



The Fox River Valley Branch Update

Friday, October 25, 2013

Hello everyone,

It's been quite a while since anyone has written a newsletter for the Fox River Valley Branch. We have had meetings and been very busy. Thank you to all the members who have attended our monthly meeting and recent Spring Technical Conference. We have been trying to do some fun things with the younger member group as well.

Soon it will be election time and the board is working on ballots to send out to all the members. I would like to share what our branch has been up to for the last few months as well as share our vision for future meetings coming up in the 2013-2014 year.

In 2012 we had a very busy year. In September the Annual Wisconsin Section Fall Meeting starts us out. It is a great way to get together, learn some new things about Civil Engineering and of course earn some professional continuing education units. The 2013 Annual meeting will be held at the Monona Terrace in Madison on September 13th. Don't forget to sign up for this great opportunity to network with fellow engineers around the state and also learn some exciting new things. Early bird registration ends September 3rd, which is also the first day of school for most of the kids.

In November we combined our meeting with WSPE Fox River Valley Chapter where we got an update on the US 41 Construction project. This November we will be again doing a similar meeting. Look for a notice in your email or snail mail. It will again be held at the Rock Garden/Comfort Suites in Green Bay.

Then for the December meeting we met at a local steel fabrication company, Spirit Fabs, Inc. in Wrightstown for a tour of their plant and office area. We learned how important it is to coordinate with the fabricator early on to ensure a good product and efficient construction. There were many NWTC Civil engineering technology students that came to the meeting hoping to earn some extra credit points for one of their classes. It was fun to share the meeting with some young, possibly inspiring civil engineering students. Many of them asked me about my path to engineering, as I have an associate's degree from NWTC and a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Michigan Tech.

In January we were presented with the construction of the new Veteran's Memorial Park in Kaukauna, Wisconsin. The presenter shared the idea of a combined effort of local engineering and construction companies with the high school class that designed the park.

For our February meeting our Region 3 Director, John A. Frauenhoffer P.E, S.E, shared with us the importance of ASCE membership and what the Advantages of ASCE are in your professional life. Most people are a part of ASCE because of what ASCE can do for them. Rarely do people think of what they can do within ASCE and how it can become a way to learn to grow your career by just participating and getting more involved in your local chapter. As a board member we learn planning and management skills as well as work on those presentation and speaking skills.

In March the Fox River Valley Branch sponsored the 2013 Spring Technical Conference that was held at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Most of the people I talked to enjoyed the conference. We had several exhibitors in the Atrium, including the historical society with several antique surveying equipment displays. There were Lambeau Tours offered, General Sessions and Technical Sessions. Many Life Members (16) were honored with awards as well as some Senior Civil Engineering Students. One of the most attended technical sessions was the ethics session.

We followed up in April with a tour of the Kaukauna Utilities Badger Hydro Plant. They are rebuilding the canal and the power plant and installing two Voith hydro turbines. It was a cold and rainy day for a tour, but we got to see the rebar that was being placed around the turbines and learned about how they preserved some of the existing stone structure and saved precious fish. They also showed a video of one of the blasting days. There was a lot of rock to get through to make the canal large enough to fit the new plant. We have been asked to come back and tour the facility when they have the powerhouse completed. Look for upcoming meeting notices this year.

In June we had two meetings. One meeting was on the risks associated with underground engineering, a real example of what can go wrong using the US 41 Sanitary Sewer Pipe Case Study. We can plan for everything we know, but it can all go wrong. The best solution is not always the easiest or the most cost effective. Sometimes we just have to work with what we have and plan accordingly. For this case study they really had to think outside the box and in the end it went better than expected. The second meeting was more of an outing. We combined efforts with the younger member group and tailgated at a Wisconsin Timber Rattler Game. We brought the kids and had a wonderful family event.

We also had a few members do some outreach in local schools to help young kids learn about engineering. Michelle Garrigan did some fun projects with her daughter's

class. They made some gumdrop domes and she handed out some ASCE materials and folders. I also gave a couple presentations at my son's school, one in his kindergarten class and the other for the fourth grade career day. The fourth graders loved my Navisworks models the best.

A few other things going on in our branch is the submission of a couple National Engineering Landmark applications. The historic civil engineering committee is submitting two locations for consideration of the title of Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks. One is the Fox River Navigational Authority which encompasses the locks and dams along the lower Fox River. The other is the Portage Canal that connected the Fox River waterway with the Wisconsin River.

The board of directors appreciates your participation in our meetings and tours and we hope to have an exciting line up for you in the upcoming 2013-2014 year. Please feel free to inform us of any ideas you might have as to what you would like us to cover in our meetings. We try to cover all of the different areas of civil engineering throughout the year.

Thank you for your time and participation in our monthly meetings.

Dawn Rossmiller, P.E

Secretary/Treasurer elect