

President's Message



ENGINEERING LICENSURE AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Two bills are in the state assembly which will affect our profession.

Assembly bill 69 requires all new applicants for registration as a professional engineer to pass an exam; the clause in the current law which alternatively allows an applicant with four years of education and eight years of experience to not pass the examination will be eliminated. Wisconsin is one of the last states in the country to allow this exception. I mentioned this bill in an earlier column and

replies from our members - although few - were not in favor of eliminating the "grandfather clause" from licensing requirements.

Assembly bill 181 allows the licensing board to establish continuing education requirements in order to renew an engineering license. Our society supports continuing education as a condition for maintaining status as a licensed professional engineer. We also support uniformity of requirements among licensing jurisdictions.

Both bills have been referred to the Committee on Labor and Industry chaired by the Honorable Mark Honadel. Contact Fred Groth at Graef Anhalt Schloemer & Associates in Madison (608-245-1965, fred.groth@gasai.com) if you would like to know the current status of the bills or would like to be involved in tracking this legislation.

REPORT CARD ON WISCONSIN INFRASTRUCTURE

We released an updated Report Card on Wisconsin's Infrastructure in February. Four years ago, Wisconsin's overall grade was a C-plus. Today, it is a C.

The grades are intended to be an objective measure of the condition of our public works and we hope that a discussion of the issues will lead to a greater understanding of the current and future needs of our state. ASCE's goal is to help the decision makers in our communities and state legislature prepare policies and provide the necessary funding to address Wisconsin's infrastructure needs.

We used Putnam Roby Communications to coordinate the press release with media outlets throughout the state. You can see some of the coverage the report card received on-line at putnamroby.com/asce. Fred Groth and Jennifer Lutz are preparing video presentations of the report card results, which will be tailored to civil engineers and the general public.

Respectfully,
Mark Mathu



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2007 Structures Congress

Join the Structural Engineering Institute of ASCE and SEAOSC at the 2007 Structures Congress in Long Beach, California, May 16-19, 2007

You can earn up to 21 PDHs as you attend technical sessions on cutting-edge research and current issues for structural engineering professionals. Register by May 15, 2007 to save \$100 off the on-site registration price! At the Congress, you'll be able to select from 9 concurrent tracks containing a variety of informative technical, business, and practice sessions.

There'll be four pre-congress seminars: Seismic Provisions of ASCE 7-05, Sustainable Structures, Wind Load Provisions of ASCE 7-05 and ATC-20 Post-Earthquake Building Safety Evaluation training.

The ATC-20 training workshop runs from 8:30am - 4:00pm on Wednesday, May 16, 2007. The Seismic, Sustainable Structure, and Wind Load seminars run concurrently from 1:00pm -- 5:00pm. All four will be held at the Westin Long Beach. Registration for each of the pre-congress seminars costs \$95, and on-site registration costs \$125. Register now for a pre-congress seminar.

The 2007 Structures Congress is being held at the Westin Long Beach and Long Beach Convention Center. Hotel registration is open until April 24, 2007, and discounted room rates begin at \$171/night.

For more information on the 2007 Congress, to register, or to book a hotel room, please visit www.structurescongress.org.

We look forward to seeing you in Long Beach!

Vacancies on WI Section Board

The Nomination Committee is currently looking for candidates to serve on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Section for the 2007-2008 term. Specifically, vacancies will exist for Vice President and for Director at Large. If you are interested in serving on the Board, or if you would like to nominate someone to serve on the Board, please contact the Chair of the Nomination Committee, Steve Peterson. His e-mail address is steve.peterson@earthtech.com.

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ASCE Strategic Plan

What are some of the issues ASCE is addressing through their strategic plan? The Board of Direction has identified the top four priority issues for special attention. Those issues relate to how:

- 1** Deteriorating infrastructure and the profession's ability to influence public officials regarding the infrastructure needs places the public at risk and hinders economic growth.
- 2** The increasing breadth and complexity of professional practice challenges the expectation that the Bachelor of Science degree can provide the foundation for the civil engineer to practice at the professional level.
- 3** Civil engineering services may increasingly be viewed as a commodity.
- 4** The career appeal of, and the job satisfaction inherent in, civil engineering faces ongoing stresses.

More information on the ASCE Strategic Plan can be found at http://www/asce.org/inside/next_plan.cfm.

Hanson Reappointed to Examining Board

ASCE member Martin Hanson was recently reappointed to the Wisconsin Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors. Hanson, chairman of the Engineers Section, was elected chairman of the Joint Examining Board. In this role, Hanson will oversee the attempt to require state architects, designers, and engineers to participate in continuing education and promote continuing professional competency as a requirement for license renewal.

The process will begin in the state Legislature with a bill that would allow the individual sections overseeing architects, professional engineers, and similar professions to decide their own educational requirements.

Hanson's term on the Examining Board expires in July 2009.

The Western Great Lakes - ASPRS

The Western Great Lakes - American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing invites you to the Midwestern Transportation Photogrammetry Forum and Golf Outing

The first ever Midwestern Transportation Photogrammetry Forum featuring a panel of distinguished leaders from several Midwestern DOTs to discuss a wide range of topics affecting their programs.

When: Thursday, May 24, 2007

Where: Devils Head Golf Club, Merrimac, WI

For more information and to register, please contact David Hart at 608.834.9823 (w) or DHart@continentalmapping.com. Registration deadline is April 30.

This is truly a unique opportunity for knowledge sharing and networking with leaders in Transportation Design Mapping.

Wisconsin Section Hosts Workshop

The Wisconsin Section hosted the 2007 Regions 3, 5, and 7 Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders on February 9 through 11. The workshop, held at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Milwaukee, was attended by student members, younger members, members, regional officers, and national officers. Sections and branches from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin, and Wyoming were represented. The national officers included President William F. Marcuson, President-Elect David Mongan, Vice President G. Nicholas Textor, and Executive Director Patrick J. Natale.

The workshop featured programs on engineering ethics, the organization of ASCE, children's television programming sponsored by ASCE, recruiting and training volunteers, public speaking, government interaction, and membership. An interchange of section and branch ideas generated much interest in the Report Card on Wisconsin's Infrastructure, recently released by the Wisconsin Section. The award for Outstanding Large Section was presented to the Kansas City Section, and the award for Outstanding Large Branch was presented to the Austin, Texas Branch.

Have You Had a Tough Week?

Do you sometimes wish there were more days in the week? Does it sometimes seem as if Friday will never get here? Do you ever wonder why there are seven days in a week? There is no more logic to a seven day week than, say, a five day week or an eight day week, but all attempts to change it have been unsuccessful.

The year corresponds to the movement of the earth around the sun, and the month corresponds to the movement of the moon around the earth, but the week has no astronomical base. It is roughly the same as the length of a phase of the moon (seven days, nine hours), but any method of timekeeping based on the moon's phases quickly accumulates extra hours and becomes unworkable. The seven day week is truly arbitrary, considered to be the first man-made unit of time.

The seven day week was officially

adopted by the Roman emperor Constantine in 321 AD, but its origins go back much further. Early Middle East civilizations designated one day for each of the seven most prominent objects in the sky: the sun, the moon, and the five major planets visible to the naked eye. Other civilizations based their week on the market days, which varied from four days to as many as fifteen days.

The days of the week we know today took their names from the Germans, who named them after Norse deities: Tyr (Tuesday), Odin (Wednesday), Thor (Thursday), and Frigg (Friday). They borrowed Saturn from the Romans to name Saturday, and of course Sunday and Monday honor the sun and the moon.

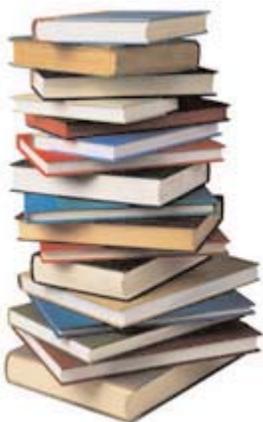
Many have tried to alter the seven day week. In 1793, the French established three "decades" of ten



days for each month. It never caught on, and was abolished by Napoleon in 1805. In 1929, the Soviet Union tried a six day week, consisting of five work days and one day of rest. To maintain a constant work force, various workers were assigned a different day of rest. The resulting confusion led to its abandonment in 1940.

New Construction Engineering Management Program

Marquette University will be offering a new program in Construction Engineering Management (CEM) in the 2008-09 academic year. The new undergraduate program will be offered through the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering but it will have a separate BS degree.



The new CEM program will be supported by a five million dollar gift from two Marquette alumni – Jim and Kelly McShane. The endowment from their generous gift will be used to support the McShane Chair of Construction Engineering Management. In the very near future, a national search to fill this position will begin.

For further information, please contact:
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**2007 REPORT CARD ON
WISCONSIN'S INFRASTRUCTURE**



Subject	WI Grade (2003)	WI Grade (2007)	Comments
Bridges	B-	C	Approximately 16% of Wisconsin's bridges are in need of replacement or rehabilitation. This represents a significant improvement over the last 20 years. Additional funding beyond current levels will be needed to continue reducing the backlog of deficient bridges.
Contaminated Sites	C+	B-	While Wisconsin has proactively encouraged cleanup of contaminated sites, thousands of sites still require remediation. Remediation costs for these sites will require funding in the billions of dollars. Local governments will need to become more active in redeveloping contaminated properties.
Drinking Water	C+	C	The existing condition of Wisconsin's water supply infrastructure is good. However, new regulatory standards for water quality, combined with declining groundwater levels and aging treatment facilities, will require more than \$5.9 billion over the next 20 years.
Energy	C	B	Wisconsin energy supplies have improved over the last four years and are adequate at this time. Transmission capacity for natural gas and electricity is inadequate and needs to be improved in the near future.
Municipal Wastewater Facilities	B+	B-	Wisconsin's municipal wastewater collection and treatment facilities have a good record of compliance and planning for the future. An increased investment will be required to maintain the system and address pending new regulations, but funding limitations hamper the ability to meet this goal.
Public Schools	C	C	50% of Wisconsin's schools are more than 40 years old. 57% report maintenance budgets as "less than adequate" to raise the overall condition of schools to "good." An estimated \$1.6 billion in additional funding is needed to bring the state's K-12 public schools to "good condition."
Rivers and Dams	D	C-	Wisconsin's floodplain hazard maps are old and growing more outdated each year. Some progress in floodplain map modernization has taken place in the last four years. Dams are not being inspected as required and repair grants have been curtailed due to lack of funding. Dam Safety rules need to include dam structures that are currently unregulated.
Roads	C-	D+	Wisconsin's State Highway Plan "Connections 2030" has been established to improve safety, maintain pavement condition, and relieve congestion. Current funding levels are falling significantly below plan recommendations. Without additional funding, this grade will decrease in the future.
Solid Waste	B	B-	Existing solid waste landfills are well designed and have sufficient disposal capacity. Currently, more than one-third of municipal solid waste is recycled. Several new issues will need to be addressed in coming years.
Stormwater	C+	C	Half of Wisconsin's communities do not have a regular maintenance program for storm sewers and catch basins. Wisconsin communities will be facing significant funding shortfalls as replacement of aging sewers becomes necessary and as new stormwater quality regulations are implemented.
Transit	C+	C+	Wisconsin Urban Transit Systems consistently perform above the national average when compared to systems in cities of similar size. Operating costs continue to rise, however, while ridership is declining, creating pressure to increase fares and/or reduce services.

2007 Wisconsin's Infrastructure Overall Grade = C

2003 Wisconsin's Infrastructure Overall Grade = C+

Prepared by: American Society of Civil Engineers, Wisconsin Section

- A = Exceptional
- B = Good
- C = Fair
- D = Poor
- F = Inadequate

Each category was evaluated on the basis of condition and performance, capacity vs. need, and funding vs. need.



Wisconsin Section May 2007
Newsletter

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Addressed to an Important ASCE Member

WANTED!

YOUR ARTICLES, COMMENTS, PHOTOS AND LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION IN THE ASCE WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER. ANYTHING CIVIL, INTERESTING AND PRIMARILY FACTUAL MAY BE SUBMITTED TO:

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS JUNE 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