

Inside this issue:

February Meeting	1
From the President	2
December Meeting Summary	3
Life Member Spotlight	5
Calendar	6

February Meeting

Date: Friday, February 5, 2021

Host: Nebraska Section Geotechnical Group

Location:

Scott Conference Center

6450 Pine Street

Omaha, NE 68106

Program: 38TH ANNUAL GEOTECHNICAL CONFERENCE

You're invited to the GEO-Omaha 2021, 38th Annual Geotechnical Conference featuring seven guest speakers!

Early Professional registration fee is \$175 (in-person) and \$150 (virtual) deadline **February 1, 2021**. After this date, prices increase to \$195 (in-person) and \$170 (virtual). Full time students are free to attend. The registration fee covers technology for live streaming, coffee breaks, lunch and handout material.

The annual geotechnical seminar provides a forum for the presentation of a wide variety of geotechnical field, design, and construction-related topics. A certificate verifying 7.5 Professional Development Hours will be provided to registered attendees (includes 1 hour of ethics).

The event is available for in-person or virtual attendance. Some or all speakers may be present virtually. Depending on COVID-19 health and safety guidelines at the time of the event, a face covering and social distancing procedures may be required for in-person attendance.

Currently limiting venue capacity to 50% in person (150 seats) and subject to change depending on local health safety guidelines. If gathering sizes are restricted to 25% of the rated occupancy rate the event will be held virtual only. Partial refund for those that paid for in-person registration if conference is held virtually only.

Registration/Deadline: February 1, 2021, [REGISTER HERE](#).



**Brandon Gardels, PE,
M.ASCE**

From the President

Dear Nebraska ASCE Members,

I hope everyone enjoyed some time off for the holidays and the new year. I am excited for the new year in many ways. First, we launched a new [NE-ASCE website](#) that we can now share with everyone. I would encourage you to check that out and provide any feedback you may have.

Secondly, we are excited to start hosting some events again. The most recent event will be the [GEO-Omaha 2021, 38th Annual Geotechnical Conference](#) which will be held on Friday, February 5th at the Scott Conference Center or virtually, whichever you prefer. We are expecting a great group of presentations and attendees, as always. Stay tuned for many more events in the coming months!

Lastly, most ASCE members are familiar with The Report Card for America's Infrastructure which ASCE publishes every four years (the next report will be published in the coming months). In the 2017 report, the U.S. infrastructure earned a D+ average on a scale of A to F. Therefore, ASCE recently published the [Failure to Act: Economic Impacts of Status Quo Investment Across Infrastructure Systems](#) which looks at the implications of low infrastructure grades, such as a D+ average, for America's economic future. The report found that the impact of poorly performing infrastructure would cost the average household in the US more than \$3,300 per year in disposable income through 2039. The report further shines a light on the importance of reliable infrastructure and is worth checking out for yourself.

We are looking forward to a bright 2021. Let us know how we can help improve the civil engineering profession.

Sincerely,

Brandon Gardels

Brandon Gardels, President, ASCE Nebraska Section

December Meeting Summary

NE ASCE does not host a meeting in December to allow time for all to enjoy the holidays. Due to the unusual circumstances with this year, please read below for information regarding the continuing hours requirements.

On April 17, 2020, the Board voted to modify continuing education requirements for licenses expiring on December 31, 2020, and December 31, 2021, as follows:

- Regarding Rule 9.2.1 and 9.2.2, the required number of actual CE hours is 20 (in lieu of 30) for professional engineers and 16 (in lieu of 24) for architects. For architects, 8 of the hours must address the safeguarding of life, health, and property.
- Regarding Rule 9.3.1 (5), the limit on restricted online, non-live CE activities is raised to no more than one-half (in lieu of one-fourth).
- Regarding Rule 9.3.2, the minimum number of required ethics hours is unchanged at 1 hour.
- Regarding Rule 9.3.5, self-guided activities may constitute no more than five hours for architects or six hours for professional engineers.
- Regarding Rule 9.4.3, the maximum number of carryover hours is unchanged and remains at half the biennial requirement (15 for professional engineers and 12 for architects).

You can also view this on the State of Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects [here](#).



6910 Pacific Street Suite 310
Omaha NE 68106-1046

Ofc: 402.553.0234
Fax: 402.553.0201

Providing Structural Engineering (and related) Solutions

InfraStructure: IS Bridges IS Buildings IS Precast Detailing
IS Construction/Value Engineering IS Field Inspection/Observation
IS Information/Technology Solutions & Asset Management Support

SCHEMMER.COM | 402.493.4800

Tri-Faith Bridge / Omaha, Nebraska

We designed a bridge
to unite people of
different religious faiths.

A HIGHER CALLING.



olsson[®]

We're **Olsson**, engineers who understand that where there's a project, there's a purpose. We're proud of the role we played in connecting members of the Tri-Faith initiative. olsson.com

LIFE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: William Arneson

Every year, members of the NE ASCE Section reach Life Member status. This means this individual has made a lifetime commitment to ASCE and the civil engineering profession by remaining a member for the full length of their professional career. This year, we are happy to announce that five members reached this status. To commemorate this achievement, we will be highlighting each member in our newsletter. This month we congratulate William Arneson!

William, better known as Bill, attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and graduated in 1980 with a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering. His ASCE membership started early, as a student in 1978 to learn about advancements in the industry. This combined with connections made with fellow engineers kept Arneson renewing his membership year after year. While in ASCE, Bill held five positions: Section Secretary, Section Vice President, Section President, Legislative Committee and Advocacy Captain—Legislative Affairs for National ASCE.

Upon graduation, Arneson worked as a geotechnical engineer at Geotechnical Services Inc in Lincoln, Nebraska. You can find him still working today as a geotechnical engineer at Mainelli Wagner & Associates in Lincoln enjoying the variety of work and solving economic problems for repeat clients. Some of his most memorable projects are drilling and sampling for a dam in Burwell, consulting for Burlington Northern Railroad, performing quality control during stabilization from potential earthquakes in Kansas, and performing geotechnical work for the Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge.

When Bill isn't working or participating in ASCE events, you can find him gardening, carving wood, investing and traveling. He married Linda in 1978 and raised three children; Eric, Petrina and Tobias. He also enjoys spending time with his two grandchildren; Cecilia and Colette. Congratulations Bill on your achievement!

To learn more about how to become a life member, visit this

[site](#).



Annual ASCE Fly-In in Washington D.C. (From left to right: ASCE National Past President Kristina Swallow, Nebraska Senator Deb Fischer, ASCE Nebraska Section Delegate Daren Konda and Nebraska Section Advocate Captain William Arneson.)

Upcoming Events and Seminars

Program	Full Dates	City/State
Geotech Short Course and Conference	Feb 2020	Omaha, NE/ Virtual
Transportation Conference	April 2020	Omaha, NE/ Virtual

ASCE Continuing Education

ASCE currently holds more than 300 live webinars annually and has available more than 400 on-demand webinars covering a wide variety of technical and management topics. To access these webinars, see the following links below:

ASCE's [live webinars](#) provide cost-effective training for large and small groups. Use Promo Code **WEBNEBSEC** to secure your preferred rate.

ASCE's [on-demand webinars](#) provide real-world knowledge and convenient delivery to fit your demanding schedule. Use Promo Code **WEBNEBSEC** to secure your preferred rate.

Bringing ground improvement out of the Stone Column Age.



Let us tailor a Geopier® solution to your unique, local soil conditions. Contact your local geotechnical engineer.

Deanna Chambers, P.E.
 email: dchambers@groundimprovementeng.com
 call: 402.651.1673 web: groundimprovementeng.com

**American Society of Civil
Engineers Nebraska Section**

www.neasce.org

**The Nebraska Section of ASCE
is an active organization of over
600 members who are diverse
in practice & geography. ASCE
represents more than 150,000
civil engineers nationwide and
is America's oldest national
engineering society.**



2020-2021 NEASCE Officers

President

Brandon Gardels, P.E., M.ASCE
HDR
402-399-1361
Brandon.gardels@hdrinc.com

President-Elect

Brandon Vacek, P.E., M.ASCE
Felsburg Holt & Ullevig
402-455-4405
Brandan.Vacek@fhueng.com

Vice President

Garret Martindale, EI, M.ASCE
HDR
Garrett.Martindale@hdrinc.com

Past President

Elizabeth Vacek, E.I., A.M.ASCE
Lamp Rynearson
Elizabeth.Vacek@LampRynearson.com

Treasurer

Greta Ehrhorn, E.I., A.M.ASCE
Olsson
gehrhorn@olsson.com

Secretary

Isabella Walsh, E.I., A.M.ASCE
HDR
402-392-8600
Isabella.walsh@hdrinc.com

Director

Marie Stamm, P.E., M.ASCE
The Schemmer Associates, Inc.
402-493-4800
marie.asce@gmail.com

Director

Mike Sklenar, PE, M.ASCE

The Nebraska Civil Engineer

c/o Sarah Ostrander
Olsson
601 P St, #200
Lincoln, NE 68508

Thank you to the businesses that support this
newsletter through their contributions.

For underwriting information, contact Sarah
Ostrander, Newsletter Editor, at 531-365-4629
or sostrander@olsson.com

Deadline for articles to be published in the January newsletter will be
December 25. Email articles to Sarah Ostrander at sostrander@olsson.com