



March 2009

EVENT CALENDAR:

March

19th - Environmental Group Meeting - Anthony's Steak House - Omaha

April

16th - Transportation Group Meeting with the UNO Student Section

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

From The President

Civil Engineers and Public Policy - ASCE Policy Statements (Part 6)

Civil Engineers and Public Policy - ASCE Priority Issues

Civil Engineers and Public Policy - Report Card for America's Infrastructure

Outreach Kits Available

Sand in the City Competition Volunteers Needed

PRESENTING

The Environmental Group Presents:

"Sustainable Energy and Environmental Stewardship at Omaha Public Power District (OPPD)"

Thursday, March 19th

Featuring: Christene Bywater, P.E. Project Manager - (OPPD)

Christene Bywater graduated in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering for the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Christene has worked for Omaha Public Power District since 1999 and has recently taken the position of Project Manager for the Sustainable Energy and Environmental Stewardship Division.

Location: Anthony's Steak House
7220 "F" Street, Omaha 68127

Times:

Social Hour	5:30
Dinner	6:30
Meeting and Presentation	7:30

Menu:

8 oz Sirlion with Baked potato and vegetable and a house salad --	\$24
Chicken Cordon Bleu with rice pilaf and vegetable and a house salad --	\$21
Pecan Salmon with rice pilaf and vegetable and a house salad --	\$25

Spouses and guests are welcome meal prices as listed per person. Student meals FREE. Price is \$10.00 without a meal. RSVP by 12 PM Monday, March 16th to rsvp@neasce.org. Subject Line: ASCE RSVP

Deadline for articles to be published in the April newsletter will be March 27th. Email articles to Aaron Grote at editor@neasce.org

2008-2009
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From the President

- Marie Maly, P.E.



Marie Maly, P.E. President of ASCE

After a very busy February, it is only proper that we take a minute to thank the many Nebraska Section members who have been working to promote our profession and our Society:

- Brian Havens and the Geotechnical Committee – They planned and executed the Section meeting and the annual Geotechnical Conference. We had many more attendees at the Section meeting than expected and somewhere in the neighborhood of 200 at the conference.

- John Hill – Despite a number of changes (such as venue) and challenges, John coordinated the Truss Bustin' Competition held 2/21 at the Qwest Center. We had over 200 trusses from four high schools this year! And if Truss Bustin' and President-Elect duties were not enough, John also reviewed and corrected the entire Section budget in his capacity as interim Treasurer. Thanks also to the Truss Bustin' volunteers (Section members and UNO Chapter members) who helped with the event!

- Diane Jones – She accompanied the Illawara Future City team from Elkhorn Ridge Middle School to the national competition.

- Daren Konda and Ticha Perez – These two spent one morning

talking to students at Beveridge Middle School about careers in Civil Engineering.

- Lara Syrocki – In addition to her regular board position as Environmental Technical Chair, she pitched in and attended several Roundtable meetings to assist in plans for E-Week. We had a good turnout for the E-Week Banquet on 2/19, where we were lucky enough to have an interesting refresher on our organic chemistry and learn about PLA – polylactic acid.

- Kristi Nohavec and Brian Havens – They represented ASCE at various proclamation signings for E-Week.

There are plenty of opportunities to be involved in the Nebraska Section, and I would love to talk about them with you. Please call or email – whether you're looking for a way to meet other engineers, learn more about ASCE, or encourage the next generation of

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engineers, we have an opportunity for you!

If you are interested in finding out what kinds of Unicameral actions the Professional Engineers Coalition (PEC) is monitoring and supporting or opposing, talk to Bill Arneson or Ed Prost, our PEC representatives. Examples are: LB 110 (vehicle registration fees), LB 323 (distribution of vehicle tax proceeds), and LB 536 (transportation development districts). You can also find more information on the Nebraska Legislature website – www.nebraskalegislature.gov.

We hope to see you at our March Section meeting on the 19th – and as always, let me know if there are any ways the Nebraska Section or ASCE can better serve you!

Civil Engineers and Public Policy - Report Card for America's Infrastructure

According to ASCE President D. Wayne Klotz, P.E., F.ASCE, "crumbling infrastructure has a direct impact on our personal and economic health, and the nation's infrastructure crisis is endangering our future prosperity." Because our infrastructure is receiving much attention in this time of economic stimulus packages, ASCE released a portion of the 2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure on January 28 – two months early. Grades and brief descriptions were released for each of 15 infrastructure categories, along with five key solutions for raising the grades. The full report will be released as originally intended, on March 25.

The categories and grades, which are based on capacity, condition, funding, future need, operation and maintenance, public safety, and resilience, are:

Aviation	D
Bridges	C
Dams	D
Drinking Water	D-
Energy	D+
Hazardous Waste	D
Inland Waterways	D-
Levees	D-
Public Parks & Recreation	C-
Rail	C-
Roads	D-
Schools	D
Solid Waste	C+
Transit	D
Wastewater	D-

As engineers, we know that the price tags keep rising when it comes to infrastructure improvements; we also know that the solution will involve more than responsible use of money. To this end, ASCE offered five key solutions to help raise the grades.

1. Increase federal leadership in infrastructure
2. Promote sustainability and resilience
3. Develop federal, regional, and state infrastructure plans
4. Address life-cycle costs and ongoing maintenance
5. Increase and improve infrastructure investment from all stakeholders

See www.asce.org/reportcard for more information, the full report (available March 25), and links to contact legislators and encourage their support of infrastructure. Read the Report Card and associated information, have an intelligent discussion, and increase your level of involvement in public policy!

Sand in the City

Show your engineering pride – and prove that we can be as good at designing sand sculptures as architects! Work with a corporate team to design and build a sand sculpture for the Nebraska Children's Home's "Sand In The City" in early June. The event is in its sixth year, but this is the first time the coordinators have approached engineers about working with the teams.

If you would like more information, please see the flyer here: http://www.neasce.org/pdf/Sand_the_in_City_short.pdf. Contact Kim Singletary at 402.898.7783 or ksingletary@nchsfoundation.org to sign up to help by March 25. No need to worry – each team has two training sessions, including time with a professional sand sculptor. You will really impress the kids on your next beach vacation!

ASCE's Salary Survey

You can become one of more than 20,000 engineers who have participated in the Engineering Income and Salary Survey. Your continued participation is essential to the Survey's success because it ensures the compensation database continues to offer official and robust civil engineering data across the country. When you participate, you will receive a free report for you current engineering grade and region. ASCE members also receive discounts on full reports. Visit www.asce.org/salaries today!

February Meeting Hosted by the Geotechnical Group

Thanks to Brian Havens for planning the February Meeting. The list below can be considered official documentation of attendances at the February meeting worth 1 PDH credit.

Amelia Toellner
Joseph Flaxbeard
Deanna Baker
Jorge Parra
Daina Stuhr
Andres Torres
Lou Solecazh
Tom Strauss
Mike Reif
Frank Rausche
Jacob Goecke
Scott Olson
John Hill
Brad Levich
Ed Prost
Randy Samson
David Svingen
Lindsay Madsen
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Loras Klostermann
Lara Syrock
Bob Lapke
Mike Baumert
Aaron Grote
Mike Sklenar
Steve Nickel
Bob Meinrea
Jorge Santos
Kenton McBride
Melissa Lefab
Lyle Simontan
Andrew Phillips
Ray Moore
Jean-Touris Briauo
Kristi Nohavec
Brian Havens
Steve Bottum
Scott Gilliland
Tom Jizba



Civil Engineers and Public Policy – ASCE Policy Statements (Part 6)

A policy statement is a broad overview of policy on a topic of continuing concern to the civil engineering profession. ASCE has 166 policy statements and resolutions on a variety of topics. The most recent Resolution (R 529) on Levee Certification was approved by the Board of Direction on January 25, 2009. For more information and the full text of ASCE's policy statements, see: <https://www.asce.org/pressroom/news/policy.cfm>.

Environmental Issues

- PS 285: Acid Rain
- PS 362: Comprehensive Pollution Management
- PS 403: Consultation on Environmental Regulations
- PS 438: Endangered Species Act Reauthorization
- PS 488: Greenhouse Gasses
- PS 482: Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Program
- PS 360: Impact of Global Climate Change
- PS 527: Recycling of Electronic Wastes
- PS 378: National Wetlands Regulatory Policy
- PS 327: Transportation and General Conformity Under the Clean Air Act
- PS 356: Voluntary Environmental Auditing for Regulatory Compliance

Wastewater

- PS 420: Clean Water Act Reauthorization
- PS 395: Control of Combined Sewer Discharges
- PS 429: Municipal Wastewater Biosolids
- PS 461: Non-Point Source Water Quality
- PS 466: Roadway Runoff Water Quality Management
- PS 326: Waste Water facilities Construction Funding
- PS 332: Water Reuse

Hazardous Waste

- PS 331: Hazardous Waste Reduction and Management
- PS 491: High-Level Nuclear Waste Management
- PS 262: Radioactive Waste Management
- PS 485: Revitalization of Brownfields
- PS 305: Superfund Reauthorization

Save the Date - 139th Annual ASCE Conference

What professional activities have you scheduled for October of this year? The Kansas City Section will be hosting the 139th Annual ASCE Conference this year on October 29 – 31, 2009. Please mark your calendars to attend. If you've considered attending an Annual Conference in the past, but were concerned about the time and cost for travel, this will be your opportunity.

For more information, see <http://content.asce.org/conferences/annual2009/index.html>

Engineering 101: Outreach Kits Available

Outreach kits are available for your use. See www.neasce.org for more information (including flyers for engineers and teachers/ troop leaders) and email outreach@neasce.org if you can volunteer your time to a teacher requesting a kit or would like to check one out for a group of youngsters you already know.

Help Guide the Future of Our Nation's Infrastructure - Renew Today!

Have you renewed your 2009 ASCE membership? ASCE dues were due on Dec. 31, 2008, which means if you haven't renewed, you run the risk of losing your valuable ASCE benefits, such as membership in the Nebraska Section. Plus, 2009 has the potential to be a significant year for ASCE and civil engineers. As we welcome a new President who has promised to place infrastructure renewal at the forefront of domestic issues, the Obama administration has already tapped ASCE to play a leading role in deciding where money from the stimulus package would best be spent.

Take pride in your role in educating the public and policy leaders about the importance of infrastructure to our nation's safety and economic security. Support the fight to renew our nation's infrastructure by renewing your 2009 ASCE membership at www.asce.org/renewal.



Become a Key Contact

Are you interested in knowing what the 111th Congress is up to? Join the Key Contacts Program - ASCE's grassroots advocacy program. You will receive email about public policy issues important to our profession and learn how to interact with our elected leaders. See www.asce.org/keycontacts for more information and to sign up.

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>.

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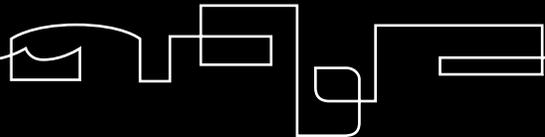
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