



ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers

WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

January 2005

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Changes and Opportunities

Welcome to 2005! What will this year bring? As the oldest engineering society in the nation, ASCE will celebrate its 153rd anniversary this year. And our Wisconsin section will now have 81 years of experience.

Consider the tremendous changes that our developed world has seen during that time period. Nationwide interstate freeway systems, city skylines dominated by tall buildings, bridges spanning great distances, large power facilities generating thousands of megawatts, water supply systems providing clean water to millions, wastewater treatment plants protecting our water environment – the list could continue for many pages.

Civil engineers, as planners and stewards of society's large-scale facilities, have had much to do with the creation and evolution of these amazing systems. These improvements have had a profound effect on how we live, and their development is measured not in years, but over many decades.

The long term impact of such major changes, of course, is not without controversy, and the future is bringing significant new types of challenges and questions. How, and when, should these systems be upgraded and replaced? Should some elements be discontinued or removed? Which of our present systems are readily sustainable? Are some systems likely to need wholesale change?

These are weighty and expensive questions. Your knowledge and experience as a civil engineer will be of great assistance as society wrestles with these issues. Perhaps you are, or will be, the decision-maker in charge of a large operation. Perhaps you are, or will be, the key planner or designer that devises an optimal solution for a complex problem. Perhaps you are, or will be, a teacher or professor training the minds of future leaders. Perhaps you are, or will be, a member of a citizen advisory group that can provide sound guidance on a major public issue. Whatever our specific roles in the world of civil engineering, let us strive to find a niche, do it well, and make a difference! Future generations will benefit from your dedicated efforts and ideas.

On a related note, many of you may recall that our ASCE Wisconsin Section released a detailed report in 2003 assessing the condition of our state's infrastructure. This "Report Card" provides a comparative look at twelve crucial public infrastructure systems in our state, from transportation to water. We are planning to update this impor-

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President's Message

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tant document on approximately a four-year cycle, with the next new release aimed at 2007. In the meantime, we are also planning the continued use of our existing report card as a great source of information for policy-makers, officials, and the general public. Please contact me or any board member if you are interested in being a part of the 2007 committee, or if you can help with ongoing efforts to distribute or present the existing report card.

On another front, I just received some good news from ASCE headquarters in Washington – our Wisconsin Section has been named as the recipient of the Outstanding Newsletter Award from ASCE National. Congratulations are in order for our editors Mr. Steve Peterson and Mr. Mark Mathu. Steve will be on hand at the St. Louis ASCE conference next month to accept the award from National President Bill Henry at the president's luncheon.

Also, continue to mark your calendar for the Spring Technical Conference in Oconomowoc on Friday, March 10, 2005. The Southeast Branch planning committee, chaired by Jeff Gerbensky, is preparing a great event.

Wishing you peace and good health in 2005!

Sincerely,

Ned W. Paschke
President, Wisconsin Section ASCE

FOX RIVER VALLEY BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP

The Fox River Valley Branch is proud to announce its selection of **Jacob Canniff** as their 2004 Scholarship recipient. Jacob hales from Green Bay and is pursuing his Civil Engineering education at Michigan Tech. At Green Bay East High School he was active in soccer, National Honor Society, and the Social Studies & Math Academic Teams while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. A notable accomplishment for Jacob was his willingness to stay heavily involved with the soccer team his senior year, despite not being able to be an active player due to a broken jaw.

For his future in Civil Engineering Jacob looks forward to "...designing and building structures ranging from bridges and tunnels to homes and skyscrapers..." Congratulations Jacob!

THE ELECTRONIC ASCE NEWSLETTER IS COMING!

The ASCE Wisconsin Section will be converting the bi-monthly newsletter to an electronic format delivered via e-mail to the e-mail address on file at ASCE headquarters. To update your address (or any other membership information) go to www.asce.org/myprofile or call (800)548-2723.

The implementation schedule is as follows:

- March, May 2005** Members with an e-mail address on file will receive an e-mail message with a link to the electronic newsletter; a printed newsletter will still be sent to all members.
- June 2005** Evaluate the method of e-newsletter delivery based on responses from membership.
- August 2005** Delivery of the e-newsletter refined based on membership response. A printed newsletter will still be sent to all members.
- November 2005** Full conversion to an e-newsletter system. Printed newsletters will only be sent to those without an e-mail address on file at ASCE headquarters.

If you have comments or ideas about converting this newsletter to an electronic format, please contact me at mmathu@hntb.com or (414) 359-2310 -- I'd like to hear your comments as we move forward with this transition.

Thank you.

Mark Mathu
Newsletter Editor

GOVERNOR'S NEW PRODUCT AWARDS

Applications Due: Tuesday, February 22, 2005 • **Award Ceremony:** Friday, April 15, 2005

You are invited to enter the 2005 Governor's New Product Awards (GNPA), a prestigious State-wide competition. For over three decades the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers GNPA competition has recognized Wisconsin's leading manufacturers who have contributed to the State's economic growth through the development, manufacturing and marketing of new and innovative products.

Any new product, machine, process, or material that has been developed in Wisconsin may be entered provided that it was first placed on the market between 2000 and 2004.

New and improved products stimulate the life and growth of our country. These benefits result from research and development to which engineers make their unique contribution. This competition recognizes the results of those efforts and the foresight of the companies whose aggressive policies bring new products to the marketplace. The purpose of the Governor's New Product Awards program is to recognize the full spectrum of benefits that come from the research and engineering of new products. These include added employment, economic development, strengthening of the nation's competitive position internationally, and contribution to the public's standard of living.

As a Governor's New Product Award entrant:

- Your company competes to be named the 2005 GNPA winner in the mega (10,000 or more employees), large (201 to 9,999 employees), medium (51 to 200 employees) or small (50 or fewer employees) company categories.
- Four Best of State winners will compete in the 2006 NSPE New Product Award for national recognition.
- Each entrant receives a GNPA Certificate signed by Governor Jim Doyle recognizing your economic contributions to Wisconsin.
- Each entry is publicized through WSPE assistance by preparing and distributing news releases to state and local media.
- All entrants will be invited to attend the Governor's New Product Award Banquet, Friday evening, April 15, 2005 at the Kalahari, Waterpark Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells. This year's banquet host will be nationally acclaimed humorist and keynote speaker, Master Ventriloquist Dale Brown and his dummy partner Chip Martin. Banquet, awards and entertainment - \$40 per person (cash bar).

For more information, visit the WSPE web site www.wspe.org or contact:

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Mark your calendars for the
2005 Spring Technical Conference
Thursday afternoon, March 10, 2005
Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc, Wis.



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January 2005 Newsletter

Addressed to an Important ASCE Member

c/o: Mark P. Mathu, P.E.
HNTB Corporation
11414 W. Park Place, Suite 300
Milwaukee, WI 53224

Southeast Branch Meetings

- January 31 dinner meeting with MU student chapter, Milwaukee (Marquette Interchange)
- February no meeting
- March 10 Spring Technical Conference at Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc
- April 21 lunch meeting with ESM

Fox River Valley Branch Meetings

- January 18 dinner meeting, Green Bay
- February 16 dinner meeting with ACI, Sheboygan / southern area
- March 10 Spring Technical Conference at Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc
- April 20 dinner meeting, Manitowoc
- May 24 golf outing

Southwest Branch Meetings

- January 20 lunch meeting at JT Whitneys, Madison (Dane County Airport stream rerouting)
- January 26 meeting with WSPE (Deep water harbor in Madagascar)
- March 10 Spring Technical Conference at Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc
- April meeting

Northwest Branch Meetings

- March 10 Spring Technical Conference at Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc