



May 2009

EVENT CALENDAR:

May

14th - Annual Banquet Meeting. Strategic Air & Space Museum - Ashland

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

From The President

Civil Engineers and Public Policy - ASCE Policy Statements (Part 8)

Nebraska Section in D.C. for Legislative Fly-in

April Section Meeting and Transportation Conference

Outreach Kits Available

Kudos for Spreading the Word

From the Board Meeting...

Year in Review - Our Public Policy Challenge

PRESENTING

ANNUAL MEETING & BANQUET

Thursday, May 14th

Location: **Strategic Air & Space Museum**

28210 W Park Hwy. Ashland, NE 68003

Take I-80 Exit 426 for NE-66 toward Ashland

Turn West on NE-66 for approximately 1/2 mile (West of the Mahoney Park Entrance)

Times: Social Hour 6:00
Dinner 7:00

We honor our Life Members, Meeting and Elections to follow dinner. Tour of the Museum following the activities.

Menu: **Melt-Away Pot Roast**
AuGratin Potatoes
Green Beans Almondine
Dinner Rolls
Garden Salad

Spouses and guests are welcome. All meals \$15 per person (includes two drink tickets). Cash bar with wine, beer and soft drinks. RSVP by 12 PM Monday, May 11th to vp@neasce.org. Subject Line: ASCE RSVP

Deadline for articles to be published in the September newsletter will be August 24th. 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

Is it really May already? It seems as though my term as President of the Nebraska Section just began, yet here we are, nearly an entire year later. On behalf of the Section Board, please join us on Thursday the 14th for our Annual Meeting and Banquet. In addition to electing and installing our 2009-2010 officers, we will recap the year and honor both students and members. In accordance with our Bylaws, the nominating committee recommends the following candidates:

President-Elect
Aaron Buettner, P.E., M. ASCE

Vice President
Daren Konda, P.E., M. ASCE

Secretary
Diane Jones, E.I., A.M. ASCE

Treasurer
Mike Sklenar, P.E., M. ASCE

Younger Member
Joe Flaxbeard, E.I., A.M. ASCE

The Advisory Board recommends the following candidates for Director:

Mike McIntosh, P.E., C.F.M. ASCE

Tom Strauss, P.E., M. ASCE

In other news, thanks to Ticha Pérez, our Transportation Chair, for a job well done! We had over 40 attendees at our Section Meeting on the 16th, and the

Transportation Conference on Friday, April 17th went off without a hitch. Ticha worked with our LOCATE friends and a highly esteemed committee to arrange top notch speakers for the one-day conference.

I would also like to thank Mike McIntosh for manning the ASCE booth at the Omaha Northwest High School Career Fair on April 23. In addition, Diane Jones, Loras Klostermann, and Daren Konda will be combining efforts to represent us at the OPS 7th Grade Career Fair on May 8. The students will have an opportunity to try our (six-foot through truss) bridge kit. If you are interested in checking out the bridge kit – or any of our other outreach offerings – this summer or next fall, please see the flyers on www.neasce.org and let us know.

It has been an honor to serve you as President of the Nebraska
(Continued Page 3)

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Section. I had the opportunity to meet new people, facilitate discussion, and encourage others to take a more active role in public policy. If you need anything before our next Section meeting (in September), please let me know. Thanks again for a great year, and have a wonderful summer!

Nebraska Section in D.C. for Legislative Fly-In

Over 160 ASCE members from across the country participated in the two-day meeting. The first part of the program prepared participants for congressional visits by providing information about issues affecting civil engineering and how to develop relationships with their elected officials. In the second part, participants conducted meetings with over 230 Congressional offices to share the message of the Report Card and other infrastructure needs facing the country.

Ticha Pérez (HDR Inc., Omaha) and Bill Arneson (Schemmer Associates, Lincoln) represented the Nebraska Section. Ticha is the Transportation Technical Group Chair, and Bill is the Legislative Affairs Co-Chair.

ASCE arranged meetings with the representatives, with the expectation of 15-minute visits with the representatives or (likely) their staffers. The Nebraska pair was fortunate to meet personally with Senator Johanns, staffers for Congressmen Fortenberry and Terry, and Senator Nelson. Each meeting lasted approximately 20-30 minutes. During our time, we addressed the ASCE infrastructure improvement priorities for this year:

- 2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure
- Federal Aviation Administration Authorization

- Dam Repair and Rehabilitation Act
- Surface Transportation Program Authorization

For more information on the priorities, see <http://content.asce.org/gr/FlyInWebinars.html>.

ASCE holds the Fly-in each spring because it is when a lot of priorities are set and decisions are made – which means the delegates can have a greater influence. With the 230 Congressional representatives receiving the same message over a two-day period, ASCE is able to achieve the maximum affect. As members, you are urged to follow these issues, as well as others affecting the civil engineering profession, and voice your support and concerns to your representatives.



Ticha Perez and Bill Arneson in Washington D.C.

April Section Meeting and Transportation Conference

The April Section meeting on April 16, 2009, was well attended, with over 40 people arriving at Biaggi's to network, share a meal, and learn about the Omaha-Council Bluffs Beltway Study from HDR's Matt Tondl, P.E. He summarized the various alternatives investigated, along with the future development models considered in tandem with the construction options. The formal presentation was followed by Q&A and discussion. Thanks to Ticha Pérez for planning the April meeting. The list below can be considered official documentation of attendance worth 1 PDH credit.

Loras Klostermann	Bob Lapke
Mike Reif	Bob Meinzen
Ryan Paradis	Stacy Heusel
Pat Hillyer	John Hill
Ed Prost	Amelia Toellner
Caleb Beasley	Mike Sklenar
Jaime Vargas	Lara Syrocki
Jenn Crubliss	Ticha Perez
Thomas Vsi	Jeff Kopocis
Mantu Baishya	Tom Jizba
Paul Diefking	Craig Hulter
David Stuhr	Mike Baumert
Mike Naccarato	Greg Perry
Aaron Buettner	Diane Jones
Marie Maly	Steven Bottum
Helen Bottum	Sam Gogoi
Steve Kathol	Daren Konda
Brian Havens	David Herman
Lre Raustreon	Mike Laviolette
Jay Ling	

Over 100 individuals attended the 2009 ASCE / LOCATE Annual Transportation Conference at the Scott Conference Center on Friday, April 17, 2009. One attendee called it "one of the best (conferences or seminars) I've attended," and presentations included: freight transportation, a University of Iowa alternative funding study, Omaha's CSO plan, a 20-mile (bicycle) commuter loop, an update from FHWA, the Washington perspective, two significant bridge construction projects, proactive work zone traffic management, Lincoln's crash study, NDOR funding

distributions, and a panel on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus). ASCE was pleased to continue working with LOCATE to plan the event and would like to thank Ticha Pérez, Sarah Tracy, and the entire planning committee (Roger Figard, John Jacobsen, Paul Mullen, Todd Pfitzer, and Larry Rillett) for their hard work.



2009 ASCE/LOCATE Annual Transportation Conference

Civil Engineers and Public Policy – ASCE Policy Statements (Part 8)

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. For more information and the full text of ASCE's policy statements, see: <https://www.asce.org/pressroom/news/policy.cfm>.

Coastal Zones and Waterways

- PS 162: Coastal and Offshore Development
- PS 330: Coastal Data Collection Programs
- PS 349: Coordination of Beach Erosion Control with Channel Maintenance
- PS 218: Improvement and Maintenance of Ports, Harbors and Waterways
- PS 498: Louisiana Coastal Wetlands
- PS 507: Restoring and Maintaining America's Beaches
- PS 286: Waste Assimilative Capacity of Ocean and Coastal Waters

Disaster Mitigation and Response

- PS 294: Cooperation with Government for Failure Investigation
- PS 359: Earthquake Engineering Research Funding
- PS 390: Earthquake Hazards Mitigation
- PS 499: Emergency Preparedness and Response
- PS 300: Media Interaction Following Catastrophic Failures or Natural Disasters
- PS 389: Mitigating the Impacts of Natural and Man-Made Hazards
- PS 475: Wind Hazards Mitigation

Space

- PS 512: Access to Space
- PS 472: Critical Space Based Information
- PS 384: Engineering and Construction in Space
- PS 392: National Space Education
- PS 358: National Space Policy

Kudos for Spreading the Word

Thanks to the following individuals who attended a career fair, helped with outreach activities on behalf of the Nebraska Section or promoted our offerings to the teachers in their lives: Jeff Ehler, Diane Jones, Daren Konda, Loras Klostermann, Marie Maly, Mike McIntosh, Ticha Perez, Tom Strauss, and Rick Wilson. Without the generous donation of your time, we would not have been able to help out Bryan High School (Omaha), Benson High School (Omaha), Northwest High School (Omaha), Beveridge Middle School (Omaha), St. Vincent de Paul School (Omaha), Ezra Millard Elementary (Omaha), the Omaha Public Schools 7th Grade Career Fair, the Nebraska Junior Academy of Sciences State Science Competition, and SWE's Wow! That'sEngineering! event.

From The Board Meeting...

Our PEC (Professional Engineers Coalition) Representatives updated us on LB 446 – it is expected to pass. They also alerted us to a possible Board action regarding unlicensed practice – see the Board of Engineers and Architects website for more information.

All three conference planning Technical Chairs will work with the Treasurer to investigate options for online conference registration.

The Engineers Without Borders chapter forming in the Omaha area has elected officers. They are now working on bylaws and looking for a project or program for their first effort.

Year in Review – Our Public Policy Challenge

Last year, I challenged Nebraska Section members to do three things when it comes to the role Civil Engineers must play in public policy. As my term as President comes to a close, it is only proper to evaluate our progress.

Be Informed. Over the course of the year, we investigated each of ASCE's Policy Statements – hopefully you found the website and read more about the policies you found interesting. We shared information from the Professional Engineers Coalition (PEC), you learned about ASCE's Federal and State Priority Issues, and we published why all Nebraska Section members should become Key Contacts. We also passed on information from ASCE regarding the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Be Intelligent. Through information, the Nebraska Section encouraged intelligent discussion. In addition to conversations as part of Advisory Board meetings and PEC updates, the Section hosted several opportunities for dialog on the effort to Raise the Bar. Last summer, a small group attended a day of training on the effort; in the fall, we hosted town hall meetings; and this April, I presented on the effort to the Lincoln Engineers Club. Please continue to dialog on this topic and others, for only through open dialog are we able to learn.

Be Involved. For this challenge, only you can evaluate our progress. Have you been more involved in public policy this year than you were before? Did you register to vote? Become a Key Contact? Contact a legislator? Offer to help the Section prepare a Report Card on Nebraska's Infrastructure?

There's no time like the present, and the end of my term is not a reason to abandon our efforts. Civil Engineers work for the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Our legislators need the expertise we have in order to properly shape our country's public policy. You will benefit from learning new ideas, meeting new people, and finding ways to become a trusted advisor. This is only the end of the beginning for this challenge – good luck continuing along the path towards becoming a well rounded, engaged citizen engineer and role model for future generations!



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.

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.

Learn more and join!

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

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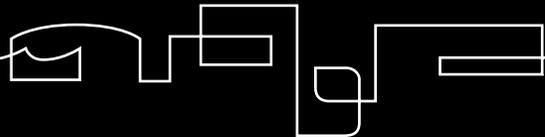
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