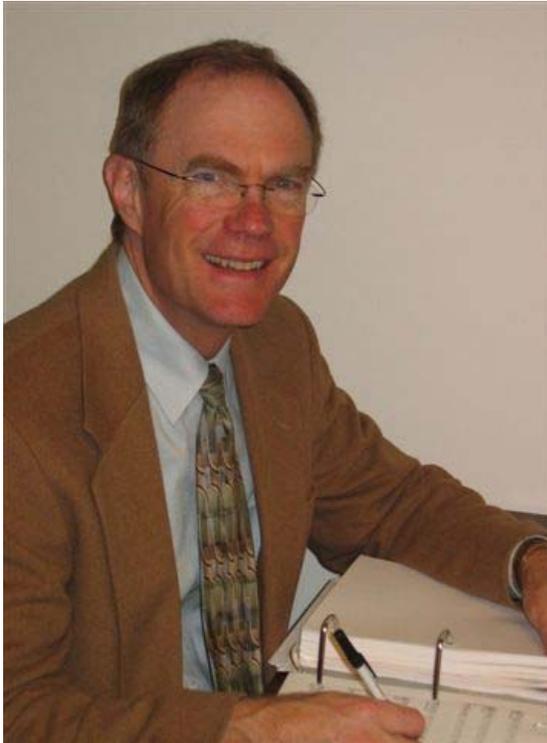


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NOVEMBER 2010 EDITION



President's Message

President's Message 10/6/2010:

Hello, civil friends. It is a privilege to serve as your new Section President. It's also a responsibility - a responsibility to sustain the high standards set for the ASCE Wisconsin Section by Rich Schneider and the presidents before him. Fortunately for me and for the Section, the members of the Section Board and committees are excellent people and the credit for what will go well this year belongs to them. Following are some comments I made about our profession at the Annual Meeting (which, by the way, was great!).

Civil Engineers are unique among the professions because we, at the most fundamental level (above a shared language) make civilization possible. What we do makes it possible for large numbers of people to live near each other without poisoning each other. Without waste water collection and treatment, solid waste management, water distribution, and storm water management we would indeed poison each other. Our record isn't perfect, of course. But, as knowledge about the complex interactions between natural and man-made systems improves, so does our ability to properly manage these systems. Without geotechnical and structural engineering, we'd be living in caves. And, of course, transportation engineers design the roads that allow us to escape from each

other when we get tired of living among civilization.

Why have I become involved in ASCE to this extent? Good question. A lot of people use the expression that they are "giving back" to the profession, but for me that isn't quite accurate. I don't feel that the profession itself has given me anything to give back. The word "profession" denotes an abstract concept that describes us and what we do collectively and abstract concepts really have nothing to give. For me, involvement in ASCE is an investment in the future of those who will follow in the profession - and an investment in those who are now a part of the profession.

Part of being a professional is investing in the future of the profession - to do our part to sustain and enhance it. That includes performing our professional tasks ethically and honorably, of course. But it means more. It also means involvement in organizations like ASCE, organizations that exist to sustain and enhance the Civil Engineering profession. ASCE does this by looking out into the future with long-range ideas to improve the public's perception of civil engineering, as well as the esteem and compensation of CE's. ASCE also builds the future of the profession by actively supporting and encouraging the current and next generations of Civil Engineers.

Do you wonder if this responsibility for professional involvement includes you? Is it worth your while? I believe that, unless you plan to die very soon, an investment of your time and membership dues is a very rational decision. Given the critical role of Civil Engineers in civilization discussed above, the maintenance of a strong Civil Engineering profession is essential to the continuation of civilization. So, unless you soon plan to permanently leave civilization via a route not designed by any transportation engineer, a thriving Civil Engineering profession is in your best interests. If you do plan to die soon, we could have a completely

different conversation.

The Section continues to rely on more than momentum to carry us forward. Momentum is only sufficient when there are no resisting forces. Our world is constantly changing, and we must change with it, adapting old practices and adopting new strategies to provide the level of excellence you expect. The new Board is already working on these new ideas.

One big item that requires a change of approach is the State Infrastructure Report Card. We have learned a few tough lessons, and had a setback a couple of years ago when we planned to update the previous edition. There had been negative reactions from some in public agencies who perceived the low report card grades as criticism of how they managed their agencies. As a result, many members from the private sector who might have volunteered to work on the update shied away from doing so out of concern that their public agency clients would perceive them as being critical of the agency. I see that as sadly ironic, because the low grades on the report card demonstrated, not mismanagement by the agencies, but a need for greater financial support of those agencies. The report cards are still a useful tool to advise the public and legislators of the need for continuing adequate funding of infrastructure. We are now trying a new approach, with members of the academic community (led by Mark Meyers of UW-Platteville) doing the research for the report card update.

Another change relative to the report card is that, when it was a new idea, ASCE National supported our efforts with its SPAG (State Public Affairs Grants) program. However, that program focuses on new outreach ideas, not the tried and true. The costs of publicizing the report card are substantial, so the Section Board will probably be proposing a Section dues increase (the first in a couple of decades) to allow us to cover that cost. That will need approval by the Section members via ballot, so we won't be able to sneak it past you.

This message has gone on long enough. You may know from past editions of the Newsletter that I like to share my opinions, solicited or not. I don't insist that you agree with me. I actually much prefer active disagreement to apathy. I prefer almost anything to apathy, the greatest destroyer of professions and souls in the world. So I encourage you to be ethical and honorable in your responsibilities and to be actively involved in ASCE. Please renew your membership. Try Branch or Section Board or committee involvement. Most of all, I wish you success in this most valuable profession!

Yours civilly,

Bill Meyer

Secretary's Note

Some highlights of current Wisconsin Section Board activities, in addition to the new look of the newsletter, include:

- Discussion of potential changes to the Section dues
- Discussion of use of electronic balloting
- Conversion of technical committees to institute chapters
- Re-birth of the History and Heritage Committee
- New version of the ASCE Report Card for Wisconsin



Save The Date!

ASCE Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference

The ASCE Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference will be held at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc on **March 10, 2011**.

Please save the date! If you have any ideas for presentation topics for the meeting, please email Bridget Schuh at bma_schuh@hotmail.com



2010-2011 Wisconsin Section Board New Chairs Initiated

The new 2010-2011 Wisconsin Section Board and Technical Chairs were initiated at the Annual Meeting in September. Please contact any of these people if you have questions regarding ASCE. [View 2010-2011 Board and Technical Chairs.](#)



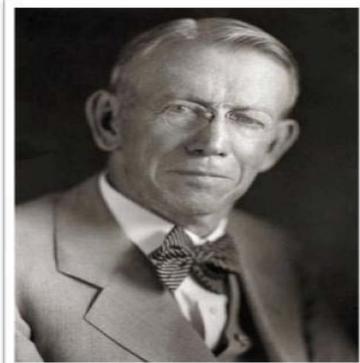
HONORS AND AWARDS

Wisconsin Section Awards

Each year, the Wisconsin Section offers the following awards. PLEASE consider nominating your project, your coworker, your client or yourself for one of these awards in the upcoming year:

- **Engineering Achievement award** - Applications due June 1st
 1. Projects less than \$2,000,000
 2. Projects between \$2,000,000 and \$10,000,000
 3. Projects between \$10,000,000 and \$20,000,000
 4. Projects over \$20,000,000
- **Individual Achievement Awards** - Applications due June 1st
 1. Distinguished service
 2. Young Civil Engineer
 3. Engineer in Education
 4. Engineer in Consulting
 5. Engineer in Government
 6. Engineer in Private Practice
- **Journalism** - Application June 10th
- **Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Award** - Nominations due April 10th.

For more information, please go to the Wisconsin Section website at [Learn more.](#)



2011 Daniel W. Mead Contest for Younger Members

Younger members are encouraged to submit papers for the 2011 **Daniel W. Mead Prize** for Younger Members, focusing on professional ethics. The contest 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 current leaders of the profession were first recognized in previous contests for this significant professional honor. This contest provides an opportunity for ethically conscious young civil engineers to further develop their thinking in this essential aspect of their personal and professional lives, as well as to advance their career and gain national recognition.

This year, submitted papers must address the topic:
“Ethics and the ASCE Report Card for America’s Infrastructure”

Submit two copies of your paper by **January 2, 2011** to: Peter Nilles, ASCE Wisconsin Section Secretary, c/o Mead & Hunt Inc., 10700 W. Research Drive, Suite 155, Milwaukee, WI 53226. Questions should be directed to Peter Nilles at (262) 790-0232 or email peter.nilles@meadhunt.com.

Four Wisconsin Section members have been awarded the national Mead Prize: Donald Buettner (1967), Glenn Koepp (1976), D. Michael Mucha (1993) and Julie Hoppe (2001).

For more information regarding the specific rules, cash awards and some specific questions to address in the paper, please click [here](#).



Marshall Building
 Milwaukee, WI c.1906

Historic Wisconsin Civil Engineering Landmarks in

Did you know that Wisconsin is home to three “Historic Civil Engineering landmarks” as designated by ASCE. The program is nationwide, and the designation is granted to project, structures and sites in the United States. A list of the sites and information regarding each site can be found [here](#).

To nominate a project, structure and site for inclusion on the list of Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks, visit the [ASCE National Website](#).

The Wisconsin Projects are:

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District in Milwaukee
 Vulcan Street Power Plant in Appleton
 Marshall Building in Wisconsin



National ASCE Awards Program

Each year, ASCE National offers a myriad of awards. PLEASE consider nominating your project, your coworker, your client or yourself for one of these awards in the upcoming year. For information regarding the ASCE National awards program, please [visit their site](#)



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS **Younger Member's Group (YMG)**

What is the Younger Member Group (YMG)?

The Younger Member Group (YMG) is a group within the organization of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Our group is aimed at members less than 35 years old in the Southeast Branch of ASCE. However, we also welcome others that may have interest in our group and most times our activities are open to friends and family. The meetings are usually quite informal and held at either local watering holes for socials, other venues for an activity such as sporting events, or at a member’s office approximately once a month. Our group also does a lot of volunteering in our local community. No additional fees are required to join YMG above those already paid as part of your membership to ASCE National – and we encourage people to come check us out even if you are not a registered member.

History and Heritage Committee Reestablished

After a number of years, the ASCE Wisconsin Section History and Heritage Committee has been reestablished to aid the Wisconsin Section in the celebration of the 90th Anniversary in 2013. ASCE members volunteering to take up the charge include Kathleen Thunes, P.E. M.ASCE, Richard Schneider, P.E., M.ASCE, Mark Meyers, P.E., Ph.D, M.ASCE, Laura Gerold, P.E. M.ASCE and Gary Caspary, P.E. M.ASCE. Kathleen will be chairing the committee. The Committee met for the first time on Friday, October 15, 2010 and set the following goals for the upcoming year:

Short-Term Goals:

- Locate historic records (archives) of the section and branches.
- Determine extent of collection.
- Determine security of storage.
- Recruit additional members to the History and Heritage Committee.
- Kick off the planning effort for the 90th Anniversary Celebration.

Long-Term Goals:

- Scan historic records for permanent archive.
- Nominate 1-2 projects for National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.
- Nominate 1-2 engineers for National Recognition.
- Secure funds for the 2013 anniversary celebration.
- Secure national speaker for spring technical conference (2013) and/or annual meeting (2013).

Additional information regarding the nomination or landmarks and engineers for national recognition will be coming in the spring. Members wishing to get involved in the History and Heritage Committee should contact Kathleen Thunes at kthunes@eastcentralrpc.org.



ASCE Southwest Branch will hit 50th Anniversary for 2011!

Congratulations to the ASCE Wisconsin Southwest Branch on their 50th Anniversary coming up in 2011!!!

ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting

The ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting was held on Friday September 17 at the Crowne Plaza in Madison, Wisconsin. Following a continental breakfast, the Keynote Speaker was Rebecca Ryan, founder of Next Generation Consultants in Madison. Rebecca works with companies to create a working environment that addresses the traits of the four generations working together at this time. Rebecca started out by telling us why she started her firm and moved on to define the distinctive traits of each of the generations: Boomers, XXXX, Generation X, and Milleniums. These traits really hit home with the audience. Rebecca then went on to suggest methods to improve the working environment considering the traits of the generations. Comments during the day suggest that the Keynote presentation was a success and a great start to the Annual Meeting. The remainder of the Annual Meeting consisted of 16 technical breakout sessions over the course of the day, several breaks that allowed time to visit with the 13 vendors that were present, lunch, and the awards ceremony.



ASCE Wisconsin Section Report Card: Call for Help

The ASCE Wisconsin Section is currently scheduled to release their next report card in the Spring of 2012. We need assistance from you if you have expertise in one of the following specific infrastructure issues: Bridges; Contaminated Sites; Drinking Water; Energy; Municipal Wastewater Facilities; Public Schools; Rivers and Dams; Roads; Solid Waste; Stormwater; and Transit. Duties include gathering the most up-to-date available information on a report card topic and assigning a grade to the Report Card Topic area. Committee members will not work alone; rather, subcommittees will be formed for each infrastructure issue area. Please contact Mark Meyers (meyersm@uwplatt.edu) if you are interested in being a member of this Committee. Tom Walther has already put his name forward.

NOVEMBER 2010

■ KNOWLEDGE & LEARNING

■ LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

■ ISSUES & ADVOCACY

■ MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNITY

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