

EVENT CALENDAR:

May

8th - Annual Banquet and Meeting

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

Annual Meeting

From the President

Transportation Group
Hosts April Meeting

Invitation from Dr. Linzell

ASCE National Fly-In

ASCE/LOCATE
Transportation Conference

ASCE's Stevens and Burress
Visit Nebraska Section

Annual Meeting

May 2014

NEASCE Annual Banquet and Meeting

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Program: Keynote Speaker: David Brown (President and CEO, Greater Omaha Chamber)
Presentation of Life Member Awards
Presentation of Outstanding Members and Student Awards
Election of NEASCE Officers

Location: TD Ameritrade Baseball Park (1200 Mike Fahey St, Omaha, NE 68102)

Times: Social Hour: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Behind the scenes tour of baseball park:
5:45 - 6:15 p.m. and 6:20 - 6:50 p.m.
Dinner and Program: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Menu: Choice of: New York strip steak, roasted lemon-garlic chicken, or grilled salmon with sauteed green beans, loaded mashed potatoes, red wine braised wild mushrooms, baby field green salad, creamed sweet corn, and bread pudding served warm with caramel sauce and vanilla bean ice cream

Price: \$15 per person (includes two complimentary drink tickets)
NEASCE Student Members are Free

Registration: RSVP: <http://neasce.com/signup/> by 12:00 Noon on Monday April 28th.

2014 Life Members

William Miller	Thomas Thelen
Charles Riggs	Richard Niedergeses
Paul Harmon	David Mead
Paul Welsch	Gary Proskovec

Email newsletter articles to Greg Seib at gseib@olssonassociates.com

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From the President

-Mike Sklenar, M.ASCE

As this year comes to a close, we look back at a very busy year. Here are a few of the highlights:

- We have been monitoring updates in legislative bills through our Legislative Affairs Chairs on upcoming bill that will affect engineering practice. We have a current one under review.
- The annual Structural, GeoOmaha, and Transportation conferences provided an excellent venue for sharing information and exciting projects in the industry.
- The monthly technical meetings were all very interesting and we are making attempts to streamline the meeting and offer more lunch time meetings.
- The Younger Member Group had several activities providing opportunities to develop new professional relationships.
- We continued the outreach programs of the Future City and Truss Bustin' competitions as well as interaction with high schools and the UNO & UNL student chapters. We continue to support the UNO & UNL Chapters' Concrete Canoe and Steel Bridge Competitions.
- The Nebraska Section hosted the Region 7 Regional Meeting in Omaha and we recently had a visit from the Society President-Elect and Region 7 Director. The visits provided the section with the opportunity to share information going on at the regional and national level.
- The Nebraska Section has continued support for Habitat for Humanity, and Engineers Without Borders.
- We have had several members get nominated and receive national awards recognizing some of our outstanding members.
- We have awarded several scholarships to Civil Engineering students through the University Foundation programs funded by the Nebraska Section as well as recognizing outstanding Civil Engineering students.

All these accomplishments are made possible through the hard work of our members. Thanks to all the volunteer members that make the Nebraska Section successful. Have a wonderful summer and looking forward to another exciting year this fall.

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Transportation Group Hosts April Meeting

-Ticha Rohan, M.ASCE, Co-Chair Transportation Committee

The Transportation Technical Committee, chaired by John Smith and Ticha Rohan, hosted April's section meeting jointly with the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) student chapter at the UNO Milo Bail Student Center. Special guests, ASCE President-Elect Robert Stevens, and Region 7 Director-Elect F. Jay Burress were in attendance. Dr. Robert Stevens graciously gave a brief presentation to the group on ASCE initiatives and encouraged members to actively participate in the civil engineering profession.

During the meeting, the Nebraska Section recognized the top three winners of the Truss Bustin' competition, who received cash prizes. Of the tree top places, Megan Semin, of Omaha Gross High School was the top scorer and attended our meeting along with her parents and her teacher Steve Hamersky. Megan was First Place with a bridge mass of 46.8g, failing at a load of 262.8 lbs, for a calculated strength factor of 2.147, and total points of 99.2. Cash prizes will be awarded at the students' school along with a short talk of Civil Engineering. Megan receives \$300 for first place.

The UNO Steel Bridge team captains, Ben Lorenzen and Zach Mahon, made a presentation to the section on the progress of the team this year. Returning team members are applying lessons learned from last year's competition to improve the design philosophy for this year's bridge. Since the rules change from year to year, the teams must design new bridges to fit the new constraints. The team will compete with their bridge at the Mid-Continent Conference at Oklahoma State University April 24-26. The Nebraska Section has sponsored both the UNO and UNL student teams with a \$500 contribution to each team, and wishes them well in competition!

The featured speaker for the evening was Greg Reeder, Public Works Director for the City of Council Bluffs, presenting "Railroads and the City of Council Bluffs." In its prime, the railroad industry was responsible for providing large percentage of the employment opportunities for the city, and there are historic buildings and sculptures that can be visited today that are rooted in this time. The rail lines and yards have essentially subdivided the city into three areas from which residents associate themselves, East, West and South. Mr. Reeder highlighted the recent completion of the Broadway viaduct, noting its significance in connecting the City and the artwork funded by the Iowa West Foundation. With such active lines, the City has long been interested in seeing a consolidation of the rail lines in order to improve the mobility and quality of life for its residents. The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) Council Bluffs Interstate Reconstruction Project that is currently underway provided just that opportunity. Reeder credits Iowa DOT for leading the charge in a complicated rail consolidation effort involving multiple railroads. After seven years of study and negotiation, the agreements have been signed, and the consolidation should be complete in three years. The consolidated system will meet the service needs of the rail clients and improve mobility and safety for the residents in the area. Thank you, Mr. Reeder, for the educational and insightful presentation.

The transportation group brings up the rear with the monthly section meetings. The Section will gather one last time before the summer break at the Annual Meeting on May 8. See the article on page 1 of this newsletter and go online to register.

**Editor's Note: The official attendance list for the April meeting will be included in the next newsletter.*

Invitation from Dr. Linzell (Chair, University of Nebraska Civil Engineering Department)

Civil Engineering Alumni –

I am sending this note to inform you of our spring social event for students, faculty, staff and alumni. We would like to invite you to a UNL HUSKERS BASEBALL event on FRIDAY, MAY 2ND.

Come to 106 Othmer Hall on the Lincoln campus at 5pm on the 2nd for some barbeque, sides, lemonade and iced tea and see some of our labs and student groups in action! Those that are interested will wander over to Hawks Field at around 6:20 for the Huskers game against Penn State, which starts at 6:35 (you can purchase your tickets at the gate – Reserved Seats \$8, General Admission \$5).

Information related to the event and how you can RSVP can be found the flier shown below. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for your time.

Daniel Linzell, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE
Voelte-Keegan Professor and Chair, Department of Civil Engineering

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ASCE National Fly-In

-Derek Gardels, M.ASCE

I had the opportunity to attend the ASCE's Legislative Fly-in with Daren Konda and Bill Arneson from the Nebraska Section on March 18-20, 2014. ASCE members from 47 states attended the event this year. One of the highlights of the Fly-in was a presentation by U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Anthony Foxx. Secretary Foxx stated that he appreciated ASCE's efforts in framing the issue surrounding the funding deficit of our nation's infrastructure. He stated that the ASCE Report card is regularly cited to communicate this problem. Secretary Foxx gave a summary of the plan recently proposed by President Obama, which could use proceeds from the business tax reform bill to fund the shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund.

The ASCE Fly-in also included other panels with Congressional Staff from Capitol Hill. Each of the panelists discussed the need for a sustainable revenue solution to the Highway Trust Fund (which ASCE has estimated could become insolvent as soon as August or September of this year). Based on the current political environment, raising the gas tax to cover the shortfalls in the Highway Trust Fund is improbable. A number of potential solutions were proposed, though ASCE has not taken a formal position on which revenue streams would be preferred.

Attendees of the Fly-in were then tasked with meeting with their respective state representatives. Bill Arneson, Daren Konda and I met with staff from the offices of Deb Fischer (U.S. Senator), Mike Johanns (U.S. Senator), Lee Terry (U.S. Congressman for District 2) and Jeff Fortenberry (U.S. Congressman for District 1). Though a representative from District 3 did not attend the Fly-in, we delivered the ASCE packet to the office of Adrian Smith (U.S. Congressman for District 3). In our meetings, it was clear that there was general support for the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Although Congress is still working out the differences between the versions of this bill, staff members felt confident that the bill would pass soon. In regard to the Highway Trust Fund, there was general agreement that there is a need for a sustainable revenue source for the Highway Trust Fund. However, they were not confident that new legislation would pass this year. A temporary extension is much more likely to be passed. The office of Deb Fischer (Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Member) also noted that State Revolving Funding (SRF) for water and wastewater infrastructure did not seem to be high on the priority of the committee (indicating that some cuts to the program are likely).

Overall, the ASCE Fly-in is a great opportunity for any ASCE member to learn the legislative process. Many of our projects are regulatory driven or federally funded, so I think it is very beneficial to understand the process. It is also important for ASCE members to voice our concerns on issues that directly impact infrastructure. I would highly recommend other ASCE members to consider attending the event in subsequent years.



ASCE/LOCATE Transportation Conference

-Ticha Rohan, M.ASCE, Co-Chair Transportation Committee

The Nebraska Section of ASCE and Lincoln-Omaha-Council Bluffs Transportation Engineers (LOCATE) hosted the 10th Annual Transportation Conference on Friday April 11 at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha. The conference provides an enjoyable way to expand ones knowledge and network with peers. Each year proceeds from the conference registration fees and conference sponsors go toward an endowment fund with the University of Nebraska Foundation. This year's sponsors include: Iteris, HDR, Lamp Rynearson & Associates, Felsburg Holt & Ullevig, HGM & Associates, JEO Consulting Group, E&A Consulting Group, Schemmer Associates, Benesch, Valmont Structures, and General Traffic Controls. We are pleased to announce that this year the fund has reached a sustainable balance, and the first applications have been solicited for the \$1500 scholarship. We look forward to announcing the first recipients at next year's conference.

The 2014 conference offered 6.5 Professional Development Hours and was well attended with 130 professionals. Nebraska State Senator Jim Smith, District 14, provided the morning keynote address "Overview of Transportation and Telecommunications and Natural Resources Committees" and Dr. Robert Stevens, ASCE 2015 President-elect, provided the lunch keynote address, "Engineering the Future." The attendees enjoyed presentations on a variety of topics:

- Council Bluffs Interstate System Improvement Program (Troy Jerman, Iowa DOT and Will Sharp, HDR)
- Lincoln's "N" Street Protected Bikeway (Ernie Castillo, City of Lincoln and Justin Petersen, Olsson Associates)
- Development of Iowa's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (Milly Ortiz, Iowa DOT)
- Mesoscopic Modeling 101 (Courtney Sokol and Jon Markt, HDR)
- Transportation Systems Research at the Nebraska Transportation Center (Dr. Laurence Rilett, University of Nebraska)
- Lincoln Broadband Improvement Project (David Young, City of Lincoln)
- Accelerated Bridge Construction in Nebraska (Mark Traynowicz, NDOR)
- 42nd & "Q" Street Intersection Improvements (Tim O'Brien and Todd Pfitzer, City of Omaha)
- I-70/K-7 Interchange: Bonner Springs, KS (Aaron Frits, Kansas DOT and Tim Ross, George Butler Associates)
- Railroad Quiet Zones – Improving Waverly's Quality of Life (Mark Lutjeharms and Shane Swope, Schemmer Associates)



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ASCE/LOCATE Transportation Conference (Continued)

The conference is made possible by the generosity of the speakers, donating their time to develop and offer the presentations. Thanks also to the conference committee members: John Smith and Ticha Rohan (ASCE, HDR), Bryan Guy (LOCATE, Iteris), Randy Hoskins (City of Lincoln), Todd Pfitzer (City of Omaha), Moe Jamshidi (NDOR), Greg Youell (MAPA) and Dr. Aemal Khattak (Nebraska Transportation Center).



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ASCE's Stevens and Burress visit Nebraska Section

-Ticha Rohan, M.ASCE, Co-Chair Transportation Committee

This April the Nebraska section proudly hosted ASCE President-Elect Robert Stevens, PhD, PE, AICP, F. ASCE and Region 7 Director F. Jay Burress, PE, M.ASCE.


Dr. Stevens (pictured, third from the left) has been involved with ASCE since his years as a student member at University of Akron, OH, and has served on an extensive number of committees over the years. Professionally he has worked for various consultants, presently as Executive Vice President with ARCADIS US, Inc., as well as serving as a guest lecturer for undergraduate and graduate courses. He currently resides in Keller, TX with his wife, Bonnie, of 47 years.

Mr. Burress (pictured, second from the left) also became involved with ASCE as a student member, participating at the University of Texas, and has continued on into several regional and society-level positions. Mr. Burress represents Region 7, which includes the Midwestern states of Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, Kansas, and Missouri. He is currently Associate Principal with Shafer, Kline & Warren, Inc. and lives in Stilwell, KS, with his wife and 3 daughters.

During his two-day visit, Dr. Stevens engaged with students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and University of Nebraska at Omaha, contributed to the section board meeting, and presented and participated in the monthly Nebraska Section meeting, and at the joint ASCE/LOCATE Transportation Conference. In his presentations, Dr. Stevens gave an overview of ASCE and our work to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. He also highlighted The Vision for Civil Engineering in 2025 and ASCE's strategic initiatives: Sustainability, Infrastructure, and Raise the Bar. His final charge to us: How will you choose to help engineer a better future?

It was an honor to have these society representatives spend time with the Nebraska Section, and those members in attendance enjoyed meeting them personally and visiting over matters relevant to the section.



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The Nebraska Civil Engineer

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