



ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers

WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER May 2006

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006 – 2007

President

Steven L. Peterson, P.E.
920-451-2536

President-Elect

Mark P. Mathu, P.E.
414-359-2300

Vice President

John G. Burgan, P.E.
414-359-2300

Secretary

Julie L. Hoppe, P.E.
262-790-0232

Treasurer

Van E. Komurka, P.E.
262-376-2001

Past President

Ned W. Paschke, P.E.
608-273-6380

Directors-at-Large

William J. Meyer, P.E.
715-675-9784

Elizabeth A. Lorentz
414-273-8800

Jan Kucher, P.E.
608-662-5121

Alex Barker, P.E.
920-886-1406

Fox River Valley Branch Director

Michelle Snyder, P.E.
920-496-0500

Southwest Branch Director

Larry Ryan, P.E.
608-273-0592

Northwest Branch Director

Joe Behlen, P.E.
715-421-7835

Southeast Branch Director

John McCarthy, P.E.
414-259-1500

Webmaster

Martin J. Hanson, P.E.
715-834-3161

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – April / May

Greetings from your Wisconsin Section President! Spring is in the air and the golf and baseball season is upon us.

It was great to see such a good turnout for our Spring Technical Conference held March 23 in Madison. The Chair **Mark Meyers** and his committee of **Nathan Braun, Dan Dreessens, Kathy Lake, Jon Lindert, Bart Nies, Ned Paschke, Matt Roberts, Larry Ryan, Richard Schneider and Bill Wuellner** deserve many thanks for the fine program provided. Overall it was a great conference! Thanks again to the committee.

At the STC, the WI Section had the great honor of presenting ASCE's Life Member certificates to **Paul Feller, Dave Groblewski, Larry Kaplan, Dave Rudig, Joe Spang, Victor Tejada, Gerald Bizjak, Richard Adams, Dan Bauer, Ken Kosciak, William Lane, Dennis McMillen, Charles Stoll and Richard Strauss**. Achieving Life Membership in ASCE requires a career of service to ASCE and the Civil Engineering profession. To be eligible for Life Member, individuals in the grade of Fellow, Member, Associate member, or Affiliate a) shall have reached the age of 65 years AND b) shall have paid dues for at least 30 years AND c) shall have had 10 years continuous membership immediately preceding the attainment of Life Member. In addition, the WI Section will honor the Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Students, as selected by the students, from the Civil Engineering Colleges in Wisconsin.

Congratulations are in order for two of our Student Chapters and one of our Faculty Advisors. **Dr. Philip J. Parker** has been selected to receive the 2006 Zone III Faculty Advisor of the Year Award. Dr. Parker is the Faculty Advisor to the UW-Platteville ASCE Student Chapter. Thank you for all of your efforts in supporting the UWP Student Chapter. **UW-Platteville and UW-Madison Student Chapter's** have received 2006 Certificate of Commendation for their outstanding activities. It is rewarding to

(Continued on page 2)



Inside This Issue

*Elections and Meeting
Announcements* 2

Spring Activities Report 3

*Executive Summary to Final
Report ACEC/WI 2005 Annual
Meeting.....* 4

*Peer Review Tool for
Infrastructure Management ..* 5

2 ASCE Wisconsin Section Newsletter May 2006

see the next generation of Civil Engineers taking an active role as students and hopefully this carries over when they become full time members of our society.

I wanted to make you aware of a great opportunity for you to attend the ASCE National Annual Meeting. The next Annual Meeting will be held October 19 – 21, 2006 in Chicago, IL. Obviously, the close proximity will make it easier for our members to attend and hope you get a chance to experience our National Annual Meeting.

Should you have any suggestions and ideas for our society, please feel free to contact me (**phone 920-451-2536 or e-mail steve.peterson@earthtech.com**) or any of the board members listed on the first page. We are always open to dialogue with you and your input is appreciated. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

I am proud to be a civil engineer and proud to be your President for this upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Peterson, P.E.
President, Wisconsin Section ASCE

Section Officer Elections

The ballots for next year's Section Officers will be in the next newsletter. This will be a hard copy newsletter; please remember to send in the ballots! The Board has approved the following for inclusion in the ballot:

Past President – Steve Peterson, current President
President – Mark Mathu, current President Elect
President Elect – John Burgan, current Vice President
Secretary – Julie Hoppe
Vice President – Gary Amel
Treasurer – Bill Wuellner
Director at Large – Larry Ryan
Director at Large – Elizabeth Lorentz

The following officers will remain on the Board:

Director at Large – Jan Kucher
Director at Large – Alex Barker

Section Announcements

The 2006 Annual Meeting will be held on September 8, 2006 at the Olympia Resort. The chair is Dan Brady from TN & Associates. Please keep this day open in your calendar.

The Student Chapters have attended many events, including:

- UW-Platteville student chapter officers attended the 2006 ASCE Zone III Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders in Houston, Texas in February.
- UW-Platteville student chapter's concrete canoe team won the Mideast Regional Competition held at the University of Iowa. The team will be attending the national competition June 15-17 at Oklahoma State University.

ASCE's Annual Conference will be held from October 19-21, 2006 in Chicago. The conference is being sponsored by the Illinois Section.

ASCE's 2007 Multi-Region Leadership & Management Conference will be at the Hilton Hotel in Milwaukee from February 9-11. The Section's Younger Member Group will be assisting with this conference



Thomas R. Walther, P.E., F. ASCE
District 8 Director

SPRING ACTIVITIES REPORT

Greetings ASCE members.

Change is mandatory for every business and organization if that group desires to keep up with the times and remain a thriving, viable organization. For ASCE this indeed is a time of change together with the continuation of strong programs.

The change most visible to members is the ongoing transition of ASCE governance from 4 zones and 15 districts currently within the U.S. to 9 geographic regions within the U.S. Upon transition conclusion each region will have a Geographic Region Director on the ASCE national Board of Directors plus each region will have its own Board of Governors. Sections within the states of North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio are members of the new Region 3, which became an operating entity in October 2005. Region 3 is governed by a board of 5 Governors (all of whom will be elected as their current appointed transitional terms expire), 1 appointed Governor and currently 2 District Directors who will transition to just 1 Geographic Region Director in November 2008. Current Governors include Steve Chizek representing the Michigan Section, Dave Pritchard representing all the Ohio Sections, Thomas Burke representing the Illinois Section and Darrell Berry of Milwaukee and Eriks Ludins of St Paul who together represent the North Dakota, Duluth, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Central Illinois and Quad Cities Sections. Amy Smith of Duluth is the appointed Governor at Large. Mark Stemmer is the District 7 Director. Governance questions or comments should be forwarded through your area Governor.

Beside governance, numerous other issues are of note on the national level. A strategic planning process to guide ASCE into the future is ongoing. In the fall of 2005 a Strategic Planning Task Committee was established to expedite the process. The goal is to have the ASCE Board adopt the new strategic plan in October 2006. Another part of growth is to occasionally eliminate poorly performing programs. Following years of concern, the Board in January 2006 eliminated the Civil Engineering Research Foundation (CERF). A few activities resulting from special funding arrangements will continue and be integrated into other activities but basically CERF is gone. On the side of newer activities the Board within the past year has created the Building Security Council (BSC). In the most simplistic terms BSC plans to create a system to rate the overall physical security of existing, remodeled or most commonly new buildings. It is believed building owners will pursue these ratings as a method of tenant assurance, owner liability and loss mitigation and for potential savings on insurance premiums. Another ongoing and potentially significant program is the work of the Committee on Prerequisites for Professional Practice (CAP³). The 2004 book *Civil Engineering Body of Knowledge for the 21st Century* will be upgraded and reissued later in 2006. The CAP³ committees continue to work with universities and state registration boards to move forward on adequately training our new engineers and on transitioning the skill sets into upgraded requirements for licensure. The various Institutes of the Society continue to expand and mature. There are currently 7 Institutes. The Engineering Mechanics Division of TAC is exploring a transition into an Engineering Mechanics Institute. All of these Institutes desire to develop closer working relationships with Sections. All Sections are encouraged to develop inter-group cooperation with the various Institutes. Another significant and high profile activity is the Report Card on America's Infrastructure. An updated version of the national report card was released in spring of 2005. It showed that the quality of our infrastructure continues to decline. A number of Sections have developed their own regional report cards. Other Sections are encouraged to do the same. On a related infrastructure issue, ASCE is currently very active in the analysis of the infrastructure failures resulting from hurricane Katrina. ASCE is working closely with the Corp of Engineers and other entities to minimize future hurricane losses.

Related to all of these activities are budgeting issues of the Society. The annual budget of ASCE is pushing \$50 million. Inflation hits ASCE just like everyone else. To allow continuation or slight expansions of various programs there was a dues increase for 2006. Those added funds were dispersed to a number of activities but the largest single chunk of increased dues monies went to Sections. Responding to comments and input from Sections and Branches the section dues allotments for 2006 were increased by 50% or from \$400K to \$600K. The FY '07 budget process is well underway. Most programs are expected to be financially stagnant in 2007 but President Elect Marcusion has concerns about society reserves. The Board will adopt the 2007 budget in July 2006. Any 2007 dues impacts are unknown at this time.

To summarize, ASCE continues to be an active, although not always highly visible, force in the world of civil engineering. ASCE needs the continued support of individual civil engineers to meet the Society vision of civil engineers being global leaders building a better quality of life.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY TO FINAL REPORT
American Society of Civil Engineers – Wisconsin Section
2005 ANNUAL MEETING

KI Convention Center, Green Bay

September 23, 2005

This executive summary is followed by a detailed final report on the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Total Conference Attendees (Students and Members) = 122

Total Conference Attendees for Lunch

(Including Students, Members, Vendors, Speakers, Awards Recipients, Guests) = 179

Total Conference Revenue = \$10,100.00

Total Conference Expenses = \$7,462.02

Total Conference Profit = \$2,637.98

On future meetings, the following recommendations should be considered. It should be noted that it seems that many of the same recommendations are made year-to-year in the final reports. We have noted within the recommendations below which recommendations have been made in previous years. There are additional general on-going recommendations, which appear to have been fully implemented and included in the final report. They are included as guidance for future planning committees. We strongly encourage the WI Section to forward this report to the next two annual meeting planning committee chairpersons for their use.

Order of the Engineer Ceremony - The Order of the Engineer Ceremony was held over lunch and three people participated. The ceremony should be explained ahead of time to the people that sign up so they know what to expect. We may not get much more interest since we are asking the same people over again. The ceremony could be offered every 2-3 years.

Conference Center Layout – The snacks should be located close to the vendors. At this conference, they were located in the hallway outside the breakout sessions. People congregated by the snacks and didn't walk to the vendor area. The KI Center did not have the best layout since the general session room was not by the breakout sessions. A map was given out with the schedule for the day, which helped.

Networking Opportunities - Several individuals mentioned that they would like to have the opportunity within the context of the conference to do more networking. It seems that the breaks aren't long enough. We had a request to have an attendance sheet of the people signed up for the conference, listing their name and company, available at the registration desk.

Registration Brochure – Work with Xerlith, the printer, to determine page order. Creating a file where the pages are in consecutive order requires the printer to reorder the pages for printing.

Receipt Book – Don't forget to get one from the branch treasurer for the conference day.

Vendors – This committee had a hard time getting a commitment from vendors. Dennis Siegle volunteered to help with vendors for future meetings. Taylor Tech would like to be a sponsor at future meetings. Contact Cory at 1-800-236-2070 ext. 12. Get the names of the people representing the vendor so they can have a nametag.

Technical Session Set Up - One room of the four technical sessions should be set up with twice the number of chairs as the others for technical sessions that have larger interest. We had technical sessions with pre-registered preferences ranging from 8 to 48 attendees at a technical session. There was standing room only at a few of the sessions. The average pre-registered preference was around 30 to 35 persons. *This was a comment made in previous annual reports.*

WI Section Awards Committee – The WI Section must coordinate with the awards recipients to get a total number of meals to be ordered (for award recipients and guests) by having each attendee fill in a registration form. This should be done three weeks prior to the day of conference. In addition, the WI Section Awards Committee should be responsible for bringing a laptop and projector for use during the awards ceremony and for student presentations. While we did designate someone from our committee to be the photographer for this event, it seems that in the past this has been forgotten. Our committee did produce a detailed itinerary (attached) for use during the day that we believe helped the day go smoothly. *This was a comment made in previous annual reports.*

Student Chapter Participation – Marquette and MSOE did not participate this year. Future meetings should try to gain participation from all five Wisconsin engineering colleges (UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, UW-Milwaukee, Marquette, and MSOE). All five colleges should be told that a powerpoint presentation should be given on their activities. We told the representatives that they could present what they wanted in less than 5 minutes. UW-Madison had a powerpoint presentation that lasted longer. When UW-Platteville found that out, they were disappointed that they had prepared a speech and did not bring their powerpoint presentation. *A similar comment was made in previous annual reports.*

Peer Review Tool for Infrastructure Management

April 2006
By Tom Eggum

ASCE offers a quick, confidential and affordable management improvement service for civil engineers who manage public infrastructure agencies. It is a voluntary and confidential program, conducted by experienced government engineer/managers trained in the process. A review can be done quickly, within 90 days of the request. Cost is low for this kind of study since salaries of reviewers are not charged. A fee ranging from \$5000 - \$15,000 based on agency size covers reviewer travel expenses and program administration.

Reviewers study an organization's policies and, via staff interviews, determine just how effectively intended actions are implemented. Subjects covered include: Organizational Management, Project Management, Emergency Management, Technical Procedures, Human Resource Management, Finance, and Public Relations. The focus can cover an entire agency's planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance --or can be limited to just a portion. The review ends with a confidential oral report, or if requested, a written report. There is no further contact afterwards by the review team.

Peer review provides 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. As a result of reviews, practices are endorsed and suggestions for improvement are made. Sometimes hidden or denied problems are surfaced. Typically, performance and political credibility both increase.

The process was 'borrowed' from the American Council of Engineering Companies in late 1980's. Since its start, ASCE has conducted over 60 peer reviews for 20 cities, 11 counties, 3 metropolitan regions, 2 state agencies, and 26 federal agencies. More information, including a downloadable brochure is available on the ASCE website at http://www.asce.org/professional/peereview/peer_review.cfm. The site includes testimonials from agency directors as well as from peer reviewers. Often, agency managers who have had peer reviews done are impressed enough with the process to become peer reviewers themselves.

Those who have used this service agree that the process is very valuable.

(Tom is former Director of Public Works/City Engineer for Saint Paul, Minnesota, a Past-President of the Minnesota Section, a Past-Chair of ASCE's Committee for Peer Review of Public Agencies, and served as ASCE District 8 Director from 2002-2005.)



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Madison, WI
PERMIT NO. 304

May 2006 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