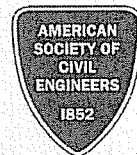


# The Nebraska

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Official Publication of the Nebraska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers

## Calendar of Events:

### January:

18 - Water Resources Group Meeting  
Lincoln

### February :

15 - Geotechnical Group Meeting - Omaha  
16 - Annual Geotechnical Seminar - Omaha  
22 - E-Week Banquet

Note: Due to Software Problems the Newsletter Advertisements have not been updated. Sorry for the delay.

## Highlights of this Issue:

ABC's of Career Change  
E-Week Banquet Announcement  
Live P.E. Exam Review Course  
on the Web

Deadline for articles to be published in the February Newsletter will be, Feb. 2nd.  
Email articles to Aaron Grote at editor@neasce.org

## The Water Resources Group Presents:

*"The Platte River Recovery Program"*  
Thursday, January 18th

Featuring: **Jim Cook**, Legal counsel for the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Jim Cook served as head legal counsel for the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources from that department's inception on July 1, 2000, until December 31, 2003. Before that he served for 30 years as counsel to the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission. During his career Jim has been involved in the organization of Nebraska's natural resources districts, the evolution of Nebraska's groundwater law, and numerous other water issues. Now semi-retired and planning permanent full-time retirement soon, he was one of Nebraska's representatives in the 13 year negotiations that led to the recent approval of the Platte River Program for endangered species.

Location: **Othmer Hall, Room 106**  
17th and Vine  
Lincoln, NE

Times: Social Hour 6:30  
Dinner 6:30  
Presentation 7:00

Menu: Pizza and Pop

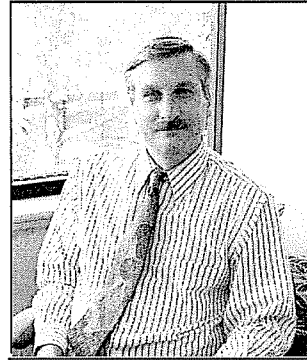
Spouses and guests welcome  
\$10 with a meal; \$10 without a meal.  
Student meals Free.  
RSVP by 12 PM Tuesday, January 16th  
TO MARIE 402.493.4800 OR  
VP@NEASCE.ORG SUBJECT LINE: ASCE RSVP

Prices include tax and gratuity.  
Portions of the proceeds will go towards hosting our speaker.

The Nebraska Civil Engineer  
January 2007

# From the President

- Tom Marnik, P.E.



Tom Marnik, P.E.  
NE-ASCE President

This is the time of year we reflect back on the past year and look to the future. I would dare say most of us have some goals floating in our heads that we tell ourselves "I should do that to better myself or my family or community". Some of us have many such goals. Problem is life usually gets in the way so we make excuses or simply ignore them and the days pass. So here is the plan I advocate for every one of you. Determine that one most important action you need to take and act on it now. Not today, right now while your reading this newsletter. The action, as a minimum, might be to write down the goal and a deadline. Better yet pick up the phone or talk to that person, fill out that application or do the research right now. The rest of this newsletter isn't nearly as important as your key goal. So go now, do it.

Now that you have come back, I would like to thank Loras Klostermann for putting on the November meeting. At this meeting, many of the membership learned more about ASCE's proposal to form a political action committee. I encourage all the membership to make known their input on this issue to Brian Pallasch [bpallasch@asce.org](mailto:bpallasch@asce.org) ASCE Director, Government Relations, or any national board member you may have contact with.

Lastly, the good news is we were awarded two SPAG grants this year totaling \$2,400. The bad news is we requested three for a total of \$5,600. The \$2,400 is only \$100 less than last years amount received but is down significantly from previous years. National has told us there were many more applications received this year than in the past.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the January 18th dinner meeting being held in conjunction with the UNL student chapter.

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## Live P.E. Exam Review Course on the Web

ASCE is pleased to announce that a live P.E. Exam Review Course delivered via the web is now available to assist ASCE's Younger Members and other civil engineers in preparing for the P.E. Exam.

Taught by a team of experienced P.E. Exam Review instructors, the course will be presented as a series of 12 two-hour modules held over a six-week period. ASCE's very popular live web seminar format will be used. These programs use teleconferencing and live transmission over the web to make the courses actual, live, interactive learning experiences.

You will be able to ask the instructors questions and get live, real time answers. You will receive course materials prior to the course and will be able to view the instructors' PowerPoint slides during the course.

You pay a single site registration fee and an unlimited number of people can attend at your site. No travel is required.

The single site registration fee provides a convenient, affordable way for multiple members in your Younger Member Forum to prepare for the P.E. Exam. Your Younger Member Forum may wish to consider the possibility of registering for and hosting the live review course on the web and charging members a nominal fee to attend the course at your site.

For additional information or to register, please go to <http://www.asce.org/conted/distancelearning/peexamreview.cfm>.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Jarvis at [kjarvis@asce.org](mailto:kjarvis@asce.org).

### Put a Spotlight on Your Favorite Project!

If you'd like to see your project in an upcoming NE-ASCE Newsletter, please send articles and pictures to: [editor@neasce.org](mailto:editor@neasce.org)

Spotlights will be 1- 2 pages as space permits. Companies supporting the NE-ASCE Newsletter will be given precedence, but any company with ASCE members may participate.

## November Meeting Hosted by the Management Group

Thanks to Loras Klostermann for hosting the November Meeting. Brian Pallasch gave an excellent presentation on ASCE's Proposal to form a Political Action Committee.

The names listed below can be considered official documentation of attendances at the November meeting worth 1 PDH credit.

Mike Sklenar	Tom Strauss
Katie Vlock	Tom Mamik
Loras Klostermann	Bob Taylor
Pat Hillyer	Hany Maximos
Brent Kollars	Amelia Toellner
Reed Schwartkoff	Daren Konda
Randy Samson	Julie Holtz
Marie Maly	Brian Lodes
Todd Riley	Jeff Kopocis
Steve Kathol	Dale Jacobson

## E-Week and Banquet

The E-Week Banquet will be held at Cascio's Steakhouse on Thursday, February 22, 2007 at 6:00 pm. Take note that 0.1 Continuing Education Units (CEU) or 1.0 Professional Development hours (PDH) will be available.

ASCE also holds the Truss Busting Competition during this week of activities.

Any companies wishing to have a booth at the scheduled events please contact, E-week Chairperson Elizabeth Hunter - [EAHunter@leodaly.com](mailto:EAHunter@leodaly.com)

## Do You Know the ABCs of Career Change?

Making a career change is one of the toughest job-search challenges. For clarification, “career change” means much more than “job change.” A career change means choosing a completely new profession or industry. A “job change” is simply changing employers within the same industry and profession.

Why do people change careers? The two main reasons are:

- The industry or occupation becomes obsolete (or is outsourced overseas)
- Job dissatisfaction (If you dread going to work on Monday morning, you’re probably in this category.)

What makes a career change so difficult? After all, most job seekers attempting a career change know exactly why they would do well in a new profession or industry. The problem comes down to communication. Most job seekers have difficulty communicating in their resume their ability to excel in a new career. Resumes, by definition, focus on career experience (history), but career changers need employers to see their expertise (current skills) in order to be viewed as a viable candidate.

If you are attempting a career change, it becomes easier when you understand the ABC’s of career change:

A: Assess

B: Bridge

C: Communicate

### **Assess what you want changed.**

Before you can make a successful change, you must decide what needs changing. Is it the duties you perform? Your overbearing boss? Your current geographic location? The industry you work in? The size of company you work for? The level of responsibility you hold? Once you pinpoint your exact source of unhappiness, you’re on your way to making the correct choice for change.

### **Bridge the gap between what you’ve done and what you want to do.**

The key to selling yourself based on your expertise rather than your experience is transferable skills. Transferable skills work like bridges to help you cross over from one industry to another or one occupation to another. Transferable skills are those skills you now possess that qualify you as a viable candidate for your career change.

### **Communicate your ability to excel in your new profession or industry.**

Your resume is your front-line communication tool to prospective employers. No matter how well you interview, if your resume doesn’t sell you, there won’t be an opportunity to convince them in person. Use your accomplishments to prove the strength of your transferable skills, and you’ll get interviews faster and with more enthusiasm. An experienced career coach can help you apply these ABCs to your current resume and your interview skills. Once you practice the ABCs of career change you’ll be on your way to changing your career and changing your life—for the better!

Deborah Walker, CCMC  
Career Coach ~ Resume Writer  
Email: [Deb@AlphaAdvantage.com](mailto:Deb@AlphaAdvantage.com)

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 For more information, contact Chris Hyvonen at 402.498.3041.

Check out the current issue of ASCE's Section Informant at  
[http://www.asce.org/pdf/sec\\_informant.pdf](http://www.asce.org/pdf/sec_informant.pdf)

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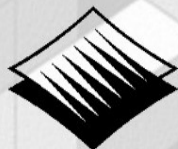
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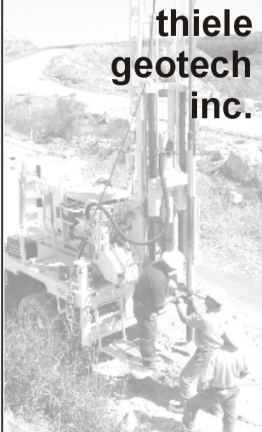


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