

ASCE *American Society of Civil Engineers*

WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER November 2007

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our new year! It is a pleasure to serve as your President for the Section's 2007-2008 year.

I need to thank several individuals for their service to the Section.

First, to the outgoing Board members; Jan Kucher, Elizabeth Lorentz, John Rathke and Steve Peterson. Your time allowed the Section to achieve its goals. Special thanks to Steve for his many years of service to the Section. I would also like to welcome back Alex Barker and John Bainter.

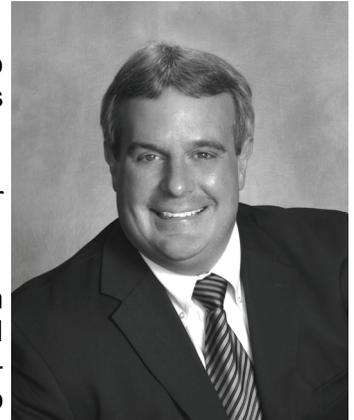
Second, thanks to the organizer's of the Annual Meeting; Matt Roberts, Jon Lindert, Larry Ryan, Justin Bilskemper, Mark Meyers, M. Kemps, Brett Oftedahl, and Bill Wuellner. The Annual Meeting was a great success, in large part due to the efforts of the committee. Thanks again.

Congratulations and thank you to the new Section Board. Joining me this year are Gary Amel, Rich Schneider, Julie Hoppe, Bill Wuellner, Mark Mathu, Brian Udovich, Bill Meyer, Troy Robillard, Kathy Lake and Jeff Gerbensky. I look forward to their help as we lead the Section in the coming months.

And, once again, thanks go to Marty Hanson for taking care of our web site.

The Board has identified several goals for this year:

- Replacing committee chairs – more on that later.
- Support of YMF in their pursuit of reorganizing into multiple groups.
- Increased financial support for student chapters and scholarship awardees.
- Increased Branch funding.
- Support future editions of the State Report Card.
- And, with all of the funding increases, the potential need for a Section dues increase.



(Continued on page 6)

GUEST EDITORIAL - Bill Meyer, P.E.

(Reprinted from the August 2007 Northwest Branch Newsletter)



The tragedy of the I35W bridge collapse should give every civil engineer who is not perfect a good reason for some serious self assessment. I am certainly far from perfect, and I have given my own professional shortcomings some very serious consideration. It sounds as if the investigators will eventually conclude that it was a design or maintenance shortfall that lead to the collapse. As I assess my own shortcomings, I have concluded that I share in the blame for the tragedy. I had no part in the design or construction of the bridge, and I've never even been on the structure. Yet I feel that I have contributed to its collapse.

How can that be? Well, I'm a member of the profession that is responsible for its design, construction, and maintenance. And I'm willing to bet that the individuals who designed it, built it, and maintained it are responsible professionals who never do anything but their best – as I consider myself to be. And yet, it collapsed. Someday the investigators, in 20/20 hindsight, will reach a conclusion about the specific error, and it will probably be something that seemed unlikely to cause a problem at the time. I am sure of that because no professional – designer, constructor, inspector, or maintainer – would intentionally do something they felt likely to be a problem. So I have to ask myself – how many times have I skipped some minor step in a process to save time or bother; how many times have I stopped a little short in my analyses and convinced myself that I'd done well enough; how many times have I let somebody else's errors go unchecked; how many times have I designed to "standard practice" without considering whether it was appropriate for the problem at hand; and how many times have I sat quietly as dangerous decisions are made by our legislators when they allocate money for various programs and shortchange necessary infrastructure items. It will probably be easy to point fingers after the investigation of the I35W collapse is completed. But I have to honestly say, after my self-examination, that it is only by God's grace that my own "minor" professional sins have not contributed to a tragedy. My own shortcomings and inadequate self-discipline contribute to a climate that allows error, and therefore tragedy, to be too easily tolerated.

Instead of using this collapse as an opportunity to blame someone, to advance an agenda, or to pat ourselves on the back because our projects have not failed, let us commit ourselves to excellence, follow-through, and active involvement in the legislative process. Let us each accept our own responsibility for contributing to the collapse and work to change the conditions that tolerate mediocrity. Your membership and involvement in ASCE helps toward that goal. Your activity in our Section and Branches helps create not only camaraderie among professionals, but also accountability.

Sincerely and civilly - Bill Meyer

"The engineer is the key figure in the material progress of the world. It is his engineering that makes a reality of the potential value of science by translating scientific knowledge into tools, resources, energy and labor to bring them into the service of man. To make contributions of this kind the engineer requires the imagination to visualize the needs of society and to appreciate what is possible as well as the technological and broad social age understanding to bring this vision to reality." - Sir Eric Ashby

2008 DANIEL W. MEAD CONTEST FOR YOUNGER MEMBERS

The **Daniel W. Mead Prize** for Younger Members was established in 1939 to honor the memory and accomplishments of the 67th President of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The talents of many of the leaders of the profession were first recognized in previous contests for this significant professional honor. The current contest provides an opportunity for alert young civil engineers to further their professional development and gain national attention.



The paper must be written on:

"Is it ethical for an engineer to participate in a project they consider to be poor public policy/not in the public's best interest?"

By January 4, 2008, two copies of the paper must be submitted to: Julie L. Hoppe, ASCE Wisconsin Section Secretary, c/o Mead & Hunt Inc., 17100 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield, WI 53005. Questions should be directed to John Burgan at (262) 783-6130.

Four Wisconsin Section members have been awarded the national Mead Prize: Donald Buettner (1967), Glenn Koepp (1976), D. Michael Mucha (1994) and Julie Hoppe (2001).

RULES:

1. Papers for the national contests are limited to one paper from each Section or Branch; not to exceed 2,000 words in length; written by only one person; and not previously published in other than school or Society publications.
2. Younger members who are in good standing at the time their papers are submitted are eligible, unless they have previously received the national Daniel W. Mead Prize. For the purpose of this prize, younger members are defined as associate members or members 35 years of age or less on February 1 in the year of the award.
3. Younger member papers are judged by the Committee on Younger Members. The committee may nominate a winner from each of the four Zones and the International Membership of the Society and, of these, one may be designated as the national winner. The nomination shall be presented to the Council of Vice Presidents for final action during their meetings in July.
4. The winners in each Zone receive certificates. The national winner receives a certificate and plaque. The paper written by the national winner is published in Civil Engineering Magazine.

VISIT THE WEBSITE

The ASCE Wisconsin Section website offers a wealth of information about our section. 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

2008 SPRING TECHNICAL CONFERENCE



The 2008 Spring Technical Conference will be held at on **Thursday** afternoon, **March 13, 2008** at the **Olympia Resort** in Oconomowoc, WI.

The Spring Technical Conference committee is currently hard at work planning another highly educational, enlightening and entertaining event. **The committee is currently seeking technical session presenters.** If you are interested in presenting at the conference please contact Erin Smith via email at smitheg@cdm.com

CURIOUS GEORGE ENGINEER-IN-CLASSROOM PROGRAM



Your assistance is needed. ASCE has joined Universal Studios and Scholastic Inc. in developing new math and science based educational materials that introduce engineering design concepts to K-1 students. Engineers and educators now have access to reproducible lesson plans that supplement a series of televised Curious George shows. Activities have been designed to reinforce objects and concepts familiar to little ones who want to “Become a Builder” just like George. And that’s not all! Educators across the country can ask an engineer to visit their classroom through Scholastic.com.

ASCE Outreach is in search of engineers who would be interested in presenting engineering concepts to K-1 students in a classroom setting. We have teachers who are eagerly awaiting to connect with a civil engineer. Please contact Shana Gipson, Coordinator for Diversity and Pre-College Outreach for ASCE at curiousgeorge@asce.org if you would like to take part in this great opportunity. Once you have confirmed, I will mail you a free copy of the Curious George Teaching Guide and Poster and send you the teacher contact information

An engineer is currently needed in the following area:

- Lake Geneva

For more information on the Curious George Program, please visit:

www.scholastic.com/letsbuild.



HEY YOU!

You.....Yes, you! (Who else would be reading this?)

We need you, your energy, your enthusiasm, and your expertise in the Wisconsin Section. We have a number of vacant positions in our Technical Committees and Standing Committees (.no, we don’t make you stand forever...we do have chairs). Please look through the list of vacancies on page 7. If something tweaks your interest or you would like more information please contact John Burgan at (262)-783-6130

FROM THE CAPITOL AND SURROUNDS

The Wisconsin State Legislature has been hard at work this current session on a number of bills of interest to civil engineers. A brief summary of the status of these bills at the time of this writing is provided below. For more information on the bills, their current status, and a schedule of upcoming hearings visit the Wisconsin State Legislature website at www.legis.state.wi.us



Assembly Bill 181—An Act to create 443.015 of the statutes; relating to: continuing education for architects, landscape architects, professional engineers, designers of engineering systems, and land surveyors. This bill was passed by the Assembly and sent on to the Senate where it was referred to the committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs. The committee has not taken any actions yet on the bill.

Assembly Bill 69 - An Act to amend 443.04 and 443.09 of the statutes; relating to: the registration requirements for professional engineers. After the introduction of AB69 in February, it was referred to the Assembly's committee on Labor and Industry. The Labor and Industry committee held a public hearing in May and ultimately recommended passage of the bill in October. When the bill came to the Assembly floor for consideration, several representatives offered an amendment to the bill related to the educational requirements for licensure. The amendment was ultimately tabled and at this time the bill is awaiting a third reading.

Practice of Law - On June 19th, 2007 the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Wisconsin filed a petition for a Supreme Court rule in the matter of the definition of the practice of law. The State Bar's prior petition on this matter in 2004 was rejected by the Court on the basis that the State Bar did not provide enough evidence that additional regulation was truly needed. However this time the State Bar has collected 37 complaints to justify its original petition. A **public hearing** on this matter will be held on **December 10, 2007 at 9:45 am** in the **Supreme Court Room** in the **State Capitol**. A copy of the State Bar's petition along with the supporting complaints can be found by entering the search term "Supreme Court Orders 07-09" in the State Bar's website at www.wisbar.org.

OUT OF THE ASCE ARCHIVES—News and events from past issues of Civil Engineering Magazine and ASCE Transactions

The New President; Civil Engineering Magazine, February 1932



On a July day in 1888 a young employee of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway returned to Milwaukee from a month of surveying in the pine forests of Wisconsin. He learned that a meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers was being held there at the time. After some hesitation—because he felt that he did not belong—he decided he would attend that meeting. He wanted to see how prominent engineers behave. Dressed in his working clothes and feeling quite out of place, he did attend and resolved that some day he would become a member. The young man was named Herbert Samuel Crocker, and the memory of the meeting is still vivid in his mind. He is the newly elected President of the American Society of Civil Engineers (**Editor's note: Herbert Crocker was the sixty-third President of ASCE**)

(Continued from page 1)

We are excited with the opportunities before us. Feel free to contact us if you would like to help. Speaking of help.....

We are short several committee chairs. We could really use your help with the following:

- Public Affairs Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Awards Committee
- Environmental Technical Committee
- Water Resources and Hydraulics Technical Committee
- Construction Technical Committee
- Management Technical Committee

As you can see, we have many opportunities for you to pitch in. We need little of your time, but it is well spent and rewarding. Feel free to contact me or any other Board member for additional information or to volunteer.

REGION 3 GOVERNOR'S REPORT - from Darrell Berry, P.E.



Our next Region 3 Board of Governors' (BoG) meeting will be held in Chicago on February 1, 2008. We will address ASCE's strategic planning activities and how those activities relate to Region 3. We have potentially 3 candidates for the Governor position to succeed me in October 2008. We will interview the candidates, and determine the official nominee for that Governor position. We will review candidates for the position of national Board Director-at-Large, and make a recommendation to ASCE headquarters. And last, we will review data on candidates for the next national President-Elect, and make a recommendation to ASCE headquarters. If any

member has anything they would like me to bring to our next Region 3 BoG meeting, please let me know by January 18, 2008.

NOAA SEEKS FUNDING TO UPDATE RAINFALL ATLAS



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is in the process of soliciting contributions to a pooled Federal Highway Administration fund from federal, state and local agencies as well as private organizations. The purpose of the fund is to finance an update to NOAA Atlas 14 for the upper Midwest. This update will provide the public with current rainfall frequency studies for the upper Midwest region which includes Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Michigan. At 30 to 46 years of age, the current atlases for the upper Midwest are badly outdated. NOAA Atlas 14 is an online update to these atlases. Three volumes of the updated atlases have already been completed. These include the semi-arid southwestern U.S. and the Ohio River Valley and adjacent states.. The updated atlases are wholly web based and can be viewed at www.nws.noaa.gov/ohd/hdsc. If you would like more information on the updates contact Brian Hahn, Service Hydrologist, NOAA at 262-965-5062 x493.

<p style="text-align: center;">Wisconsin Section and Branch Contacts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ASCE Wisconsin Section Technical Committee Chairpersons</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Environmental</i> Vacant -Volunteer needed!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Structures</i> Robert J. Schumacher</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Geotechnical</i> Mark S. Meyers</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Urban Planning/Transportation</i> Julie L Hoppe</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Water Resources/Hydraulics</i> Vacant - Volunteer needed!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Construction</i> Vacant - Volunteer needed!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Management</i> Vacant - Volunteer needed!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ASCE Wisconsin Section Branch Officers 2007-2008</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Southeast Branch</i></p> <p>President—Uriah Wolfe President-Elect- Chad O'Donnell Secretary -Troy Deibert Treasurer- Bill Wondrachek, Jr. Past President - Jeff Gerbensky Director -Nathan Keller Director - Mark Mittag Director- Cari Roper</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fox River Valley Branch</i></p> <p>President- Joel Ehrfurth President-Elect - Tim Wattlworth Secretary/Treasurer - KeithProcess Past President -Troy Robillard</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Northwest Branch</i></p> <p>President - Brian Schroeder Secretary/Treasurer - Stacy Pike Past President - William Meyer Director - John Linden Roll Director - Leah Ness Director - Matthew Rynish</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Student Chapters</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>University of Wisconsin - Madison (est. 1921)</i></p> <p>Faculty Advisor - Dr. Hussain Bahia Practitioner Advisor—Andy Schaeve</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Marquette University (est. 1923)</i></p> <p>Faculty Advisor - Dr. James Crovetti Practitioner Advisor - Anthony Raab Practitioner Advisor - Brian Udovich</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>University of Wisconsin – Platteville (est. 1967)</i></p> <p>Faculty Advisor - Dr. Philip Parker Practitioner Advisor - Ray Spellman Practitioner Advisor - Daniel Joseph</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee (est. 1970)</i></p> <p>Faculty Advisor - Dr. Hani Titi Practitioner Advisor - Alan Rentmeester Practitioner Advisor - Greg Schroeder Practitioner Advisor - Dan Kilbert</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Milwaukee School of Engineering (est. 1991)</i></p> <p>Faculty Advisor - Dr. Richard DeVries Practitioner Advisor - Lori L. Rosenthal Practitioner Advisor -Matt J. Laufer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Southwest Branch</i></p> <p>President - Jon Lindert President-Elect - Mark Meyers Secretary/Treasurer - Brett Oftedahl Past President - Kathleen Lake Director - Theresa Possley Director - Derek W. Johnson Director - Bart P. Nies</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ASCE Wisconsin Section Standing Committee Chairpersons</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Awards</i> Larry Ryan</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Annual Meeting</i> Kelly Olson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Budget and Finance</i> Wayne P. Schumm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Engineering Education</i> Vacant - Volunteer needed!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>History and Heritage</i> Richard Schneider</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jury of Judges</i> Mark Mathu</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Membership</i> Vacant - Volunteer needed!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Newsletter</i> Richard Schneider</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nominations</i> Mark Mathu</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Past President's Council</i> Mark Mathu</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Public Affairs</i> Vacant - Volunteer needed!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Public Relations</i> Vacant - Volunteer needed!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Yearbook</i> John Burgan</p>		

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November 2007 Newsletter

Addressed to an Important ASCE Member

c/o: Richard A Schneider, P.E.
Wisconsin Section - ASCE
Madison Area Technical College
3550 Anderson St
Madison, WI 53704



RENEW YOUR ASCE MEMBERSHIP!

Another year has passed, but don't let your ASCE membership lapse! ASCE membership offers you:

- Access to the nation's largest resource of civil engineering publications and professional development tools
- Programs to support the professional image of civil engineers
- Powerful networking and career resources
- Diversified personal benefits and financial programs

We would also ask that you elect to pay the Wisconsin Section dues. The dues make up a substantial portion of the Section's operating budget and are used to fund a variety of activities and programs including:

- support of the branches
- student scholarships and support of student chapter activities
- public relations and outreach programming
- Spring Technical and Annual conferences
- and numerous other activities throughout the fiscal year.

Active participation in local programs enhances your career and the civil engineering profession. If you are not currently a subscribing member of the Section, please consider joining now.