assurance that one is not alone in his endeavor, but is joined by a vast number of contemporaries with a common purpose and resolution. It is a badge of recognition which also will be known to the public. It is worn with pride and viewed with honor. The ring reminds you that you are an engineer.

It is only for those who have met the high standards of engineering training, administration, or practice, and who voluntarily accept the Obligation. The ring is not a trinket to be bought nor an award to be conferred carelessly. It is, rather, the union of the engineer with the engineering profession.

The Obligation of the Order of the Engineer is similar to the Canadian "Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer" initiated there in 1926. It uses a wrought iron ring, conducts a secret ceremony, and administers an oath authorized by Rudyard Kipling. The extension of the Ritual outside Canada was prevented by copyright and other conflicting factors. The Order was started in 1970 by members of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers who became part of the international engineering organization started in Canada. The Charter for the Nebraska link, as it is called, was granted in 1976.

The Order of the Engineer strives for the following objectives: Develop a spirit of pride and responsibility in the engineering profession; Strengthen the interface between training for and the practice of engineering; and, Present the public with a visible symbol identifying the engineer. The onetime initiation fee for The Order of the Engineer is \$20.00. If you are interested, refer to the information below. Some of the proceeds will go to support the Mathcounts program which encourages 7th and 8th grade students to continue their math studies and perhaps select a career in Engineering. Visit the web at [www.order-of-the-engineer.org](http://www.order-of-the-engineer.org)

*Article from [www.order-of-the-engineer.org](http://www.order-of-the-engineer.org)*

**We are planning to have an initiation ceremony at our annual meeting in May.** Please Contact Rick Kaufmann by **May 1st** if you would like to join the Order of the Engineer at: 2211 South 156th Circle, Omaha, NE 68130-2506, Office (V) (402) 330-2202, (F) (402) 330-7606, [rakaufmann@terracon.com](mailto:rakaufmann@terracon.com)

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Ring Size - Small Finger of Working Hand \_\_\_\_\_

## "E" Week's Annual Truss Bustin' Competition

By Bruce Harris, P.E.

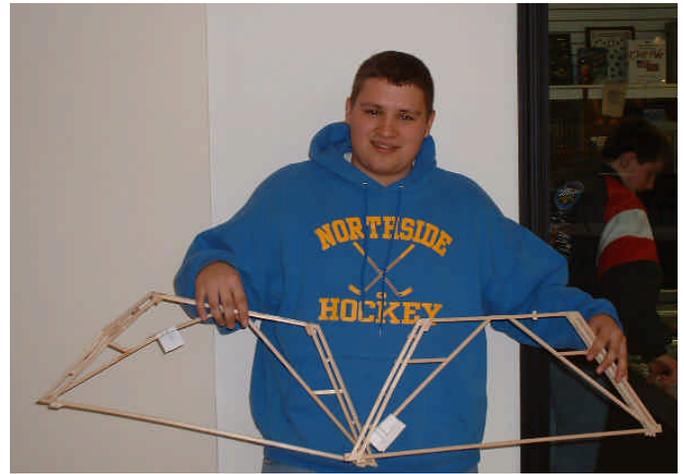
The fifteenth annual "truss bustin'" event during Engineers' Week was a huge success for local Omaha Area high school students.

The Balsa Wood Competition was held during Engineers' Week in February at the Westroads Mall. Students from Millard West, Gross, North, and Northwest High Schools; altogether 86 trusses were entered in the competition. Trusses were loaded at third points across a 24-inch span to failure. The winning truss from North High weighed 36.8 grams (1.3 ounces) and carried a total load of 436 pounds. The second place truss weighed 44.8 grams (1.6 ounces) and carried a total load of 542 pounds. The third place truss weighed 28.1 grams (1.0 ounces) and carried a total load of 287 pounds. The load-to-weight ratio of the winning truss was 4.808. (Note: Weight is taken to the 1.25 power in calculating the load-to-weight ratio) The load-to-weight ratio of 4.808 is the highest ratio in the fifteen-year history of the competition and surpassed the previous highest ratio by more than 1.3, which is simply amazing given the rate of increase over the past fifteen years in the load-to-weight ratios.



Pictured from left to right: **Dr. Lee Kallstrom** (North High Instructor), **Brad Levich** (President NE Section of ASCE), **Dan Wilderding** (North High Student), and **Bruce Harris** ("E" Week and High School Chairman) **Paul Wilwerding** (Dan's father), and **Gene Haynes** (Principal North High)

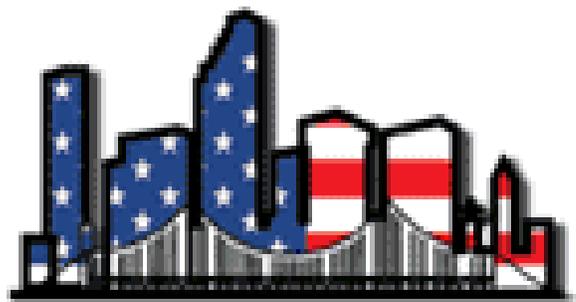
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Dan Wilwerding** (North High) (First time in the history of the contest that one student took more than one place) 1<sup>st</sup> place prize was \$150, 2<sup>nd</sup> place was \$75 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$50



**Dan Wilderding** holding two of his winning trusses during the testing at the West Roads Mall

Brad Levich, President NE Section ASCE, and Bruce Harris, "E" Week and High School Chairman, participated in presenting prize and a framed certificate for his accomplishment.

A **special thanks** to all the Nebraska Section members that helped to contact the metro area high schools and assisted during truss testing, the Student Chapter and Dr. Chris Tuan Faculty Advisor from UNO that helped with weighing trusses, testing and documentation during the contest. Thanks to the Civil Engineering Round Table for our prime location at the Westroads Mall and those High Schools that participated. We are looking forward to more participation from the other metro high schools in the years ahead.



## The Infrastructure Security Partnership

[Protecting America's Infrastructure](http://www.tisp.org)

ASCE is a founding member of The Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP), which hosts a Web site ([www.tisp.org](http://www.tisp.org)) with the latest information on products, research, tools and techniques that can be used to protect bridges, buildings, water supply systems and other critical physical infrastructure.

## Last Month's Meeting

March, 18th Lincoln, NE

Jim Gulliford, Region 7 administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, gave us some insight into the issues currently in front of the EPA. Thanks to Chris Talley for doing an excellent job putting the meeting together.

Attendees of last months meeting:

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| David Admiraal    | Holly Lindbergen    |
| Ken Almquist      | Matt Lindberg       |
| Ron Bottorff      | Gretchen Livingston |
| Joe Citta         | Lindsay Madsen      |
| Mohammed Dahab    | Steve Masters       |
| Joan Darling      | Terry McArthur      |
| Niki Figard       | Alan Meyer          |
| Travis Figard     | Peggy Meyers        |
| Paul Gonzales     | Ray Moore           |
| Dennis Grams      | Steve Nickel        |
| Jim Gulliford     | Deb Olinger         |
| Lance Hedquist    | Ed Prost            |
| John Hill         | Daryoush Razavian   |
| Carter Hubbard    | Jay Ringernburg     |
| Steve Ingratia    | Kurt Rohn           |
| Karen Jensen      | Reed Schwartzkoph   |
| Holly Johnson     | Jane Spiers         |
| Rick Kaufmann     | Mike Spiers         |
| Loras Klostermann | Mark Stark          |
| Daren Konda       | Pat Sward           |
| Matthew Kruse     | Chris Talley        |
| Theresa Kub       | Wayne Woldt         |
| Lou Lamberty      | Paul Woodward       |
| Brad Levich       |                     |



Pictured above from left: **Dennis Grams**, formerly from the EPA, and currently with Olsson Associates; **Chris Talley**, Environmental Technical Chair, **Jim Gulliford**, Region 7 administrator for the EPA; and **Brad Levich**, NE-ASCE President.

## Renew Your **ASCE** Membership Today!

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- Call 800.548.2723 or 703.295.6300 — just charge your dues by Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover
- Return the remittance portion of your membership renewal form along with your payment

Be sure to renew your membership in the Nebraska section as well as your national ASCE membership.

### 2002-2003 Important Dates

**April:**

24- MONTHLY MEETING (Co-hosted by Transportation Group and Univ. of Nebraska-Omaha Student Chapter), Omaha

**May:**

10- Friday Afternoon Club

16 - ANNUAL MEETING, Quarry Oaks, Ashland, NE

### A Note from the Editor

The deadline for the May edition of *The Nebraska Civil Engineer* is April 30. Send ideas for items that could be included in this newsletter, articles, or information to:

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14710 West Dodge Road, Ste 100  
Omaha, NE 68154-2027

Office: 402.496.2498 Fax: 402.496.2730  
e-mail address: [peggy-m@lra-inc.com](mailto:peggy-m@lra-inc.com)

**If you are not receiving regular e-mail updates and monthly meeting announcements, please send your updated e-mail address to Peggy Meyers at the above address.**

Send items of interest for our website -- [www.neasce.org](http://www.neasce.org) -- to Brad Chambers, at [webmaster@neasce.org](mailto:webmaster@neasce.org)



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