



# American Society of Civil Engineers

## WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

August 2009 updated with election results!

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings.

While the national news is filled with headlines about universal health care, cash for clunkers, and a couple of guys sharing a beer with the President, media coverage of events that shape the civil engineering profession here in Wisconsin is a little harder to find.

Wisconsin legislators are currently considering a bill, Assembly Bill 288, which will change a number of the rules regarding registration as a Professional Engineer. One of the primary features of the bill is the elimination of all paths to licensure that do not include passing the principles and practices examination. The portion of the existing law that permits licensure without passing the examination is commonly referred to as the "grandfather clause". The current law also provides an opportunity to obtain licensure without having graduated from an engineering course of not less than four years. The proposed bill will eliminate this provision, and add a provision that will allow an individual to apply for registration having graduated from an approved engineering course of not less than two years.

Since this is a political issue, many compromises must occur before this bill becomes law. While ASCE is not entirely comfortable with the provisions regarding the two-year degree, the Board of the Wisconsin Section of ASCE has endorsed Assembly Bill 288 on the grounds that it does more good than harm to the civil engineering profession in Wisconsin.

I'm not in a position to make arrangements for anyone to share a beer with the President. However, if you're interested in sharing a beer with the Past President of the Wisconsin Section, I'll be happy to meet you following the Annual Meeting scheduled for Friday, September 11, at the Olympia Resort and Conference Center in Oconomowoc. Register now – the deadline of August 21 is fast approaching.

Have a great summer!

Gary ([GAmel@foth.com](mailto:GAmel@foth.com))



## **ASCE WISCONSIN SECTION ELECTION RESULTS**

The default slate of candidates was elected to serve on the Wisconsin Section board for the 2009-2010 year. We appreciate their willingness to work for the continued improvement of our civil engineering profession. And we thank each of you who voted.

President-Elect — William Meyer  
Vice-President — Brian Udovich  
Treasurer — John Bainter  
Director-at-Large — Brian Schroeder  
Director-at-Large — Jon Lindert

## **ASCE NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS**

The following were elected to represent us at the National level of ASCE. Their years of service are listed in parentheses. For a full listing of governors and directors from other regions, and more information on the following, please go to ASCE's elections page at <http://content.asce.org/Board%20Elections/2010/index.html> and select the name in the box on the right side of the page.

President-Elect (2009-2010) —	Kathy J Caldwell
Director-at-Large (2009-2011) —	Kevin C. Womack
Region 3 Director (2009-2012) —	Eriks V. Ludins
Region 3 Governor (2009-2012) —	Darrell J. Berry

## **REMINDER!**

THE ASCE WISCONSIN SECTION ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2009 AT THE OLYMPIA RESORT IN OCONOMOWOC.

THE OFFICIAL MAILING WAS SENT A FEW WEEKS AGO. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THE INFORMATION, OR IF YOUR DESK IS NOT CONDUCTIVE TO INFORMATION RETRIEVAL, PLEASE CONTACT RICK PELL AT [RICK.PELL@GRAEF-USA.COM](mailto:RICK.PELL@GRAEF-USA.COM).

THE LATE REGISTRATION FEE APPLIES TO REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED AFTER AUGUST 21, BUT THAT EXTRA \$10 WILL GO TO A GOOD CAUSE, AND YOUR EMPLOYER IS PROBABLY ACCUSTOMED TO PAYING FOR YOUR PROCRASTINATION ANYWAY...

**Your Help Is Needed for Manual 45!**

**ASCE Consulting Engineering Practice Survey 2008 - 2009**

**[www.asce.org/m45](http://www.asce.org/m45)**

ASCE is improving Manual No. 45, How to Work Effectively With Consulting Engineers, which provides guidance on procuring engineering services for a quality project. We need your help to obtain the most accurate information on compensation for engineering services to make this next edition of Manual 45 more valuable than ever. **It is critical that we obtain a broad response of actual project data.** We are asking principals and project managers to submit one survey per office. The survey is available at <http://www.asce.org/m45>. We request that you pass this announcement on to your colleagues for their use as well. The survey is completely confidential and only ASCE staff will have access to individual survey responses and contact information. **Each respondent will be entered into a drawing for an iPod nano.** If you have any questions or want information on alternate submission methods, you may call Becky Waldrup, Manager, Professional Practice at 800-548-2723, ext. 6281 or send an e-mail to [rwaldrup@asce.org](mailto:rwaldrup@asce.org).

Thanks for your help! Every response helps make this publication better.

The Editor cannot resist this opportunity to make a remark or two in support of the above survey. He has been in the consulting engineering business for more than 25 years and is still trying to figure out how to work with consulting engineers. We're an odd bunch, occasionally confusing even to ourselves, and we often seem even more so to many of those who must procure our services. Engineers in the public sector are not exempt from this conundrum, as we all provide services to the non-engineering public in one way or another. So, please do check out the survey and do what you can to help ASCE help us. It does not take a long time to complete.

## [Submit Your Nominations for the 2009 Public Service Awards!](#)

The Committee on Volunteer Community Service is seeking nominations to recognize ASCE members that have made contributions to their community through public involvement, public awareness, or public service. The Citizen Engineer Award recognizes individual ASCE members and the Public Service Award recognizes organized components within ASCE. **Nominations are due on October 1, 2009.**



**Wisconsin Section Younger Member Group  
2007 National Public Service Award Winner**

The 2007 ASCE National Public Service Award winner was the Wisconsin Section Younger Member Group, which led food drives, fundraising for the Salvation Army, and an extensive K-12 outreach program.

If your group or a member of your group has volunteered time to help others in your community, has influenced local policy or legislative affairs, or has improved the image of civil engineers in your community, take this opportunity to submit an award nomination to have that effort recognized throughout ASCE!

For more information or nomination forms, contact Becky Waldrup at 1-800-548-2723, ext. 6281 or [rwaldrup@asce.org](mailto:rwaldrup@asce.org).

## [MORE AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS!](#)

**Teresa Adams.** ASCE National has presented its 2009 Computing in Civil Engineering Award to Teresa M. Adams, Ph.D., F.ASCE, of UW-Madison Dept of Civil & Environmental Engineering, for her contributions to computing in Civil Engineering, specifically the use of position-based information to model transportation facilities and systems. Teresa Adams is a national leader in directing and obtaining funding for both the Wisconsin Transportation Center and the National University Transportation Center for Freight Infrastructure Research and Education. She has brought significant resources to bear on problems of interest to ASCE, to ASCE's Technical Council on Computing and Information Technology (TCCIT), and to the computing community. Teresa's journal publications illustrate how effectively and how broadly she has had an impact on the use of computers in the practice of civil engineering. Teresa's work has and continues to touch upon a variety of computing areas including neural networks, fuzzy systems, and expert systems; spatial data; Geographic Information Systems; data integration; and object oriented data modeling

**Brian Udovich.** The Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement is made to younger members of ASCE (35 years of age or younger) who have attained significant professional achievements by the degree to which they have served to advance the profession; exhibited technical competence, high character and integrity; developed improved member attitudes toward the profession; and contributed to public service outside their professional careers. The 2009 Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement was presented to five outstanding engineers, including Jefferson County's Brian Udovich. Brian has contributed to ASCE since his days as a student member. He served the Wisconsin Section Younger Member Group, and has completed the presidential rotation for the Southeast Branch. Brian is currently Section Director-At-Large. In addition, he is a former corresponding member to the Committee on Younger members and is a member of the Transportation and Development Institute's Transportation Safety Committee. Brian regularly assists in student outreach programs, from Project Lead the Way to Future City and MathCounts. Brian recently joined the Jefferson County Highway Department as Operations Manager.

Additional information on all of ASCE's national awards can be found at the following link:  
<http://content.asce.org/files/pdf/AwardwinnersupdatefortheWeb112008.pdf>.

MEYER'S MUSINGS

MENTORING ISN'T JUST THE TECHNICAL STUFF

(Thoughts by Newsletter Editor William Meyer, who bears sole responsibility for their content, and for his own shortcomings when it comes to heeding his own advice.)

The economists are giving us some encouraging words, which is a bit like a weather forecaster promising that picnic day will be sunny and pleasant. That forecast usually means it's time to get your umbrella and go check the drainage on your latest project. That's often more exciting than some old picnic anyway. And so it is with tough economies. They help us see what works and what doesn't. Those of us who were around in the early 1980's recall similar times. I was just starting my career in January of 1982 in Rockford, Illinois, where unemployment was above 20 percent. Companies were closing so fast that the local slogan was "Would the last one to leave please turn off the lights." But most stuck it out, and survived. Some even improved.

What's that got to do with mentoring? A lot! The leaders at Hanson Engineers who hired and mentored me in those difficult days for the company taught me a lot about what it means to be a professional when the going is not easy. How you remain optimistic and realistic at the same time. How, even when the news is unpleasant, the leaders face their people and level with them honestly and soberly. How you give a little more than you have to. How you remain focused on serving your client, who is likely undergoing as much challenge as you. And how you reach out to those who are just getting their start in this profession, even when you wonder whether the profession will remain intact. I still remember those lessons-by-example. Of course, I had hoped to never have to revisit such times, but here we are.

Many of the engineers who are 40 or younger have never experienced a time in their career when growth wasn't a given. Or when it wasn't an "employee's market." It has been a shock for many, and those of us who recall the last near-depression have a chance to help our younger colleagues adjust. We still get to do the technical things we became engineers to do, even if salary increases don't appear as forthcoming. And please be aware that I am not writing from the perspective of an owner or manager when I encourage people to stay focused on their work—I am among the many P.E.ons who are struggling to get the work in and out the door. I just know that in the future, we will be far better off if we focus now on becoming better engineers and servants than if we keep looking for a pot of gold at some other rainbow.

A big part of tending to our careers is being active in our communities and our professional societies, such as (ta-da!) ASCE. A big part of tending to our careers also includes helping the up-and-coming generation of engineers appreciate that civil engineering is a great and satisfying career, even when times are tough. We have the privilege of making a positive contribution to society. If we spend too much time griping about how unfair things are, we are not doing ourselves or those who come after us. A little constructive griping is OK of course — it can illustrate a point of professionalism or even lead to a solution.

The recession of the 1980's didn't last forever. There are still people in Rockford, although I'm not (I much prefer Wausau). These tough times won't last forever either. One day, we will again have a pleasure similar to what I experienced at that Hanson Engineers company meeting when the Company President entered the room wearing a goofy hat and a smile and said with great satisfaction that we could again celebrate—we finally had a good year.

**Wisconsin Section**  
**ASCE** **American Society**  
**of Civil Engineers**

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**Wisconsin Section—ASCE**

**Addressed to a Valued ASCE Member**

c/o: William J. Meyer, P.E.  
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Anybody wishing to contribute articles or information, please free to do so. Email your announcements and ideas to the Newsletter Editor at [Bill.Meyer@aecom.com](mailto:Bill.Meyer@aecom.com); fax them to him at 715-355-4513; mail them to him at 3909 Concord Avenue, Weston, WI 54476; or fold them into a paper airplane and hope for the best. But best to check the weather forecast first...