**November Meeting**

Date: Thursday, November 19, 2015

Host: Nebraska Section ASCE, Management Group

**Spouses and Guests Welcome**

Location: Upstream Brewing Company
17070 Wright Plaza
Omaha, NE 68130

Program: *The Council Bluffs Interstate Improvement Program*

Presenter: HDR Inc.

Times: 6:00 pm Social
6:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Meeting and Presentation

Menu/Price:  
- **“Kansas City” Sirloin Medallions**– roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables and cabernet shallot sauce
- **Grilled Chicken Penne Pasta**– with red pepper cream, mushrooms, peppers, fresh rosemary
- **Asiago Encrusted Chicken Breast**– with smoked tomato cream and basil pesto
- **Sautéed Chicken Breast Picatta**– with “Maryland” style crab cake
- **Chipotle BBQ Glazed Atlantic Salmon**– with roasted corn salsa
- **Roasted Vegetable Stack with Portabella**– Crimini mushrooms, tomato, peppers, zucchini, yellow squash and mozzarella cheese with roasted red pepper and almond tapenade

All meals served with pub salad, beer bread and butter, coffee, tea, or soft drink

$15.00 (includes tax and tip)—payable to NEASCE at the door (cash, check, or credit card).

Life Members and Students are FREE….but you must register.

**Registration/Deadline:**

Register at [http://meeting.neasce.com/signup/](http://meeting.neasce.com/signup/)

Sign up by 1:00 pm Tuesday November 17, 2015.
From the President

Greetings Nebraska ASCE!

It has been a busy fall for the Nebraska Section. Throughout the last couple of months we have had numerous members participate in our Structural and Construction technical meetings, Structural conference, and Younger Member Group events. We have also had members of the Nebraska board represent the section at the Annual Conference, Presidents and Governors Forum and the Younger Member Leadership Symposium. I know most of us are busy with work and personal commitments, and it isn’t always easy to find the time or the energy, so I want to thank everyone who has been able to make time to attend ASCE functions and volunteer in ASCE positions.

It is already November, and the holiday season is on its way. We have our Management Technical meeting this month, then we will take a break from technical meetings in December, and resume in January.

This may seem a bit early, but I don’t want to miss my chance to wish you all a happy holiday season. Relax and enjoy friends and family (also don’t forget to renew your Nebraska PE licenses if yours expires on December 31, 2015)!
The Nebraska Section’s Construction Technical Group hosted dinner and a tour of the Florence Water Treatment Plant in Northeast Omaha. A special thanks goes to the Metropolitan Utilities District for opening up their doors and operations to the Nebraska ASCE section.

The list below can be considered official documentation of attendance at the October 22, 2015 meeting and presentation worth one (1) PDH credit.

Daren Konda  John Hovanec  Doug Kellner  Alexandra Berney  Charles Riggs
Megan Meyer  Elizabeth Kreher  Tyler Klusaw  David Anderson  Ed Thiele
Teresa Konds  Loras Klosterman  Matthew Gibbs  John Hill  Gary Norton
Chris Podany  Marie Stamm  Kevin Stamm  Caleb Beasley  Tom Faulconer
Kent Bienlien  Kevin Wright  Rich Madson  Josh Keithley  Mark Nelson
Paul Dodson  Andres Torres

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On September 20th and 21st the 2015 Presidents and Governors Forum (PGF) was held at ASCE Headquarters in Reston, Virginia. The PGF provides a venue for current Section/Branch and Region leaders to gain the knowledge to effectively and efficiently run their local units. It is held in conjunction with the Younger Member Leadership Symposium (YMLS). The Nebraska Section was represented by John Smith (President-Elect) at the PGF and by Mark Egger (YM Co-Chair) at the YMLS.

This year, the PGF included multiple roundtable discussion on best practices for sections/branches, guidance on how to effectively run a section/branch, and how to make good use of the region governors. The topics of section centennials, K-12 outreach, state infrastructure report cards, and social media use were of particular relevance to the Nebraska Section. The ideas and suggestions from these discussions will be important as the Nebraska Section continues to expand the services it offers to its members and to the community.

Additional information on the 2015 PGF can be found at the ASCE Blog. This was a great opportunity to stay abreast of the ASCE initiatives, see what new things ASCE is doing, and to find ways to improve the Nebraska Section.
The ASCE Younger Member Leadership Symposium (YMLS) was held in Reston, Virginia at ASCE Headquarters on September 20 and 21 in conjunction with the Presidents and Governors Forum (PGF). I was fortunate to represent the Nebraska Section at YMLS where I learned a great deal about how to improve my leadership skills both professionally and within ASCE.

I met fellow ASCE Younger Members from all over the country and got to know several of them quite well through all the group activities and sessions that made up the YMLS. We discussed the meaning of leadership and the traits that all leaders possess such as integrity, trustworthiness, and the ability to inspire. We learned that effective organizations feature motivated individuals and every person has their own, unique motivators. We took the Myers-Briggs personality test to see what our personal preferences are and discussed how an effective leader is able to bring together multiple personalities in pursuit of a common goal. Each attendee had to face their fear of public speaking by standing in front of the group and giving an impromptu speech on a randomly chosen topic. We discussed strategies on how to manage projects at work that are in rough shape financially or behind schedule. Finally, we learned about strategies to form and manage effective teams.

The YMLS was a great opportunity for me to work with people from a variety of backgrounds who have different experiences and perspectives than I do. I was able to meet many leaders of ASCE and got to tour the headquarters building. These were experiences that I will never forget and will carry with me for the rest of my life.

As engineers, we’ve all had great instruction over the years on the “hard” skills such as math, science, and the civil engineering disciplines. The “soft” skills such as leadership, management, and building relationships are where many of us, myself included, could use some additional training. I am at the stage of my career where I am beginning to establish myself at work and taking on leadership roles both with projects and people. This seminar taught me many tips that will help me advance my career beyond the technical aspects of engineering. I would highly encourage any NEASCE Younger Member to consider attending the YMLS next year to help them advance their own career and improve themselves personally.
In The News

October 29, 2015 | By: Peter Nonis

House Readies for Action On Surface Transportation Bill

Yesterday, Congress enacted a short-term extension of current highway and transit program authority before the looming deadline of October 29. The current authorization and solvency of the federal Highway Trust Fund will now expire on November 20, which gives Congress about three more weeks to conclude a few important remaining steps in the process of completing work on a surface transportation bill:

- Next week the House will take-up and likely pass its own six-year transportation bill which provides flat-line funding for the next three years;
- Immediately thereafter, the House and Senate will convene a conference committee and work quickly to produce a compromise bill;
- The House and Senate will then have to pass an identical bill through each chamber before it can be sent to President Obama for his signature, hopefully before the November 20 deadline.

With the next step being the need of the House to pass a bill, ASCE needs you to contact your House member and urge he/she to support the House bill so that funding and policy differences can be addressed in conference with the Senate. While ASCE remains concerned about the woefully inadequate funding levels provided in the House bill for highway and transit programs, there are legislative reforms included that will improve various aspects of the nation’s surface transportation program. In particular, the House bill contains sound polices that aim to improve roadway safety, streamline the environmental review and permitting process, and enhance the level of private-sector investment in surface transportation projects.

Please take a moment to tell your Representative to vote YES on the House bill in order to get to a conference with the Senate where agreement can be reached on a final bill.

For questions, please contact ASCE Government Relations.
Younger Member Group

Nebraska Cornhuskers v. Northwestern Football Tailgate

Thanks to everyone who attended this year’s NEASCE YMG Tailgate! Although we couldn’t cheer the football team to victory, there was plenty of good food, drinks, and fun games to go around. Be sure like us on Facebook, “ASCE Nebraska Younger Members” or check back in with future newsletters for other YMG events!
NE-ASCE Geo-Omaha 2016
Scott Conference Center Omaha, NE

• **Thursday, February 11, 2016**
  ◦ Short Course on Slope Stability
    ◦ By Dr. Timothy Stark, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
  ◦ Networking Cocktail Hour and Dinner followed by NE-ASCE Section Meeting

• **Friday, February 12, 2016**
  ◦ Geotechnical Conference

Who should attend?
Engineers, Contractors, Vendors/Suppliers, Government Officials, Owner Representatives, Professors/Researchers

*More information to be provided at a later date*
## Upcoming Events and Seminars

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<td>CM-at-Risk: Contracting for Owners, Consulting Engineers, and Contractors —NEW</td>
<td>November 12–13, 2015</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
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<td>Two-Dimensional Modeling using HEC-RAS —NEW</td>
<td>December 2–4, 2015</td>
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<td>Structural-Vibration Analysis: Design and Troubleshooting</td>
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<td>Structural Design for Bomb Blast Loads and Accidental Chemical Explosions (Buildings and Industrial Facilities)</td>
<td>December 9–11, 2015</td>
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<td>HEC-RAS Computer Workshop</td>
<td>January 27–29, 2016</td>
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<td>Design and Construction of Launched Bridges</td>
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<td>Construction Dewatering and Groundwater Control: Design and Application</td>
<td>March 10–11, 2016</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Pumping Systems Design for Civil Engineers</td>
<td>March 10–11, 2016</td>
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American Society of Civil Engineers Nebraska Section

www.neasce.org

The Nebraska Section of ASCE is an active organization of over 600 members who are diverse in practice & geography. ASCE represents more than 140,000 civil engineers nationwide and is America’s oldest national engineering society.

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Thank you to the businesses that support this newsletter through their contributions.

For underwriting information, contact Chris Podany, Fundraising Chair, at 402-202-0719 or chris.podany@hdrinc.com

Deadline for articles to be published in the December newsletter will be December 3rd. Email articles to Chris Podany at Chris.Podany@hdrinc.com