



EVENT CALENDAR:

November 2010

18th - Management
Technical Group Meeting
(Lincoln)

February 2011

24th - Annual E-Week
Banquet

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

November Meeting
Information

From The President

October Meeting Hosted by
the Construction Group

Future City Competition

2010 Younger Member
Group Kickball Game

Save the Date: Annual E-
Week Banquet

"Bounty" Offered to Sections
for Peer Review Referrals

November Meeting

November 2010

The Management Technical Group Presents:

*The Road from Engineering to the Politics - Why engineers should
get involved in public policy*

Thursday, November 18th, 2010

Presenter: Senator Tony Fulton

Senator Tony Fulton was born and raised in Auburn, Nebraska. Though he studied philosophy and theology, Sen. Fulton ultimately received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from UNL in 1997. He was a Professional Engineer and worked at several companies, including Alvine Engineering. In 2003, he founded Guardian Angels Homecare, an organization dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the dignity of the human person by providing non-medical elder-care, thus allowing seniors to remain in their own homes. Initially appointed to the Nebraska Legislature in 2007, he was overwhelmingly elected to the position in 2008. Sen. Fulton serves on the Appropriations Committee. He is also a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and actively serves on various committees of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, the Better Business Bureau, the Lincoln Caregiver Education Group, and St. Peter's Catholic Church. Sen. Fulton and his wife Judy have six children.

Location: Lazlo's Brewery & Grill
5900 Old Cheney Road
Lincoln, NE 68516

Times: Social (Cash Bar) 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Meeting and Presentation 7:30 p.m.

Menu: New York Strip
BBQ Chicken and Baby Back Ribs
Grilled Salmon
Vegetable Kabobs

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 Monday November 15th at www.neasce.org/meal_signup.

Deadline for articles to be published in the
January newsletter will be January 5th. Email
articles to Greg Seib at editor@neasce.org

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From the President

- Aaron Buettner, P.E., M.ASCE

Many thanks to Doug Kellner for his efforts in setting up our site visit at the TD Ameritrade building. We had a nice turnout for the meeting and site visit and learned a lot about the design and construction of this interesting building.

Our next meeting will be held at Lazlo's in Lincoln. The featured speaker will be State Senator Tony Fulton. Senator Fulton began his career with a degree in mechanical engineering and several years in private engineering practice. After starting a company specializing in care of senior citizens he was appointed to a vacant seat in the Legislator where he has served since 2007. Senator Fulton will be speaking on the importance of engineers being involved in public policy. Public policy affects many areas of our practice and I encourage everyone to attend this meeting to hear the perspective of an engineer turned legislator.

Along these same lines, I want to encourage all of our members to become involved in the public policy process in some way. Simply being aware of engineering related public policy issues and speaking with our friends and family about these issues is an easy way to become involved. An option for further involvement is the ASCE Key Contacts program I mentioned in last month's newsletter. I will have brochures available at the meeting that describe this program, and I encourage everyone to at least review the program and consider becoming involved. There



Aaron Buettner, P.E., President of NE-ASCE

are many levels of participation, so one need not be concerned about a large commitment of time.

Finally, we are still in need of members willing to serve in leadership roles for the Nebraska Section. Openings include Vice President, Membership Chair, and Management Technical Chair. So far I've tried appealing to your intellect regarding the many benefits of serving the Section in one of these roles. Appealing to engineers in this manner seemed to be fitting. However, I haven't been overwhelmed with responses, so now I'm going to try appealing to your hearts by begging. If you have an interest in one of these positions, please talk to me or any other board member.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Lincoln on November 18th.

-Aaron M. Buettner, P.E., M.ASCE

October Meeting Hosted by the Construction Group

Thanks to the Construction Group for hosting the October meeting. The list below can be considered official documentation of attendance at the October 21st meeting worth 1 PDH credit.

Doug Kellner	Dean Jaeger
Daren Konda	Romeo Reales
Aaron Buettner	Louis Sobczyk
John Hill	Kelley Real
Mike Naccarato	Ariel Kousgaard
Ed Thiele	Art Beccard
Ed Prost	John Kottmann
Aaron Grote	Jeff Kopocis
Pat Hillyer	Carl Hart
Nelson Jacobs	Harvey Funk
Russ Siedlik	Phil Spencer
Charles Riggs	Del Reibold
Caleb Beasley	Jeremy Steenhoek
Matt McConville	

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 page 7 of this newsletter 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.



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2010 Younger Member Group Kickball Game

On October 1st, the Younger Member Group got together for the Annual YMG Kickball Game. The event was a great way for the YMG to start the year, with 20 Younger Members participating in the annual event. The game provided a great way to unwind from the work week and an opportunity for Younger Members to network with their peers.

If you would like information on the YMG and upcoming events, and you are not on the YMG email list, please email AndresTorres or Joe Flaxbeard at ymg@neasce.org. See you at the next event!



Younger Member Group Kickball Game

Save the Date! Annual E-Week Banquet

The Annual E-Week Banquet will be Thursday, February 24, 2011. It is sponsored by the Engineer's Roundtable. 0.1 Continuing Education Units (CEU) or 1.0 Professional Development Hours (PDH) are available.

Banquet Location:

Strategic Air and Space Museum
28210 West Park Highway
Ashland, NE 68003

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

Look for the sign-up flyer with additional information soon.

Engineers Roundtable website:
<http://www.eroundtable.unomaha.edu>

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“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.

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“Bounty” Offered to Sections for Peer Review Referrals
Continued from Page 5)

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.

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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

The Nebraska Civil Engineer

c/o Greg Seib

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Thank you
to the businesses
that support this
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