

President's Report

Thursday, October 3, 2013

It is an honor to be the current president of the ASCE North Dakota Section. I began my connection with ASCE in the late 1960's when I was a member of the NDSU student chapter. We had a fairly active group back then with some interesting speakers from industry. This of course, was all pre-concrete canoe and steel bridge.

When I came back to teach at NDSU in 1977 I was the ASCE student chapter advisor for a while and survived seven or eight concrete canoe races at Kansas State University. Somewhere during that time I was also a section officer. When I was section treasurer, National mistakenly sent me the North Dakota and the New Hampshire dues rebate. For a while the North Dakota section was *living la vida loca* until National suggested we return the New Hampshire dues.

Fast forward quite a few years and the section had become somewhat inactive until a guy from Illinois showed up with a briefcase and some lunch money. John Fraunhoffer, our Region 3 Governor at the time, spent a day in Fargo visiting prospective ASCE section officers and encouraging the section to become more active.

Since then we have begun holding a fall meeting in Grand Forks and a spring meeting in Fargo. In addition there have been several other meetings where members can earn Professional Development Hours. Involvement with the student chapters is also a priority and the first Firm Crawl where students will tour local engineering offices has been scheduled in Fargo for October 10.

In closing, we may not be the largest ASCE section in the world, but being smaller probably makes us more friendly and efficient. Our current section officers are all doing a great job of re-vitalizing the section. We will hold elections at our spring meeting and I will be vigorously campaigning for past president.

If you are already a national ASCE member, we encourage you to become active on the local level also.

Don Andersen