



**Association of Engineering Geologists
Kansas City/Omaha Section
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NEWS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

johnmoylan@att.net

Upcoming Activities

Our Fall Conference, “**State-of-the-Practice Investigation Methods to Support Design**”, is coming up very soon. It will be held on October 23 at Burns & McDonnell. The final announcement and registration form will be arriving very soon. This is the first conference that the Section has put on in many years and I am excited about it. The conference committee has put together an excellent program that focuses on state-of-the-practice tools to help us do that most important task of *site characterization*. Six professional development hours are available for attending the full conference. This should be a must attend for all environmental and engineering geologists in the section.

You should have received a copy of the call for papers for the 13th Annual Kansas Hydrology Seminar which is jointly sponsored by the KC/O Section and the Kansas Section of the American Institute of Hydrology. The seminar is scheduled for Friday, November, 19 at the Kansas History Center in Topeka. This is always a good seminar and provides a chance to visit with colleagues we don't get to see regularly. The announcement should be out in the next couple of weeks.

Our next regular section meeting will likely be in late November rather than in December. The speaker and topic are yet to be announced.

The next joint ASCE, AEG, UMKC meeting is scheduled for December 2 at UMKC. The topic has not yet been announced. Watch for the announcement. The first meeting of this series was held on October 7. Dr. Jie Han from the University of Kansas made a presentation on “Geosynthetic-Reinforced Pile-Supported Embankments”.

The ASCE's local Environmental and Water Resources Institute group has invited AEG members to their upcoming meeting on December 1 at Buca di Beppo on the Plaza. Brownfields restoration will be the topic. We will send out the announcement when available. For further information contact Bruce Wilkinson at 913-599-5802 or baw@haleyaldrich.com.

Highway Geology Symposium

Congratulations to KC/O Section members who helped assure the success of the Highway Geology Symposium that was held in KC in September. John Szturo was the meeting chairman and Syed Hasan, Andrea Prince, and Bruce Wilkinson served on the meeting committee. Job well done, approximately 300 attended the meeting.

Association Name Change? We want your feedback.

The Board of Directors will be asked to vote on changing the name of the Association of Engineering geologist to the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists at the mid-year board meeting next April. The proposed name better describes the makeup of the association. At the Past-Presidents' breakfast at the Annual Meeting, the past-presidents in attendance voted unanimously to support the change. I would like to solicit the thoughts of every one of you on the proposed change and whether it would change your perspective of the organization. Both member and non-member recipients of this newsletter are encouraged to provide feedback.

AEG News

Please continue to provide information to Syed Hasan for the AEG News. We all like to hear where you are and what you are doing of interest.

Student Participation

During the past year we have had consistent participation of UMKC students in Section activities. Both the Section and the students have benefited. Welcome back for the 2004/2005 school year.

2004 Annual Meeting

The AEG's 2004 Annual Meeting took place in Dearborn, Michigan the week of September 25. Barbara Smith (KDOT), Steve Knobbe (Geoprobe), and I were the Kansas City/Omaha Section attendees. I hope I didn't miss any of the Section attendees. The symposia and the technical sessions were good. Overall, the meeting was a success. We got to see a lot of old friends and made some new ones. Barbara noted that we got to visit more in the three days than we do in two years of normal contact.

Steve Knobbe worked the Geoprobe exhibit. The Geoprobe exhibit was very impressive and they continue to bring out innovative and useful investigation tools. We should be proud to have them in the KC/O boundary.

Next year's meeting will be in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting committee is far along with meeting planning and organization. It promises to be a very good affair with a large attendance.

Board of Directors Meeting

The BOD met on the Saturday and Sunday following the Annual Meeting. This meeting always has a full agenda and requires a lot of chair time. The following presents a discussion of some of the news from the BOD meeting that is most likely to be of interest to you.

Dave Bieber, our new president, offered to visit those sections interested in his visiting. He has four proposed presentations for the sections to choose from or he will come simply to meet and get to know our members.

Dave also has plans to take a hard look at the current association committees and to restructure them. Some will be disbanded, some reorganized, and some new ones created. All remaining committees will have a function and will be active.

The AEG will host the North American Landslide Conference during the first week of June 2007 in Vail, Colorado. The Rock Mountain Section and especially Keith Turner from the Colorado School of Mines will take the lead in organizing the conference. AGI, Geo-Institute, and several Canadian geo organizations have offered to support the conference. This should be a conference worth our serious consideration.

The Engineering Geology Foundation will be changing its name to the AEG Foundation. The purpose of the foundation is to help fund activities of the AEG, especially the various scholarships. Please consider making tax exempt contributions to the foundation. Your donations don't have to be large sums to really help fund these important activities. The foundation is discussed in some detail in the directory. If you have not yet paid your association dues, there are check off boxes for foundation donations on the renewal form.

The AEG remains to be financially strong. We will again finish the year in the black in spite of a projected loss for the Annual Meeting. The meeting loss had already been accommodated in the budget for this year and our officers made conservative estimates of most expenses when they prepared the budget for this year. They have done a remarkable job of turning the Association's finances around in the last three years.

The Board of Directors wants to encourage section members to submit articles to the AEG News' Perspectives Column. The intent of this column is to provide a forum for our members to speak out on issues important to our profession.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that Deb Green was asking for volunteers to serve on committees to help implement the recently developed Strategic Plan. A Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) is now actively working to implement the Strategic Plan. In response to what AEG members identified as the issues they would like to see addressed, the SPC has formed two committees to date. One has a goal of enhancing the AEG website as a vital source of information and communication. Julie WestHoff of the KC/O Section has volunteered as a member of that committee. John Moylan is a member of the second committee whose goal is to actively assist and support Sections and Chapters and their programs. Work is beginning on a third committee intended to find ways to strengthen membership involvement, recruitment, and retention.

John Moylan, R.G.
Chairman, Kansas City/Omaha Section