

# THE NEBRASKA CIVIL ENGINEER



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEBRASKA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Volume XLVII

May 2000

Number 8

1999-2000  
Nebraska Section  
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## Section Annual Meeting and Banquet

(Spouses and Guests Welcome)

DATE:	Wednesday, May 24, 2000
LOCATION:	Durham Western Heritage Museum 801 South 10th Street • Omaha, Nebraska
GUEST SPEAKER:	H. G. "Gerry" Schwartz, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE Candidate for ASCE National President-Elect (See Page 4)
ENTERTAINMENT:	<i>Luigi Inc.</i> jazz group (See Page 3)
TIMES:	5:30-6:30.....Social Hour 6:30-7:15.....Dinner 7:15-8:30.....Annual Meeting Program 8:30-9:30.....Entertainment by Luigi Inc.
MENU:	Barbecued Chicken, Ribs & Beef Sandwich with Cole Slaw, Beans, and Rolls
PRICE:	\$20.00 per person (Includes Tax and Gratuity)

**RSVP by Noon, Friday May 19 to Joe Waxse at 402/330-2202 or [jawaxse@terracon.com](mailto:jawaxse@terracon.com)**

## Fifth Annual Golf Outing



Friday, June 2, 2000  
12:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
Fox Run Golf Course



4-Player Texas Scramble

1 mile east of "L" Street Bridge on S. Omaha Bridge Rd.  
Council Bluffs, Iowa

**\$35/person** (includes 18 holes of golf, carts, and flag prizes)  
Contact Joe Waxse at 402/330-2202 before May 26 to sign up.

## President's Comments



Joe Waxse, President  
Nebraska Section, ASCE

Greetings Fellow Engineers,

Dan Owens of Lamp, Rynearson & Associates heated up April's meeting with a very captivating description of a challenging runway reconstruction project at Eppley Airfield. Honored Guest and Airport Director, Ralph Holtman was there to keep him honest. It was another great meeting, thanks to Massoum Moussavi and the Transportation Committee. (Correction – Massoum was the Transportation Committee this year!)

There are a number of good reasons to attend this year's Annual Banquet hosted by Pres. Elect Daryoush Razavian :

1. ASCE Pres. Hopeful **Gerry Schwartz** is a polished speaker!
2. The **Western Heritage Museum** is a really cool place!
3. **Ozark Smoked Meats** serves outstanding Bar-B-Que!
4. **Luigi's Jazz Ensemble** plays extremely enjoyable music!
5. To recognize our **Life Members** and those who helped make this an outstanding year for ASCE.
6. To welcome our fine slate of **new officers** for 2000/2001!
7. It'll be the last time that you'll have to endure one of my lame introduction exercises! (Kirby!!)
8. And last, but no way least- **Free Beer!!!** ( in limited quantities)

I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this year's activities and programs so successful! Past President Brad Chambers for maintaining a great web site and helping me learn the ropes; President-Elect Daryoush Razavian for his dependable support; Vice President Bob Kalinski for his varied assistance and buoyant spirit; Secretary Tom Marnik for elevating our minutes and annual report to a whole new dimension! ; Treasurer Brad Levich for keeping me from spending too much of the section's money! Newsletter Editor Rick Kaufmann for his patience and superior quality newsletter editions; Younger Member Chair Ryan Paradis for his rejuvenating efforts in that area; Director Dave Klostermeyer for his pointed wisdom and reality checks; Director Steve Kathol for his constant pleasantness and moral support; Fund Raiser Scott Miller for raising a lot of money and attending occasional meetings!; Membership Chair Jeff Ehler for managing that effort with aplomb; Kirby and Scott for being Kirby and Scott; and all of the various Committee Chairs responsible for this years great activities and programs!

I have really enjoyed and appreciated the honor of serving as your President! I'm also looking forward to staying involved in the Section next year by championing ASCE's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary preparations for 2002 and getting involved in the national "Building Big" youth outreach program. I hope you'll consider joining in the efforts towards promoting and contributing to these beneficial programs!

You know, I do think we all accomplished much for ASCE and the engineering profession this year! Thanks again to all of you who are so generously contributing your time and efforts. You really are making a positive difference! Let's all help make next year better yet!

Sincerely Yours,

### 2000-2001 Officers Nominated

The Bylaws of the Nebraska Section provide for the selection and election of the Officers of the Section. The Bylaws state that the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of not less than three members---at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee was comprised of the President – Joe Waxse, President-Elect – Daryoush Razavian, and Past President – Brad Chambers. The Bylaws further state that the Nominating Committee shall choose one or more candidates for election to the offices of President-Elect, Vice President, and each of two Directors prescribed by the Constitution and obtain the consent of the Nominees to serve if elected. In addition, candidates may be nominated by written petition containing ten signatures of subscribing members. The Election of Officers will be held at the Annual Meeting, and the Nominee receiving the highest number of votes cast for each office will be elected. All subscribing members present at the Annual Meeting shall be allowed to vote. The President-Elect – Daryoush Razavian - shall succeed to the Office of President at the close of the Annual Meeting. The slate of Officers selected by the Nominating Committee for your approval are:

For President-Elect - Bob Kalinski

For Vice President - Brad Levich

For Directors - Mark Stark and  
Ed Prost



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## Luigi Inc. To Provide Entertainment at Section Annual Meeting and Banquet

### Good Vibes

by Dana Honn

DiscoverOmaha.com



Can you identify the man to the right? Not sure? Here are a few hints: He finds pleasure in jigsaw puzzles. Has an excellent hat collection. Grins and winks at Toads (That's Mr. Toads, 1002 Howard St., every Sunday Night at 9 p.m.). Likes to play with sticks.

And he is one of Omaha's truly great musical talents.

Picture a young boy who learned to tap dance at age 5 and who at age 12 was playing drums in nightclubs with musicians several times his age, his mother waiting in the wings.

Now imagine a young man in his 20s playing the boom-chunk, boom-chunk, boom-chunk of polka melodies in a mid-'40s road band during the day while at night tapping along with the sounds of Woody Herman (First Herd), Max Roach, Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker.



Oh yeah, did I forget to mention this young man really dug the iron-clad beat of the Grand Old Opry? It sounds like a musical paradox, but when speaking of Omaha's master musician Luigi Waites, perhaps "fortunate anomaly" is a more apt phrase.

"You can stop changing, but you can't stop change" is sort of a mantra for Luigi. He has been honing his musical talents and providing Nebraskans with great music for over 50 years, but if you ask him how he achieved such mastery of his instruments — drums and vibraphone — he'll tell you, "I'm just a beginner."

Maybe it's that youthful approach of constant discovery that has allowed him to grow and mature as a musician, not allowing himself to be left behind. To the contrary, in fact, Luigi is driven by curiosity.

When speaking with Luigi, one element in his personality is noticeable immediately — his humbleness.

For that very reason, you won't hear much "I received this award" or "I played with this or that person." So we're going to blow his horn for him. Here are a few career highlights:

- He has performed with jazz singers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and Dinah Washington.
- His group Luigi Inc, has opened for several musical giants including Dizzy Gillespie, Jean Luc Ponty, Lionel Hampton and James Brown.
- He has performed as soloist with the Omaha Symphony and the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra; in the Joslyn's Bagels and Bach series; and at universities such as Creighton and UNO.
- He has been elected "Nebraska Artist of the Year" by the Nebraska Arts Council and was appointed by two separate Nebraska governors to serve on the NAC board.



- He has performed/lectured/taught for the Epilepsy Foundation, American Cancer Society, Red Cross, Beth Israel Jewish Education, Richard Young Hospital, Opera Omaha, Earth Day Rally, Black History Program (Mutual of Omaha), Great Plains Black History Museum and the Omaha Playhouse Youth Program.

- He was the first jazz artist in the Nebraska Arts Council's Community Program as well as the first jazz artist to perform in the Omaha Public Schools (1960s).

- He co-founded the Omaha Jazz Society, was the assistant director for St. Cecilia's Cathedral Jazz Series, founded the Contemporaries (multicultural marching corps) and was the Musical Director for the KETV series *Black on Black*.

Photos and article courtesy of DiscoverOmaha.com

## Durham Western Heritage Museum

801 South 10th Street  
Omaha, NE 68108-3299  
402-444-5071



Formerly Union Station, the structure was built by Union Pacific Railroad from 1929-1931 at a cost of \$3.5 million. Today it would cost at least \$45 million. The building was designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood in the art deco style. Given free reign in designing the building, Underwood's style can be seen in everything from door handles to the light fixtures.

The exterior of the building is of cream-colored glazed terra cotta. The Main Waiting Room's rich interior surfaces were skillfully painted to look like real marble and other materials. The ceiling is sculptured plaster with painted-in golden and silver leaf trim. There are actually eight levels to the building.

In it's heyday, 64 trains and 10,000 passengers came through the station daily. After passenger travel ceased, the Union Pacific Railroad donated the building to the City of Omaha in 1973. The building reopened in 1975 as the Western Heritage Museum.

Temporary exhibits are regularly on display at the museum, as well as permanent exhibits about Omaha's history and community, the Byron Reed Coin and Document Collection, and the "0" Scale Model Train Layout.



## H. G. "Gerry" Schwartz, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE, NAE

During ASCE's Board of Direction Meeting, held on April 29-30, 2000 at World Headquarters in Reston, VA, the Board's Nominating Committee selected H. Gerard Schwartz, Jr. as the Official Nominee for President-elect. A nationally recognized civil/environmental engineering leader, Gerry Schwartz has spent his entire career with Sverdrup, one of the nation's most respected civil engineering firms. He began as a design engineer and has risen to his current position as Chairman of Sverdrup Civil.

### ASCE Service:

- Vice President - Zone III
- National Director - District 16
- National Committees:
  - Strategic Planning
  - Council of Vice Presidents
  - Technical Activities
  - Professional Practice
  - Planning and Implementation
  - Conventions and Conferences
  - Audit
  - COSOPO
  - National Convention Program
- Member
  - Executive
  - Publications
  - Government Affairs
- President - St. Louis Section
- CERF Board of Directors

### Professional Service:

- President, Water Environment Federation (WEF)
- Founding Chair, Water Environment Research Foundation
- Future Strategic Highway Research Committee – Transportation Research Board
- Advisory Councils – University of Texas; Washington University; Carnegie Mellon University
- EPA Management Advisory Board
- Professional Engineer – Multiple States
- Diplomat, American Academy of Environmental Engineers
- National Society of Professional Engineers
- Army Engineer Association – Board

### Professional Recognition:

- National Academy of Engineering
- Wisely American Civil Engineer Award – ASCE
- Professional Recognition Award – St. Louis Section – ASCE
- Honorary Member, Bedell, and Orchard Awards – WEF
- Kappe Lecturer – AAEE
- Outstanding Alumnus – Washington University

### Education:

- Princeton University
- Washington University – BSCE, MS
- California Institute of Technology – Ph.D.
- Columbia University Business Program

### Community Service:

- United Way – Board
- Boy Scouts
- Ladue Presbyterian Church – Elder
- St. Louis Academy of Science

### Family:

- Wife – Sally, 39 years
- Two Sons

### Candidate Statement

It's a great time to be an engineer, especially a civil engineer. Like all of society, the Information Age is transforming, at warp speed, the way we prepare and deliver our work. At the same time, we are faced with the enormous task of renewing and replacing the physical infrastructure on which our society and economy is based. We must respond vigorously to these exciting challenges, and ASCE must be at the forefront.



Five years ago, I had the privilege of chairing the committee that prepared the current strategic plan, "ASCE 2000: Working Drawings for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." This plan has reshaped the Society, but much work lies ahead. Let me share my thoughts on a few subjects that need increased attention.

**Member Focus:** ASCE exists to meet the needs and desires of its 120,000 individual members. Most have little direct contact with the national organization or even their Sections/Branches. ASCE must seek new ways to reach out, listen to, and serve all members. In so doing, we will raise the stature, enhance the reputation, and increase the rewards of the civil engineering community.

**Leadership:** Decades ago, civil engineers were the leaders of industry and government, today we're the "technologists". How do we restore engineers to positions of leadership? By placing emphasis on the importance and value of the engineer as manager. ASCE can lead this charge.

**Globalization:** We are in the midst of the internalization of our profession. Many of our members live, work or compete abroad; foreign companies compete in the U.S.; developing countries cry for our expertise. ASCE should be the leading technical and professional society worldwide.

**Institutes:** The value of the Institute concept has been amply demonstrated. The Institutes must build bridges with the Section/Branches to realize their full potential.

Many other issues face our profession today, to cite a few:

- ASCE must embrace and encourage diversity in race, gender, religion, and ethnic background;
- The first professional degree;
- ASCE's continued technical excellence,

To tackle these issues, let us build consensus, take action, and truly lead the profession. It is indeed a great time to be a Civil Engineer.

As an active practitioner, I confront the issues facing most of you every day. In seeking the Presidency of ASCE, I am blessed by the full support of my family and company. Let me assure you that I have the time, energy, and passion to serve as your President.

## “Building Big™”

Your local public television station may be calling you. Don't worry - it is not a pledge drive, but rather an invitation to work together around a new PBS series, Building Big™. Hosted by author and illustrator David Macaulay, Building Big explores large structures and what it takes to build them. The five one-hour programs focus on bridges, tunnels, skyscrapers, domes, and dams, and will premiere this October on PBS. ASCE is a national sponsor of Building Big.

WGBH, the series co-producer, has invited local public television stations and the ASCE Nebraska Section to join the Building Big construction crew by creating a Model Community. The Model Community in Omaha will be a coalition consisting of a public television station, the Nebraska Section, and the local Boys & Girls Club organization. The partners work together using their expertise and resources from Building Big to help the public explore modern feats of civil engineering.

As a Model Community partner, our Section members can help design the outreach campaign, provide engineering content expertise, and work with children and families at outreach events. As a partner you will bring the excitement of civil engineering into your community and build partnerships for future engineering outreach projects.

Want to get involved with your Section in the program? Don't wait for the phone to ring! Contact Emily Ehrenfeld, WGBH Outreach Coordinator, at (617) 300-3954 or email [Emily\\_Ehrenfeld@wgbh.org](mailto:Emily_Ehrenfeld@wgbh.org) to learn more.

### Section Members Achieve Life Membership

ASCE National has awarded Life Membership to six distinguished members of the Nebraska Section. Our congratulations goes to

**Mr. James Felix**  
**Mr. Wallace Stern**  
**Mr. William Todsén**  
**Mr. Teddie Kell**  
**Mr. Richard Chase**  
**Dr. Roy Sneddon**

The new Life Members will be recognized at the Annual Meeting and Banquet on May 24, 2000.

## Historical Society Seeks Notebooks, Information

The Nebraska State Historical Society is processing the manuscript and photograph collection of Omaha Civil Engineer Roy Nathan Towl (1881-1974). Roy Towl founded the Towl Engineering Co., which specialized in agricultural drainage and river bank stabilization, in 1904. The firm designed a large number of projects along both sides of the Missouri River, primarily between Sioux City and Kansas City. In the 1920s Harry Nelson and Murray Schwartz became partners in the Omaha firm, which was renamed Towl, Nelson & Schwartz.

The Roy N. Towl collection at the Historical Society contains records of Towl's sixty-year career, including his maps and plans, correspondence, project files, engineering data and photographs. The materials are a valuable resource for historical information documenting environmental conditions in the Missouri River Valley and for the engineering projects Towl designed.

The Historical Society is attempting to contact people who may have additional information about, or papers and photographs relating to, Roy Towl, the Towl Engineering Co., or Towl, Nelson & Schwartz. We are especially interested in finding a group of field notebooks which were probably sold to another engineer or surveyor by Mr. Towl in the depression years of the 1930's, but would also appreciate other information, records and/or photographs that might help us document the history of these companies and their work along the Missouri River.

If you have information or questions, please contact:

Karen Koka  
 Assistant Curator of Manuscripts  
 Nebraska State Historical Society  
 P.O. Box 82554  
 Lincoln, NE 68501-2554

phone: 1-800-833-6747  
 e-mail: [lanshs02@nebraskahistory.org](mailto:lanshs02@nebraskahistory.org)



## Last Month's Meeting



Dan Owens during his presentation at the April Meeting hosted by the Transportation Group. Thirty-eight people attended the meeting at House of Hunan in Omaha.

Tara Gude  
 Matt Bird  
 Colleen McGovern  
 Sharyl McGuire  
 Jamie Winterstein  
 George Benecke  
 Loren Steenson  
 John Hill  
 Daryoush Razavian  
 Loras Klostermann  
 Rick Kaufmann  
 Jeff Kopocis  
 Tucker Coolidge  
 Steve Kathol  
 Ryan Paradis  
 Gary Krause  
 Ed Thiele  
 Tom Mamik  
 Ray Moore

Massoum Moussavi  
 Virg Meedel  
 Virgil Oligmueller  
 Scott Gilliland  
 Jenni Owens  
 Dan Owens  
 S. J. Dolezal  
 Ray Hogrefe  
 Ralph Holtman  
 Aaron Buettner  
 Mark Meisinger  
 Jeremy Befort  
 L. Grimm  
 Kirby Woods  
 Susie Jorgensen  
 Steve Jorgensen  
 Joe Waxse  
 Shahir Safi  
 Dan Mahrt

## A Note from the Editor

As you probably noticed, we've made several changes to the newsletter this term, including a new header, more pictures and graphics, and new features. I'd like to thank Brad Chambers for his work on the website and his help with the new software, and who was instrumental in setting up the email database which allows many of you to receive the newsletter via the internet. I'd also like to thank President Waxse, the meeting organizers, and our underwriters.

As always, your feedback is welcome.

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### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS?**

Please notify ASCE national of any address changes by calling 1-800-548-ASCE (2723) or contact them through their web site at <http://www.asce.org>. Address changes made at the national ASCE office are updated monthly at your local Nebraska section.

### **We Need Your Email Address**

In order to better serve our members, the Section will email the newsletter to all members who wish to receive it. If you did not get an email with this newsletter attached prior to receiving it in the mail, we do not have your current email address. Please send your updated email address to Brad Chambers at [neasce@radiks.net](mailto:neasce@radiks.net).

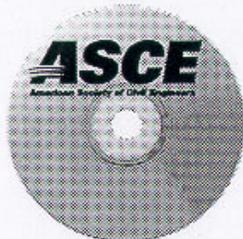
Some members have expressed interest in receiving only the electronic copy of the newsletter. If a large number of members received only the electronic copy, it would cut our costs and likely increase lead time for meetings. We will offer this option next term.



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