

January 1999 Newsletter

THE NEBRASKA CIVIL ENGINEER

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Meeting Information

DATE: Thursday, January 21, 1999

HOST: Water Resources Group - Nebraska Section ASCE

TOPIC: "EPA Regional Priorities"

SPEAKER: Dennis Grams, P.E., Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7

TIMES:

7:00 -7:30.....Program

7:30 - 8:00.....Dinner

8:00 - 9:00.....Tour of UNL's Civil Engineering Facilities

LOCATION:

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Room West 357, Nebraska Hall

16th and 17th Streets North of Vine

Directions: I-80 to 27th St. Exit-South

Right (West) on Holdridge

Turns into 16th St.

Park North of Nebraska Hall

MENU: Pizza (\$10.00 incl. Tax & Tip, checks payable to ASCE-UNL Student Chapter)

Dennis Grams

Mr. Grams was appointed the Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7, on January 31, 1994. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and is a member of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. He has 27 years of professional experience in environmental engineering and management.

Prior to joining EPA, Mr. Grams was president of his own consulting firm, Grams Environmental Management, Inc., assisting business and industry in evaluation and resolution of environmental concerns. He was director of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control from 1984 to 1991,

and was responsible for Nebraska's environmental programs. From 1972 to 1984, he was with the Environmental Health Division of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department in Lincoln, Nebraska, serving the last six years as Director.

President's Comments

I hope that all members had a happy holiday and are ready for the New Year's activities in ASCE. We will kick off this month's activities with this month's meeting being hosted by the Water Resources Technical Group, which is chaired by Mark Wagner. It is a joint meeting with the UNL Student Chapter and will be held in Lincoln on January 21, 1999. Student Chapter representatives will provide a progress report regarding their efforts on the Annual Concrete Canoe Competition. Please plan on attending this meeting, as this is a great opportunity for the student and professional members to interact.

Scheduled for Saturday January 30, 1999 is the third annual Omaha Regional Future City Competition. This is an opportunity for 7th and 8th grade students to interact with engineers and to foster interest in engineering, math, and science. The competition will be held at the Student Center at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. If you would like to help with the competition please contact Kirby Woods at (402) 533-6550. Please stop by and support the students and the profession.

More activities with students will be held next month with E-week activities including the Annual Truss Busting Competition for area high school students. Please plan on attending the Truss Busting Competition to see some well designed trusses by these high school students.

Thanks for your continued support of the Nebraska Section and its activities.

Brad Chambers, Nebraska Section President

National Engineer's Week

February 21 - 27 1999

National Engineer's Week will be celebrated February 21 to 27, 1999. The Engineer's Roundtable, a committee composed of representatives from twenty-five engineering organizations, is already planning the activities for that week. One of the activities during this week will be displays on engineering at the Oak View Mall, 3001 S. 144th Street in Omaha, on Friday, February 19 through Sunday, February 21, 1999. This has been done in past years. Displays consist of small manned or unmanned booths provided by engineering organizations, consulting firms, engineering construction firms, universities, etc. The purpose of the displays is to inform the public about engineering. If your organization is interested in having a display at the Mall, contact Ed Mead at

697-2576 (V), 697-2595 (FAX), or

s.ed.mead@usace.army.mil by February 1, 1999.

In addition to providing displays at Oak View Mall, the Roundtable works with the Nebraska Society of Professional Engineers to develop a supplement on engineering to appear in the **Midlands Business Journal** during Engineer's Week. This will be the eleventh year for this supplement. Ideas

for articles are needed to continue making this a success. If you have ideas for articles or need additional information about the supplement, contact Daniel Owens at 496-2498 (V), 496-2730 (FAX).

Balsa Wood Truss Competition

One of the activities sponsored by ASCE during Engineer's Week is the metro area High School Balsa Wood Truss competition. The competition will be held at the Oak View Mall. The testing machine that will load the trusses to failure will be set up on the main level just south of the glass enclosed elevators. The testing will start at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, February 20, 1999 and run most of the afternoon. So, if you like to see the creativity of high school students, or just hear and see things get broken, join us at the mall. For any questions or further details, please call Bruce Harris at 221-4440 (W) or 498-0296 (H).

P.E. Examination Review By Internet

The University of Missouri - Columbia has just completed its first offering of the Civil P.E. Examination Review Course by Internet. Thirty-four students from Alaska to Puerto Rico took the review and many took the examination in their respective states on Friday, October 30th, 1998. The problem and solutions review course used web pages and friendly email conferencing software. Topics included steel and concrete design, highway and traffic engineering, geotechnical engineering, water supply, wastewater treatment, solid waste, open channel flow, hydraulic machines and hydraulics. At the end of the course students take a sample exam covering the material. Besides all of this, each student gets a popular P.E. Review and Solutions manual. Optional reference material for Steel Design and a Concrete Institutes Codes Manual can be purchased at nearly half the price offered by the publisher.

John Atkinson, the course manager from the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering said, "Its like renting your own professor for 60 days and taking him to work, home or on trips so you can study when you have time. Student evaluations indicate the course was directly responsible for helping our students pass several examination questions. They overwhelmingly said they would recommend the course to others especially since they can take it again at no cost. Many students waited until just a few weeks before the examination to study. By so doing they didn't benefit as much from the one-on-one assistance by faculty that this format offers over the traditional classroom venue. Another benefit is that students can choose what subjects they want to concentrate on at anytime during the course and the instructor will be there to answer questions."

You can see the course for free at www.missouri.edu/~ceewww/cyberpe

The next review will begin on February 8, 1999 and conclude on April 22, the night before the examination. An Early Bird fee of \$545 is \$50 less than the regular price. Contact John Atkinson at

1-800-776-1044 or atkinsonj@missouri.edu

if you have additional questions or need an order form.

Support Your Local Section

ASCE annual dues time is here again. PLEASE CONSIDER CHECKING THE SECTION DUES BOX. This is a very inexpensive way to support the Nebraska Section...and join it as well! It also qualifies you to receive this monthly newsletter which provides notices of section meetings, updates of current events, and much more. Of the more than 650 national ASCE members in this area, more than 400 join the Nebraska Section. We hope you will join, too.

1999 Geotechnical Seminar

"Coexisting With Wetlands"

The 1999 Geotechnical Seminar, which will be planned in conjunction with the Environmental Group, is scheduled for February 19 at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center, 1313 Farnam, Omaha, Nebraska. The topics will address several wetlands issues, including regulations, uses of wetlands for waste treatment, and the definition of wetlands.

More information will follow in the February edition of The Nebraska Civil Engineer.

ASCE National News

What Issues Do You Believe the ASCE Board Should Address?

President Dan Turner has challenged ASCE members to "look over the horizon." The Planning & Implementation Committee (PIC) of the Board, formerly known as COSOPO, has created a Task Force to help the Society do just that. The new Visioning Task Force will consist of at least four members of the Board and will catalogue a list of issues of importance to the Society and the profession that the Board should address. These issues will be identified through environmental scans, interaction with other engineering Societies and our policy leaders, but most importantly, through the input of ASCE's members, Sections, Branches and committees.

Your input to this process is critical. Please forward your thoughts and ideas of topics that the Board should be focusing on via email to pic@asce.org or by fax to 703-295-6128. The Task Force will meet quarterly beginning in January 1999.

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Group	Location	Organizer
1/21/1999	Water Resources	Lincoln (with UNL Students)	Mark Wagner
2/18/1999	Geotechnical	Lincoln	Loras Klosterman
3/18/1999	Environmental	Lincoln (Honor UNL Graduates)	Bob Kalinski
4/15/1999	Transportation	Omaha (Honor UNO Graduates)	Massoum Moussavi
5/13/1999	Annual Meeting	To Be Announced	Daryoush Razavian