



EVENT CALENDAR:

October

21st - Construction Group Meeting - Omaha

November

Electronic only delivery of Newsletter begins

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

From The President

September Meeting Hosted by the Structural Group

September Meeting and ASCE/SEAON Annual Structural Conference Summary

"Bounty" Offered to Sections for Peer Review Referrals

Final Paper Copy of Newsletter

Future City Competition

October Meeting

October 2010

The Construction Group Presents:

TD Ameritrade Site Tour

Thursday, October 21st, 2010

Host: NE-ASCE Construction Group (Doug Kellner, Construction Group Committee Chair)

Tour the TD Ameritrade headquarters site. Groundbreaking was conducted on July 21, 2010 to mark the official start of construction of a 12-story office tower and attached pavilion. See the progress that has been made first-hand.

Tour Guides: Phil Spencer, Project Manager Kiewit Building Group
Del Reibold, Construction Manager TD Ameritrade

Please note Safety Equipment is required to participate on the tour. Required items are: hard hat, full pants and full toe shoes or rubber boots. Please make arrangements for safety gear prior to arriving on site.

Location: 200 S. 108th Avenue. Parking will be at the Kiewit office at 330 S. 108th Avenue.

Times: Meet at Kiewit office at 330 S. 108th Avenue 5:30 p.m.
Site Tour at 200 S. 108th Avenue 5:45 p.m.
Dinner at Grisanti's Casual Italian Restaurant
10875 W. Dodge Road (just north of the site) 7:00 p.m.

Menu: Eggplant Parmesan
Classic Lasagna
Grilled Chicken Alfredo
Spaghetti with Meatballs
(Salad and garlic bread are included with the entrees)

All meals with tour \$15 per person. Spouses and guests are welcome. Price is \$10 without the meal. Student meals are FREE. Register online by 12 PM Tuesday October 19th at www.neasce.org/meal_signup.

Deadline for articles to be published in the November newsletter will be November 2nd. Email articles to Greg Seib at editor@neasce.org

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From the President

- Aaron Buettner, P.E., M.ASCE

With one meeting under our belts and another interesting meeting scheduled for this month, the ASCE year is officially underway. Last month's meeting and Structural Conference were both very successful thanks to the efforts of Scott Gilliland, Rich Kotan and the Structural Conference Planning Committee. In fact, there was record attendance at the conference, with over 250 participants. Additional details about these items are provided in this newsletter.

This month's meeting involves a site tour of the TD Ameritrade building currently under construction. This should be a very interesting tour, and it is always valuable for engineers to make visits to the field where our plans are turned into reality. I especially encourage young engineers to join us for this tour, as every opportunity to experience construction firsthand helps us become better engineers.

As I mentioned last month, we have opportunities available for people interested in being involved with the Nebraska Section of ASCE. The time commitment is relatively small and those involved have the opportunity to shape the direction of the Section. Openings include Vice President, Membership Chair, and Management Technical Chair. Please consider volunteering and giving a small amount of your time to help lead the Nebraska Section of ASCE.

Last week, several people from the Government Relations office at ASCE Headquarters were in Omaha. While in Omaha they provided a short training session on the Key Contacts program



Aaron Buettner, P.E., President of ASCE

of ASCE. This program helps make government officials aware of issues that are important to civil engineers. Government has a direct impact on our profession in terms of regulation and funding. ASCE uses the Key Contacts program to provide input on these public policy issues that are important to the civil engineering profession. I will bring some brochures to this month's meeting describing how you can get involved in this important ASCE function. You can customize your involvement to the level that works best for you. This involvement can range from using the ASCE website to send pre-written e-mails to your Congressperson all the way to attendance at the Fly-In and meeting directly with our Congressional delegation. I encourage you to consider participating in this opportunity.

I look forward to seeing many of you on October 21.

-Aaron M. Buettner, P.E., M.ASCE

September Meeting Hosted by the Structural Group

Thanks to the Structural Group for hosting the September meeting. The list below can be considered official documentation of attendance at the September 16th meeting worth 1 PDH credit.

Aaron Buettner	Keith Kesner
Adam Wietzki	Marie (Maly) Stamm
Amelia Toellner	Michael Reif
Audra Lorimor	Michael Sklenar
Cassie Vogel	Mike Baumert
David Klostermeyer	Mike Naccarato
Ed Prost	Nelson Jacobs
Eric Stafford	Rich Kotan
Gary Krause	Romeo Reales
Greg Seib	Scott Gilliland
Jack Gibbons	Terri Norton
James Morong	Ticha Rohan
James Nervig	Tore Arnesen
Jeff Ehler	Brad Peterson
Jeremy Steenhoek	Jacob Hanna
Jiri Strasky	Jacob Zach
Joe Flaxbeard	Maher Tadros
John Hill	Amgad Girgis
Joshua Storm	Roryvanden Bery
Kathlyn Jacobsen	Thomas Jizba

September Meeting and ASCE/SEAON Annual Structural Conference Summary

The Nebraska Section's Structural Technical Group hosted a joint dinner meeting in association with the Structural Engineers Association of Nebraska (SEAON) and the Annual Structural Conference last month at Jimi D's in Omaha on Thursday evening, September 16th. After enjoying a great dinner, the group of over 40 attendees listened to a presentation by Dr. Keith Kesner, P.E., S.E. – Associate with Whitlock Dalrymple Poston & Associates, P.C. Dr. Kesner talked about the "Evaluation of Problems in Existing Structures."

Dr. Kesner, along with several other speakers, also presented at the 30th Annual Structural Conference on Friday, September 17th. The full day conference was held at the Scott Conference Center in Omaha. The conference was well attended, setting a record of over 250 participants. The new ASCE/SEI 7-10 Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures was provided to each attendee as part of their registration and an Apple iPod was given away at the conference in celebration of its successful 30 year history. The Nebraska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (NEASCE) is a joint sponsor of the Conference.

“Bounty” Offered to Sections for Peer Review Referrals

The Committee on Peer Review for Public Agencies is introducing a \$250 incentive for referrals that result in a peer review.

What is Peer Review?

The purpose of ASCE’s Peer Review for Public Agencies Program is to help public sector engineering and construction agencies improve the management and quality of their engineering services through a quick, confidential, and affordable process. Reviewers study an organization’s policies and objectives and conduct staff interviews to determine how well those policies and procedures are understood and practiced. Management areas covered include: organizational management, project management, emergency management, technical procedures, human resource management, finance, and public relations. The focus may cover planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance -- and can include an entire agency or just a portion. The team concludes the process with an oral report to the engineer/director requesting the review, and if requested follows up later with a written report.

The process was modeled after a similar one used by the American Council of Engineering Companies in the late 1980’s. Since 1987, almost 70 different local entities have benefitted from the ASCE Peer Review for Public Agencies program. Typical comments include “We were and still are very happy with the review that was performed.” and “Experience showed and was very valuable.” More information, including a brochure, is available on the ASCE Web site at http://www.asce.org/professional/peereview/peer_review.cfm.

ASCE Peer Review is a voluntary and confidential program for public infrastructure organizations and is conducted by experienced government engineer/managers who are trained in the process. Timing is typically controlled by the requesting agency. A review can be done quickly. The turnaround time can be within 90 days of the request. Cost is low for this kind of study since reviewers volunteer their time, and therefore no cost is included for their salaries.

The fee covers reviewer travel costs and administration. It typically ranges from \$6,000 to \$20,000 but depends on the size of the agency being reviewed and whether the agency requests a more customized review to address specific challenges or opportunities that they are facing.

Benefits of a Peer Review

A peer review provides an objective outside assessment of strengths and weaknesses by fellow government engineers experienced in leadership and management. They have no stake in future work; their intent is to provide a useful service to colleagues. Agency management can gain insights into procedural difficulties, communication obstacles, organizational problems, and employee morale but also positive reinforcement from staff feedback. This helps them prioritize and implement suggestions for improvement of effectiveness in a manner that utilizes both staff and management input.

Incentive process

Sections and Branches should email Becky Waldrup, ASCE’s staff contact for the Committee on Peer Review for Public Agencies, at rwaldrup@asce.org to recommend an agency. Provide the following information:

1. ASCE Section or Branch name and contact, and
2. Government agency name and contact information.

Becky will acknowledge your submission, enter the contact information into ASCE’s Peer Review tracking system, and follow-up with the agency to determine their interest. Upon completion of a review and payment of the review fee, the ‘nominating’ Section or Branch will receive payment of \$250. There is no limit on the number of referrals that a Sections and Branches may make or the number of referral fees that they may earn.

Agencies who have used this service have found that the process is very valuable. The Committee on Peer Review for Public Agencies hopes that this incentive offer will increase the exposure of this service. Please consider participating in the referral program for the benefit of your local public agencies as well as for the financial assistance that it will provide to your Section or Branch.

Final Paper Copy of Newsletter

This will be the final paper copy of the newsletter for the Nebraska Section of ASCE. The November edition will be the start of electronic only delivery. We will be e-mailing out PDF versions of the newsletter only, which means it is critical that we have a current e-mail address available for all of our members. Right now approximately 20% of our membership does not have a valid e-mail address on file. In order to update your membership information, please visit the Society website at www.asce.org and go to the MyASCE section. Alternatively contact ASCE Customer Service at member@asce.org or by phone at 800.548.2723.

The Section receives information from the Headquarters database, which is updated daily. The Section then downloads the current database list before sending an e-mail to the section membership. If you are not currently receiving the e-mail newsletter and you have the correct e-mail address on file with Headquarters, please send an e-mail to John Hill at John.Hill@LRA-inc.com with the subject line NEASCE Newsletter.

Future City Competition

There are many opportunities to volunteer and get involved with the Future City Competition, ranging from mentoring students, teachers, and design teams to judging the competition. You can be as involved as you would like in promoting and developing the next generation of engineers. Please see the next page for more information on the Future City Competition. Contact David Nielsen (dnielsen@oaconsulting.com) to discuss your interest in volunteering for the Future City Competition.

National Engineers Week Future City® Competition

■ Design it! ■ Build it! ■ Show it!

Future City Heartland Regional Tournament 2011

This event is sponsored in part by ASCE-Nebraska Section. The public is invited to attend. First-place winners will join teams from 39 other regions for an all-expense-paid trip to the 19th annual Future City National Finals in Washington, D.C. during Engineers Week. The National Engineers Week Future City Competition is sponsored in part by the National Engineers Week Foundation, a consortium of professional and technical societies and major U.S. corporations.

Future City, the nation's largest engineering education program and among the most popular, students first create cities on computers using SimCity software and then build three-dimensional, tabletop models to scale. To ensure a level playing field, models must use recycled materials and can cost no more than \$100. Students also write brief abstracts describing their city and must present and defend their designs at the competition before a panel of engineer judges who test the depth of the teams' knowledge.

Student knowledge is often astonishingly evidenced by the essays which require 6th through 8th graders to explore complex challenges that most adults would consider out of their league.

Dreams Need Doing

Don't just dream about the future...



Date: 1/15/11

Time: 8:00–3:00 PM

Location: Educational Service Unit #3,
6949 South 110th Street in Omaha

Audience: K–12 Educators, HAL Students

Presenter: John Thomsen, jthomsen@esu3.org

Workshop Document: [Tournament Reg](#)

Register: www2.esu3.org/esu3/index.cfm?action=2&dept=pdd&id=1390

Visit this link for upcoming

2010 Future City Competition: [Teacher Training Grade 6–8](#)

www2.esu3.org/esu3/index.cfm?action=2&dept=pdd&id=1378

For more information about Future City Competition, visit www.futurecity.org



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