

The Nebraska Civil

Engineer



Official Publication of the Nebraska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers

Calendar of Events:

September:

22 - Structural Group Meeting, Anthony's Restaurant, Omaha

23 - Twenty-Fifth Annual Structural Conference, Scott Conference Center, Omaha

October:

20 - Construction Group Meeting, Lincoln

November:

16 - Management Meeting, Omaha

Leaders Needed

The Nebraska Section of ASCE needs members to fill positions within the organization. ASCE currently has openings for the following positions:

- * Fund Raising Committee
- * High Schools / National Engineers Week Chair
- * Future City Coordinator

It is important to fill these positions soon. Please contact Steve Kathol with questions and inquiries.

Highlights of this Issue:

Top Five Interview Mistakes

Letter from Local Destination Imagination Team

Nominations for Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award

The Structural Group Presents:

"Structural Engineering Responsibility Issues"
Thursday, September 22nd

Featuring: Norman L. Scott, P.E.
Consulting Engineer, Director.
The Consulting Engineers Group, Inc

Norman L. Scott is founder of the Consulting Engineers Group with principal offices in Chicago and San Antonio. CEG is a precast concrete specialty engineering firm that has provided structural services on several dozen stadiums for NFL, MLB and university sports teams. He is a former CEO of the Precast Prestressed Concrete Institute and is a past president of the American Concrete Institute. Scott organized the ACI committee that prepared the "Guidelines for Authorities and Responsibilities in Concrete Design and Construction". In 2002, an article that he wrote for Concrete International received the Wason Medal for most meritorious paper published by ACI during the previous year. The paper was titled "In Construction, Who is Responsible for What?" Scott is a graduate of UNL and has been recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus—University of Nebraska Department of Civil Engineering.

Location: Anthony's Restaurant & Lounge
7220 F Street, Omaha

Times:	Social Hour	5:30
	Dinner/Announcements	6:30
	Presentation	7:30

Menu: Petite Club Sirloin, Chicken Breast
Parmigiana, Orange Roughy, Lasagna

Spouses and guests welcome
\$20 with a meal; \$10 without a meal.
RSVP by 12 PM Monday, September 19 th
TO CRYSTAL 402.496.2498 OR
VP@NEASCE.ORG SUBJECT LINE: ASCE RSVP

*Prices include tax and gratuity.
Portions of the proceeds will go towards hosting our speaker.*

From the President

- Loras A Klostermann, P.E.



Steve Kathol, P.E., S.E.
NE-ASCE President

Hello ASCE Nebraska Section members and welcome to a new year! I hope you all had an excellent summer. This year is shaping up to be another exciting one for Nebraska Section members. We have three conferences planned this year. The Structural Conference, celebrating its 25th year, will be held Friday, September 23rd, and promises to be an excellent conference. The Geotechnical Conference Committee is hard at work and is planning a conference for February. The 2nd annual Transportation Conference will be a joint conference with MOVITE and will be held in Lincoln in May. In addition to the three conferences, we have 8 monthly meetings scheduled from September through May.

The Nebraska Section board of directors needs you! We are looking for a few new board members this year. Ben Higgins, P.E. is stepping down as Fundraising Chair and we need an energetic member to fill this important position. A special thank you to Ben for all his hard work and dedication over the last few years. We are also looking for members to join the Truss Busting Competition and Future City Competition Committees. These are very important committees that plan and coordinate competitions among secondary school students. The competitions allow students to get a flavor for what Civil Engineers do, and they have a lot of fun! If you are interested in joining the Nebraska Section Board of Directors and would like to fill one of these positions, please contact me.

I think I speak for all of us that our thoughts, hearts and prayers go out to the victims and survivors of hurricane Katrina. This devastating natural disaster has proven how vulnerable we can be to Nature's wrath. It also demonstrates how important our infrastructure is in protecting human life. As Civil Engineers, our responsibility is to design infrastructure to resist the forces of man and nature. This is what we do and we're good at it. This disaster has again shed light on the fact that we also have a responsibility to inform, convince, and lead policy makers in making good infrastructure decisions. Once the Gulf Coast is cleaned up, the call will come to rebuild. After all, we are Americans—this is what we do and we're good at it. When the call comes, Civil Engineers should lead the efforts and determine where, when, how, and perhaps even if cities are rebuilt.

Finally, it is a pleasure to serve as president of the Nebraska Section this year and I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings and conferences.

Steve D. Kathol, P.E., S.E.
President, ASCE-Nebraska Section

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Beware of the Top 5 Interview Mistakes

We've all heard stories of job candidates who looked great on paper but who were absolute disasters in person. With fewer interview opportunities available in our competitive job market, it's essential to make the best possible first impression. Learn from the mistakes of others and avoid these top five worst interview blunders:

1. Not preparing for the tough interview questions.

Like every job seeker, you probably have your own set of tough interview questions you hope will never be asked. The best strategy is to prepare ahead of time with answers to ALL of these questions. A career coach can be a great resource for helping you work out suitable answers with a positive spin on negative or challenging career situations.

2. Failure to match communication styles.

Making a great first impression is easier to do when you communicate effectively with your interviewer. The best way to do this is by mirroring his or her communication style. Allowing your interviewer to set the tone of the conversation will put him or her at ease and makes the conversation flow more naturally.

For instance:

* If the interviewer seems all business, don't attempt to loosen him or her up with a joke or story. Be succinct and businesslike.

* If the interviewer is personable, try discussing his or her interests. Often personal items on display in the office can be a clue.

* If asked a direct question, answer directly. Then follow up by asking if more information is needed.

3. Talking too much.

In my recruiting days, I abhorred over-talkative candidates, and so did most of my client employers who interviewed these candidates. Over-talking takes several forms:

* Taking too long to answer direct questions. The impression: This candidate just can't get to the point.

* Nervous talkers. The impression: This candidate is covering up something or is outright lying.

To avoid either of these forms of over-talking, practice answering questions in a direct manner. Using role-playing in preparing for your interview will help you avoid excessive, nervous talking.

4. Saying negative things about your current or past employers or managers.

Even if your last boss was Attila the Hun, avoid stating

your ill feelings about the person or work situation. No matter how reasonable your complaints, your negative comments will be viewed as disrespect towards your boss. When faced with the challenge of talking about former employers, make sure you are prepared with a positive spin on your experiences.

5. Giving away too much salary and earnings information.

Candidates often weaken their future earning potential by speaking too freely about their current income. No matter the official salary range of the position you are interviewing for, your current earnings have an enormous effect on the size of the offer. Investing in a career coach to help you answer salary questions can add thousands of dollars to your new job offer. You already know that it takes a strong resume that sets you apart as a candidate of choice to be invited for an interview. The next step is to hone your interviewing skills to actually win job offers. Polishing your interviewing skills can mean the difference between getting the job and being a runner-up.

ASCE SUPPORTS LOCAL YOUNGSTERS

The Nebraska Section of ASCE donated money to the Anderson-Grove Elementary School Destination Imagination Team. The money was part of a fund raising effort to send the kids and their families to the global competition in Tennessee. The Team recently sent a thank you note to treasurer John Hill. Here is an excerpt from the letter.

On behalf of the Anderson-Grove Elementary School 5th Grade Destination Imagination Team, I would like to thank you for your support. Our fund raising was a success thanks to your generous donation of \$300.00. The proceeds from our fund raising efforts helped us defray expenses of over \$9000.00 and allowed the team members and their families to attend the global finals in Knoxville Tennessee of May 25-28.

*Thank you for helping us reach our Destination!
Laurie Stuart*

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED NOW FOR THE 2006 YOUNG GOVERNMENT CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

For Demonstrated Leadership Potential in and for Significant Contributions to Public Service Engineering

This Award is presented annually to a distinguished young civil engineer employed in the public sector. The National Award Winner will receive a plaque at a session to be determined at the 2006 ASCE Annual Conference.

Other outstanding nominees may be recognized with Certificates of Commendations. Certificates of Commendation will be presented at the Younger Member Leadership Symposium at the 2006 ASCE Annual Conference.

Nominees must be a member of ASCE, age thirty-five years or less on December 31, 2005, an engineer of recognized leadership potential, employed full-time in the public sector for a minimum of five (5) years as of December 31, 2005, and presently employed in the U.S. public sector. E.I.T. certification is required of all candidates.

Engineers who have received a Zone Young Government Civil Engineer Award or a Certificate of Commendation in the past may apply for the National Award provided they meet all criteria. However, they will not be eligible to receive a Certificate of Commendation for the current award year.

Qualifications of the award nominees will be judged on the following:

- X Excellent performance that has demonstrated leadership potential in public sector civil engineering
- X Evidence of high character and professional integrity
- X Civic and humanitarian activities (community service)
- X **Outstanding contributions to ASCE**

The form can be found on the Committee on Younger Members (CYM) Awards website at http://www.asce.org/pressroom/honors/cym_awrds.cfm.

Completed nomination forms must be returned to ASCE **NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1, 2006** in order to be eligible for the award.

Seminars Coming to the Area

In our continuing effort to enhance communications between ASCE's Sections, Branches and ASCE National, Geographic Services is pleased to advise you of the following seminars scheduled in your geographic area from October 2005 through December 2005:

October 6-7, 2005
Deep Foundations (Geotechnical)
Kansas City, MO

October 19-21, 2005
Introduction to the Design & Construction of Tunnels (Geotechnical) St. Louis, MO

November 30- December 2, 2005
Introduction to the Design & Construction of Tunnels (Geotechnical) Denver, CO

These in-depth, practice-oriented programs are produced by ASCE's Continuing Educations Department.

Detailed descriptions of the seminars (by title) are available on ASCE's website at www.asce.org/conted/seminars.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Kelly Jarvis, Continuing Education Registrar at kjarvis@asce.org, or Michael Cook, Manager, Geographic Services at mcook@asce.org.

Put a Spotlight on Your Favorite Project!

If you'd like to see your project in an upcoming NE-ASCE Newsletter, please send articles and pictures to: editor@neasce.org

Spotlights will be 1- 2 pages as space permits. Companies supporting the NE-ASCE Newsletter will be given precedence, but any company with ASCE members may participate.

NE-ASCE News



Structural Reliability in a Changing World

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All eyes will be on the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham, Alabama for the 2006 Electrical Transmission Conference - "Structural Reliability in a Changing World".

The 2006 Conference is an exciting forum for transmission and substation engineers to exchange technical knowledge, via workshops, paper presentations, exhibits and tours. Some of the topics that will be covered include structural analysis, design, foundations, asset management and project case studies.

For additional information visit www.asce.org/or contact Debbie Smith at dsmith@asce.org or 703-295-6095.

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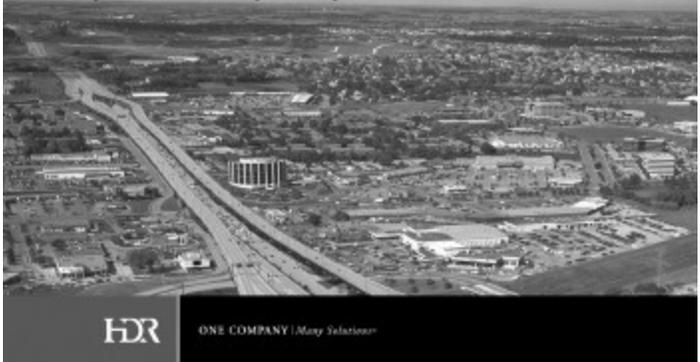
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