

The Nebraska Civil

Engineer



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

Calendar of Events:

January:

26 - Water Resource / Student Chapter Hosted Meeting, Othmer Hall, Rm 106, UNL

February:

16 - Geotechnical Group Meeting, Caniglia's Venice Inn, Omaha

17 - 23rd Annual Geotechnical Seminar, Scott Conference Center, Omaha

23 - E-Week Banquet, Cascio's Steak House, Omaha

Highlights of this Issue:

Nominations for Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award

Your Career Action Plan for the New Year

DHS Scholarship and Fellowship Program accepting applications

Deadline for articles to be published in the February Newsletter will be Friday, February 3rd. Email articles to Aaron Grote at editor@neasce.org

The Water Resource Group Presents:

"Legislative Bill 962-Integrated Management of Surface and Groundwater"

Thursday, January 26th

Featuring: Ann Bleed,
Acting Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Ann will present a program on the Legislative Bill 962. LB 962 amended the Nebraska Groundwater Management and Protection Act to include a more proactive approach to the State's integrated management of surface and groundwater use. Every January, the Department of Natural Resources will make a determination of river basins are considered to be fully appropriated.

Ann Bleed was appointed as acting director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources in August 2005. Mrs. Bleed has been with the State Government since 1988. She has served as State Hydrologist with the Department of Water Resources and Deputy Director.

Location: Othmer Hall, Rm 106, UNL

Times: Social Hour 6:30
Dinner/Presentation 7:00

Menu: Pizza and Pop

Spouses and guests welcome
\$12 price includes a meal.
RSVP by 12 PM Monday, January 23 rd
TO DEB 402.330.2202 OR
VP@NEASCE.ORG SUBJECT LINE: ASCE RSVP

*Prices include tax and gratuity.
Portions of the proceeds will go towards hosting our speaker.*

From the President

- Steve Kathol, P.E., S.E.



Steve Kathol, P.E., S.E.
NE-ASCE President

Greetings ASCE Nebraska Section members and Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season.

Thank you to Loras Klostermann and the Management Group for hosting the November meeting in Omaha. The meeting was held at Johnny's Italian Steakhouse, and I believe all had a good time. Mr. Jim Linderholm, P.E., Chairman of HWS Consulting Group, gave an excellent presentation on engineering management issues. He discussed his "Seven Rules for Good Management in the Engineering Profession". All who attended were treated to Jim's knowledge and lessons learned from 40 years of professional experience.

I am happy to report that the Nebraska Section was successful in obtaining a State Public Affairs Grant (SPAG) in the amount of \$5600. Three separate grants were awarded and will help fund educational outreach activities, membership in the Professional Engineers Coalition and an ASCE advertisement in the E-Week newspaper supplement. I again would like to thank Bill Arneson, John Hill, and Brad Chambers for their efforts in preparing the grant applications.

The ASCE-National Board of Directors (BOD) recently conducted a special meeting and approved a motion to implement the following five recommendations.

1. The Civil Engineering Research Foundation (CERF) and the CERF Advisory Board shall be dissolved, and an Industry Leaders Council (ILC) shall be established.
2. The existing CERF 501(c)3 corporate entity should be renamed the Industry Leaders Council with a new ILC Board, and new governing documents.
3. Steps shall be taken to close, complete, or transfer to ASCE, all existing CERF grants, contracts, and projects as soon as practicable.
4. The ASCE BOD shall establish a Task Committee to develop the governing documents and the operating procedures for ILC. The ASCE President shall appoint at least one District or Region Director to this committee to serve in an ex-officio capacity.
5. The ASCE BOD should incorporate the ILC activities into the strategic planning process.

In essence, CERF has been dissolved and reorganized as the Industry Leaders Council with a new mission to develop strategies for the Civil Engineering profession, with emphasis on advancing technology, project performance and productivity. If you would like additional information, it is available from ASCE-National.

The January meeting will be hosted by the Water Resources Group and will be a joint meeting with the UNL students. Mrs. Ann Bleed, Acting Director for the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, will discuss new regulations related to groundwater and surface water in Nebraska. I hope to see you all there.

Steve D. Kathol, P.E., S.E.
President, ASCE- Nebraska Section

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Your Career Action Plan for the New Year

People make New Year's resolutions with the best intentions, but they often fail for lack of a solid action plan. If you've resolved for 2006 to move your career forward into a new industry, occupation or level of responsibility, increase your chances of success with this three-part action plan focused on results.

- 1. Know your career objective**
- 2. Update your resume and cover letters**
- 3. Update your network and networking skills**

Know your career objective

1. Know your career objective

Knowing your career objective may sound obvious and easy. If, however, you are dissatisfied with your current position, it can be difficult to sort out the good from the bad. You may not fully understand the target of your dissatisfaction: Is it your job or your employer; your company's culture or your supervisor? Analyzing what you want in a job is a good start in determining the best new job for you.

If you are uncertain what type of position to focus on, start by identifying the transferable skills you enjoy(ed) using in your current or past positions. A professional career coach can be helpful in sorting out what you want to keep and, more importantly, what you want to avoid in your next position.

2. Update your resume and cover letters

If it has been a while since your last job search, your resume may no longer reflect your current career direction. Don't forget the most important elements of a strong resume: solid achievements that illustrate your transferable skills, and key words and phrases to capture employers' attention and interest.

Cover letters can make the difference between a warm reception or a cold shoulder. While it's true that not all resume screeners read cover letters, those who do are never impressed—and are often put off by cover letters that sound phony or mass-produced. If you are uncertain of your resume writing skills, a professional resume writer can transform your so-so resume & cover letters into true selling tools.

3. Update your network and networking skills

A good job-search network consists of all those persons

who can provide information about future or current career opportunities. You say you don't have a network? You probably do, but you just haven't thought about people who could fit this category. Start by identifying groups of people that you are in contact with on a regular basis, such as professional associations, church, college alumni groups, and neighborhood associations. Then identify the individuals within those groups with whom you feel comfortable and who could help you learn of job leads. Many of my resume and coaching clients lament their poor networking skills. I always tell them not to worry; they are in good company because most people feel inadequate when it comes to networking. Before you dismiss the value of a strong network, remember: In securing all-important job interviews, it's very often not what you know but who you know. There are many resources available for learning how to build and utilize a network to your job-search advantage: books, online articles, workshops, and career coaches trained in the most effective networking techniques. Once you've put your job-search action plan into practice, you'll be on your way to a better job and a better life.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announces program guidelines for the 2006 competition cycle of the DHS Scholarship and Fellowship Program. Complete information is available online at <http://www.orau.gov/dhsed/>.

The 2006 competition cycle will provide financial support beginning in fall 2006 for approximately 100 Scholars and Fellows.

All applicants are expected to apply using the online application. The deadline for submitting an application is January 31, 2006, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Questions regarding the DHS Scholarship and Fellowship Program can be sent via e-mail to dhsed@orau.gov.

NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED NOW FOR THE 2006 YOUNG GOVERNMENT CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

For Demonstrated Leadership Potential in and for Significant Contributions to Public Service Engineering

This Award is presented annually to a distinguished young civil engineer employed in the public sector. The National Award Winner will receive a plaque at a session to be determined at the 2006 ASCE Annual Conference.

Other outstanding nominees may be recognized with Certificates of Commendations. Certificates of Commendation will be presented at the Younger Member Leadership Symposium at the 2006 ASCE Annual Conference.

Nominees must be a member of ASCE, age thirty-five years or less on December 31, 2005, an engineer of recognized leadership potential, employed full-time in the public sector for a minimum of five (5) years as of December 31, 2005, and presently employed in the U.S. public sector. E.I.T. certification is required of all candidates.

Engineers who have received a Zone Young Government Civil Engineer Award or a Certificate of Commendation in the past may apply for the National Award provided they meet all criteria. However, they will not be eligible to receive a Certificate of Commendation for the current award year.

Qualifications of the award nominees will be judged on the following:

- X Excellent performance that has demonstrated leadership potential in public sector civil engineering
- X Evidence of high character and professional integrity
- X Civic and humanitarian activities (community service)
- X **Outstanding contributions to ASCE**

The form can be found on the Committee on Younger Members (CYM) Awards website at http://www.asce.org/pressroom/honors/cym_awrds.cfm.

Completed nomination forms must be returned to ASCE **NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1, 2006** in order to be eligible for the award.

2006 Structures Congress

Plan now to join us in St. Louis, MO May 18-21, 2006. The Congress theme this year is "Structural Engineering and Public Safety." Offering a variety of informative technical and business and practice sessions, including tentative plans for a special overview of Hurricane Katrina and workshops on Risk Management for the individual professional. This Congress will have something for everyone. A portion of the program will be presented as the Analysis & Computation Specialty Conference, which will highlight recent research concerning theory, practice and application of all forms of computation related to the analysis and design of engineering structures. The Adams Mark Hotel on-line reservation system is now open! For further information **visit:** <http://www.asce.org/conferences/structures2006>.

2006 GeoCongress

Join us in Atlanta, GA, February 26 - March 1, 2006. The objectives of the 2006 Geo-Congress are to (a) showcase recent advancements in all geo-applications as a result of the adoption of information technologies; (b) debate future opportunities for the geo- industry that can result from even more widespread adoption of information technologies; and (c) bring together participants from a broad range of groups within the geo- community. For further information visit: <http://www.asce.org/conferences/geocongress06>.

Put a Spotlight on Your Favorite Project!

If you'd like to see your project in an upcoming NE-ASCE Newsletter, please send articles and pictures to: editor@neasce.org

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

NE-ASCE News

October Meeting Hosted by the Construction Group

Thanks to Aaron Buettner for hosting the October Meeting. Boyd Epley gave an excellent presentation on The Husker Championship Facility.

The names listed below can be considered official documentation of attendances at the October meeting worth 1 PDH credit.

Bill Ameson	Jim Linderholm
Mike Baumert	J.D. Linscott
Steve Bottum	Brian Lodes
Aaron Buettner	Lindsay Madsen
Brad Chambers	Marie Maly
Scott Gilliland	Tom Mamik
Brian Havius	Mike McIntosh
Jason Hen	Mike Naccarato
John Hill	K. Nohavec
Pat Hillyer	Ed Prost
Steve Kathol	Dan Pudenz
Loras Klostermann	Mike Sklenar
Jeff Kopicis	Tom Syrauss
Daren Konda	Bob Taylor
Jeff Kortan	Andy Wester
Heidi Kramer	



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