

# THE NEBRASKA CIVIL ENGINEER



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEBRASKA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Volume XLVII

January 2000

Number 4

1999-2000  
Nebraska  
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## Meeting Information

DATE: **Thursday, January 20, 2000**

CO-HOSTS: Water Resources Group,  
Nebr. Section ASCE and  
ASCE UNL Student Chapter

TOPIC: State and Federal Relationships  
and the Clean Water Act

SPEAKER:  
Michael J. Linder,  
Director

Nebraska Department  
of Environmental  
Quality



TIMES: 7:00 - 7:30...  
Program  
7:30 - 8:00...Dinner  
8:00 - 9:00...Tour of UNL's Civil  
Engineering Facilities

LOCATION: University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
Room West 357, Nebraska Hall  
16th and 17th Streets, N. of Vine

Directions: I-80 to 27th St. Exit-South  
Right (west) on Holdrege  
Turns into 16th Street  
Park North of Nebraska Hall

MENU: Pizza (\$10.00 including tax and tip)

Checks payable to:  
ASCE-UNL Student Chapter

### DINNER RESERVATIONS

RSVP by noon on Wednesday  
1/19/2000

**In Omaha:**  
contact Bob Kalinski at 894-2678  
or [rdgge@rdgge.com](mailto:rdgge@rdgge.com)

**In Lincoln:**  
contact Daryoush Razavian at  
474-6320 or  
[drazavian@oaconsulting.com](mailto:drazavian@oaconsulting.com)

## Michael J. Linder

Mr. Linder was appointed Director of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality by Gov. Mike Johanns on March 9, 1999.

He joined the DEQ in 1986 as a staff attorney working primarily on water quality issues. In 1989, Mr. Linder became Legal Counsel to the agency where he supervised a group of five agency attorneys. As Legal Counsel, Mr. Linder handled general legal duties for the agency and served as Legislative Liaison with the Nebraska Unicameral.

Prior to joining the department, Mr. Linder was an attorney in the Nebraska State Fire Marshal's office and was a legislative aide in the Legislature.

He received his B.S. degree from the University of South Dakota in 1980 and his J.D. degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law in 1983.

## President's Comments



Joe Waxse, President  
Nebraska Section ASCE

Happy New Century! Please join us Jan. 20, 2000 on the UNL campus for a joint meeting with the UNL Student Chapter sponsored by the Water Resources Group. Our esteemed Speaker will be Michael J. Linder, Director of the NDEQ! Mr. Linder will update us on the current status of Clean Water Act and it's effect on Nebraska's environment and economy. Pizza will be served afterwards! I'd like to thank Mark Wagner, Chair of the Water Resources Group for putting this one together for us!

November's meeting was excellent! John Craig, Director of the Nebraska Department of Roads gave us all a very candid insight into his personal management techniques and philosophy conveyed in an interesting and humorous way. Mark Stark, Chair of the Management Group did a great job!

### **REMEMBER FEBRUARY 18!!**

Don't overlook the opportunity to participate in one of the best Geotechnical Seminars that's ever been put together in Omaha, or elsewhere! It will truly be outstanding!

ASCE has joined ACEC and NSPE to form the Professional Engineering Coalition, PEC. The intent of the Coalition is to unite the efforts, resources and influence of professional engineering organizations in the state so as to carry an effective voice to the Unicameral. The major organizations will contribute funds towards hiring a Professional Lobbyist and will appoint two representatives each to the Coalition. We also welcome smaller to moderate size organizations to join and contribute their energy and opinions to the group. Engineers will be better connected with the legislative process and better able to convey our professional contributions and image to Society.

We still could use the help of a couple of volunteers to arrange or give lunchtime presentations on ASCE to local businesses from now through February. There is also still time to contribute to the success of the Future City program by agreeing to be a Judge or attending the competition. What have you done for your Profession lately? Call me at 330-2202 to volunteer and make a positive difference!

Remember, all it takes is a little time and a commitment to **get involved** to contribute significantly to the success of ASCE and the positive image of Civil Engineers in our communities. You will find the returns well worth it and feel good about yourself and your profession in the process. See you Thursday!

Sincerely Yours,

## Last Month's Meeting

Twenty-seven people attended the November 1999 meeting held at The Steak House in Lincoln. The attendees were:

Joe Waxse, Terracon	Jeff Kopocis, Lamp Rynearson
Brad Levich, Terracon	Wayne Patras, HDR
Mark Stark, Olsson Assoc.	Mohamed Dahab, UNL
Virg Meedel, Waverly	Daryoush Razavian, Olsson Assoc.
Matt Holland, Student	Henry Wulf, Retired
Chad Wong, Student	Loras Klostermann, Thompson
Ed Prost, Terracon	Dressen & Dornier
Rick Kaufmann, Terracon	Larry Briggs, NDOR
Steve Kathol, Schemmer Assoc.	Ryan Paradis, HDR
Steve Nickel, Nickel Engineering	John Craig, NDOR
Brad Chambers, MAPA	Al Nelson, HDR
Kirby Woods, OPPD	Thomas Strauss, Nickel Engineering
Tom Marnik, Lamp Rynearson	Kristi Nohave, Clark Enerson
John Hill, Lamp Rynearson	Partners
	Sandi Keehn, Clark Enerson Partners



**Visit Us on the Web**  
**www.radiks.net/~neasce**

### **Please note: Our URL and email address have changed.**

Our goal is to make the Nebraska Section website a valuable reference source for the Members of the Section. Current and past editions of this newsletter, Section news, and information about ASCE-sponsored and other events can be found on the site, as well as links to our underwriters, and to other organizations. Direct any items of interest or comments to the Section Webmaster, Brad Chambers, at 444-6866 or [neasce@radiks.net](mailto:neasce@radiks.net)

## A Note from the Editor

The deadline for the February edition of *The Nebraska Civil Engineer* is Monday, February 7, 2000. Send ideas for items that could be included in this newsletter, articles, or information to:

ASCE Newsletter Editor  
c/o Rick Kaufmann  
Terracon  
2211 South 156th Circle  
Omaha, NE 68130-2506  
Office No.: (402)-330-2202  
Fax No.: (402)-330-7606  
email address: [rakaufmann@terracon.com](mailto:rakaufmann@terracon.com)

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS?**

Please notify ASCE national of any address changes by calling 1-800-548-ASCE (2723) or contact them through their web site at <http://www.asce.org>. Address changes made at the national ASCE office are updated monthly at your local Nebraska section.

## Upcoming 2000 Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Organizer</u>
Jan 20	Water Resources	Lincoln	Mark Wagner
Feb 17	Geotechnical	Omaha	Loras Klostermann
Mar 16	Environmental	Lincoln	John Hartwell
Apr 13	Transportation	Omaha	Massoum Moussavi
May	(Annual Meeting)	TBA	Daryoush Razavian
(TBA)			

## Officer Spotlight

This is a new feature in *The Nebraska Civil Engineer*. Each month, we will shine the spotlight on a different officer of the Nebraska Section. This month, we focus on Brad Levich, our Treasurer.



As a project manager in Terracon's Omaha office, Brad is responsible for report writing, supervision, proposal writing, and project management. These projects involve roadways, single- and multi-story buildings, dams, earth retaining structures, embankments, grain storage facilities, and large processing

facilities. In the field, Brad has performed pressuremeter tests and inclinometer and piezometer monitoring. Most recently, he observed the installation of 90-inch diameter drilled shafts and performed Crosshole Sonic Logging (CSL) for downtown Omaha's First National Bank 40-story tower project.

He earned an M.S. in Civil Engineering in 1994 and a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 1992 from Iowa State University. In February of 1999, Brad became a Professional Engineer. He has been involved with ASCE for 5 years in various capacities including Newsletter Editor and his current position as Treasurer.

In his spare time, Brad enjoys the outdoors. He enjoys boating in the summer and hunting or fishing

## Online ASCE Journals

Access a wealth of civil engineering research and applications from your desktop! All 28 ASCE Journals are now available online. Online journals are unabridged and fully searchable. Get the 2000 journals (abstracts, searchable content, and author information) and the 90,000 bibliographic records of the Civil Engineering Database. Use the "virtual filing cabinet" to store selected articles for future reference.

Visit [www.pubs.asce.org](http://www.pubs.asce.org) for subscription and registration information.

## 2000 Geotechnical Seminar "Geotechnical Construction"

A geotechnical exploration is a crucial part of design, providing subsurface formation characteristics to be used in calculating the necessary foundation location and size. During construction, the geotechnical information that was used in design is further used and reviewed with respect to the actual conditions encountered. This year the geotechnical committee of ASCE Nebraska Section has put together a program that focuses on the construction aspects of geotechnical engineering. The seminar will be held at the Kiewit Conference Center on February 18, 2000. This program provides design, construction and testing insight into popular deep foundation methods and embankments. The program also includes presentations that highlight recent high-profile construction projects. We are honored to have the legendary Dr. Ralph P. Peck and Dr. Lymon C. Reese make presentations. Also providing presentations are Dave Anderson with Kiewit Company, Kevin Miller with PSI, Larry Olson of Olson Engineering, Dr. Mel Esrig retired from Woodward Clyde, Clyde Baker of STS Consultants, Ltd., and Dick Becker of Longfellow Drilling. Additional information is provided on the program brochure. Please plan to attend.

Loras A. Klostermann, P.E.  
Chairman, ASCE Geotechnical Committee

## Balsa Wood Truss Competition

Mark your calendar for Engineers Week, February 20-26, 2000. One of the activities sponsored by ASCE during Engineers Week is the metro area High School Balsa Wood Truss competition. The competition will be held at the Oak View Mall, 3001 S. 144th Street. The testing machine that will load the trusses to failure will be set up on the main level just south of the glass enclosed elevators. The testing will start at 1:00 P.M. and run most of the afternoon. So, if you like to see the creativity of High School students, or just hear and see things get broken, join us at the Mall on Saturday, February 26, 2000. For any questions or further details, please call Bruce Harris at 221-4440 (W) or 498-0296 (H).

## Join the Nebraska Section

Over the past several weeks, ASCE members should have received their annual membership renewal forms for 2000. PLEASE CONSIDER CHECKING THE SECTION DUES BOX. This is a very inexpensive way to support the Nebraska Section...and join it as well! It also qualifies you to receive this monthly newsletter which provides notices of section meetings, updates of current events, and much more. Of the more than 650 national ASCE members in this area, more than 400 join the Nebraska Section. We hope you will join, too.

Jeff Ehler  
Membership Committee

Ed. Note: ALL national ASCE members in Nebraska are receiving this issue of *The Nebraska Civil Engineer*. Only Nebraska Section members will continue to receive the newsletter.

**ASCE Forensics 2000 Conference: Extracting Wisdom from Failure**

Forensic engineering is not just about assessing blame, it's about preventing future failures and learning from those that learned the hard way. ASCE's Forensics 2000 Conference, being held at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 21-24, 2000 will draw a broad range of architects, engineers, educators, and building owners and operators. This conference will present lessons learned through detailed case studies and presentations of emerging issues that can save lives, property, and careers.

Among the conference highlights is a 20-year retrospective of the Kansas City Hyatt Regency failure presented by members of the original project team. Another session investigates computer misuse and how undue reliance on computer analysis is putting projects at risk. This session will cover the need to anticipate failure modes the computer might not and understanding the danger of using programs outside their intended parameters.

Learn to expect the unexpected in two case studies on unusual failures: new building construction that collapsed a turn-of-the-century trunk storm sewer, and the failure of an underground storm water detention system that involved material affected by long-term loading.

Other sessions will explore lessons learned from natural disasters and near misses, ethics, providing effective expert testimony, education issues, international issues in failure analysis, procedural and communications problems, and preventing failures through inspection and maintenance. The burgeoning problem of sick building syndrome - how mold infestation from water incursion is triggering serious illness from asthma, to heart attacks, to infant deaths - will also be covered in depth. Technical sessions will be integrated into a host of activities including tours, short courses, field demonstrations, and technical exhibits.

ASCE's Forensics conference not only provides insight and instruction on specific technical issues related to failure, but also will focus on process failure. "Safer designs are based on the evolutionary process of trial and error," says Ken Carper, a forensic engineer and professor at Washington State University. He notes that not only technical fracture mechanics result in failure; often new methods and concepts of project delivery, confusion over project roles and responsibility, or even the lack of communication can result in loss.

The 2000 conference is a must attend for the entire civil engineering community-including educators, says conference chair, Ozzie Rendon-Herrero, Professor of Geotechnical Engineering at Mississippi State University, "Civil engineering educators need to incorporate lessons from failure into civil engineering coursework."

In addition to the technical sessions, participants to this ASCE Conference can spend their free time exploring the exotic beauty of the Caribe Hilton and its environs. The magnificent and newly renovated Caribe: Hilton Hotel is set on 17 acres of lush tropical gardens and secluded beach. Cradled between Puerto Rico's most exclusive resort area, the Condado, and historic Old San Juan, the Caribe Hilton is an easy ocean-side stroll to the best Puerto Rico has to offer - spectacular Old Spanish architecture, open air plazas with festive music, charming cafes, art galleries, and some of the best shopping in the world.

ASCE's Technical Council on Forensic Engineering in cooperation with the U.K. Standing Committee: on Structural Safety is sponsoring the conference. For complete conference details, including how to register, visit the conference website at [www.asce.org/conferences/forensics](http://www.asce.org/conferences/forensics) or call ASCE at 1-800-548-2723.

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**The Nebraska Civil Engineer**

C/O Jeff Ehler  
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