

## EVENT CALENDAR:

### September

18th - Structural Meeting

19th - Structural  
Conference

### October

16th - Construction  
Meeting (date is tentative)

### November

20th - Management  
Meeting (date is tentative)

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

September Meeting

From the President

Annual Meeting Summary

Call for Volunteers: Omaha  
Engineering Day (E-Day)

ASCE Names Smith as  
New Executing Director to  
Succeed Natale

K-12 Outreach  
Opportunities

Annual Structural  
Conference

## September Meeting

September 2014

### Hosted by the Structural Technical Group

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Host: Nebraska Section ASCE, Structural Technical Group  
(Jeremy Steenhoek, Structural Technical Group Committee Chair)  
Structural Engineers Association of Nebraska  
Annual Structural Conference Committee

Presenter: Wally Heyen, Nebraska Department of Roads

Wally Heyen, is a Portland Cement Concrete Engineer with the Nebraska Department of Roads, Materials and Research Department. Wally graduated from North Dakota State University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. He has been with the Nebraska Department of Roads for 25 years. While working with the Department, he has been in several different capacities. He has worked in the District as a Project Engineer, as a Roadway Design Engineer, Traffic Engineering as the Signing and Marking Engineer and his current position as the Portland Cement Concrete Engineer in Materials and Research. He is currently part of the National Concrete Consortium and the Co-Chair for the AASTHTO subcommittee of Materials on fresh concrete properties.

Program: "New Nebraska Department of Roads Concrete Specifications"

This presentation will provide an update on the new Nebraska Department of Roads Concrete Specifications and a history leading to the change in specifications. Concrete durability, expected service life, and sustainability will be discussed with time for questions.

Student Presentation: Engineers Without Borders University of Nebraska  
Student Chapter – Summary of the Engineers  
Without Borders summer work in Madagascar.

Location: McKenna's Blues Hall [www.mckennasbbb.com](http://www.mckennasbbb.com)  
7425 Pacific Street  
Omaha, NE 68114

(See Next Page for more Meeting Information)

Deadline for articles to be published in the October newsletter will be September 29th. Email articles to Greg Seib at [gseib@olssonassociates.com](mailto:gseib@olssonassociates.com)

2014-2015  
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# September Meeting (continued)

Times: 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm Social Half Hour, cash bar  
6:05 pm – 6:20 pm Dinner and Engineers Without Borders  
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Presentation

Price: Smoked Brisket (steamed veggies, baked potato, corn on the cob) / \$15.00  
Smoked Pork (steamed veggies, baked potato, corn on the cob) / \$15.00  
Roasted Chicken (pasta medley, rice pilaf, corn on the cob) / \$15.00  
Eggplant Parmesan (steamed veggies, coleslaw) / \$15.00

All meals include pop, iced tea, or coffee

Student meals are FREE....but Students must register. Price is \$10.00 without the meal.

Please pay at the door (credit cards are now accepted). A receipt will be given upon request.

Registration: Everyone must pre-register to attend.  
Signup by 12:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at:  
<http://meeting.neasce.com/signup/>

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**call:** 402.651.1673 **web:** [groundimprovementeng.com](http://groundimprovementeng.com)

## From the President

-Andres Torres, P.E., M.ASCE

Greetings Nebraska Section! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to another year of fun and exciting activities for NEASCE. The Board of the Nebraska Section had its first meeting on August 26th. The time was used to discuss events, priorities, and goals for the upcoming year. The core of activities will remain the same as previous years including:

- monthly meetings and technical conferences
- volunteer opportunities
- high school and middle school outreach
- interaction with the student chapters at UNO and UNL



The technical conferences will follow the regular schedule (September: Structural; February: Geotechnical; April: Transportation). We will be incorporating a small change regarding the time of our monthly meetings. Meetings will start with the social hour at 5:30pm, presentation beginning around 6pm, and the meeting ending by 7:30pm. One exception is our March Meeting (Environmental) which will take place over lunch as it has been the case in the past couple of years.

In addition to getting Continuous Education hours through our meetings and the technical conferences, another benefit of being involved with NEASCE is the opportunity to volunteer and promote our profession. There are a couple of volunteer activities that I would like to highlight this month. First, it is the Future City Competition. In this competition, middle school students (7th and 8th graders) build a model of a future city, perform a computer simulation of the city using Sim City, write an essay, and give a presentation before a panel of engineers. The Regional Competition will take place in January, but we're currently looking for volunteers who can serve as engineer mentors. Mentorship will begin in October. Second, another opportunity to get involved is through participation with the engineering day, E-day, to be held in Omaha on Friday, October 10th. The Greater Omaha Chamber is organizing this event and has contacted NEASCE to help find volunteers. Volunteers will primarily be acting as tour guides during the visit to the TD Ameritrade Park and assist during other tours later on in the morning. Additional information about this event can be found in subsequent pages.

It is an honor to serve as the President of the Nebraska Section for the upcoming year. I'm looking forward to seeing you in our monthly meetings starting with the Structural Meeting on September 18th. Members of the Engineers Without Borders University of Nebraska Student Chapter will be speaking about their work and projects in Madagascar. In addition, our main speaker for the meeting will be Wally Heyen, NDOR, who will be talking about the New Nebraska Department of Roads Concrete Specifications.

# Annual Meeting Summary

The Nebraska Section hosted the annual meeting and banquet on May 8, 2014 at TD Ameritrade Park. The attendees of the annual meeting are listed below:

Aaron Buettner  
Audrey Linzell  
Brandon Gardels  
Catherine Medici-Thiemann  
Chuck Worm  
David Rohan  
Eric Haake  
Guest Little  
Jana Flaxbeard  
Jerry Obrist  
John Hill  
Kevin Stamm  
LeAnne Vitito  
Marie Stamm  
Matt McConville  
Mike Sklenar  
Nicholas Grindrod  
Paul Harmon  
Scott Gilliland  
Steve Nickel  
Tom Sanderson

Aldine Harmon  
Ben Lorenzen  
Caleb Beasley  
Charlie Riggs  
Dan Linzell  
David Brown  
Gemma Haake  
Harvey Funk  
Janet Klostermann  
Jim Suttle  
John Smith  
King Little  
Lee Baker  
Mark Egger  
Matt Hubel  
Mrs. Welsch  
Nick Johnson  
Paula Wells  
Sean Mascia  
Steven Stauffer  
Tyler Klusaw

Andi Smith  
Billy Rodriguez  
Cari Klusaw  
Chelsey Hansen  
Daniel Hahn  
Derek Gardels  
Gopala Allam  
Heather Torres  
Javier Garcia  
Jim Wells  
Kari Potts  
Laura Rathe  
Loras Klostermann  
Mark Giesmann  
Matthew Kline  
Nancy Obrist  
Patricia Rohan  
Rachel Gilliland  
Shane Potts  
Susan Johnson  
William Miller

Andres Torres  
Bob Rohde  
Caroline Nickel  
Chris Podany  
Daren Konda  
Don Vitito  
Grace Riggs  
Hollie Lohman  
Jay Burress  
Joe Flaxbeard  
Kelly Egger  
Laurie Carrette Zook  
Lori Hill  
Marla Funk  
Mike McMeekin  
Nathan Jensen  
Paul Welsch  
Renata Hubel  
Shayna Sugihara  
Taylor Hansen  
Zach Thiemann



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## Call For Volunteers: Omaha Engineering Day (E-Day)

NEASCE is looking for volunteers who can help during the Engineering Day (E-day) organized by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Engineering in the morning of Friday, October 10th.

This is UNL's third year doing this activity and the first year they've asked Omaha to host. The College of Engineering stated there's a forty-percent drop-out rate for freshman engineering students. As you may know, many of the core classes freshman year are hard and do not focus on engineering. This alone leaves students to think engineering is not what they believed it was and change majors. These majors are outside of the College of Engineering, but still have an emphasis on math and science. UNL started this as a requirement for all freshman students in the College of Engineering. Their vision was to connect students with engineers, companies, and projects in local communities. Giving students the opportunity to experience what a career in engineering would be like and how rewarding it is. They wanted to educate them on all the different fields. It all comes down to educating them and giving them a realistic idea of a career in engineering.

The Greater Omaha Chamber is organizing this activity and has contacted NEASCE to help find volunteers for this event. Volunteers will mainly be acting as tour guides during the visit to the TD Ameritrade Park and assist during other tours later on in the morning. Time commitment for this activity is 8:00 to 11:30am. Also, it is not necessary to have in-deep knowledge of the baseball park. Instead, the main requirement is to share our passion and love of engineering with these students.

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions about this activity, please feel free to contact Alexis Bromley at [abromley@omahachamber.org](mailto:abromley@omahachamber.org) or me at [torres.asce@gmail.com](mailto:torres.asce@gmail.com)

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# ASCE Names Smith as New Executive Director to Succeed Natale

-Article from *ASCE News* (August 26, 2014)

The ASCE Board of Direction has selected Thomas W. Smith III, ENV SP, CAE, M.ASCE, as the next executive director of the American Society of Civil Engineers, effective Jan. 1, 2015.

Smith, ASCE's current deputy executive director and general counsel, will succeed Patrick J. Natale, P.E., F.ASCE, who has served in the position since 2002 and announced his end-of-year retirement last October.

With a master's degree in structural engineering and a B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Virginia, Smith has been a dedicated ASCE member for more than 25 years, and the association's deputy executive director since 2010 and general counsel since 1997. Smith also holds a law degree, and before joining ASCE practiced law with a focus on land use issues.

"Under the leadership of current Executive Director Pat Natale, ASCE has truly become a leader in the association community, with a voice that gets national attention and highly dedicated volunteers and staff," said ASCE Past President Greg DiLoreto, P.E., P.L.S., F.ASCE, chair of the executive director search committee, following the ASCE Board's Aug. 24 meeting in Denver. "In our search for a successor, we were looking for that rare combination of a highly accomplished executive and leader who intimately understands both the civil engineering profession and the association business. In Tom Smith, we have found that person."

During his tenure at ASCE, Smith has provided leadership, direction and management oversight across a wide spectrum of ASCE's programs, operations and strategic initiatives, working closely with ASCE geographic and technical organizations and affiliates worldwide.

In 2011, Smith received the William H. Wisely American Civil Engineer Award, which recognizes ASCE members for their continuing efforts to promote appreciation for the history, tradition, developments and technical and professional activities of the Society.

"Over the many years that I have worked with Tom, I know him to be a true blend of vision, leadership, intellect, and integrity," said ASCE President Randall (Randy) S. Over, P.E., F.ASCE. "With his background, Tom is the perfect fit to take over the reins of ASCE and lead us to ever higher levels of success. He is a model professional with strong values and a longtime dedication to ASCE."

Smith is also a Certified Association Executive (CAE) and an Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP), and has been active in his community. He serves on the Fairfax County Board of Zoning Appeals, and previously chaired bar association committees providing legal services to local homeless shelters as well as coordinating national moot court competitions.

Smith has published articles on engineering ethics and legal issues and is a frequent speaker on these subjects. In 2012, he penned the book "Infantry Rifleman, WWII Reflections of Thomas W. Smith," a tribute to his father.

"It has been my privilege to work side-by-side with such a talented visionary who truly has an innate understanding of the needs of our members along with the acumen to advance the civil engineering profession and goals of ASCE," said Natale. "Tom is unquestionably the right leader at the right time to take over from me at the end of the year."



The image shows a business card for Thiele Geotech Inc. The logo features a stylized 'TG' in blue and green. Below the logo, the text reads "Thiele Geotech Inc" and "Building Confidence". The card lists two office locations: Omaha (402.556.2171) and Des Moines (515.986.3013). The website "www.thielegeotech.com" is also provided. At the bottom, the services offered are "Geotechnical ■ Material ■ Environmental ■ Engineering". To the right of the text is a photograph of two construction workers in hard hats and safety vests, one in a yellow shirt and one in a blue shirt, working on a site.

## K-12 Outreach Opportunities

-John Smith, P.E., M.ASCE

As the new ASCE year begins, the Nebraska Section is working to plan more activities to help educate students about engineering. A focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education is becoming critical as the U.S. is falling behind in these areas. As an example, the U.S. ranks 25th in mathematics and 17th in science among industrialized nations, and only 16 percent of American high school seniors are proficient in mathematics and interested in a STEM career. As engineers, our members have personal experience with STEM career fields, making us uniquely qualified to reach out to students. If you are looking for a way to get connected and make an impact on our community, below are a few opportunities this year.

**Volunteer.** In past years, the Nebraska Section has participated in many career fairs at local schools. These include the Benson High School Career Fair, Omaha Public Schools Career Fair, Avery Elementary Career Fair, and the UNO/PKI open house. Whether it is stuffing handout bags, manning a booth, giving a short presentation, or leading an activity, we are always looking for volunteers.

**Contact a Teacher.** E-Week in 2015 will be February 22-28. Using this week's nationwide focus on engineering, we would like to visit local schools to give presentations on civil engineering. If you have a contact or connection with a local elementary, middle or high school, we could use your help to contact teachers or staff to set up these visits.

**Present.** For our E-Week school visits, we will need volunteers willing to coordinate with a local school, prepare an age appropriate presentation, present, and possibly guide a small activity.

If you are interested in participating our K-12 outreach program this year, please contact me at [John.Smith@hdrinc.com](mailto:John.Smith@hdrinc.com). We plan on providing additional information at our November section meeting on available training resources, PowerPoint presentations, hands-on activities, and other resources. As always, look for section e-mails with volunteer opportunities.



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## Annual Structural Conference

The 34th Annual Structural Conference will take place on Friday, September 19, 2014 at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha, Nebraska. Please see the websites below for more information and to register:

[http://www.neasce.org/news/section\\_conferences.html](http://www.neasce.org/news/section_conferences.html)

<http://www.seaon.org/>



# The Nebraska Civil Engineer

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