

**Section Meeting Minutes**  
**ASCE ND Section Annual Spring Meeting**  
**April 21, 2016**  
**Prepared by: Brandon Oye**

Four presentations were held from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, which included the following speakers and topics.

Title: Wind, Pyramids, Obelisks & Beer and their Relevance to Modern Road Construction  
Speaker: Dr. Maureen Clemmons, President - Transformations

Title: ASCE's Grand Challenge (Focus on innovation, rethink life cycle costs and drive transformational change)  
Speaker: Carl Sutter, Senior Vice President – McMahon Engineers/Architects

Title: Unique Design Features of Sanford Medical Center in Fargo  
Speaker: Joanna Slominski, Construction Executive – M.A. Mortenson Company

Title: Role of Hierarchy on Mechanics of Structures: Learning from Biology  
Speaker: Dr. Kalpana Katti, University Distinguished Professor – NDSU

A tour of the Sanford Medical Center in Fargo was held from approximately 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. A social time was held from approximately 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Dinner started at approximately 7:00 pm.

**The President called the business meeting to order at 7:33 PM.**

The President opened the meeting with introduction of all guests.

**1) Previous Minutes**

- a. The minutes from the 2015 Fall Meeting held on October 20, 2015 were reviewed. Motion by J. Klabunde to approve the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gedafa. Motion passed.

**2) President's Report**

- a. Tony Eukel updated the Section on working with Art Johnson to develop a Western ND Branch based on interest from members in that area of the state. Currently looking for officers to get things going in that Branch. Still need to coordinate a meeting with those members. Our Section is currently only holding meetings in Fargo and Grand Forks.

**3) Treasurer's Report**

- a. Brandon Oye presented the Treasurer's Report. The Section's balance is \$11,007.13. The treasurer's report dated April 21, 2016 was reviewed. Motion by J. Klabunde to approve the treasurer's report, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Klabunde. Motion passed.
- b. The proposed 2016 Budget was reviewed. Motion by Katti to approve the budget, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vegi. Motion passed.

**4) Committee Reports**

**a. Continuing Education Committee Report**

1. Tom Klabunde reported that they held a webinar Lunch & Learn in January in both Fargo and Grand Forks. Daba Gedafa assisted with setting up the event in Grand Forks. Had 23 attendees in Fargo and 15 in Grand Forks.

2. Nick Kalenze has volunteered to be the Continuing Education Chair in Grand Forks going forward.
3. If any members in the western part of the state are looking to hold a Lunch & Learn, they can contact Tom or Nick to help set it up.
4. They will continue to work on setting up future Lunch and Learns in Fargo and Grand Forks in the future.

**b. Volunteer Events Committee Report**

1. Vicki Schneider, the Volunteer Events Chair, was not in attendance. Brandon Oye, Alexa Ducioame and Jerod Klabunde reported that some volunteers from the Section helped with an event during E-Week at DGF Middle School in Dilworth. The morning session included a presentation by Vicki on engineering and a Rube Golberg activity. The school currently participates in “Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day” at NDSU, so they wanted to hold an engineering event for the boys. The school plans to make it an annual event on Thursday of E-Week.

**c. Membership Committee Report**

1. Matt Walsvik reported that the ND Section has over 300 members, some of which have not paid dues in the past couple years. Western ND (from Bismarck to west) has 105 members, and eastern ND has 161 members. Art Johnson sent out a letter to all engineering firms in western ND to discuss starting the new Branch.
2. There are currently about 20 Life Members in the Section.

**d. Social Committee Report**

1. Jerod Klabunde reported that we hold two social events each year. We previously joined FM Engineers for the RedHawks event last year and plan to do that again this year. Members can expect to see an email on that in the next month or two. This includes one free ticket to the game for each member that signs up.
2. The Section held a Happy Hour event at Gastropub during E-Week.

**e. Webmaster**

1. Alexa Ducioame reported that the website has all events updated on it. May look at featuring all Life Members on the site, but will need short bios on each Life Member. Planning on putting the Section meeting minutes on it.
2. Have set up a Facebook page for the Section. Please “Like” the page. All events are up to date on the Facebook page, and it includes photos from the events.

**5) Old Business**

**a. Multi-Region Leadership Conference Report**

1. This is an annual event that the Section sends two members to. Typically upcoming officers or chairs attend the event.
2. The Section sent Murali Vegi and Alexa Ducioame to the event in Chicago on January 15-16. They reported that it was a great leadership training event. They discussed starting a state Legislative Drive-in event. Another topic was ASCE Clubs for high school and middle school students.
3. The next Conference is in Minneapolis in January.

**b. Legislative Fly-In Report**

1. This is an annual event that is open to any Section members.
2. The Section sent Murali Vegi and Daba Gedafa to the event in Washington, D.C. on March 15-17. Daba reported that the focal points for members to push included the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), and

increased funding for water infrastructure. They held meetings with staffers for Senator Heitkamp, Senator Hoeven and Representative Cramer.

3. Tony said it is a great event to see how things work in D.C. All costs for the trip are paid by ASCE National or the Section for two members.
4. Jerod mentioned that this is a great opportunity for members to get involved with policy that affects our profession. ASCE National has a large presence in Washington, D.C.
5. Daba Gedafa will be going back to D.C. for a one day training session on May 15. ASCE wants one Advocate per state to help push issues at the state level.
6. Murali stated that ASCE National follows up with what was accomplished with the proposed bills and what did not get done that still needs to happen.
7. North Dakota is one of the few states that does not have a State Report Card. We need someone to volunteer to lead this effort to generate a State Report Card.
  - a. Carl Sutter stated that Brian Pallash from the ASCE Government Relations group can assist with the process on where to get information and how to put it together and present it. The National Report Card has 16 categories. Carl stated that the State Report Card could take on 8 important categories.

**c. Student Chapter Updates**

1. NDSU Chapter Update
  - a. Lincoln Regula, ASCE Student Chapter President, reported that they have had presentations from Braun Intertec, Stantec and Sandman Consulting so far this year at their meetings.
  - b. They will be holding the Firm Crawl again next Thursday with Moore Engineering and KLJ.
  - c. They held a volunteer service to raise funds for a family with an autistic child to purchase an autism service dog by making some Mason jar lamps that will be donated for a rummage sale.
  - d. Concrete canoe competition will be this week.
  - e. Steel Bridge got back up and running again. They built a bridge this year, although it did not hold up well but had a good time and got things running again. They plan to compete again next year to hopefully bring back the championship.
2. UND Chapter Update
  - a. Daba Gedafa reported the Student Chapter is holding a Firm Crawl with EAPC. They had AE2S as a speaker at the meeting last week. They have volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. They were also involved in the Steel Bridge Competition held at the Minnesota State University Mankota. They plan to attend the next Steel Bridge Competition next year at NDSU.

**6) New Business**

**a. Volunteers Needed**

1. Tony reported that our Section is looking for volunteers. We plan to split the Secretary-Treasurer position, where Brandon Oye plans to retain the Treasurer position, but needs assistance with taking on the Secretary position. Brandon explained the responsibilities of the Secretary.
2. Other open positions are the Membership Co-Chairs in Fargo and Grand Forks, Volunteer Chair in Grand Forks, and Social Chair in Grand Forks. Members interested can let a Board Member know, there are some preliminary responsibilities laid out for the chairs.

**b. 2017 Steel Bridge Competition**

1. NDSU will be hosting the Midwest Regional Conference Steel Bridge Competition in middle to early March 2017. The 11 schools in that region come together for the 3 day event. They will need speakers/presenters/judges for the event. The Student Chapter asked if the ND Section would help with the event planning so that the students can focus on the bridge

planning/event. More details will come in the future with a possible planning meeting date to be set. Alexa handed out a sign-up sheet for this event looking for volunteers.

**c. ASCE Dream Big Film, Engineer's Week 2017**

1. Alexa Ducioame reported that ASCE is putting together a Dream Big Film that will be played at the Science Museum in St. Paul during E-Week next February. They are working on two different plans for it; 1) Have our Section go to it for Social/Family event and 2) Work with schools in ND to coordinate having students go and watch it. Alexa is trying to coordinate with the NDSU STEM Outreach Coordinator to start the planning for this and possibly get grant funds or funds from engineering firms. Alexa handed out a sign-up sheet for this event looking for volunteers.

**d. UND & NDSU Student Chapter Outstanding Student Awards**

1. Tony reported that our section is looking for Outstanding Students to provide the awards at the Fall Section meeting.

**e. ASCE National Officer Report**

1. Carl Stutter reported that he is happy to hear about the outreach that our Section is doing. He said this it is very important to reach out to every age group on what we do as engineers.
2. Carl stated that Region 3 supports the effort of starting a Western Branch in the state.
3. Carl recommended that we pursue the State Report Card. He said you do not have to follow the National guidelines even though they will try to get you to follow the guidelines. He recommended to hire a professional to handle all the press/new releases.

**f. Life Member**

1. Matt Walsvik presented the Life Member Certificate and gold lapel pin to Mark Bittner for 2016. Mark began his career with the City of Fargo in 1975. He was the City Engineer from 1991 to 2012. He has been the Director of Engineering since January 2012.
2. To obtain Life Membership, you need to be at least 65 years old, have paid dues for at least 35 years, and have maintained membership for a continuous 10 years prior to the year of obtaining Life Member status.
3. Mark Bittner stated that he was involved with ASCE as a student. Mark said he is happy to see that ASCE is making an emphasis on how important it is for our country to maintain the infrastructure that has been built by the generation prior to us.

Tony Eukel requested motion to close the business meeting at 8:38 PM. Gedafa so moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> Walsvik. Motion passed.