



EVENT CALENDAR:

May

13th - Annual Meeting and Banquet - Ashland NE

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

From The President

"Bounty Offered to Sections for Peer Review Referrals

Annual Transportation Conference

PRESENTING

May 2010

ANNUAL MEETING & BANQUET

Thursday, May 13th

Location: **Quarry Oaks Golf Club**

16600 Quarry Oaks Drive. Ashland, NE 68003

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

Times: Social Hour 6:00

Dinner 7:00

We honor our Life Members, Meeting and Elections to follow dinner.

Menu: **New York Strip**

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Salmon Filet

Meals include garlic mashed potatoes and a steamed vegetable medley. Dessert will be cheesecake.

Spouses and guests are welcome. Price is \$15 for the meal including two complimentary drink tickets. No charge for life member inductees and their guest. Sign-up at the NEASCE Website www.neasce.org prior to 2:00 pm Tuesday, May 11, 2010 or alternativelyt RSVP by 12 pm, Tuesday, May 11, 2010 to: Daren Konda at rsvp@neasce.org (Subject: ASCE RSVP) or (402) 330-8860.

2009-2010
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From the President

- John Hill, P.E.



John Hill, P.E. President of ASCE

Nebraska Section Members:

Good Evening Everyone!

I say "good evening" as I am on the eve of my Nebraska Section Presidency. This may also be the last copy of the paper version of the newsletter. After this year, the Section is expecting to send out only electronic versions of the newsletter, except for some cases where life members may not have access to e-mail. If you think that an electronic only version may be a problem for you, please contact me directly at my Lamp, Rynearson office (please see the LRA advertisement in the newsletter for a phone number). I have worked to try to bring the Section up a little higher into the electronic age and will continue to raise the service we give the members in this area.

This is also my last letter as President for the newsletter. I was somewhat unsure of being the President of the Section, but things turned out well. I would like to thank the other members of the Board and committees as they have all been extremely helpful and I depended on them month after month. Especially, I would like to thank Aaron Grote, our newsletter editor (whom is resigning after this issue), that put up with my pushing the letter

deadline every month (including this one) and thanks to Jeff Kopocis, our Membership Chair for the seemingly onslaught of emails that were sent out to Section members on my behalf.

I've gotten so much from ASCE, including the conferences that I've attended over the past several years. There is always a wealth of information to be gained, and a re-energizing that wants you to be a larger part of ASCE. I would encourage all of you to ask to be a part of the Board, a Committee Head, or help out with our monthly meetings. We often have difficulty finding people to attend the conferences, so if you would like to be an active part of our Section, please step forward. The best way to know what is going on within our Section is to become involved.

(Continued Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2 : From the President)

I pledge to continue to be involved with ASCE by way of Truss Bustin', Director, maybe Region 7 Assembly Representative, involved with a Subsidiary Organization, Support Function Representative, or in some other capacity. I look forward to the Annual Meeting coming soon and the start of a new Board. Thank you for allowing me to be your Section President and I'll continue to do the Habitat for Humanity builds this summer and I encourage you to join me and the ASCE Students.

Johnny M. Hill, P.E.

April Section Meeting and Transportation Conference

Contributed by Patricia Rohan
Transportation Technical Chair

The April Section meeting was held April 8, 2010, at Biaggi's Ristorante. The featured speaker was HDR's Will Sharp, P.E., who spoke on the Chicago to Omaha Intercity Passenger Rail Study. Mr. Sharp gave a high-level overview of the study, discussing the process to be used to determine a preferred route including key criteria. The formal presentation was followed by a brief question and answer period. The section was pleased to host several graduate students from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln for the dinner meeting.

The following day, 150 professionals and students attended the 6th ASCE/LOCATE Annual Transportation Conference at the Scott Conference Center. This is nearly a 30% increase from the previous year! Several attendees complimented the variety of topics covered in the all-day conference, which offered 6 PDH credits. The group enjoyed keynote presentations by Fred Zwonecheck who spoke on the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety and Nebraska State Senator Deb Fischer who gave a legislative update. Other presentation included: Distracted Driving, Complete Streets, Pavement Management, Federal Fund Exchange Project: Potential in Kansas and Nebraska, Driver/Pedestrian Behavior at Railroad Crossings, EPA Emission Standards – What it Means to the Metro, Performance Contracts and Railroad Quiet Zones. Speakers from Nebraska Department of Roads rounded out the day with presentations on the South Omaha Bridge Project and Soil Nail Walls: I-80 Experience.

This was the second year of the partnership with LOCATE to put on the conference, with Mark Meisinger acting as their representative on the planning committee this year. Thank you to the entire planning committee (Ticha Rohan, Mark Meisinger, Randy Hoskins, John Jacobsen, Paul Mullen, Todd Pfitzer and

Aemal Khattak) for another successful conference!

“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.

Engineers without Borders

Please see below for a request sent on behalf of the University of Nebraska Omaha/Lincoln Engineers Without Borders Student Chapter.

The University of Nebraska student chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB-NU) is looking for someone with at least 5 years of professional, post-baccalaureate experience in water/wastewater design to accompany them on at least part of their assessment trip to Madagascar, which is planned for May 11-27th. If anyone is willing to serve as a professional mentor or knows of anyone willing to serve as a professional mentor, please contact Shannon L. Bartelt-Hunt at 402-554-3868 or sbartelt2@unl.edu

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Tel. (402) 554-3868
Fax. (402) 554-3288

March Meeting Hosted by the Environmental Group

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

Caleb Beasley	Aaron Buettner
Frank Doland	Joseph Flaxbeard
John Hill	John Hovanec
Allen Jambor	Diane Jones
Steve Kathol	Loras Klostermann
Jeff Kopocis	Gay Lueningborg
Lindsay Madsen	Marie Maly
Matt McConville	Mike Naccarato
Richard Onnen	Romeo Reales
Ticha Rohan	Will Sharp
Mike Sklenar	Ed Thiele
Andy Wester	Gary Westergren
Leanne Zietlow	Ed Prost
Richard Prell	David Svinger



2010 Annual Banquet

American Society of Civil Engineers

Date: Thursday, May 13th, 2010

Location: Quarry Oaks Golf Club
16600 Quarry Oaks Drive
Ashland, NE 68003-3820
(402) 944-6000

Time: Social Hour at 6:00pm
Dinner and Program at 7:00pm

Menu: Choice of New York strip, chicken cordon bleu or salmon filet, with garlic mashed potatoes and a steamed vegetable medley. Dessert will be cheesecake.

Cost is \$15 with two complimentary drink tickets.
No charge for life member inductees and their guest.

RSVP

Sign-up At the New NEASCE Website www.neasce.org prior to 2:00pm Tuesday, May 11, 2010 or alternatively RSVP by 12 pm, Tuesday, May 11, 2010 to: Daren Konda at rsvp@neasce.org (Subject: ASCE RSVP) or (402) 330-8860





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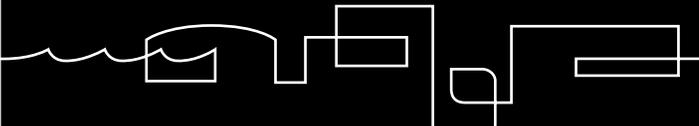
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