



EVENT CALENDAR:

September

16th - Structural Group Meeting - Omaha

17th - 2010 ASCE/SEAON Annual Structural Conference - Scott Conference Center, Omaha

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

From The President

May Meeting/Banquet Summary

ASCE/SEAON Annual Structural Conference

Annual Transportation Conference

"Bounty" Offered to Sections for Peer Review Referrals

Update your Advocacy Skills for Infrastructure

Future City Competition

Newsletter to Switch to Electronic Delivery

PRESENTING

September 2010

The Structural Group Presents:

"Evaluation of Problems in Existing Structures"

Thursday, September 16th

Featuring: **Keith Kesner**, Ph.D., P.E., S.E. with Whitlock Dalrymple Poston & Associates, P.C.

Dr. Kesner is an Associate with Whitlock Dalrymple Poston & Associates, P.C., and currently heads the South Norwalk, Connecticut office. Dr. Kesner participates in various structural projects, which include the evaluation of structures using nondestructive test methods, corrosion evaluations, structural analysis using both conventional and finite element methods, as well as development of technical plans and specifications for the repair and rehabilitation of structures. He has authored or co-authored over 80 technical papers and presentations for industry journals and is a regular speaker at industry conferences.

Location: **Jimi D's**

6303 Center Street, Omaha NE 68106 #402-391-2011

Times:	Social Hour (Cash Bar)	5:30
	Dinner	6:30
	Presentation	7:30

Menu: Beef Tenderloin
Baby Back Ribs
Seared Ahi Tuna
Chicken Inice
Seafood Alfredo Lasagna

All meals with presentation \$15 per person. Spouses and guests are welcome. Price is \$10 without the meal. Student meals are FREE. Register online by 12 PM Tuesday September 14th at www.neasce.org/meal_signup.

Deadline for articles to be published in the October newsletter will be October 2nd. Email articles to Greg Seib at editor@neasce.org

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From the President

- Aaron Buettner, P.E.



Aaron Buettner, P.E., President of ASCE

Nebraska Section Members:

Hello ASCE Nebraska Section members! I'd like to welcome you to another year filled with opportunities to be involved. Of course there are the monthly section meetings, the first of which will be the Structural Group meeting on Thursday September 16. We also have excellent opportunities for continuing education credits at very reasonable prices. Our first conference is the Structural Conference, which is organized by SEAON in conjunction with the Nebraska Section. The conference, as always, has an excellent group of speakers and this year it will be held on Friday September 17.

Additionally, we have some openings on the board this year and we would be grateful for your contribution to the direction of the Section. Openings include Vice President, Membership Chair, and Management Technical Chair. Also, Scott Gilliland has been a dedicated Structural Technical Chair for a number of years now and he would be glad to step aside to allow another person the opportunity to be involved in this way. If you have the desire to shape the direction and future of the Nebraska Section, please see me or any of the other board members regarding any of these opportunities.

You may have noticed the article in this month's newsletter regarding the discontinuation of the print edition. Printing and mailing the newsletter is a significant cost for the Nebraska Section and we are the only Section or Branch in Region 7 that still provides a printed copy to our members. In this

age of computers and the Internet, it simply makes more sense for us to switch to electronic delivery of our monthly newsletter. This was not an easy decision for us as we certainly do not want to exclude any of our members, so through the end of 2010 we will give members the opportunity to opt-in to delivery of a paper copy of the newsletter. Simply send an e-mail or a letter to our Newsletter Editor with your request and we will add you to our paper copy mailing list.

We realize that the current economic situation has caused a strain on many engineers. In an effort to increase attendance at monthly meetings and to ease the burden on members who have been laid off, our board has set the fee for all meetings this year at \$15 per meeting. Monthly meetings represent an excellent time to network with other engineers and I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities.

(Continued Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2 : From the President)

Finally, it is my pleasure to serve as president of the Nebraska Section this year and I look forward to seeing you on the 16th.

-Aaron M. Buettner, P.E.

Dates to Remember:

September 16 - Structural Meeting

September 17 – Structural Conference

May Meeting/Banquet Summary

Thanks to those who attended the annual ASCE meeting and banquet at Quarry Oaks Golf Club on May 13, 2010. The attendees of the May meeting are listed below.

Gopala Allam	Georgia McCarl
Helen Bottum	Terry McCarl
Steven Bottum	Matt McConville
George Bryan	Mike McIntosh
Mrs. George Bryan	Kathy Moore
Aaron Buettner	Raymond Moore
John Coburn	Carolyn Nickel
Scott Coburn	Steve Nickel
Tammy Coburn	Kristi Nohavec
Roger Figard	Rick Onnen
Ed Fink	Ed Prost
Larry Fisher	Mrs. Ed Prost
Jeffrey Gebhard	Romeo Reales
Cathy Hajek	Greg Seib
Ray Hajek	Mike Sklenar
John Hill	Kevin Stamm
Lori Hill	Alexander Taylor
Dale Jacobson	Frances Taylor
Diane Jones	Shannon Taylor
Loras Klostermann	Amelia Toellner
Daren Konda	Camilo Torres
Marie Maly	Himabindu Vanaparth

ASCE/SEAON Annual Structural Conference

The 2010 ASCE/SEAON Annual Structural Conference will be held Friday, September 17th at the Scott Conference Center.

Registration fee is \$125 for ASCE Nebraska Section and SEAON members if received by Friday, September 10th, 2010. Non-member and/or late registration fee is \$150. Registration fee for full-time students is \$25.

The conference is presented in collaboration with

- University of Nebraska
- Structural Engineers Association of Nebraska
- The Peter Kiewit Institute

Registration and payment information is available online at www.seaon.org. Professional Development Hours will be awarded for attendance.

“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.

Update your Advocacy Skills for Infrastructure

Join ASCE National representatives for a training on how to advocate effectively for improving the nation's infrastructure. Government relations and public relations professionals will be on hand to provide information on how to leverage current legislative activities and find opportunities in your local community to help address infrastructure issues. The training will be followed by an informal networking happy hour.

Training will be on September 28th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Please send RSVPs to govwash@asce.org

Future City Competition

There are many opportunities to volunteer and get involved with the Future City Competition, ranging from mentoring students, teachers, and design teams to judging the competition. You can be as involved as you would like in promoting and developing the next generation of engineers. Please see the next page for more information on the Future City Competition. Contact David Nielsen (dnielsen@oaconsulting.com) to discuss your interest in volunteering for the Future City Competition.

Newsletter to Switch to Electronic Delivery

The Nebraska Civil Engineer Newsletter is discontinuing its print edition. Starting with the November 2010 newsletter, all future newsletters will be delivered electronically unless members choose to opt-in to delivery of the print edition. If you wish to opt-in to delivery of a paper copy of the newsletter, please contact Greg Seib at (402) 458-5037, editor@neasce.org, or mail a letter to the following address:

Greg Seib
Olsson Associates
1111 Lincoln Mall, Suite 111
Lincoln, NE 68508

National Engineers Week Future City® Competition

■ Design it! ■ Build it! ■ Show it!

Future City Heartland Regional Tournament 2011

This event is sponsored in part by ASCE-Nebraska Section. The public is invited to attend. First-place winners will join teams from 39 other regions for an all-expense-paid trip to the 19th annual Future City National Finals in Washington, D.C. during Engineers Week. The National Engineers Week Future City Competition is sponsored in part by the National Engineers Week Foundation, a consortium of professional and technical societies and major U.S. corporations.

Future City, the nation's largest engineering education program and among the most popular, students first create cities on computers using SimCity software and then build three-dimensional, tabletop models to scale. To ensure a level playing field, models must use recycled materials and can cost no more than \$100. Students also write brief abstracts describing their city and must present and defend their designs at the competition before a panel of engineer judges who test the depth of the teams' knowledge.

Student knowledge is often astonishingly evidenced by the essays which require 6th through 8th graders to explore complex challenges that most adults would consider out of their league.

Dreams Need Doing

Don't just dream about the future...



Date: 1/15/11

Time: 8:00–3:00 PM

Location: Educational Service Unit #3,
6949 South 110th Street in Omaha

Audience: K–12 Educators, HAL Students

Presenter: John Thomsen, jthomsen@esu3.org

Workshop Document: Tournament Reg

Register: www2.esu3.org/esu3/index.cfm?action=2&dept=pdd&id=1390

Visit this link for upcoming

2010 Future City Competition: Teacher Training Grade 6–8

www2.esu3.org/esu3/index.cfm?action=2&dept=pdd&id=1378

For more information about Future City Competition, visit www.futurecity.org



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