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## November 2007 Newsletter

### Message from the Chair

#### September Meeting Recap

A dozen of the section's members toured the Great Dane Trailers plant in Wayne, NE on October 23rd. We were particularly glad to have some student members from Dordt College attend. This facility specializes in manufacturing the Super Seal refrigerated trailers. We enjoyed seeing each step of the manufacturing process including frame assembly, wall and roof panel assembly (including injection of foam insulation), and final assembly (including addition of wheel and suspension assemblies, lights, and so on). It's surprising how much really goes into construction of one of these trailers. We were also impressed with their three-dimensional software and design capabilities. The tour was followed by a great dinner at Geno's Steakhouse. We would like to thank Tim Schmeits and our other tour guides for taking time out of their day to show us their first-rate plant.

The fall professional development course on compressors and compressed air systems was held on November 8<sup>th</sup> with 44 in attendance. All were packed in tight to learn about various compressor types and to emphasize that compressed air is NOT free but generally is an expensive source of energy. This was a great refresher and reminder to eliminate air leaks, increase storage where needed, eliminate mis-use of compressed air, and perform an audit of your system for potential significant energy/money savings. Thanks to Frank Moskowitz from the DRAW Group for providing this informative training.

Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> will bring the traditional family event of dinner and theatre at Mahoney State Park (see attached flier). January will involve a tour of the new MUD water treatment facility. Our tentative schedule is published in this newsletter.

We always welcome ideas for a tour, professional development course, or activity; please feel free to let us know. Contact me at [millerd7@asme.org](mailto:millerd7@asme.org).

Sincerely,

David K. Miller  
ASME, Nebraska Section Chair.

#### 2007 ASME Nebraska Section planned program is as follows:

September 16<sup>th</sup> - UNL Tractor Lab Tour (completed)  
Sept 5<sup>th</sup> to Oct 17<sup>th</sup> - PE Refresher Course (completed)  
October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Great Dane Tour (completed)  
November 8<sup>th</sup> - PD Course - Compressors (completed)  
December - Mahoney Christmas Play  
January - MUD Treatment Facility  
February - ASHRAE Joint Luncheon; E-Week Banquet  
March - PD Course  
April - Case New Holland Tour

# ***December Meeting Announcement***



December Meeting

Annual ASME Family Event

**Dinner/Theater at Mahoney State Park**  
Saturday, December 15, 2007

***The Dinner (starting at 5:30 PM)...***

Enjoy the great buffet at the Peter Kiewit Lodge. Selections will include prime rib, seafood (shrimp, scallops, and clam strips), potato, vegetable, soup and salad bar, and dessert bar.

***The Play (seating starts at 7:00PM, play begins at 7:30PM)...***

The Denman & Mary Mallory Kountze Theater and The KBC Production Company presents:

## **“Christmas In Her Heart”**

Geraldine Pointer is a selfish woman whose materialism alienated both her husband and daughter. But years have passed, and something strange is happening to Geraldine. Although she never gives anything to anybody, her neighbors and friends are turning up with gifts and cards attributed to Geraldine, and in her own handwriting no less! First the cleaning lady receives a hundred dollar tip, then an old boyfriend gets an Italian silk tie, and finally the neighbor with the sick little boy gets money to help his recovery. Geraldine doesn't know what's going on, but we know she is discovering "Christmas In Her Heart".

### ***How to Attend...***

The cost of the dinner and play is \$20 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and under. Please make reservations by Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, by contacting Bill Redinger at [wredinger@oppd.com](mailto:wredinger@oppd.com) or (402) 636-2681. When making your reservation, please designate the number of adults and children. Payment can be made at the door.

A park pass is required for entry to the park. If you do not have one, single day passes may be purchased at the park entrance for \$4 per vehicle.

A limited quantity of seats will be reserved, therefore, reservations are required. Members with reservations will be responsible for payment of costs regardless of attendance.



## **ASME January Meeting**



### **“Platte West Water Treatment Plant Tour”**

Wednesday, January 9, 2008, 5:30 PM  
Platte West Water Treatment Plant  
21212 Q Street  
Omaha, NE

The Platte West Water Treatment Plant is currently under construction at 216th and Q Street, just north of Gretna, Nebraska. The \$352-million project is designed to meet Omaha’s drinking water needs for the next 50 to 60 years and is expected to be on-line in June of 2008.

The plant will be Metropolitan Utilities District’s (MUD) third water treatment facility, forming a "triangle of reliability," around the Omaha metro area.

The plant and landscape design will blend in with future development. The plant will add 100 million-gallons-per-day pumping capacity to MUD’s system, bringing the total pumping capacity to 334 million gallons per day. The pumping capacity is envisioned to meet the area’s needs for the next 50 to 60 years.

Dinner at Famous Dave’s (17330 W. Center Rd.) following the tour, Dinner Choices are as follows ([www.famousdaves.com](http://www.famousdaves.com)):

Classics & Combos or Fish - \$21 (Students are ½ price)  
Real-Que Sandwiches or  
Chicken & Burgers - \$15 (Students are ½ price)

Includes tax, gratuity, coffee, tea, or soda

#### **Directions**

**From I-80 East:** Take the NE-31 exit – exit 432 toward US-6/Gretna for 0.2 miles; Turn left onto NE-31 north for 8.0 miles; Turn left onto Q street for 0.9 miles; Turn right into gate #2 of the Platte West Water Plant.

**From I-80 West:** Take the NE-370 exit – exit 439 toward Gretna for 0.4 miles; turn right onto NE-370W for 4.0 miles; Turn right onto US-6W (NE-31N) for 4.0 miles; Turn left onto West Q road for 0.9 miles; Turn right into entrance #2 of Platte West Water Plant.

#### **Registration Information**

Please contact Robert Bowman at [robert\\_bowman@mudnebr.com](mailto:robert_bowman@mudnebr.com) or 402-504-7923.

## Papillion-La Vista Schools Needs Engineering Mentors for FIRST Robotics Program

Mechanical and electrical engineering mentors will assist in team competition this year. Mentors are used to assist students in certain areas of the robotics competition---starting in October, some may meet with students at the high school (a set night a week—early evening) or small groups of student (2-4) could meet with the mentor at their worksite to gain expertise in certain areas. Then starting in January, when the actual 6-week “build” is going on—the students might need additional support.

Nebraska was the last state in the nation to host a FIRST Robotics team and Papillion-La Vista Big Red Robotics was the first team. Their website is [www.bigredrobotics.com](http://www.bigredrobotics.com)

FIRST Robotics—the FIRST stands for “For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology)

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition combines the excitement of sport with science and technology to create a unique varsity sport for the mind. FRC helps high school students discover the rewarding and engaging process of innovation and engineering. This after school program sets the stage for a 6 week, intense robotics competition in March in Kansas City. For additional information about the FIRST Robotics Program go to [www.usfirst.com](http://www.usfirst.com) .

To volunteer for the Papillion-La Vista organization contact:

Jean Daly Brown

Cooperation BEST / Career Education Coordinator

Papillion-La Vista Schools

420 S. Washington

Papillion NE 68046

(402) 537-6226 Fax (402) 537-6216 Cell (402) 690-9894

The **ASME Volunteer Opportunities Bulletin Board** (VOBB) is a tool designed to help volunteer leaders promote local Section and Society-wide volunteer positions. It is also used to help link volunteers with opportunities for involvement in all areas of the society. Opportunities for involvement include standards development, pre-college outreach and educational activities, government relations, and the development of new products, programs and more.

Volunteer leaders are encouraged to use the VOBB as a recruitment tool. If your ASME group is looking for a few good volunteers to share their passion and make meaningful contributions, contact Deidra Hackley at [hackleyd@asme.org](mailto:hackleyd@asme.org) or visit [http://volunteer.asme.org/vobb/Post\\_Volunteer\\_Opportunity.cfm](http://volunteer.asme.org/vobb/Post_Volunteer_Opportunity.cfm). For more information on posting or applying for a position on the VOBB visit <http://volunteer.asme.org/> or e-mail [hackleyd@asme.org](mailto:hackleyd@asme.org)

## Advancing Your Career With ASME PPC

The ASME Professional Practice Curriculum (PPC) is an online resource designed to help you advance in the engineering profession by providing guidance and resources on subjects that complement an engineers technical skills.

The PPC consists of 42 modules on topics ranging from product development and writing cost proposals to team building and negotiation. The PPC also provides information on alternative engineering career paths such as patent law, marketing and sales, and entrepreneurship.

To get started, please visit [www.professionalpractice.asme.org](http://www.professionalpractice.asme.org).



### **Made a Difference in Engineering Education?**

Do you know an individual or entity (e.g. company, organization, institution, etc.) that has contributed to engineering education in a significant way? If so, consider nominating them for one of the following society awards:

The **Frank von Flue Award**, established in 2002, recognizes significant contributions by an individual or a group to the promotion of lifelong learning for mechanical engineers. Lifelong learning is defined as the continued process of education and/or professional development, following a post-secondary education degree, to maintain the competence and flexibility of mechanical engineers throughout their career. Contributions may include assessment, development, distribution or promotion of materials for lifelong learning via appropriate mechanisms, such as professional development or university extension courses and programmed or self-paced learning.

The **Ben C. Sparks Medal**, established in 1990, is presented annually to a mechanical engineer for recognition of eminent service to mechanical engineering technology education through contributions toward ASME; towards higher education professional service; and towards the teaching and/or research faculty roles in mechanical engineering and mechanical engineering technology. Candidates must have a record of outstanding performance in all of three areas: a broad range of contributions to ASME; dedicated efforts and a record of achievements in the advancement of engineering education and engineering technology education; and contributions, over an extended period of time, to the positive support, recognition, or interaction of mechanical engineering technology and mechanical engineering programs, their faculties, or students.

**The deadline for submitting nominations is Jan. 1, 2008. For more information and a nomination package, please visit:**  
<http://www.asme.org/Governance/Honors/SocietyAwards/>