

ND ASCE SECTION BOARD MINUTES

Thursday, May 9, 2019 – 12:00-1:00 PM
Conference Call

Prepared by: Ravi Yellavajjala

In attendance: Beena Ajmera, Taylor Braaten, Yaping Chi, Dylan Dunn, Alexa Ducioame, Jerry Gao, Alison Hanslip, Thomas Klabunde, Jerod Klabunde, Vicki Schneider, and Ravi Yellavajjala.

Call to Order and Welcome: Vice President, Yaping Chi, called the business meeting to order at 12:08 PM. Yaping initiated introductions of all officers on the conference call.

Approval of Agenda: Yaping asked for a motion to approve the agenda of the meeting. Alexa moved the motion, and Thomas Klabunde (President-elect) seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: (Past) Secretary Nicholas Kalenze
Ravi Yellavajjala received the ND ASCE Secretary folder from the previous secretary Nicholas Kalenze and talked to him in a separate phone call about the responsibilities of the section secretary. Ravi has no other updates.

Financial Report: Treasurer Beena Ajmera is in touch with the previous treasurer and has no new updates.

Continuing Business

Discussion on Annual meeting: Alexa expressed concerns about the poor attendance at the spring meeting in spite of having four very qualified speakers (16 attendees only!). She suggested that the speakers should be finalized well in advance to advertise the spring meeting early in the spring. Thomas suggested moving the spring meeting to March to avoid the construction season when most professionals cannot find time to attend the meeting due to work-related activities. Jerry Gao (Continuing education chair) suggested encouraging NDSU and UND students to attend the meeting by advertising through respective ASCE advisers. Ravi Yellavajjala (Secretary) pointed out time conflicts with classes and costs associated with attending the meeting will discourage students from attending the meeting. Alexa reminded everyone that the ND section waives the fees for student award winners. Taking the discussion forward, Thomas mentioned that earning PDHs is the most important incentive to professionals, and he suggested that 4 PDHs cannot be finished by starting the meeting late to accommodate student participation. Beena Ajmera (Treasurer) suggested having a break between talks to which students can attend for free to get networking opportunities with professionals. Finally, Thomas suggested early and effective advertising to improve participation in future meetings.

Discussion on Fundraising: Alexa reported that only two sponsors came forward to support the ND ASCE section this year (Braun Intertech and Kirby Engineering). The Moore Engineering is also added to the list of sponsors as their employees spent many hours organizing the meetings, and Moore engineering also supported the printing and publicity materials. Alexa and Thomas supported the idea of calling more companies to improve external sponsorship. Ravi and Beena suggested organizing FE/ PE help sessions to professionals for a nominal fee. Jerry suggested

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approaching the potential sponsors with a strategic one year plan comprising of details about the mission of ND ASCE, membership benefits, and how the money will be spent. Alexa seconded this idea and mentioned that the budget situation for next year is not bleak as the report card activity is completed, and we do not have any significant expenditures in the coming year.

PDHs and other suggestions: Jerry asked the members to suggest topics for future webinars and talks.

Why Join ASCE flyer: On this subject, Alexa brought to the attention of the attendees that ASCE has added two new benefits to their membership: 1) refinancing options for education loans, and 2) GE appliances discounts

New Business

Bismarck Event: Jerod Klabunde reported that the presentation delivered by Erin Higgle (Ex-ND-DoT employee) was excellent. He noted that the content of the presentation is more motivational rather than technical making it more interesting to a broader group of professionals. He suggested that we invite the presenter for our spring meeting next year to deliver the same presentation. Only six professionals attended the presentation.

Committee Chair Reports

a) Report card chair

Brandon Oye is not available for the conference call.

b) Continuing education chair

Jerry Gao left the conference call early and requested the officers to provide ideas/ topics that maybe of interest to engineers in the F-M area for future presentations.

c) Volunteer committee chair

Vicki Schneider left the conference call early and has no new updates.

d) Membership/ social chair

Dylan Dunn mentioned that he would coordinate with Josh Hassell from Fargo-Moorhead engineers to organize the upcoming baseball outing.

e) Webmaster/ social media chair

Alison Hanslip left the conference call early and has no new updates.

Yaping Chi, at the end of the meeting, mentioned that she would transfer the ND ASCE facebook and website details to Alison Hanslip.

The business meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.