

President's Comments

Continuing Education Requirement for PE
License Renewal:
Are You Ready? Your Section Is!



Daryoush Razavian, President
Nebraska Section, ASCE

Cheers fellow ASCE members! The March meeting was planned and organized by Mr. Reed Schwartzkopf, Environmental Group chair. It featured a timely presentation by Mr. Andy Kahle of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services regarding the new and upcoming drinking water standards. Some of the new drinking water regulations, currently under consideration by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will have profound financial, environmental, and social impacts on many municipalities in Nebraska, particularly those communities with populations of less than 1,000. The presentation was followed by a lively exchange of views and impact assessments by meeting attendants. My sincere appreciation is extended to Andy and Reed for making the meeting possible. April's meeting, which will be hosted by the Transportation Group, promises to be another outstanding session. I hope to see many of you there.

Due to a new experiment conducted by the Nebraska Section, last month's newsletter regrettably did not reach some of our members. We attempted to disseminate the newsletter electronically, via e-mail, rather than the traditional mailing. However, we didn't have an updated list of members' e-mail addresses. We apologize for the mishap, and we will try to make the necessary corrections in the future.

This experiment was prompted by the fact that every year the Nebraska Section undertakes a wide array of programs and initiatives to comply with members' demands and issues impacting our profession and Society. However, with the rising costs of these activities and programs, it will be difficult to maintain the quality services and programs if revenue is not increased accordingly. In other words, we either have to increase revenue or cut some of the expenditures. One means of increasing revenue would be to increase Section dues for the first time in more than 10 years (for example: from \$7.50 per year to \$10-\$15 per year). To reduce expenditures, members could receive the news

letter electronically or visit the Section's website. This would alleviate printing and postage expenses, result in timely distribution of the newsletter, and encourage dissemination of the newsletter to a broader audience (via forwarding the e-mailed newsletter to other colleagues who may not be a member of ASCE).

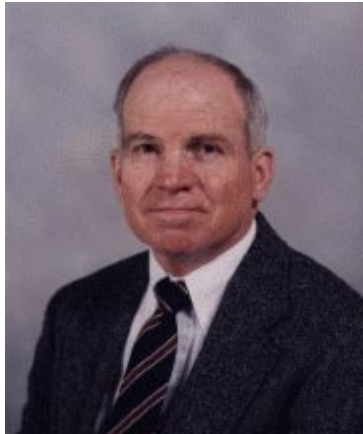
Despite the problems with the newsletter circulation, I received some positive feedback regarding the aforementioned suggestions (i.e. Section dues increases and electronic distribution of the newsletter). However, they were far from a reasonable representation of the Section. Therefore, I would like to make another request for your comments; and I can be contacted at drazavian@oaconsulting.com.

I had the pleasure of accompanying Bruce Harris (1986 Section President) for presentation of the 2001 Truss Bustin' competition awards – held March 27 at Omaha North High School (more info. about the competition provided in this issue). Ervell Staab (1983 Section President), and Jeff McClenathan, who is actively involved with various scientific projects with North High students, were also present at the meeting. These individuals exemplify the very spirit of professional activities and involvement that ASCE is trying to promote within our communities. I applaud their passion in mentoring young students and spreading ASCE's good will in our communities.

Lastly, as many of the practicing engineers in Nebraska know, starting in 2002 one of the requirements for renewal of the Nebraska engineering license will be continuing education. Although specific requirements for license renewal are unclear at this time, one thing is certain: the majority of our Section's programs and activities are considered eligible. These activities include monthly technical meetings, topical one-day seminars (i.e. Geotechnical and Structural), involvement at the Board level, personal development through professional community activities, etc. Additionally, the National ASCE has many programs that we can bring to Nebraska as a member service if needed. All of us on the Board of the Nebraska Section recognize the responsibility we carry in serving the needs of our members, and we realize the opportunity the Nebraska Section has to become a leader within the engineering community as a whole. However, we also realize that input and involvement by our members are integral parts of the planning process that ensure the success of our endeavors. Currently, planning activities are underway to address various issues associated with PE license renewal, and formalize a process for continuing education certification if needed. Your input is requested and appreciated.

Best Regards,

UNL's Dr. Roy Sneddon Retires



Dr. Roy V. Sneddon and his wife, Kathleen Sneddon plan to retire from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln effective at the end of the current semester. In addition to being a member of the faculty in the Department of Civil Engineering, Dr. Sneddon served as Interim Chair of the Department from 1996-1997. During his tenure at UNL, he has been active in various professional activities,

including serving as President of the Nebraska Section in 1977-78. ASCE National awarded him with Life Membership in 2000. Dr. Sneddon has also devoted a great deal of his time to University service including the chairmanship of the UNL Academic Planning Committee and as a member of the UNL Academic Senate. As many of you know, Roy's service to the community through his church, and otherwise, has also been very extensive.

The Department of Civil Engineering is planning a retirement reception for Roy and Kathleen on Friday, April 20 in the Board Room of the Wick Alumni Center at 16th and "R" Streets in Lincoln from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. All friends and associates of Roy and Kathleen are invited.



Above: Section President Daryoush Razavian (left) and "E-Week" and High School Chairman Bruce Harris (right) congratulate Omaha North High Student Aaron Van Osdel on his First Place finish.

Right: (L to R) Dr. Lee Kallstrom (North High Instructor), Daryoush Razavian, Jesse Longcrier (North High Student, 3rd Place), Justin Cole (North High Student, 2nd Place), Mrs. Nared (North High Principal), Aaron Van Osdel, Ervell Staab (Truss Contest Contact for North High), and Bruce Harris.

"E-Week" Truss Bustin' Competition

The thirteenth annual truss bustin' event during Engineers' Week was a huge success for Omaha Area high school students.

The Balsa Wood Competition was held during Engineers' Week in February at the Westroads Mall. Altogether 56 trusses were entered in the competition. Prior to the competition several students from Dr. Krause's structures class at UNO load tested their trusses for demonstration purposes. All trusses were loaded at third points across a 24- inch span to failure. Trusses were entered from Burke, Millard North, Gross, North, and Northwest High Schools. The winning truss from North High weighed 40.6 grams (1.5 ounces) and carried a total load of 295 pounds at three-concentrated load points over the 24-inch span. The second place truss weighed 58.8 grams (2.2 ounces) and carried a total load of 456 pounds. The third place truss weighed 59.9 grams (2.2 ounces) and carried a total load of 461 pounds. The load-to-weight ratio of the winning truss was 2.88. (Note: Weight is taken to the 1.25 power in calculating the load-to-weight ratio)

The top three finishers in the Thirteenth Annual Balsa Wood Truss Competition for 2001 are:

- 1st Place: Aaron Van Osdel (North High)
- 2nd Place: Justin Cole (North High)
- 3rd Place: Jesse Longcrier (North High)

1st place prize was \$100, 2nd place was \$50 and 3rd place, \$25.

Daryoush Razavian, Nebraska Section President, Bruce Harris, "E-Week" and High School Chairman, and Ervell Staab, North High Truss Contest Contact participated in presenting prizes and a framed certificate of their accomplishment.

A special thanks to all the Nebraska Section members that helped to contact the metro area high schools and assisted during truss testing, the Student Chapter and Dr. Gary Krause Faculty Advisor from UNO that helped with weighing trusses, testing and documentation during the contest. Thanks to the Civil Engineering Round Table for our prime location at the Westroads Mall and those High Schools that participated. We are looking forward to more participation from the other metro high schools in the years ahead.



SATS...continued from Page 1

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration and State & local aviation development organizations, is proposing a new research & development program beginning in fiscal year 2001 focused on maturing SATS-enabling technologies. The program will initially focus on intermodal transportation systems engineering to develop an overall design for SATS that is complimentary to existing air and ground transportation systems. The bulk of the program will focus on developing digital airspace infrastructure and vehicle technologies that enable the SATS concept. For more information regarding the status and progress of the SATS Program you can check the <http://sats.nasa.gov/> web site.

Dr. Massoum Moussavi is an associate professor of civil engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on the Omaha campus. He has seventeen years of experience in teaching, research, and consulting in transportation engineering. Dr. Moussavi received his BS degree in civil engineering from West Virginia Tech and his MS and Ph.D. degrees in civil engineering from Virginia Tech. Dr. Moussavi's research interests include transportation planning, economics, and systems analysis; traffic engineering; mass transit systems planning and design; airport planning and design; and systems engineering. He is currently serving as a member of the SATS Systems Engineering Team at NASA Langley Research Center. Dr. Moussavi is a member of several national and international professional organizations such as ASCE, ITE, TRB, ASEE, etc., and he is registered professional engineer in Nebraska and Tennessee.

ASCE National News

A Structural Engineering Odyssey

"A Structural Engineering Odyssey" is the theme for the 2001 Structures Congress & Exposition which will be held this spring in Washington, D.C. The conference is designed to take you on a professional adventure from restoration of historic structures to breakthrough technologies that will shape the future of structural engineering.

Co-hosted by SEI and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Congress will be held in conjunction with NIST's Centennial Celebrations.

For complete conference details, please visit: www.seinstitute.org/seiconf.html.

ASCE *American Society
of Civil Engineers*

A Note from the Editor

The deadline for the May 2001 edition of The Nebraska Civil Engineer is April 30. Send ideas for items that could be included in this newsletter, articles, or information to:

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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 www.asce.org. Address changes made at the national ASCE office are updated monthly at your local Nebraska section. Remember to check the Section's website for additional information, contact information, and useful links. The URL is

www.radiks.net/~neasce

Direct any updated email addresses, items of interest or comments to the Section Webmaster, Brad Chambers, at 444-6866 or neasce@radiks.net. Items for publication can include job position postings, RFP's, corporate news releases, editorials, articles, or photos of ASCE-related events.

Last Month's Meeting

There were sixteen attendees at the March meeting at Misty's in Lincoln.

Patrick Sward (guest)	Paul Wisnieski
Ray Moore	Aaron Buettner
Joe Sherrard	Brad Chambers
Reed Schwartzkopf	Brad Levich
Tom Strauss	Mohamed Dahab
David Admiraal	Rod Kirkland (guest)
Loras Klostermann	Joe Waxse
Daryoush Razavian	Andy Kahle (speaker)

2001 Important Dates

Apr 19 APR. MEETING (Hosted by Transportation Group and UNO Student Chapter), Omaha

May 24 ANNUAL MEETING, Mahoney State Park



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