



October 2008

## EVENT CALENDAR:

### October

3rd - Younger Member  
Kickball - Omaha

18th - Construction Group  
Meeting - UNL Campus  
- Lincoln

### November

18th - Management Group  
Meeting  
Construction Group  
Meeting - UNL Campus  
- Lincoln

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

From The President

Civil Engineers and Public  
Policy - ASCE Policy  
Statements (Part 2)

Nebraska's Infrastructure  
Report Card

Key Contacts

## PRESENTING

### The Construction Group Presents:

*"New UNL Physics Building Construction"*

Thursday, October 16th

A tour of the new physics building under construction on the UNL campus has been arranged for NEASCE. The building is located just west of 16th Street between Vine and W Streets. Everyone will meet at Wayne Jensen's office W-145 Nebraska Hall- CM Offices at 5:15. The tour starts at 5:30 and will be conducted by the project superintendent. You can park in the A area parking lot immediately north of Nebraska Hall. A one day parking pass will be provided. The tour is scheduled to last one hour.

Hardhats are required in the construction site. Please bring your own if possible or one will be provided. Dinner at Spaghetti Works Downtown will follow the tour.

**Location: Nebraska Hall - UNL Campus**

16th Street between Vine and W Streets, Lincoln

**Times:** Nebraska Hall 5:15  
Physics Building Tour 5:30  
Spaghetti Works 7:00  
228 North 12th Street, Lincoln

**Menu:** Fettuccini & Spaghetti  
Mainicotti & Spaghetti  
Chicken Parmesan & Fettuccini Alfredo  
Manicotti & Eggplant Parmesan  
Lasagna & Fettuccini Alfredo

Entrees include Salad, Italian Loaf, and choice of coffee, tea or soda. Spouses and guests are welcome. Meal price is \$14.50 per person or \$10.00 without meal. Student meals FREE. RSVP by 12 PM Thursday, October 9th to [rsvp@neasce.org](mailto:rsvp@neasce.org). Please include your meal selection. Subject Line: ASCE RSVP

Deadline for articles to be published in the November newsletter will be October 23rd. Email articles to Aaron Grote at [editor@neasce.org](mailto:editor@neasce.org)

2008-2009  
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## From the President

### - Marie Maly, P.E.



Marie Maly, P.E. President of ASCE

With October comes the changing of the leaves, Halloween candy begging to be purchased, and the beginning of ASCE's fiscal year. Look for your membership renewal form in your inbox or mailbox. Renew your membership soon, and join in the activities available locally and nationally.

For those of you who weren't able to attend the September Section Meeting or Annual Structural Conference, we had a great time on both Thursday night and Friday. The turnout was great, so congratulations to Scott Gilliland, Rich Kotan, and the rest of the team for a job well done! Fortunately for our Section and our State, Scott doesn't plan on resting. The Nebraska Section is just beginning the process of preparing a Report Card on Nebraska's Infrastructure, and Scott will be championing this effort. A Report Card will be helpful for illustrating to our elected officials the importance of infrastructure improvements in our state, and voters will be able to use it when evaluating their support of a bond issue. The citizens of Nebraska will all have the opportunity to benefit from NEASCE's efforts. See the call for Report Card volunteers in this newsletter – Scott will be waiting to hear from you!

I would like to thank Ed Prost, our Past President, who represented us in the Region 7 Assembly recently. (This body replaced the District 16 Council when ASCE's new Regions were formed.) Also, thanks to Loras Klostermann, another Past President of the Section, who serves as the Nebraska/Wyoming Governor for Region 7. He returned from his meetings in Kansas City with news that ASCE does not anticipate a dues change this year.

Next up on our local calendar is the Construction Group meeting on Thursday, October 16. Wayne Jensen, our new Construction Chair has planned a great tour of the new physics building at UNL (still under construction, so bring a hard hat if you have one). After the tour, we'll head over to Spaghetti Works for dinner. RSVP soon - we hope to see you there!

(Continued Page 3)

(From The President, page 2)

On the legislative front, Nebraska's Unicameral is studying the possibility of changing the requirements for the Director of the Department of Natural Resources. One potential change is to remove the Professional Engineering requirement; ASCE and the Nebraska Section are opposed to such a change. We are preparing a letter to the Natural Resources Committee indicating our opposition. See Policy Statement 416.

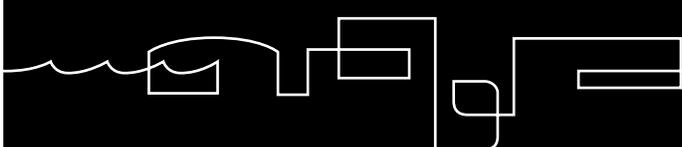
As you consider other ways to get involved as a citizen engineer, check out the voter resources on the Nebraska Secretary of State website: <http://www.sos.ne.gov/elec/>. We've also included some tips from ASCE's Government Relations office in the newsletter – remember: it is your responsibility and right as a citizen to make an informed decision when it comes to our representation. Do your research to prepare for Election Day (November 4)! Also, mark your calendar for TUESDAY, November 18 (schedule change) – Senator Tony Fulton, the only engineer currently in the Nebraska Unicameral, will be speaking at our Section meeting.

## September Meeting Hosted by the Structural Group

Thanks to Scott Gilliland for hosting the September Meeting. The names listed below can be considered official documentation of attendances at the September meeting worth 1 PDH credit.

John Hill	Andres Torres
Gary Krause	Scott Gilliland
Mike Baumert	Bruce Harris
Karl Burns	Amelia Toellner
Brad Chambers	Jeff Ehler
Ed Prost	Mike Sklenar
Jeff Kopocis	Joe Flaxbeard
Marie Maly	Aaron Buettner
Aaron Grote	Mike McIntosh
Marty Weander	Lindsay Madsen
Mike Naccarato	Jay Ling
Loras Klostermann	Mike Reif
Laurie Carrette Zoak	Mark Egger
Nate Dickerson	Randy Samson
Caleb Beasley	Ken Kilzer
Paul Diertong	Diane Jones

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Be a Key Contact!

ASCE's Key Contact Program is the Society's grassroots advocacy program. Through the Key Contact Program, members can learn about public policy issues important to the civil engineering profession and help advance the priorities of the profession through interaction with elected leaders.

Learn more and join!

Any ASCE member can join the Key Contact Program. Visit <http://www.asce.org/keycontacts> to complete the online enrollment form.

## Fall is Campaign Season

ASCE wants to take this opportunity to make sure you are ready to exercise your constitutional rights in November. Here are four easy steps to get you started:

- First, are you registered to vote? If you are not, you can visit ASCE's advocacy website and get the information you need for your state. [http://asce.capwiz.com/election/register\\_vote/](http://asce.capwiz.com/election/register_vote/)
- Second, are you educated about the issues? ASCE's Advocacy website provides you with detailed information about the candidates running in your district and any ballot initiatives you might encounter at the polls. For issue specific information, you can visit ASCE's Members Only page to read the Key Vote Scorecard. <http://www.asce.org/membersonly>. ASCE also participates in a number of coalitions that seek to educate voters including Scientists and Engineers for America (<http://sefora.org>) and Engineering the Vote ([www.engineeringthevote.org](http://www.engineeringthevote.org)). Both of these organizations can help you arrive at an informed choice.
- Third, have you reminded someone else to get registered or to vote on November 4? A personal recommendation is a powerful tool, all it takes is a casual conversation and you can bring someone else into the process. Challenge yourself this fall to encourage one friend who has never voted to do so this election.
- Fourth, don't forget to vote on November 4th! Are there any elderly or homebound people in your neighborhood? Do a good deed this Election Day and give a ride to someone who might have trouble getting to the polls themselves.

If you have any questions about these steps please contact ASCE Government Relations at [govwash@asce.org](mailto:govwash@asce.org) or 202-789-7850.

## Civil Engineers and Public Policy – ASCE Policy Statements (Part 2)

A policy statement is a broad overview of policy on a topic of continuing concern to the civil engineering profession. ASCE has 163 policy statements on a variety of topics. This month, we will take a look at the Licensure; Safety; Dams, Floor Control, and Levees; and Tax Issues policy statements. All summaries indicate something ASCE supports unless otherwise noted. For more information, see: <https://www.asce.org/pressroom/news/policy.cfm>.

### Licensure

PS 376: Ethics Training for Continued Licensure. Encourages state licensing boards to require professional ethics as part of licensure renewal.

PS 432: Licensure Examination. Licensing exams that recognize a Body of Knowledge and provide candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their competency on a range of topics.

PS 524: Licensure and Advancing Credentialing within the Civil Engineering Profession. PE licensure for the breadth of Civil Engineering; post-PE certification for specialty expertise.

PS 130: Licensure of Professional Engineers. Licensure of professional engineers; establishment of rules of professional conduct.

PS: 464: Professional Licensure Mobility Agreement. The adoption of mobility agreements for transfer of professional licensure among licensing jurisdictions.

PS 369: The Purpose of the Fundamentals of Engineering Examination. The primary purpose of the FE is to measure the preparedness an individual for progress through the engineering licensure process.

PS 385: Registration Requirements for Government Engineers. Government agencies should require registration for some engineers and pay registration fees for their employees.

PS 450: State Licensure Boards for Professional Engineers. ASCE offers several criteria for and suggestions to licensure boards.

PS 425: Uniform Continuing Professional Development for Licensure. Documented continuing education for licensure renewal and uniformity of requirements across jurisdictions.

### Safety

PS 350: Construction Site Safety. Encouraging attention and commitment from all parties involved. Includes specific suggestions for division of responsibilities.

PS 424: Crane Safety on Construction Sites. Efforts in the construction industry to promote and specify safety improvements, including specific goals.

PS 351: Peer Review. Peer reviews are promoted for certain kinds of projects, can be initiated by various entities, have a defined scope, and should occur throughout the process.

PS 283: Periodic Inspection of Existing Facilities. A requirement for all structures to be maintained through appropriately supervised inspections, maintenance programs, and/or rehabilitation.

PS 290: Post-Construction Drawings of Civil Engineering Works. Drawings showing the location and layout of post-construction conditions should be performed by licensed surveyors and/or professional engineers.

### Dams, Floor Control, and Levees

PS 470: Dam Repair and Rehabilitation. Recommending federal and state legislation be enacted to provide a funding source for repair and rehabilitation of dams in the US.

PS 421: Floodplain Management. Supporting protection of natural floodplains and adoption of proactive management policies. Opposing development in high-risk areas and those below sea level. Includes suggested tools.

PS 511: National Levee Safety Program. Federal/  
(Policy Statements: Continues on Page 6)

(Policy Statements: Continued from Page 5)

state legislation and regulation to protect against levee failures. Mandatory safety inspections and a national inventory.

PS 280: Responsibility for Dam Safety. Federal/state legislation and regulation to protect against dam failures. State programs for the safety of non-federal dams.

### **Tax Issues**

PS 314: Taxation of Employee Educational Assistance. Employer paid educational assistance should not be considered part of the employee's gross income for tax purposes.

PS 325: Unrelated Business Income Tax. Preservation of the existing unrelated business income tax (UBIT) statute, as well as increased IRS enforcement of the current UBIT rules.

## **Nebraska's Infrastructure Report Card**

The Nebraska Section - American Society of Civil Engineers is initiating an effort to complete Nebraska's first Infrastructure Report Card. Scott Gilliland, Structural Technical Group Chair, has volunteered to champion this effort. We will need different levels of input from engineers with experience in all types of infrastructure in order to prepare a comprehensive Report Card. See the Report Card for America's Infrastructure ([www.asce.org/reportcard/](http://www.asce.org/reportcard/)) for ideas on the types of infrastructure we may be investigating. Brian Pallasch, Managing Director of ASCE's Government Relations & Infrastructure Initiatives, will be in Nebraska in October to orient those individual interested in being involved. Please contact Scott ([structural@neasce.org](mailto:structural@neasce.org)) if you are interested in learning more about this effort.

## **Annual Structural Conference**

The Twenty-Eighth Annual Structural Conference was held at the Scott Conference Center on Friday, September 19. Nearly 200 people from around the region attended the conference. The Annual Structural Conference Committee planned and hosted the conference that was co-sponsored again this year by the Nebraska Section - American Society of Civil Engineers, the Structural Engineers Association of Nebraska, the Peter Kiewit Institute, and the University of Nebraska. Mr. Richard M. Kotan, who chairs the planning committee, received a special award for his 25 years of continuous service.

## **ASCE Structural Technical Group Meeting**

About 50 people attended a dinner meeting hosted by the Nebraska Section's Structural Technical Group on Thursday evening, September 18, 2008. Attendees of this joint meeting represented engineers, guests, and students associated with the Nebraska Section - American Society of Civil Engineers, the Structural Engineers Association of Nebraska, and the Annual Structural Conference. Karl Burns and Marty Weander, both Project Managers for the Nebraska Department of Roads - District 2, gave a presentation on the Pacific Street Bridge over I-680 (Omaha, Nebraska) project. The meeting was held at McKenna's in Omaha.



From Left: Speaker Karl Burns - NDOR, Scott Gilliland - ASCE Structural Chair, Marty Weander - NDOR

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