

## **Nebraska Section ASME Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date: September 28, 2006**

**Time: 6:30 pm**

**Place: Club Mex**

### In Attendance

Loscutoff, Miller, Pruitt, Randall, Redinger, Ruhl, Stransky

### General Committee Items

Susan provided a draft copy of the Merit Based Funding Form for committee review. There were no comments and the form was to be faxed in the next day.

Susan asked that new committee members provide a digital photo of themselves for updating the section web site.

### September Meeting Recap

The ethanol speaker meeting was a success. Committee members who attended all had positive things to say about it. Thirty members and seven guests attended, which was four more than planned. The total bill was \$730, which met the Upstream minimum. The only section-paid dinners were for the speakers. Dave M. will provide a write-up for the newsletter.

### Membership Report

Mark noted that our renewal rate currently stands at 59% and is the highest of the sections. The overall renewal period is still in progress, so this percentage is expected to increase.

Mark has started to provide committee members with contact names for different companies. These are names of potential people who might serve as ASME contacts within those companies. The committee members will continue to work on calling these individuals.

The committee members briefly discussed ASME membership benefits that would be appealing to potential new members. These included first-hand access to tours and courses (as well as membership discounts to these), networking opportunities, and group-rate insurance for those self-employed. In addition, Dave M. mentioned that several good reference books, such as Mark's Handbook, were available for free online through the ASME web site.

### Treasurer's Report

(provided later by Chad via email)

The current checking balance stands at \$3,099.41. The only financial activity this month was the September meeting and a deposit to Mahoney for the November PD Course.

### PE Refresher Course

The refresher course is in progress and is going well. Fourteen people signed up, but attendance is averaging eight to ten. The committee agreed to provide the instructors with the same \$40 (or \$20 + Xmas play) thank-you gift as last year.

### October Tour

Randy is in progress with setting up the Valmont tour. The tour is planned to take place in late October. Randy will provide a flier for the next newsletter.

### Professional Development Class

Gary has found an instructor for the November class on pumps. This is a program backed by the DOE. However, this instructor will be more expensive than usual due to travel expenses and fees. The total cost is anticipated to be \$3,000 to \$4,000. Gary didn't have any luck finding a vendor who could present a course for less expense. Some discussion was given to the idea of finding corporate sponsors for these courses.

The class date has been set for November 15<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, at the Mahoney State Park lodge. Gary and Susan will write up a flier for advertising this class.

Extra consideration was given to pricing the class due to the higher expenses this time around. Approximately \$25/person covers the facilities and food, another \$100/person should cover the instructor fees. Therefore, it was agreed to price the class at \$145 for members, and \$170 for non-members.

For future classes, it was noted that Hughes Machinery has a facility in KC that can do a steam class – including working equipment as examples. However, there would be some logistics involved in planning an out-of-town course.

The March class was also briefly discussed. An engineer from Dave S.'s company has a structural engineering course already prepared that is geared towards introducing concepts to non-structural people. Dave will investigate further into what kind of arrangements can be made to make this as economical as possible.

### Newsletter

The next newsletter is planned to be issued Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. This will include information on the October tour and the November PD course.

### Government Relations

No activity to report for this month.

### Other Business

It was noted that NSPE is touring the new UNMC power center in January. There might be an opportunity for a joint meeting.

Frank reported that the Engineer's Roundtable will be putting together plans for the next E-Week banquet soon. He thought he would have more information on it at the next committee meeting.

### Next Meeting

Friday, November 10, 2006, 7:30 am, Garden Cafe.