

President's Message



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER EXAM CHANGES

State Representative Mark Gottlieb of Port Washington will introduce a bill to modify licensing requirements for professional engineers. His bill will:

- 1) Remove the "grandfather" path to licensure that did not require passing the Principles and Practice Exam. This change would simplify and make the criteria the same for all future applicants.
- 2) Remove the requirement for exam questions regarding the design needs of people with physical disabilities. The change will simplify the application and review process; it will not relieve civil engineers from our responsibility to design accordingly.
- 3) Remove the option for those who didn't pass the exam to review specific questions and their answers. The review provision was added when the exam had questions where partial credit could be earned, but the exam has since evolved into a multiple-choice format and the Licensing Board feels there is now no need to review a standardized scored test.

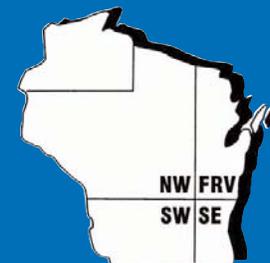
ASCE has had members on Wisconsin's Examining Board since it was established in 1931, and our society's current representatives on the board support these changes. I hope you do, too. If you have questions or comments about these proposed changes (remember - it's only a bill, not law at this time) please contact either myself (414-359-2300 mmathu@hntb.com), Marty Hanson (715-834-3161 hansonm@ayresassociates.com) or Representative Gottlieb (888-534-0060 rep.gottlieb@legis.wisconsin.gov).

VOLUNTEERING

We've all heard the mantra that our Wisconsin Section is a volunteer organization.

I got to experience ASCE's volunteerism first-hand when I got involved with the soon-to-be released "Report Card on Wisconsin's Infrastructure." Seventy-five people worked on all of the aspects of the report - gathering data and writing the report for each section, reviewing each section's report, combining the individual parts into a cohesive product, and working with our Public Relations firm for getting our message to decision-makers in our state. I cannot thank these volunteers enough for your help. Our society's effort will come to fruition when the report card is announced at a press conference in the Capitol on February 8.

Respectfully,
Mark Mathu



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2007 Structures Congress



Join us in Long Beach, CA for the 2007 Structures Congress!
SEI is very excited to welcome Glenn R. Bell, P.E., CEO of Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc., as the plenary speaker for the 2007 Structures Congress in Long Beach, May 17-20, 2007.



Mr. Bell will be presenting on “Engineering-Driven Architecture.” In his talk, Mr. Bell will address author Tony Robbin’s 1996 thesis that we are on the eve of a new era in architecture that will be driven by elegant structural engineering, advanced materials, and creative geometry (Engineering a New Architecture, 1996). Mr. Bell will reshape Robbin’s thesis and argue it from the perspective of an engineer with an interest in structures, building envelopes, mechanical systems and construction methods. We hope you will join us for what promises to be a fascinating presentation. Read the full abstract at www.structurescongress.org.

Varied sessions are planned for the 2007 Structures Congress targeted toward getting information to the practicing engineer. These sessions will be included in:

- ◆ 4 tracks covering practical design in the following topic areas: Buildings, Bridges, Existing Structures, and Non-structural/Non-building Structures.
- ◆ 1 track on new Codes and Standards
- ◆ 1 track on Business Practices and Activities
- ◆ 2 tracks on Research Frontiers
- ◆ 1 track containing the 2007 Forensic Engineering Symposium

Standard sessions will have 3-4 speakers. Other types of presentations will be panel discussions, "ask the expert," mini-seminars, and poster sessions.

We hope that you can join us in Long Beach!

Registration Is Now Open at www.structurescongress.org.

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Wisconsin Section Younger Member Group (YMG)

The Wisconsin Section Younger Member Group (YMG) has had a great year! It has been filled with a wide variety of outreach and social activities.

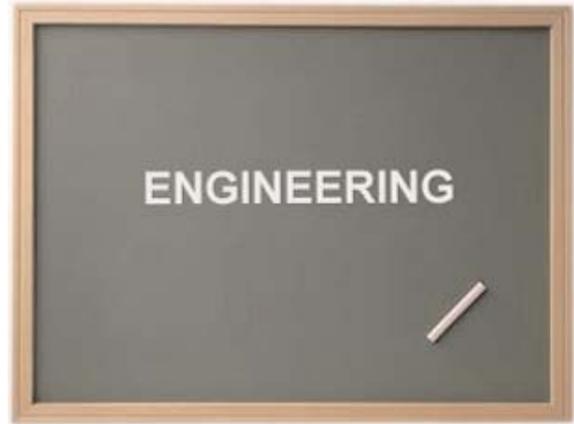
Our major outreach activity every year is the K-12 Outreach program. Members volunteer to go to Milwaukee area classrooms to talk to students about engineering. Volunteers discuss engineering and assist students in a learning project. Another major outreach activity is the mentoring of groups and judging the regional Future Cities Competition in Milwaukee. We also provide a special award from YMG for the city with the best use of recreational space. Other outreach activities from the past year include proctoring for the Mathcounts Competition, bell-ringing for the Salvation Army, collecting 385 lbs of food for the Hunger Task Force, and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity.

We hold many social events throughout the year, but two of our largest are hosted jointly with the Wisconsin student chapters of ASCE. We believe it is important to involve the area student chapters, to acquaint the students with the YMG section, so that they are more comfortable in attending YMG activities after graduation. In February, we traveled to Madison for a Wisconsin Badger Hockey Game. In April, the parking lots outside of Miller Park filled up with 150 students and younger members as we tailgated and took in a Milwaukee Brewers baseball game. Other social activities include: an annual camping/rafting trip to northern Wisconsin, Lakefront Brewery tour and fish fry, spring kickball team and mini-bowling.

The Wisconsin Section YMG will have the privilege of hosting the Zone III Younger Member Council in Milwaukee on February 9-11, 2007 as part of the Zone III Conference. This event will bring younger members from throughout the central US.

The upcoming year will feature many of the same outreach and social events. If you have any questions about our past or future activities, or would like to get more involved in the Younger Member Group, please contact me at jarndt@kapur-assoc.com. I look forward to having another great year!

Justin M. Arndt, P.E. M.ASCE
ASCE-YMG President



2006-2007 Younger Member Group Officers

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Wisconsin Civil Engineering History

Fox-Wisconsin Waterway

Thoughts of constructing a navigable waterway from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River go back as far as 1829. The concept was to improve the Fox River from Green Bay to Portage, then construct a canal through marshy land to link the Fox River with the Wisconsin River. In 1837 the Portage Canal Company was formed. The plan began to take shape in 1839 when Congress authorized a survey, and in 1846 granted land for the project. When Wisconsin became a state in 1848, construction began with dredging of the Upper Fox, and construction of a canal and locks between the two rivers at Portage. The difficulty of digging and hauling material through two and a half miles of muddy terrain lead to the project's early abandonment. A second project begun in 1849 resulted in a canal suitable for canoes, but not for commercial traffic. After the project languished through a number of owners and methods of financing, Congress granted additional lands to aid the work in 1854. In 1856, portions of

work that had been completed earlier had to be rebuilt. Eventually the project, which had started as a state enterprise, was under the control of the Federal government. The final project, including locks at the Portage Canal, was completed by the Corps of Engineers in 1876. In all, 680,000 acres of land and two million dollars had been put into the enterprise with little to show for it except a few miles of canal at Portage and some improvements on the Lower Fox.

Unfortunately, by the time the canal was complete, the railroads were quickly becoming the preferred method of transportation, followed shortly thereafter by the automobile. The use of the canal for commerce lasted only a few decades. It was, however, used by pleasure craft for many more years. Pleasure boats from Milwaukee entered the Fox River at Green Bay, passed through the canal, entered the Wisconsin River at Portage, the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien, and continued to Little

Rock, Arkansas. The canal soon began to degrade through lack of maintenance. Newspaper articles from the 1920s mention ships that were abandoned along the shore, or cut up for scrap when passage to the Gulf of Mexico was no longer possible. In 1951, the canal was effectively closed when the Fort Winnebago Lock was destroyed and the Wisconsin River Locks were welded shut. In 1961, ownership of the canal was transferred to the State of Wisconsin.

Recently, attempts have been made to restore the Portage Canal to working order. It has been placed on the National and State Register of Historic Places. The south bank is part of the National Ice Age Trail. The Portage Canal Society worked to raise funds for renovation work undertaken in 2006. Their web site has more information, including photos of the canal during its original construction and operation. There are also photos of the current restoration project.

Report Card on Wisconsin's Infrastructure

The 2007 version of the Report Card on Wisconsin's Infrastructure is scheduled for release to the public on February 8, 2007. The Report Card is prepared by the Wisconsin Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and is modeled after the Report Card on America's Infrastructure first released by ASCE National in 2001. The 2007 report is the second Report Card published by the Wisconsin Section, and is an update to the original 2003 report.

The report evaluated Wisconsin's infrastructure in eleven critical areas. Each infrastructure issue receives a Grade accompanied by an Issue Brief, which summarizes existing conditions, trends, and concerns, along with recommendations for future action. A more comprehensive Issue Report is available for each infrastructure area.

It is hoped that the information contained in the report will help the legislators at all levels of government, and the general public, understand the many facets of maintaining and improving Wisconsin's infrastructure.

Wisconsin Section Receives Grant

The Wisconsin Section has received a State Public Affairs Grant (SPAG) in excess of \$5000 from ASCE. The grant will be used to fund three programs.

The majority of the grant will be used to support the Wisconsin Section Report Card.

The remaining funds will be used to support the Alliance of Technical Professionals and the Future Cities Competition. The Alliance of Technical Professionals is a consortium of engineering and affiliated groups interested in legislation and rule making, and how both affect the public health, safety, and welfare. The mission of the Future Cities Competition is to provide a fun and exciting educational engineering program for seventh and eighth grade students that combines a stimulating engineering challenge with a hands-on application to present their vision of the city of the future. Many of the engineer mentors for the teams are ASCE members.

2007 Governor's New Products Awards

Entries to the 2007 Governor's New Product Awards competition are due February 12, 2007. This is the 36th year that the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers (WSPE) has sponsored this competition, which recognizes Wisconsin's leading manufacturers that have contributed to the State's economic growth through the development, manufacturing, and marketing of new and innovative products.. Winners will be selected in four categories based on the size of the company; small (fewer than 50 employees), medium (50-200 employees), large (200-10,000 employees), and mega (more than 10,000 employees). Additional information and entry form may be found on the WSPE web site.

Did You Ever Wonder Why?

The keys on your telephone
are arranged:

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

The keys on your calculator
are arranged:

7	8	9
4	5	6
1	2	3

2007 Wisconsin Section Awards Competition

With the holidays behind us and spring still far away, it's time to start thinking about the Wisconsin Section Awards. The awards fall into the following categories.



- ◆ Distinguished Service Award
- ◆ Individual Merit Awards
 - Engineer in Education
 - Engineer in Consulting Practice
 - Engineer in Government
 - Engineer in Private Practice (Utility, Industry, etc.)
- ◆ Young Civil Engineer of the Year Award
- ◆ Engineering Achievement Awards
 - Category A: Under \$2 million construction cost
 - Category B: \$2 million - \$10 million construction cost
 - Category C: \$10 million - \$20 million construction cost
 - Category D: Over \$20 million construction cost
- ◆ Excellence in Journalism Award
- ◆ Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Awards
 - Marquette University
 - Milwaukee School of Engineering
 - University of Wisconsin – Madison
 - University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
 - University of Wisconsin – Platteville

The Journalism and Outstanding Student Award nominations are not due until April 10, 2007, and the remaining award nominations are not due until June 1, 2007, but now is a good time to begin thinking about individuals and projects that are suitable for nomination. There is no fee required to enter the competition.

The awards are authorized by the Board of Directors, based on the recommendation of a Jury of Judges, and are presented at the Annual Meeting held in September.

For more information, visit the Wisconsin Section web site.

ASCE Quiz

As members of the Wisconsin Section, we all spend a great deal of time in the great state of Wisconsin. Test your knowledge of the Badger State by taking the following quiz.

1. What is the Wisconsin State Soil?
 - A. Antigo Silt Loam.
 - B. Platteville Glacial Outwash
 - C. Frozen Tundra
 - D. WisDOT Crushed Aggregate Base Course Gradation #2
2. What is the Wisconsin State Mineral?
 - A. Galena
 - B. Quartz
 - C. Taconite
 - D. Brimstone
3. What is the Wisconsin State Rock?
 - A. Red Granite
 - B. Sandstone
 - C. Limestone
 - D. Rolling
4. What percent of the ASCE membership has attained the grade of Fellow?
 - A. 1%
 - B. 10%
 - C. 5%
 - D. 12%
5. The Wisconsin State Capitol was constructed during what time period?
 - A. 1929-1932
 - B. 1911-1918
 - C. 1891-1899
 - D. 1906-1917
6. What is the Wisconsin State Tree?
 - A. Sugar Maple
 - B. Red Oak
 - C. White Pine
 - D. White Birch
7. When was the predecessor of today's Wisconsin Department of Transportation first established?
 - A. 1945
 - B. 1954
 - C. 1907
 - D. 1889
8. What is the highest point in Wisconsin?
 - A. Rib Mountain
 - B. Timms Hill
 - C. Holy Hill
 - D. Mount Horeb
9. What is the deepest lake in Wisconsin?
 - A. Geneva Lake
 - B. Lake Mendota
 - C. Green Lake
 - D. Pelican Lake
10. How many miles of roads are in Wisconsin?
 - A. 566,312 miles
 - B. 113,269 miles
 - C. 78,788 miles
 - D. 294, 617 miles



Answers to ASCE Quiz

1. A., Antigo Silt Loam, named after a Wisconsin city, was declared the official state soil in 1983, thanks to the successful drive lead by Professor Francis D. Hole, a UW-Madison soil scientist.
2. A., Galena was named the official state mineral in 1971 at the request of the Kenosha Gem and Mineral Society to promote geological awareness. The criteria were set by the Wisconsin Geological Society.
3. A., Red Granite was named the official state rock at the same time as the naming of the official state mineral. It is an igneous rock composed of quartz and feldspar.
4. C., 5%.
5. D. The construction began with the west wing; the legislature first met in the building in 1909; the north wing was the last portion completed.
6. A., Sugar Maple, selected by a group of Wisconsin school children in 1893, and again in 1948. In 1949, the legislature declared the Sugar Maple the official state tree, despite efforts from White Pine advocates.
7. C., the Wisconsin State Legislature established a Highway Division within the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey in 1907. In 1911, the Highway Division was transformed into the autonomous State Highway Commission.
8. B., Timms Hill, located about 45 miles northwest of Wausau, is the highest point in Wisconsin at an elevation on 1951.5'.
9. C., Green Lake, near Ripon, is Wisconsin's deepest natural lake, with a depth of 236'.
10. B., 113, 269 miles as of January 1, 2004. 81% of the roads are hard-surfaced.

Spring Technical Conference - March 29, 2007

The Fox River Valley Branch is pleased to report that planning for the 2007 ASCE Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference on March 29, 2007 will be completed by the end of January. The conference venue will be historic Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

Our arrangements include a skybox overlooking Lambeau Field that will be accessible to all participants. The morning of the conference we will be offering tours of Lambeau Field and the Packers Hall of Fame as a group package for members between 10 am and 12 pm. The tour package will be offered on the registration forms as an option for a combined cost of \$17.



The Technical Committee Chairs have assembled a variety of technical presentations for the conference. If you have a project that you would like to present, there is still time to contact the technical committee chairs within your area of expertise to notify them of your interest. However, you will need to hurry because we need to finalize our presentations by the last week of January.

The expansion of US 41 will be the topic of the general session and one of the breakout sessions. The US 41 expansion project is the largest capital improvement project to be undertaken in this region in over two decades. Wisconsin Department of Transportation representatives will present the overall project and how it is being managed in the general session and provide a more detailed design oriented presentation in a break out session.



Please place March 29, 2007 on your calendars and plan to join your fellow Civil Engineers in Green Bay for a complete day of fun, networking and information sharing.

Spring Technical Conference Sponsors & Exhibitors Sought

The time is fast approaching for the Wisconsin Section ASCE Spring Technical Conference. This year's event, hosted by the Fox River Valley Branch, will be held on March 29, 2007 in the Legends Club of the Lambeau Field atrium in Green Bay.



The Technical Conference Planning Committee is looking for firms interested in serving as a Sponsor or Exhibitor. This is an opportunity to assist an important professional organization and promote your organization among your peers.

Sponsors and Exhibitors will be recognized in the Technical Conference Program and at the refreshment tables.

Exhibitors have an opportunity to interface with an estimated 200 engineers, specifiers, and corporate decision makers. The exhibition booths will be located outside the breakout rooms in order to allow maximum exposure and access to conference attendees.

This year's event also offers a special opportunity to showcase your organization. We are offering exhibit space in the MVP Room. Because the MVP room provides a unique opportunity to view the Lambeau playing field, it is guaranteed to be a high-traffic/high profile display area and focal point of the conference break/exhibition periods.

For more information on Sponsor and Exhibitor fees and available floor space, please contact:

Joel Ehrfurth, P.E.
Vice President, FRV Branch
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Green Bay, WI 54313
jehrfurth@yahoo.com

Kopplin Attains Grade of Fellow

Wisconsin Section member Charles Kopplin, PE, had attained the grade of Fellow. This represents a significant achievement for Charles. To achieve this recognition, members must be Professional Engineers or Professional Surveyors, have held active Member grade for not less than 10 cumulative years, and be nominated by an organizational entity of the Society. Furthermore, a Fellow must have demonstrated, while at the Member grade, notable outstanding achievement in responsible charge of engineering work and professional attainment, and exhibited distinction in upholding the Fundamental Principles and Canons of the Society. Fellows represent nearly 5 percent of the ASCE membership.

Charles holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and a master's degree in structural engineering from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and is a licensed professional engineer in five states. The Wisconsin Section of ASCE has bestowed a number of honors on Charles. He was named the Outstanding Civil Engineering Student at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee in 1973, named the Young Civil Engineer of the Year in 1978, received the Engineer in Consulting Practice Award in 1995, and received the Distinguished Service Award in 2005.

Further information on the Fellow grade is available from the Membership Department of ASCE.

Wisconsin Section Board Meetings

Meetings start at 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

2007

February:	No Meeting
March 29:	Fox River Valley - 10 a.m. (Morning of Spring Technical Conference)
April:	Northwest
May:	Southeast
June:	Southwest
July:	No Meeting
August:	Fox River Valley
September:	Southwest (Day prior to Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting)



Wisconsin Section January 2007
Newsletter

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS MARCH 15, 2007

Visit The Website

The ASCE Wisconsin Section website offers a wealth of information about our section. Our thanks to Mr. Martin Hanson, webmaster extraordinaire, for volunteering his time and talents.



Current events, newsletters, contacts, email addresses, board meeting minutes, and much more are waiting for you. Check us out at: http://sections.asce.org/wisconsin/wi_asce.html