

Branch Executive Meetings:

March – The board decided that the East Branch would begin holding bi-monthly board meetings instead of monthly. No meeting was held in March.

04/12/2012 – Met to review March Social Event and Seminar and plan for May and June events. The East Branch decided to endorse John Frauenhoffer’s candidacy for Region 3 Board of Direction and approved his endorsement letter; Chris Gutkowski provided a short presentation on his attendance of the Leadership Development Conference; a committee was formed to draft new East Branch bylaws.

06/11/2012 – Met to review May’s Social Event and plan for June, July and August’s events. Schinkoeth submitted a new Branch Event Planning sheet that the branch will use to document contacts, objectives, and issues that occur with planned events. This will enable the branch to keep a record of successful/unsuccessful events and this will help in planning future events. Final results from the First Annual Membership Survey were reviewed and discussed – A report will be drafted for distribution to membership. It was decided that Giselle Rodriguez, Social Chair, would be attending and presenting at this year’s Region 3 Assembly.

General Meetings and Events:

03/13/2012 – **Branch Social Event:** Happy Hour and Professional Portrait at Buvons Wine Bar in Urbana, IL. The purpose of the event was to provide a networking opportunity and the opportunity for members and students to have a professional portrait taken for a reduced fee. Due to low interest in the portrait portion of this event we canceled the photographer and held a typical happy hour event. We had low turnout from students, likely due to the proximity of spring break, but several professionals attended. Don Uzarski was presented with his Lifetime Member pin and certificate. We may try to have a professional portrait event again in the future and advertise it more effectively.

03/27/2012 – **Branch Seminar:** *An Engineer’s Core Competencies for Success* by Bill Gray, P.E., M.ASCE and Public Works Director/City Engineer for the City of Urbana . The Branch invited the U of I Student Chapter to hold this evening presentation at the Yeh Center on campus after one of their general meetings and therefore held the event in late March instead of April. The branch provided pizza for the event and organized the speaker. The event was attended by ~10 professionals and ~40 students. Bill was a great speaker and it

was an interesting topic; we would like to have him back again to present on City of Urbana projects.

*05/04/2012 – **Branch Social Event:** Fighting Illini Baseball v. Michigan State and pre-game tailgate at U of I campus in Champaign, IL. Members and Non-member, friends and family, were invited to attend the event. Foth Engineering in Champaign sponsored the event and donated food, tailgating equipment, tents and chairs. Despite the game and tailgate being free we received a much lower than expected turnout of 10-15 people. This could have been due to poor advertising or scheduling or low interest in University sporting events. Suggestions for the future include holding fewer events, give more advanced notice, and invite other engineering societies to join us. All who did attend had a great time. (See Attachment on Alcohol and Liability at ASCE East Branch Social Events).*

Upcoming:

*06/19/2012 – **Branch Seminar:** Luncheon and ASCE Webinar – *Monitoring Project Budgets and Schedules: Introduction to the Earned Value Method* by Stuart G. Walesh. The branch will be holding the event at the Champaign Public Library and fully subsidize the cost of the webinar. Members and non-members may bring lunch or buy a boxed lunch. Amy Russell suggested that we have a back-up plan in case technical issues arise and provided the branch with DVDs to screen should they be needed. Average attendance is expected but 60% of respondents from our annual membership survey said they would be interested in attending a group webinar.*

Other June Events – Distribution of the final results report concerning the First Annual Branch Membership Survey.

*July – **Branch Social Event:** ASCE East Branch Bowling and Pizza Night. In an effort to increase attendance at social events we will be making a point to have members invite colleagues and family along. We will also be inviting ISPE to attend and already started advertising for the event. Members and guests will receive free pizza and a raffle ticket for a TBD gift card prize. Attendees are encouraged to form teams prior to the event (another effort to increase attendance) and each team member will receive an additional raffle ticket.*

August – Due to low attendance at recent events the board decided to hold two events per quarter (one social event, one seminar) instead of monthly. Therefore, August will not contain a branch event. The branch may move board meetings to these vacant months or continue to do bi-monthly meetings.

Attachment: East Branch Investigation into Alcohol Liability at Events

While planning the May social event (Illini Baseball and Pre-game Tailgate) we investigated the possible liability issues concerning alcohol at a branch event. At prior events, members were required to purchase their own alcoholic beverages from the vendor directly. During the tailgate, our sponsor, Foth, offered to purchase beer for the event but we were unsure of the liability issues this would imply for the branch. Matt Dawson requested to be updated on our findings and after consulting with the ASCE Assistant General Counsel, Tara Hoke we decided on the following course of action:

- When holding an event at a venue, attendees should be notified that they must purchase their own alcohol from the vendor and ASCE will not be supplying the beverages.
- For events that are not held in a venue (such as a restaurant, bar, etc...) and are in a public or private location, such as a tailgate, the branch will notify members that only non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.
- An alternative for events not held at a venue would be to hire a beverage caterer to accept the responsibility and liability for serving alcohol to members and guests. Therefore, shifting potential liability away from the branch and ASCE.