



Nebraska Society of Professional Engineers

A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers
Eastern Chapter

Winter 2011-2012

2011-2012

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6 Months Free

NSPE Membership
applications may be
obtained at

www.nspenebraska.org

Welcome New Registrants

At the November Chapter meeting, we welcomed 5 new registrants as professional engineers. Jon Wilbeck, Executive Director of the Nebraska Board of Engineers & Architects conducted a "Swearing In" ceremony for them. There are a total of 59 new registrants within the Eastern Chapter, so chances are you know one. Take a minute and congratulate them on their accomplishment and encourage them to become involved.



New Registrants recognized at November Meeting: (LtoR) Jon Wiegand, Brad Cameron, Neal Fealtys, Greg Perry, Ken Tonwsend. Below – Jon Wilbeck, swearing in the new registrants.

Upcoming Events

Tues., Jan 24th: Chapter Mtg.

Iowa DOT

I-680 Reconstruction

Tues., Mar 20th: Chapter Mtg.

TBD

Non-members welcome!!

Scott Conference Center

6450 Pine Street

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. +/-

PDHs available



What can NUCA do for you?

At the November Chapter meeting, Kelly Thompson, of Thompson Contractors Inc. and Vice President of NUCA-Nebraska, presented on the Nebraska Utility Contractors Association. Kelly shared with the group what NUCA's role in Nebraska entailed. Representing contractors, suppliers, and manufacturers of the underground utility construction industry. The Nebraska chapter was recently formed and have worked on developing their organization and mission of safety, compliance and training, as well as providing on-going education to their membership.



Kelly Thompson, Vice President of NUCA, discussing NUCA's role and how we can help one another to accomplish the same goals.

NUCA of Nebraska wants to be a resource for the engineering community through use of the "Expert Pipeline." This connection will make available to engineers an expert panel to provide:

- Constructability Reviews
- Specification Reviews
- Cost Analysis Reviews
- Independent Reviews

Initial contact can be made through NUCANEbraska@gmail.com or through their website currently under development.

Legislative Luncheon – February 8th, 2012

Don't miss the 2012 Legislative Luncheon on February 8th, at the Country Club of Lincoln. Meet your local state legislator and discuss issues important to you. Cost is only \$30 and includes steak lunch. Starting at 11 am, attend the Legislative Briefing and earn 1 PDH. Register with the State office.

MathCounts!

Please join us for the 2012 Eastern Chapter MathCounts Event scheduled for **February 18, 2011**. It will be held at the 72nd & Grover Ramada again this year and we look forward to your support in putting on the great event once more. Volunteer requests will be coming to your inbox soon. Come watch the exciting Countdown Competition to be amazed at these Math Marvels!

Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant vs. Mighty Missouri

At the December Joint IEEE/NSPE Chapter breakfast meeting, Jeff Hanson and Teddy Hutchinson, employees of OPPD, presented to nearly 50 attendees on the Missouri River flooding impacts to the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant. OPPD presented from both the technical and public relations perspectives.

Jeff Hanson, spoke to how much effort was spend informing the public and dispelling false rumors on the safety of the plant. Social Media helped spread the word, even to large numbers of people in Europe and Asia.



Teddy Hutchinson, OPPD Engineer, discussing the water elevations they had to plan for.

Teddy Hutchinson, discussed the nuclear plant's power producing process. Detailing how water used from the river for stem generation never comes into contact with radiation. As well as the importance of keeping the transformers protected in order to get the power out to the grid and maintain internal power for safety processes. In addition, OPPD's response effort to the flooding involved more than just the Fort Calhoun effort. Key transmission structures and facilities required protection too. The Nebraska City station was vital to OPPD to maintain service to OPPD's customers.



Jeff Hanson (Lt) and Teddy Hutchinson (Rt), discussing OPPD's response to the Missouri River Flood of 2011.

E-Week Banquet

Don't miss out on the Engineer's Roundtable E-Week Banquet on Thursday, February 23, 2012. The Banquet will be held at the Strategic Air & Space Museum, near Ashland, NE. Social Hour begins at 6pm with Banquet and Speaker at 7pm. Jody Farhat, Chief of the Missouri River Basin Water Management for the Corp of Engineer's Northwestern Division, will present on the historic 2011 flooding. For more information and registration, go to <http://engineerroundtable.org/>

Eastern Chapter Board

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the organization, please consider a position on the Eastern Chapter Board. Several positions available for the 2012-2013 year. Contact President Bob Matlock (bmatlock@thielegeotech.com) if you are interested.

Member Highlights

Martin Cleveland, P.E. – Construction Engineer –
Papio-Missouri River NRD

Duties: Project management and engineering for operation/maintenance/construction for over 85 dams and 82 miles of flood control levees.

Years at current company: 33 years

School(s) attended and year(s) of graduation(s): Ellsworth College, AA in 1976; Iowa State University, BS in Agricultural Engineering in 1978 and University of Nebraska, MS in Civil Engineering in 1986



How did you get into engineering?

As a result of my interest in how objects work, such as automobiles, equipment, etc. and aptitude in math it appeared to be logical choice for a career path.

List career highlight(s):

Project management for the improvement of a 9.5 mile long levee, built initially in the 1930's, called Union Dike, located along the Platte River to a flood protection level of 100 year open water flood in 1990; project management and engineering for West Branch Channel Project from 36th Street to Giles Rd scheduled for completion in 2012 and project management for Whitted Creek Rehabilitation Project in Bellevue, which was completed in 2010. **Editor's Note: Project won the 2010 Eastern Chapter Engineering Excellence Award.**

Interesting projects you have worked on or are currently working on?

Western Sarpy Clear Creek Flood Reduction Project (Levees) that will provide 50 year flood (151,000 cfs) level protection to 18,000 acres of agricultural, residential and commercial properties along a 14 mile reach of Platte River upstream of Hwy.6, in Saunders and Sarpy Counties, Nebraska. The project is being designed and built by the Corps of Engineers and involves three Natural Resources Districts. I'm serving as a project manager.

What is your favorite part of your job or field?

Being part of the project from start to finish and seeing the project benefit the public for many years into the future.

Is there anything else others might be interested in knowing about you?

As an avid bicyclist I get to enjoy many of the bike/walking trails the NRD has built in the Omaha metro over the past 20+ years. It has been one of the best recreational features that have been added to the metro area landscape, in my opinion.

Steve Ward, P.E. – Senior Manufacturing Engineer – 3M

Duties: Provide production support for our welding and our powered and supplied air respiratory protection portfolios. Drive cost reduction and productivity improvement. Scale up new product introductions at our manufacturing facility

Years at current company: 11 years

School(s) attended and year(s) of graduation(s): University of Nebraska, Lincoln BSME 1996

List career highlight(s):

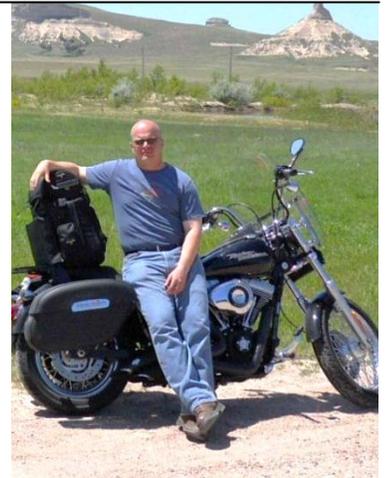
I spent three years working in corporate research, three years working in corporate engineering, and the last five in manufacturing. I have one patent issued and two pending.

Interesting projects you have worked on or are currently working on?

I just completed the North American manufacturing scale up for the launch of our 9100 Air and 9100 FX Air product lines. This was a large global team, which provided the largest new product introduction for Speedglas Welding Products since acquired by 3M.

What is your favorite part of your job or field?

Right now, I would say the people. I feel that there is a great atmosphere of cooperation and teamwork here.



Angel Lowery, P.E. – Environmental Engineer –

Nebraska Department of Health

Duties: We review plans and issue permits for the construction of water treatment facilities, mobile home parks and public swimming pools in the State of Nebraska.

Years at current company: 5 years

School(s) attended and year(s) of graduation(s): 2000 - MS Environmental Engineering from University of Nebraska Lincoln, 1997 - BS Environmental Biology from University of Nebraska Omaha. Currently pursuing second BS in Biological Systems Engineering. PE Since 2006.



How did you get into engineering?

I've always loved math and science so engineering was a natural evolution for me. During my undergraduate internship I realized I needed a PE to do the kind of work I enjoyed.

List career highlight(s):

I started as an engineering intern at an oil and automotive chemical manufacturing firm. After taking time to complete my MS degree I was hired back as an environmental engineer to help with a major expansion in their product and customer base that led to opening new plants in several states. I assisted with new plant startup and worked to achieve ISO 14001 certification for all locations. Then about five years ago I learned of a position in the drinking water section with the State. Since college I'd had a strong desire to work in the drinking water sector, so I made the switch from oil to water. It was an interesting transition from working with regulators for so many years to becoming one myself. I like to think it enhances my working relationships since I've been on both sides.

Interesting projects you have worked on or are currently working on?

Being involved in the inspection process and startup of the new MUD Platte West Water Treatment Plant was pretty exciting. Standing at the bottom of the huge solids contact basins before they were filled with water was an experience.

What is your favorite part of your job or field?

Nebraska has many unique water challenges and I enjoy working with the communities and other engineers to learn and apply new technologies as well as finding new ways to use established techniques to improve treatment and reduce costs.

Is there anything else others might be interested in knowing about you?

My life revolves around my family and close friends. My very supportive husband Rich is a Senior Reactor Operator and Training Supervisor at Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station, and our amazing two year old daughter is Mia, who loves to dance and play soccer.
