

The Nebraska Civil

Engineer



Official Publication of the Nebraska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers

Calendar of Events:

January:

22 - January Meeting; Rm 106 Othmer Hall, UNL 6:30 PM (Joint meeting with student section)

31 - Future City Competition

February:

19 - Geotechnical Meeting

20 - 21st Annual Geotechnical Seminar (see flyer inside this issue)

27 - E-Week Banquet (see page 5)

March:

4,5 - Water Law, Policy and Science Conference (See Page 3)

19 - Happy Hour (FAC)

Directions to Othmer Hall

Take I-80 to the I-180 exit towards downtown.

I-180 southbound turns into 9th Street as you approach downtown. **Turn left on P Street** (one way street, traffic flows to the east) and drive to 17th Street (one way street, traffic flows to the north). **Take a left on 17th Street.**

Once you're on 17th **move over to the right-most lane.** The **17th & R parking garage** is at the southeast corner of 17th and R (northeast corner of 17th and Q). Other parking spaces (meters) are available around Nebraska Hall and in front of the Beadle Center. From 17th & R parking garage, proceed on foot two blocks north to 17th and Vine. Othmer Hall is on the north side of Vine Street between 16th and 17th Streets.

Othmer Hall is the big new building attached to the south end of Walter Scott. See <http://www.neasce.org/images/UNLcampus.jpg> for a campus map.

The Water Resources Group and the
UNL Student Chapter Presents:

**Dams in Nebraska:
Dam Safety, Impacts of Upstream and
Downstream Development, Dam Regula-
tions, and Floodplain Mapping.**
Thursday Jan 22nd

Featuring:

*Paul Zillig, Assistant General Manager Lower Platte
South Natural Resources District,*

*Dennis Hurtz, P.E. Chief Dam Safety Engineer Ne-
braska Department of Natural Resources, and*

Mike Sotak, P.E. Design Engineer Olsson Associates.

Location: Othmer Hall Rm 106, UNL

Times:

Social Hour 6:30

Dinner 7:00

Presentations 7:30

Menu: Pizza

Cost: \$10 per person

Spouses and guests welcome

R.S.V.P. by Jan 19th

TO STEVE KATHOL IN OMAHA 402.493.4800

SKATHOL@SCHEMMER.COM

OR BRAD LEVICH IN LINCOLN 402.466.3911

BALEVICH@TERRACON.COM

Put a Spotlight on Your Favorite Project!

If you'd like to see your project in an upcoming NE-ASCE News-
letter please send articles and pictures to:
peggy-m@lra-inc.com

Spotlights will be 1- 2 pages as space permits. Companies sup-
porting the NE-ASCE Newsletter will be given precedence,
but any company with ASCE members may participate.

From the President

- Mark Stark, P.E.

Here's wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year in 2004. The holidays are past us now so once again it is time to buckle down to business. The legislative session is getting ready to get into full swing in the next few weeks so we need to prepare ourselves for another onslaught of legislation. Whether you follow the legislature or not, the laws and regulations that are passed by your representative impacts you not only as an engineer, but as a citizen of the State of Nebraska. I invite each of you to become involved in the process by writing, e-mailing, or calling your state senator concerning issues that impact you. As members of the Professional Engineers Coalition (PEC), we are kept abreast on issues that impact us and I will be forwarding selected e-mails calling for action to you through the ASCE e-mail lists.



Mark Stark, P.E.
NE-ASCE President

Another opportunity for you to become involved will occur in mid to late March. Our lobbyist, **Gordon Kissel** reserves a room at the State Capital Building, buys donuts, bagels, and beverages, then invites selected senators to meet with us. The meeting is intended to allow us the opportunity to meet with the senators that are sponsoring legislation so that we understand their concerns and they in turn hear our concerns. It is a very low key meeting and you can come and go as you please. Last year was the first year PEC held this meeting and it met with mixed results due in large part I think to the fact that few knew about it. Hopefully, with enough advance warning, you can set aside some time to meet with your senator and get to know them.

One more item on the legislative front, **Gretchen Livingston**, the NE Section Environmental Chairperson, has volunteered to attend the Leadership Training workshop in Washington, D.C. later this year. I've represented the Nebraska Section for the last few years so it will be nice to have another individual coming for the training. This is a two day affair with the first day spent in a seminar discussing national issues and learning how to meet with the Congressional representatives or their staff. The second day is spent on Capitol Hill meeting with the representatives or their staff. The meetings are typically over by lunch leaving you time to sightsee or jump on the plane back home. Thanks Gretchen for volunteering for this trip!

We've got some other exciting things coming up in the next few months when the UNL Student Section and the University of Nebraska sponsors the annual student convention in Lincoln. The students came to the December meeting and got the group pumped up about the upcoming events. There are great things happening in Nebraska, from the Future City National Winners to the UNL students sponsoring the annual convention. **The students are still looking for sponsors and judges for many of their events so please consider helping out.**

For this month's Magic Box feature, I had to do a little digging, but found a gem concerning transportation in Nebraska. The gem is the 1995 nomination of the **Bryan Bridge** near Valentine for national recognition as an *ASCE National Historic Engineering Landmark*. **David Meier** and **Steve Saye** were the two members leading the charge for this nomination. Unfortunately, nomination did not receive the national recognition, but did receive recognition as a state historical landmark. Included in the correspondence file is a report of the original dedication in 1932 where dignitaries from far and wide including **Governor Charles Bryan** and a number of Sioux Indians dressed in full regalia. After the smoking of the traditional peace pipe, the Indians and the governor began dancing on the bridge. At that point, then State Engineer, **Roy Cochran** turned to the Chief Bridge Engineer **Glen Mason** and said, "this is a good test if the S.O.B. will collapse, I mean the bridge not the governor!" Probably not politically correct by today's standards, but pretty funny anyway.

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ASCE Board Moves Ahead on New Governance Model

-by Blaine Leonard, Chair, Governance Restructuring Implementation Committee

At the National November Board meeting, the ASCE Board of Direction passed, by the required two-thirds vote, a proposed amendment to the ASCE Constitution which would modify the way the Society is governed and better position ASCE to lead the profession into the future. **The amendment will go to the members of ASCE this June for a ratifying vote.**

The proposed restructuring focuses on three things: **A smaller Board of Direction, alternate paths to service on the Board, and the creation of Regional Boards to bring more of the Society's governance closer to the members.** These changes are being proposed after more than four years of study by the Board, and after considerable discussion with the Society's leaders at all levels. A new committee has been constituted, the Governance Restructuring Implementation Committee, whose charge is to communicate the details of the proposed change to the members and to complete the detailed development and implementation of the proposed structure.

The Society's current Board of Direction is made up of 28 members, including 20 Directors who are elected from the 15 Districts, an International Director, four Vice Presidents, and three Presidential Officers. The proposed Board would consist of 17 members, including 9 Directors from the domestic geographic Regions, an International Director, two Directors representing the technical Institutes, two At-Large Directors, and three Presidential Officers. This smaller Board will be able to work more efficiently and more quickly, and will be more conducive to policy discussions. The addition of technical and at-large representation on the Board will give the Board a broader perspective and a better base from which to make policy decisions. The At-Large Directors will be Society members representing some of our diverse activities, and could include younger members, corporate executives, prominent educators, or others who may not have opportunities for service through the usual geographic channels.

Nine Regional Boards will be established in the United States under this proposal. These Boards will be comprised of five or more Regional Governors and will be led by the national Director representing the Region. **These Boards will allow for more service opportunities for ASCE members, and will provide leadership and support to the local Sections and Branches.** Regional Boards will take on some of the duties and functions currently conducted at the national level and will increase the opportunities for communication at the local level.

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The financial savings which will result from reducing the size of the Board will be used to fund the Regional Boards. **The governance proposal is, therefore, essentially a cost neutral issue.**

If the Constitutional Amendment is approved by the membership, elections for the newly created Board positions would be held beginning in 2005, and full transition to the new governance model would take four to six years.

While most of the detail of the proposed restructuring has been defined, some of the details, including how the Regional Governors are elected, operational differences to meet the needs of different Regions, and the geographical boundaries of the Regions, are still being considered. The Implementation Committee welcomes insights and comments about these, and other, issues. You can e-mail your input to governance@asce.org or go to www.asce.org/governance to review the detailed information and provide comments directly from that screen.

Check out future issues of *ASCE News* for more details on the proposed restructuring.

First Annual Water Law, Policy and Science Conference: Finding Solutions to Multi-jurisdictional Water Conflicts

Mar. 4-5, 2004

University of Nebraska College of Law, School of Natural Resources, and Water Center

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Joseph L. Sax, James H. House and Hiram H. Hurd Professors of Environmental Regulation, University of California-Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law;

Looking Ahead: The Not-so-Dire Future of Western Water Law

Sandra Postel, Director, Global Water Policy Project;
Water for Life: Rethinking Management in an Age of Scarcity.

Robert Glennon, Morris K. Udall Professor of Law & Public Policy, University of Arizona College of Law;
Water Follies: Groundwater Pumping and the Fate of America's Fresh Waters - The Impacts of Groundwater Pumping on Stream Flow.

To register and for more information go to:
<http://snr.unl.edu/waterconference2004/>

E-WEEK BANQUET FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004 Sponsored by the Engineer's Roundtable

“George Drouillard: Hunter, Interpreter and Sign-Talker for Lewis and Clark”

In celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, our speaker, **Darrel Draper**, will provide an entertaining interpretation of life as a member of the expedition. Mr. Draper, complete with full expedition costume and voyageur accent, combines history and acting ability to portray the life of Lewis and Clark's most valuable expedition member. Half French and half Shawnee Indian, this expert hunter, Indian sign talker and wilderness woodsman was called upon by the two captains whenever they needed a nearly impossible task to be completed. The audience will relive the humor, dangers, miracles and hardships of the expedition and receive a rare glimpse of how the Shawnee spirituality contributed to the success of this amazing story of human perseverance and voyage of western discovery.

Location:

Georgetowne Club
2440 South 141st Circle
(~2 blocks north of West
Center Road on 141st Street)

Time:

6:00 PM – Social Hour (Cash Bar)
7:00 PM – Banquet & Speaker

Lead Society & Master of Ceremonies:

The lead society for this year's national E-Week is the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Our Master of Ceremonies will be **Leland Jacobson**.

Dinner Selections & Prices:

- Entrée Choices:
- | | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Prime Rib of Beef | \$32.00 |
| Chicken Basiline | \$29.00 |
| Grilled Salmon | \$34.00 |

(All dinner selections include a mixed garden greens salad, parsley buttered new potatoes dinner roll & butter, coffee or tea and choice of Chocolate Raspberry Torte or Turtle Cheesecake Dessert.)



In order to provide a total attendance count to the Georgetowne Club, only advanced reservations will be accepted. Advanced reservations, menu choices, attendee's name and payment must be received by **4:00 PM, Tuesday, February 24, 2004**. Checks should be made payable to the **“E-Week Roundtable.”** Please clip the reservation form below (add an additional sheet if required), attach payment and send to the address shown

Send to: Elizabeth Hunter, Leo A. Daly Company
8600 Indian Hills Drive, Omaha, NE 68114

Attendee's Name(s)	Quantity	Menu Choice	Total Cost
_____	_____	Prime Rib x	\$32 _____
_____	_____	Chicken Basiline x	\$29 _____
_____	_____	Grilled Salmon x	\$34 _____
Total Cost			_____