

**Inside this issue:**

Annual Section Meeting Honors **1-4**

May Meeting Summary **5**

Journal Star Editorial by NE-ASCE Member Bill Arneson **6**

School Blitz **7-8**

### Annual Section Meeting Honors

Congratulations to those honored at the Nebraska Section Annual Meeting, held on May 19th.

**Outstanding Service to Section:** John Smith

**Special Achievement for Long Term Service:** Brian Havens

**Outstanding Senior:** Amanda Dunekacke (UNL) and Rachel Schulz (UNO)

**Outstanding Senior in ASCE Activities:** Cara Woldt (UNL) and Sean Mascia (UNO)

**New Life Members:** Alan Blair, Steve Bottum, Roger Figard, Frank Kwapnioski, and Rick Voss



**John Smith (Outstanding Service to Section)**



**Brian Havens (Special Achievement for Long Term Service)**

**Annual Section Meeting Honors (continued)**



**Rachel Schulz (Outstanding Senior—UNO)**



**Cara Woldt (Outstanding Senior in ASCE Activities—UNL)**

A graphic banner for Olsson Associates. On the left, there is a photograph of a modern multi-story building with large windows. Below the photo, the text reads "West Haymarket Infrastructure Design Lincoln, Nebraska". On the right, the Olsson Associates logo is displayed, consisting of a stylized 'O' and the text "OLSSON ASSOCIATES". Below the logo is the website "www.olssonassociates.com" and social media icons for Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.



**Roger Figard (Life Member)**



**Steve and Helen Bottum (Life Member)**

**NIELSEN-BAUMERT ENGINEERING, INC.**

Structural Engineering Analysis and Design

**Michael F. Baumert, P.E., S.E.**

9802 Nicholas Street, Suite 105 • Omaha, NE 68114  
Phone: (402) 496-4750 Ext. 11 • Fax: (402) 496-1147  
e-mail: mail@nielsenbaumert.com

Leaving a Legacy of  
Enduring Improvements  
to Our Communities



LRA-Inc.com   

**Annual Section Meeting Honors (continued)**



**Joe Flaxbeard (President-Elect), Andres Torres (President), and Jay Burress (Region 7 Director)**



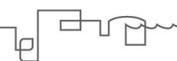
**2015-2016 Officers of the Nebraska Section**

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| President—Joseph T. Flaxbeard, P.E., M.ASCE               | Secretary—Greg Seib, P.E., M.ASCE     |
| Past President—Andres Torres, P.E., M.ASCE                | Treasurer—Tyler Klusaw, EI, A.M.ASCE  |
| President Elect—John Smith, P.E., M.ASCE                  | Director—Aaron Buettner, P.E., M.ASCE |
| Vice President—Matthew J. Hubel, P.E., M.ASCE             | Director—Marie Stamm, P.E., M.ASCE    |
| Younger Member Group Co-Chair—Brandon Gardels, EI, M.ASCE |                                       |
| Younger Member Group Co-Chair—Mark Egger, P.E., M.ASCE    |                                       |

**SCH=EMMER**

ARCHITECTS | ENGINEERS | PLANNERS

402.493.4800 | SCHEMMER.COM



**May Meeting Summary**

The Nebraska Section ASCE hosted the annual meeting and banquet on May 19th, 2015 at the Pella at Blackstone. Attendees of the Annual Section meeting are listed below

Helen Bottum	Steve Bottum	Aaron Buettner	Jay Burress
Kelly Egger	Mark Egger	Roger Figard	Travis Figard
Jana Flaxbeard	Joe Flaxbeard	Brandon Gardels	Susan Gardels
Ryan Hanson	Brian Havens	Roger Helgoth	John Hill
Lori Hill	Matt Hubel	Renata Hubel	Janet Klostermann
Loras Klostermann	Tyler Klusaw	Laura Rathe	David Rathjen
Romeo Reales	Steve Rodie	Dave Rohan	Ticha Rohan
Victor Sanchez	Derek Schriener	Rachel Schulz	Greg Seib
Mike Sklenar	John Smith	Kevin Stamm	Marie Stamm
Jeremy Steenhoek	Brian Storm	Andres Torres	Cara Woldt
Holly Woldt	Wayne Woldt	Jack Woo	



6910 Pacific Street Suite 310      Ofc: 402.553.0234  
 Omaha NE 68106-1046      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

**thompson, dreessen & dornier, inc.**  
 Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors  
**www.td2co.com**  
 402.330.8860 Omaha  
 605.951.0886 Sioux Falls

**Thiele Geotech Inc**  
*Building Confidence*  
 Omaha 402.556.2171  
 Des Moines 515.986.3013  
 www.thielegeotech.com  
 Geotechnical ■ Material ■ Environmental ■ Engineering

## Bringing ground improvement out of the Stone Column Age.

**GROUND IMPROVEMENT ENGINEERING**  
 Leading. By Design.

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

**Deanna Baker, P.E., LEED AP**  
 email: dbaker@groundimprovementeng.com  
 call: 402.651.1673 web: groundimprovementeng.com

**Journal Star Editorial by NE-ASCE Member Bill Arneson**

*-William Arneson, PE, M.ASCE (May 9, 2015)*

A lot changes in 20 years. A baby born in 1995 is half way through college today. A gallon of milk cost a dollar less in the mid-90s than it does now. Personal computers were bulky machines with small screens and stand in stark contrast to the powerful machines we now carry around in the form of a smartphone.

But in all those changes in the past two decades, there's something missing: a significant increase to the rate we pay in gas taxes to maintain our 93,797 miles of public roads and bridges that criss-cross the state. Our investment in transportation has been on the decline because of inflation, while the price to do that construction has risen. In the past decade our lawmakers have taken little action, except for diminutive increases of one-tenth of a cent in 2004 and 1.2 cents in 2008—hardly substantial enough to make the impact we need to address our aging transportation network, which the Department of Roads estimates needs \$10.2 billion in projects over the next 20 years.

However, thankfully the Nebraska legislature has finally taken a significant step to address our transportation needs. Our lawmakers are poised to exhibit leadership and political courage as they override Gov. Ricketts' veto. Our roads and bridges need this 6-cent increase to help improve our ailing roads and aging bridges. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure, nearly 18 percent of our bridges are designated structurally deficient, meaning they require significant maintenance, rehabilitation or replacement. That's almost double the national average. Our roads also need attention, with 39 percent of major roads in mediocre or fair condition according to TRIP, a transportation research group.

There is a lot at stake if our lawmakers fail to pass this modest increase through LB610, which would raise about \$75 million a year once fully implemented. An economic study by ASCE found that nationally if we do not increase our investment for roads and bridges, each family's budget will lose \$1,060 a year by 2020. In comparison, the proposed gas tax increase would cost the average driver about \$75 a year. That small increase at the pump leads to big benefits for your pocketbook in the long run, while improving safety and road conditions, too.

Our roads and bridges play a crucial role in Nebraska's economic competitiveness and its attractiveness as a place to do business. The state was ranked fourth in CNBC's America's Top States for Business list in 2014. Infrastructure was among the factors assessed, an area in which Nebraska ranked 18th. Improving our roads and bridges is an important part of maintaining, and perhaps even improving, on our status. One of the advantages touted on Nebraska's Department of Economic Development website is the state's "key transportation routes." We are lucky to be located in the center of the country with many interstates and U.S. routes running through it. To fully capitalize on this location, we must make a continued investment into the transportation network. Location is important, but our position as thoroughfare and exporter of crops and livestock is only as valuable as we make it through maintaining and modernizing our roads and bridges.

Neighboring states Iowa and South Dakota have stepped up in the past few months to raise the gas tax to start improving their transportation systems. If Nebraska does not follow suit by raising the gas tax to increase investment, then the condition of our roads and bridges will continue to decline while our neighbors' improve, making them more attractive places to live and work.

Our state legislature was right to send LB610 to Gov. Ricketts. Now it's time for them to finish the job and raise the gas tax so Nebraska can keep moving forward.

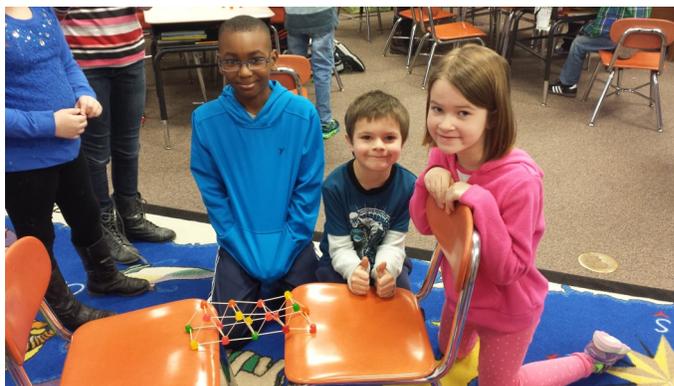
## School Blitz

-John Smith, PE, M.ASCE

During this year's Engineers Week (February 22-28<sup>th</sup>), the Nebraska Section held its first ever E-Week School Blitz. Working with teachers and school administrators from elementary, middle and high schools in Bellevue, Omaha, and Lincoln, volunteers visited classrooms to show kids the ways engineers impact their day to day lives, using their personal experiences as engineers for a more meaningful presentation. The students were guided in activities that were a lot a fun but also reinforced the problem solving and critical thinking skills that are important for whatever subject they are interested in at school. Students were also provided brochures and goodie bags to take home and share with their parents.

The scale of this event exceeded everyone's expectations and set the bar high for years to come. Presentations were made to 27 different classrooms at 7 different schools along with a Boy Scout troop and an afterschool club. In total, the volunteers talked to over 700 students! Below is a list of the schools included in this year's School Blitz. The teachers were all extremely enthusiastic about this event and provided much needed advice on presentations and activities. Joslyn Elementary in Omaha worked the E-Week celebration into their daily announcements and volunteers presented to every classroom.

Papillion Jr. High	Bellevue East High School
Birchcrest Elementary	Leonard Lawrence Elementary
Culler Middle School	Norris Elementary
Joslyn Elementary	



**2015 ASCE School Blitz**

The number of classrooms visited would not have been possible without a large number of volunteers from NEASCE, UNO and UNL. Students from UNL and UNO were paired up with professionals and the teams worked together to develop an age appropriate presentation and activity. Lots of hard work and creativity went into these presentations, using a wide range of resources including those provided by ASCE and DiscoverE. Special thanks to those volunteers who visited classrooms without a partner, gave a presentation to a combined class or group of students, filled in at the last minute, and to those who tailored their presentations to kindergarteners and first graders (a little more of a challenge). Thanks again to the 30 volunteers that made this great event possible.

The Nebraska Section received a grant from the ASCE State Public Affairs Grant (SPAG) program for handout and activity materials. The SPAG program was established as a resource to help ASCE Sections and Branches undertake public relations and government relations projects at the grassroots level. The handouts included an ASCE bag filled with a "Civil Engineering, It's Everywhere" brochure, E-Week bookmarks, ASCE highlighter/twist pens, and pencils donated by UNO. To make these presentations a more fun and memorable experience for the students, our volunteers lead each classroom in an activity. The activities included creating a penny holding bridge with only one sheet of paper and five paper clips, using gumdrops and toothpicks to build domes and other structures, or creating a tower using spaghetti and marshmallows. These activities helped teach the younger students and gave them something fun to take home and show their parents (or eat!). For the older students, these activities provided a problem solving competition.

This year's E-Week School Blitz successfully taught students about civil engineering and hopefully a few of them are now a little more interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Thanks again to all the volunteers for their time and efforts, and to the teachers and schools for opening up their classrooms. We plan on holding (and possibly expanding) this event next year, so if you would like to participate or know of a school or classroom that we could visit, please contact one of the Nebraska Section's officers.

**School Blitz (continued)**



2015 ASCE School Blitz



2015 ASCE School Blitz



**Bridging the gap** between idea  
+ achievement

This is where great begins.



Omaha 402.399.100  
[hdrinc.com](http://hdrinc.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 140,000  
civil engineers nationwide and  
is America's oldest national  
engineering society.**



**2015-2016 NEASCE Officers**

*President*

Joseph T. Flaxbeard, P.E., M.ASCE  
Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc.  
402-496-2498  
joe.flaxbeard@lra-inc.com

*President-Elect*

John Smith, P.E., M.ASCE  
HDR Engineering, Inc.  
402-399-1007  
john.smith@hdrinc.com

*Vice President*

Matthew Hubel, P.E., M.ASCE  
The Schemmer Associates Inc.  
402-493-4800  
mhubel@schemmer.com

*Past President*

Andres Torres, PE, M.ASCE  
Valmont Industries  
402-359-6158  
Torres.asce@gmail.com

*Treasurer*

Tyler Klusaw, EI, A.M.ASCE  
Lamp, Rynearson & Associates  
402-496-2498  
tyler.klusaw@lra-inc.com  
treasurer@neasce.org

*Secretary*

Greg Seib, P.E., M.ASCE  
Olsson Associates  
402-458-5037  
gseib@olssonassociates.com

*Director*

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

*Director*

Aaron Buettner, P.E, M.ASCE  
Alfred Benesch & Company  
402-479-2432  
ABuettner@benesch.com

**The Nebraska Civil Engineer**

c/o Greg Seib  
Olsson Associates  
601 P Street, Suite 200  
Lincoln, NE 68508

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

For underwriting information, contact Greg Seib,  
Fundraising Chair, at 402-458-5037 or  
gseib@olssonassociates.com

Deadline for articles to be published in the September newsletter  
will be September 1st. Email articles to Greg Seib at  
gseib@olssonassociates.com