

Branch Executive Meetings:

December – Met briefly at the December social event to discuss possible future plans but did not hold a regular board meeting.

1/12/2012 – Met to review December’s social event; plan for upcoming January luncheon; start planning for E-Week Banquet and Lifetime Member award presentation; discuss budget refinements; and plan for future membership survey.

02/07/2012 – Met to review January’s luncheon seminar; plan for February’s E-Week Banquet and Lifetime Member award presentation; plan for March professional portrait/social event; continue membership survey planning; updates from Section about governing documents. April Luncheon Event brainstorm and voted to abolish outdated East Branch constitution and adopt Central Illinois Section constitution with Branch Bylaws to be updated later.

General Meetings and Events:

12/19/2011 – **Branch Social Event:** ASCE Holiday Happy Hour and Toys-for-Tots Drive at Destihl Restaurant in downtown Champaign, IL. Members and Non-members were requested to bring an unwrapped, unopened toy donation for admittance to the event. With two toy donations the nominal fee (\$5, members; \$10, non-members) was waived. The venue was great for this sort of event but turnout was low. Fortunately, everyone that did attend brought with them two toys so we did manage to collect a respectable donation. Turnout was likely low due to poor advertising (failing to remind membership of the event) and bad timing being so close to the holiday. We may try and do this event again earlier in December 2012.

01/24/2012 – **Luncheon Seminar:** State-of-the-Art Structural Health Monitoring of Steel Truss Bridges by Steve Sweeney, U.S. Army Corps, CERL. The luncheon was delayed from an earlier date and the venue was changed to the Yeh Student Center on the UIUC campus. Well attended by students, professionals and academics (~30 individuals). The branch was contacted by Prof. David Lange with the University of Illinois to express his thanks for organizing the event on campus and to urge us to do so again in the future as he believes it will eventually lead to a stronger connection between the branch and the university.

Upcoming:

2/24/2012 – E-Week Banquet: Joint effort by ISPE, SAME, and ASCE to organize the annual Engineers' Week Banquet at Lincolnshire Fields Country Club in Champaign, IL. The Branch is again inviting four student members as our guests. The Branch will pay for their admittance and they will give a presentation on student branch activities and help with greeting members and distributing raffle tickets. The Branch is organizing and purchasing the raffle prizes for the event and will recognize new ASCE Lifetime Members (as of 2009-2012). New Lifetime Members (as of 2012) were invited as our guests to receive their pins and certificates but none were able to attend.

March – Branch Social Event: Joint student/professional social event at Buvons Wine Bar in Urbana, IL. The purpose of the event is to provide a networking opportunity and the Branch has organized a professional photographer to set up at the location to provide membership with a professional portrait for a reduced fee. The Branch is providing a partial subsidy to the students for the cost of their portraits. The portraits will be useful for online portfolios and resumes as well as LinkedIn; which is being used more every day as a way to network with professionals. We expect a good turnout.

Other March Items of Interest – Publication of first annual membership survey (<http://eb.centralillinoisasce.org/annual-survey.html>) to better gauge how well the East Branch is serving membership and areas for improvement.

April – Possible luncheon seminar with a local consulting firm presenting a project of their interest.

May – Possible branch social event.
