



EVENT CALENDAR:

March

18th - Environmental Group Meeting - Omaha

April

3rd - Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Work Day

9th - 2010 ASCE/LOCATE Annual Transportation Conference - Omaha

Transportation Group Meeting

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

From The President

"Bounty Offered to Sections for Peer Review Referrals

Annual Transportation Conference

Salute Civil Engineering at the 2010 OPAL Gala

PRESENTING

March 2010

The Environmental Group Presents:

"Relicensing the Loup Power Canal and Hydroelectric Project"

Thursday, March 18th

Featuring: **Lisa Richardson, P.E.** HDR &
Neil Suess, P.E. President/CEO Loup River Public Power District

Lisa is the Environmental Sciences Section Manager for HDR Engineering in Omaha. She has a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning. Lisa is married and has two children. Lisa is HDR's Project manager for the Loup Power District relicensing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Neil Suess is the current President/CEO of Loup River Public Power District (since January 2006). Graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Neil moved to Columbus in 1996 and worked for R.W. Beck. In September 2005, began working for the District. Neil is married and has two kids. He is active in church, community, and schools.

Loup Power District is currently completing the regulatory requirements to obtain a new license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to continue to operate the Loup River Hydroelectric Project near Columbus, Nebraska. The District has operated the hydroelectric project since 1937 and is seeking their third operating license. The process to obtain a new license takes over five years.

Location: **Grisanti's Italian Restaurant**
10875 West Dodge Road, Omaha NE 68154 #402-330-0440

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

Menu:	Grill Chicken Arrabbiata	\$22
	Shrimp Scampi with Angel Hair	\$22
	Top Sirloin (10 oz.)	\$25

Spouses and guests are welcome. Price is \$10 without the meal. Student meals are FREE. Register online by 12 PM Tuesday March 16th at www.neasce.org/meal_signup.

Deadline for articles to be published in the April newsletter will be April 2nd. Email articles to Aaron Grote at editor@neasce.org

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From the President

Nebraska Section Members:

Another successful GeoOmaha Conference is in the books, along with its snags of snowed-in speakers making presentations via internet. Attendance was down this year, but still a respective number of attendees. Thanks to Brian Havens and his helpers for their hard work. Brian also coordinated February's Section Meeting and the UNO students presented some of their activities to our Section.

The topic of volunteerism has risen greatly over the past few months. As part of National Engineers Week 2010 this year's theme for National Engineers Week has been: Engineers Make a World of Difference: Celebrating Engineer Volunteerism. I would like to thank the anonymous persons for nominating me for Outstanding Engineer Volunteer in the Nebraska Section. My name was displayed on a table-top sign at the Awards Luncheon at the Cleveland Conference, and I received a Starbuck gift card. So, with that award, what follows is an inventory of some of the engineering related volunteerism I have done in the last few months.

I spent the Monday of E-Week with several UNO ASCE Students judging and weighing the 170

- John Hill, P.E.



John Hill, P.E. President of ASCE

trusses for the Truss Bustin' Competition (thanks to Melissa Letak and her crew of ASCE students). I was on the Engineers Roundtable this year and attended the meetings and involved with some of the setting up of the E-Week activities. (Thanks Lianne Lau for being emcee and Roger Figard for the invocation). At the E-Week banquet I was able to present Bruce I. Dvoak, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE, a certificate of recognition for receiving the 2009 Samuel Arnold Greeley Award. I created the advertisement for the Nebraska Section in the Engineering E-Week supplement in the Omaha World Herald. Friday of E-Week, I was at Omaha North during the Omaha Mayor's Proclamation of E-Week. I made a short PowerPoint presentation to high school students after the proclamation with a few other Omaha Engineers and answered students' questions.

(Continued Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2 : From the President)

After the presentations, I picked up the Truss Bustin' device from Omaha North.

By Saturday, I was off to the Strategic Air and Space Museum for the 22nd Annual Truss Bustin' Competition. It didn't go off without a few hitches. As coordinator of the Truss Bustin' Competition, I will submit an article for next month's newsletter and present the winners. After being at the SASM for seven hours, the contest successfully concluded. Sunday was back to the SASM again to take down displays and the truss testing device, and then back to Omaha North Monday morning to return the testing device.

During the Friday proclamation event, I met Andrew Lang who is involved with Architectural Engineering Institute, and with him, I have now set up a joint Habitat For Humanity Omaha workday for NE-ASCE and AEI members. The work will take place on Saturday, April 3, 2010. I would like to have 10 of our people sign up from the Nebraska Section to help. See the information on our website at the "NE-ASCE & AEI Habitat for Humanity Build" link and send me an e-mail if you are interested in helping.

As some of you may know, I have also been the coordinator of the Lamp, Rynearson Blood Drive for about the last 10 or 11 years. I would encourage you to donate blood at your convenience or invite you to join in our next drive that will be Friday, March 19 at the LRA office. You can sign up at www.givebloodgivelife.org. You can use sponsor code 1165 if you want join our drive.

Lastly, I am setting up an Explorer Post for Engineers at the Lamp, Rynearson office to begin the evening of March 25. If you know of interested 9th through 11th graders that are interested in Civil Engineering, send them my way.

I would encourage you to volunteer for NE-ASCE activities. Volunteers are the primary way of getting information to schools and the public and with the election of new officers and filling of committees with members is quickly approaching we need volunteers.

Contact me if you want to know how to be more involved with ASCE.

Be sure to come to the March Meeting!

John M. Hill, P.E.

Dates to Remember
(some tentative to change):

March 18 – Environmental Meeting
April 8 - Transportation Meeting
April 9 – Transportation Conference
May 13 - Annual Meeting/Banquet at Quarry Oaks Golf Club

February Meeting Hosted by the Geotechnical Group

Thanks to the Geotechnical Group for hosting the February Meeting. The list below can be considered official documentation of attendances at the February meeting worth 1 PDH credit.

David Anderson	Bill Arneson
John Ballegeer	Steven Bottum
Helen Bottum	John Hill
Aaron Buetner	Joe Flaxbeard
Sheryl Gallager	Jeff Gebhard
Dick Gemant	Jacob Goecke
Aaron Grote	Brian Havens
Owen Hunn	Loras Klostermann
Jeff Kopocis	Melissa Letak
Lindsay Madsen	Marie Maly
Mike McIntosh	Steve Nickel
Jorge Penman	Mike Rief
Steven Saye	Vern Schaefer
Mike Sklenar	Thomas Strauss
Nico Sutmoller	David Svingen
Lara Syrocki	Amelia Toellner
Andres Torres	Ted Weidner
Brian Furot	Lyle Simonten
Jeff Hall	Joe Harris
Matt Goecka	Traci Sueper

“Bounty” Offered to Sections for Peer Review Referrals

The Committee on Peer Review for Public Agencies is introducing a \$250 incentive for referrals that result in a peer review.

What is Peer Review?

The purpose of ASCE's Peer Review for Public Agencies Program is to help public sector engineering and construction agencies improve the management and quality of their engineering services through a quick, confidential, and affordable process. Reviewers study an organization's policies and objectives and conduct staff interviews to determine how well those policies and procedures are understood and practiced. Management areas covered include: organizational management, project management, emergency management, technical procedures, human resource management, finance, and public relations. The focus may cover planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance -- and can include an entire agency or just a portion. The team concludes the process with an oral report to the engineer/director requesting the review, and if requested follows up later with a written report.

The process was modeled after a similar one used by the American Council of Engineering Companies in the late 1980's. Since 1987, almost 70 different local entities have benefitted from the ASCE Peer Review for Public Agencies program. Typical comments include “We were and still are very happy with the review that was performed.” and “Experience showed and was very valuable.” More information, including a brochure, is available on the ASCE Web site at http://www.asce.org/professional/peereview/peer_review.cfm.

ASCE Peer Review is a voluntary and confidential program for public infrastructure organizations and is conducted by experienced government engineer/managers who are trained in the process. Timing is typically controlled by the requesting agency. A review can be done quickly. The turnaround time can be within 90 days of the request. Cost is low for this kind of study since reviewers volunteer their time, and therefore no cost is included for their salaries.

The fee covers reviewer travel costs and administration. It typically ranges from \$6,000 to \$20,000 but depends on the size of the agency being reviewed and whether the agency requests a more customized review to address

specific challenges or opportunities that they are facing.

Benefits of a Peer Review

A peer review provides an objective outside assessment of strengths and weaknesses by fellow government engineers experienced in leadership and management. They have no stake in future work; their intent is to provide a useful service to colleagues. Agency management can gain insights into procedural difficulties, communication obstacles, organizational problems, and employee morale but also positive reinforcement from staff feedback. This helps them prioritize and implement suggestions for improvement of effectiveness in a manner that utilizes both staff and management input.

Incentive process

Sections and Branches should email Becky Waldrup, ASCE's staff contact for the Committee on Peer Review for Public Agencies, at rwaldrup@asce.org to recommend an agency. Provide the following information:

1. ASCE Section or Branch name and contact, and
2. Government agency name and contact information.

Becky will acknowledge your submission, enter the contact information into ASCE's Peer Review tracking system, and follow-up with the agency to determine their interest. Upon completion of a review and payment of the review fee, the 'nominating' Section or Branch will receive payment of \$250. There is no limit on the number of referrals that a Sections and Branches may make or the number of referral fees that they may earn.

Agencies who have used this service have found that the process is very valuable. The Committee on Peer Review for Public Agencies hopes that this incentive offer will increase the exposure of this service. Please consider participating in the referral program for the benefit of your local public agencies as well as for the financial assistance that it will provide to your Section or Branch.

Salute Civil Engineering at the 2010 OPAL Gala

The most glamorous night on the civil engineering calendar is coming March 25 to Washington, D.C. -- ASCE's OPAL Gala. Come to the nation's capital this spring to honor outstanding civil engineers and amazing infrastructure projects. Be on hand for the announcement of the world's Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement for 2010 after learning what made each nominee worthy. Join in the ovations for several of civil engineering's greatest practitioners as they receive Outstanding Projects And Leaders awards and other ASCE honors. Find out about the OPAL winners and OCEA nominees. Get your tuxedo or evening gown ready for a night of great tributes to civil engineering -- register today.

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.

Annual Transportation Conference

The 2010 ASCE/LOCATE Annual Transportation Conference will be held Friday, April 9th at the Scott Conference Center. Registration fee is \$110 if registered before April 2, 2010 and \$135 after this date. The conference is presented in collaboration with Nebraska Department of Roads, Nebraska Transportation Center, City of Omaha, City of Lincoln, and MAPA. Registration and payment information is available online at www.neasce.org just click on the "Registration Now Open" link. Professional Development Hours will be awarded for attendance.

February Geotechnical Meeting Summary

About 50 people attended a dinner meeting hosted by the Nebraska Section's Geotechnical Technical Group on February 11th, 2010. A great mixture of professionals, guests, and students turned out.

The meeting provided a great opportunity for students and professionals to network and learn about UNO's student chapter activities and current Geo Grid technology. The UNO students opened the meeting with a brief presentation on the progress the chapter is making in the design and construction on the steel bridge and concrete canoe projects. The Nebraska Section presented a check to the student chapter to help support their upcoming Steel Bridge and Concrete Canoe competitions. Following the student chapter's presentation, a presentation on Geo Grid provided a general overview of the latest technologic advances in design and applications of Geo Grid. The meeting was held at Anthony's Steak House in Omaha. Thanks to all who attended!

NE-ASCE – AEI Joint Work Day For Habitat For Humanity



NE-ASCE has asked AEI to team up and provide a volunteer work day at Habitat For Humanity on **Saturday, April 3, 2010. Time will be from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.** You may work the morning from 8:30 AM until noon, or all day. Be prepared to work, have fun, meet be others involved with your profession, and give back to our community and represent ASCE.

Snacks will be provided for breaks, and lunch will be provided for those working all day. Available openings are limited, and we need to have an accurate count of workers, so sign up soon. More detailed information will be provided to those signing up as the date gets closer. NE-ASCE needs more volunteers than AEI!

Please Join Us! Sign Up or Get More Information by Contacting John Hill at :

John.Hill@LRA-inc.com
c/o Lamp, Ryneason & Associates
14710 W. Dodge Road, Ste. 100
Omaha, NE 68154
Phone: (402) 496-2498





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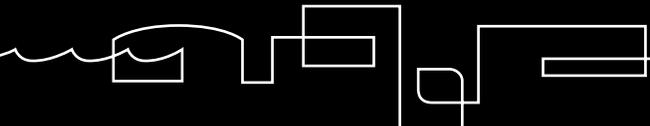
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