



**MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT  
ENGINEERS COUNCIL**

*....1968-2008....*

## **40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

**Monday, September 8, 2008  
Stone Ridge Golf Club  
Stillwater, Minnesota**

**Welcome & Introductions**

**President's Remarks**

*Joe Pignato, President*

**2007 Annual Meeting Minutes**

*Len Leitner, Secretary*

*pg. 6-8*

**Awards & Scholarships**

*Len Leitner, Chair*

*pg. 9*

**Treasurer's Report**

*Scott Pierson, Treasurer*

*pg. 10-12*

**Call for Nominations**

*Pat Ferrin, Chair*

**Executive Director's Report**

*Dana Wheeler, Executive Director*

**Adjourn**

# EXECUTIVE BOARD & STAFF

## 2007 – 2008

### BOARD OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Joe Pignato	Pr. Eng.	President	MnDOT – Office of Land Mgmt.
Peter Buchen	Admin. Prof. Eng.	Vice President	MnDOT – Aeronautics
Len Leitner	Sr. Eng. Spec.	Secretary	MnDOT – Technical Services
Scott Pierson	Sr. Eng.	Treasurer	MnDOT – Bridge Office
Jim Sellner	Sr. Eng.	Past President	DNR – Lands & Minerals, Hibbing

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### DIRECTORS

Gordon Bergstrom	Sr. Eng.	MnDOT – Pre-letting/CAE
Shongtao Dai	Pr. Eng.	MnDOT – Office of Materials
Paul Kattleson	Sr. Eng.	MnDOT – Bridge Office
Patrick Ferrin	Pr. Eng.	Administration – Building Const.
Linda Heath	Pr. Eng.	MnDOT – Electrical Design/Oper.
John Siekmeier	Sr. Eng.	MnDOT – Office of Materials
Ronald Dahlquist	Sr. Eng. Spec.	MnDOT – Federal Aid
Michael Lownsbury	Sr. Eng.	MnDOT – Traffic, Willmar
Kim Larsen	Gr. Eng. 2	Health Dept. – St. Cloud

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### MGEC STAFF

Dana Wheeler	Executive Director
Rhonda Bauer	Administrative Secretary

## PAST PRESIDENTS 1968 – 2007

1968-1969	Richard Spellman	Retired – January 1, 1994 (Hennepin County)
1969-1970	Robert Wolfe	Retired – September 30, 1991 (MnDOT)
1970-1971	Chuck Siggerud	Retired – December 1, 1997 (MnDOT)
1971-1972	Gerald Kreutzer	Retired – August 1, 2001 (MnDOT)
1972-1973	John Sandahl	Retired – December 10, 1996 (MnDOT)
1973-1974	Richard Ingberg	Formerly with MnDOT
1974-1975	Joel Katz	Retired – April 28, 2001 (MnDOT)
1975-1976	Robert Benke	Retired – September 6, 2000 (MnDOT)
1976-1977	Gary Orlich	Retired – April 22, 1995 (MnDOT)
1977-1978	Virgil Rasmussen	Formerly with MnDOT
1978-1979	Dick Hathaway	Retired – December 7, 1999 (MnDOT)
1979-1980	Ron Erickson	Retired – March 7, 2003 (MnDOT)
1980-1981	Dennis Luoto	Retired from Metro Airport Comm. (MnDOT)
1981-1982	Tom Halvorson	Retired – January 28, 1994 (MnDOT)
1982-1983	Bob Cartford	Retired – November 17, 1995 (MnDOT)
1983-1984	Larry Hoben	Deceased – March 13, 2006 (MnDOT)
1984-1985	Allan Pint	Retired – July 2006 (MnDOT)
1985-1986	Gary Workman	Associate, MnDOT Metro Traffic & Maint. – Roseville
1986-1987	Mike Weiss	MnDOT Traffic Security & Operations
1987-1988	Bob Hofstad	Associate, MnDOT Program Management – CO
1988-1989	Fred Maurer	Retired – February 18, 1999 (MnDOT)
1989-1990	Terry Zoller	Associate, MnDOT – Oakdale
1990-1991	Mike Gillen	Deceased – June 28, 2001 (MnDOT)
1991-1992	Bob Winter	Associate, MnDOT Division Director – Central Office
1992-1993	Michael Spielmann	Retired – November 9, 2004 (MnDOT)
1993-1994	Scott McBride	SEH (formerly with MnDOT)
1994-1995	David Ford	Deceased – January 16, 2003 (DNR)
1995-1996	Terry Beaudry	MnDOT – Maplewood Lab
1996-1997	Tony Kempenich	MnDOT D3 – Baxter
1997-1998	Connie Minetor	Deceased - March 11, 2001 (MPCA)
1998-1999	Steve Lund	Associate, MnDOT D6 – Rochester
1999-2000	Dan Sullivan	MPCA South District
2000-2001	Jim Sellner	DNR – Minerals, Hibbing
2001-2002	Curt Turgeon	Associate, MnDOT – Pavement, Maplewood
2002-2003	Terry Beaudry	MnDOT – Maplewood Lab
2003-2004	Fernando Nacionales	Health Department –Engineering Services
2004-2005	Brett Troyer	MnDOT – Environmental Services
2005-2006	Cary Efta	MnDOT – Office of Materials
2006-2007	Jim Sellner	DNR – Minerals, Hibbing

# CONTACT PEOPLE

## August 2008

### **Administration**

Pat Ferrin

### **Board of Water & Soil Resources**

Allan Kean

### **Commerce**

Bruce Nelson

### **Labor & Industry**

Carol Mizuno

### **Health**

Michael Luhrsen

Fernando Nacionales

Brian Noma

Steven Pederson

David Schultz

### **Military Affairs**

Michael Nash

### **Natural Resources**

Paul Pojar, Jr.

Lowell Pommerening

Jim Sellner

David Sobania

### **Pollution Control Agency**

Brett Ballavance

Dave Beil

Mark Evenson

Louis Flynn

Fred Jenness

Jim Lungstrom

Sherri Nachtigal

James Robin

George Schwint, Jr.

### **Public Safety**

Ron Wiest

### **Revenue**

Robert Wagstrom

### **State Colleges & Universities (Mankato)**

Michael Peters

### **Transportation**

Larry Aamodt

Ralph Adair

Mark Beatty

Michael Beer

Todd Campbell

Brian Conklin

Ron Dahlquist

Paul DeLaRosa

Christine Dulian

Eric Embacher

Dan Erickson

Gregory Frank

John Garrity

Graig Gilbertson

Shawn Groven

Roger Hille

Jeff Johnson

Marilyn Jordahl-Larson

Adam Josephson

Tony Kempenich

Jerry Kotzenmacher

Curtis Krohn

James Labo

Len Leitner

Mike Lownsbury

James Mohn

Matt Oman

Dan Penn

Richard Scarrow

John Siekmeier

Larry Sodergren

Tim Swanson

Linda Taylor

Kathleen Vesely

Bob Williams

## PE EXAM REVIEW COURSE INSTRUCTORS 2008

The class is currently held twice a year – spring and fall, and continues to be well-attended. Many thanks to the volunteers!

### INTRO & TIMED TEST

Paul Kattleson (MnDOT)

### MATERIALS

Matt Oman (MnDOT)

### ENVIRONMENTAL

Bill Priebe (MPCA)

Randy Thorson (MPCA)

Dave Sahli (MPCA)

Geoffrey Strack (MPCA)

Katrina Kessler (MPCA)

### STRUCTURES

Keith Farquhar (MnDOT)

### SOILS/FOUNDATIONS

Rich Lamb (MnDOT)

Blake Nelson (MnDOT)

### HYDRAULICS

Petra DeWall (MnDOT)

Nicole Danielson-Bartelt (MnDOT)

Andrea Hendrickson (MnDOT)

### TRAFFIC

Brad Estochen (MnDOT)

Jennifer Zink (MnDOT)

### SURVEYS/CONSTRUCTION

Mike Pretel (MnDOT)

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## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIPS 2007-08

Charles Frach (MnDOT)

Gary Niemi (MnDOT)

Sandra Roggenkamp (MnDOT)

Richard Martig (MnDOT)

Stan Haugen (MnDOT)

Erling Hallanger (MnDOT)

James Groehler (MnDOT)

Gary Thompson (MnDOT)

Ray Joki (MnDOT)

Bruce Yankowiak (MnDOT)

Kaye Tanttari (MnDOT)

Donald Speiker (MnDOT)

Allan Mueller (MnDOT)

Ronald Deustermann (MnDOT)

James Koivisto (MnDOT)

Ronald Jacobson (MPCA)

Douglas Mandy (Health Dept.)

Karl Rasmussen (MnDOT)

James Wright (MnDOT)

Gregory Gross (MPCA)

Thomas Townsend (MPCA)

David Buss (MnDOT)

Donny Kriens (MPCA)

Steven Sweney (Pipeline Safety)

# MGEC 39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

## August 6, 2007

### **I. Call to Order – President Jim Sellner (DNR)**

MGEC's 39th Annual Meeting was held at the Oak Marsh Golf Course Clubhouse in Oakdale, Minnesota, on Monday, August 6, 2007. There were 168 members and guests signed up for the dinner and 124 participants signed up for the golf tournament. President Sellner called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. He introduced Board members and thanked Past Presidents, contacts, instructors, past board members, and staff. He recognized the Negotiations Committee for their dedication over the years. Special thanks to Past President Cary Efta and Joe Pignato for their hard work while Jim was in Iraq. Special mention to Past President Fernando Nacionales (Health Dept.), recently commissioned into the Seabees, and soon-to-be commissioned member Becky Parzcyk (MnDOT), and other armed services members present.

We are currently in the process of contract negotiations, beginning with the Negotiations Committee and which the Bargaining Team (Dana, Joe Pignato, Marilyn, Peter Buchen-MnDOT, George Cepress-retired MnDOT, John Siekmeier-MnDOT, Tony Kempenich-MnDOT, Fernando, Cary, and myself) is now moving forward with and working toward a fair and equitable contract. We are open to ideas and input from you. MGEC has talented people working at 17 agencies in the metro and out-state Minnesota. I encourage each of you to consider serving in MGEC; we need not only your wisdom but the fresh ideas and innovations of our younger members.

A change taking effect this year is MGEC's administrative year will end on December 31 instead of September 30. This means board members terms will begin on the first of the year, rather than October 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you, God speed to all of you and I hope we will continue to receive your support in the future.

### **II. Secretary's Report – Len Leitner (MnDOT)**

Secretary Leitner presented the 2006 Annual Meeting minutes. A motion was approved to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

### **III. Awards Committee Report – Chair Gordy Bergstrom (MnDOT)**

Director Bergstrom presented the 2007 award winners. Winners of the two \$500 scholarships for family members are Taylor Schwarting (daughter of David Schwarting, MnDOT) and Jacob Wood (son of Thomas Wood, MnDOT). There were no applicants for this year's Minetor scholarship.

Chair Bergstrom presented to Chris Kufner (Sr. Engr., MnDOT) the Golden Slide Rule award. Jim Sellner received the Distinguished Citizenship award. His outstanding contributions were highlighted by Past President Nacionales.

A special award was presented to George Cepress for his many years of invaluable service in contract and health insurance negotiations.

Past President Cary Efta received an appreciation plaque for his service as MGEC President 2005-06. Cary has served on the board since 2002.

### **IV. Treasurer's Report – Scott Pierson (MnDOT)**

Treasurer Pierson presented the Income & Expense Report for FY 2007 and the FY 2008 budget, showing a net loss of just under \$6,000. No dues increase is necessary; however we have reached the mid-way point where we may need to begin drawing down on savings. A motion was approved to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit.

**V. Nominating Committee Report – Chair Gabe Gubash (MnDOT)**

Director Gubash referred to the Nominations Committee Report and Election Procedures which lists the slate of candidates so far. Nominations from the floor were:

- Vice President: Current Director Jessica Forsberg, Grad. Engr. 1, MPCA
- Current Director Marilyn Jordahl-Larson, Pr. Engr., MnDOT (declined)
- Bruce Henningsgaard, Pr. Engr., PCA (declined)
- Peter Buchen, Admin. Engr. Prof., MnDOT
- Directorships: Scott Sawyer, Sr. Engr., DOLI (declined)
- Hien Le, Grad. Engr. 1, MPCA (declined)

Additional nominations will continue to be accepted. The next board term begins January 1, 2008.

**VI. Executive Director’s Remarks - Dana Wheeler**

As you heard from our Treasurer, we are fiscally sound. Our practice has been to increase our assets balance for several years, and then work that balance down. We continue to try to find ways to increase representation while holding costs down. The majority of our budget goes to people: both for staff and lost time for negotiations. Also we have increased meet & confers with the agencies, started meetings with the Health Dept., and PCA. We participate in NASHTU (National Association of State Highway Transportation Unions) which meets in DC every May to share ideas with other DOT’s, and also in CESO (Council of Engineers & Scientists Organizations). We gain insight into topics such as retirement planning and pilot projects that find ways of improving health while cutting costs. So in the same budget we have been able to increase involvement in other national activities. Past President Efta intervened to mention that MnDOT sees the value of Minnesota representation in Washington and as such paid part of the expenses of the trip.

Bargaining has been underway for several months. The Negotiations Committee began meeting last February, and the Bargaining Team had its first meeting with the State in March. You know that bargaining is determined in part by terms and timelines set by other bargaining units. We again offered this year to settle early and first, and they again said we’ll discuss economics with you after we’ve settled with the other bargaining units. We are an essential unit in the broadest sense of the term. We were hoping to wrap up economic aspects of bargaining last week but unfortunately the State wasn’t prepared to do that. Given schedules that negotiators from both sides have, we won’t be able to meet again until September. Why not just take the 3¼% ATB that the State is offering? We can think of lots of reasons why that isn’t reflective of salary comparisons we do with engineers, land surveyors, and radio engineers when we compare you to private and other public sector entities. We’re going to attempt to move negotiations into mediations for additional time. We are still working to improve the economic aspects of the contract and to include new significant language that addresses issues important to our members.

In recent years we’ve experienced the State sidestepping the contract with policies or practices that go beyond or directly conflict with terms of the contract. We’ve filed grievances to address those situations. We’ve successfully settled some of those grievances and brought money to members who were not appropriately compensated or reimbursed. In other cases we’ve put the grievances on hold hoping to draft a resolution through the collective bargaining process thereby memorializing the language for future clarity to avoid these and additional problems in the future. Some of these issues center around a principle of “pay for work.” Examples include the employer and employees recognizing what constitutes work time, travel time, compensatory time and ensuring that employees are not directed, as they currently are in some situations, to work without compensation. The employer currently requires some employees to work hours that are coded TNP (Time Not Paid). We cannot agree to that practice. Another important language issue has to do with “making whole” employees who may not be allowed to work during a government shutdown. Our members want this addressed and we are seeking language to remedy future losses before they occur.

Health insurance premiums are going up 7.75% in 2008 and an estimated 10% in 2009. The bargaining units, in a coalition process, will continue to work with the State to improve the health and treatment of our members utilizing pilot projects targeting high risk/high cost illnesses. Pilot projects will focus on preferred treatment methodologies and reduced costs for the employee as an incentive for participation in such projects. Once again, there is no provision for “employee plus one” or “retiree plus one” premiums to be separate from the current structure.

The legislature renewed the law allowing for agencies to utilize early retirement incentives if they are otherwise facing layoffs. No additional language has been agreed to in contract negotiations. Last year Past President Fred Maurer spoke at the Annual Meeting about retirement matters. He shared concerns that the funds were under-funded and facing outside forces seeking to change the plans to defined contribution plans. MGEC has and will continue to work with the Minnesota State Retirement Association to ensure members retirement funds remain in the defined benefit program with 100% funding for retirees and current employees. Current investment revenues, increases to employee and employer contributions and 2.5% caps on increases are bringing the funds to 100% funding. Recent discussion of merging the pre-retirement and post-retirement funds has been held off. Your retirement funds remain secure.

Our condolences go out to all those affected by the collapse of the 35W Bridge over the Mississippi River this past week. We are all connected to that tragedy in one way or another. This was a very significant bridge in Minnesota. In many ways it was one of our bridges. Our thoughts and concerns continue for our members and others who, during this time of crisis and into the future, find themselves worrying and wondering if they could have done something differently. No one person or agency is to blame. There are many people looking for information and answers to better understand what happened. That will take time.

One of our goals at MGEC is to be better informed and to discuss what voice if any MGEC might have in this public process we have been thrust into. It is appropriate to spend a little time in our meeting focusing on the recent bridge incident. We can share what we've learned, support one another, especially reaching out to those who have worked on that project who are struggling with feelings and a sudden change to their workload, personal time, vacation plans and so forth. In what way, if any, should we contribute to the conversations, public and private? What do we know? What questions do we have? As discussion turns to infrastructure maintenance we should have a voice talking about staffing needs, levels of expertise, retention and recruitment of qualified people, training, funding, and science and technology. Our goal is not to blame or point fingers or to be insensitive to families or employees directly affected by this loss. MGEC and Mn/DOT have reason to be proud of our engineers and other individuals in engineering related classifications.

Finally, I want to encourage all members to participate on the MGEC Executive Board as an officer or director. Most who have served on the board have found it informative and we have benefited from their contribution. If you like the past work you've seen please thank current and past board members with a round of applause and if not please run for a seat on the board. Thank you!

**VII. New Business – President Sellner**

President Sellner referred to page 16 of the annual meeting brochure; a proposed change to the MGEC Constitution, Article V – Administration, Item #4, which will be put for a membership vote on the next ballot.

**VIII. Open Discussion – Executive Director Wheeler**

**I-35W Bridge collapse in Minneapolis on 8/1/07.** A member advised caution when speaking about specifics of the investigation at this point. A motion was approved that further discussion of the bridge incident be off the record. Returned to on record at 9:00 p.m. A motion was approved to table further discussion to the Board of Directors.

**IX. Adjournment**

At 9:03 p.m., a motion to adjourn was approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Len Leitner, Secretary  
Rhonda Bauer, Administrative Secretary

## **2008 Golden Slide Rule Award**

This award recognizes significant and substantial achievements in the fields of engineering or land surveying, based on technical achievement, societal involvement, partnerships, papers submitted, and/or scholastic achievement. Congratulations to this year's recipient!

**DAVID J. DAHLBERG**  
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER, MNDOT

## **2008 Scholarship for Family Members**

The MGEC Board of Directors offers two \$500 scholarships for family members of MGEC members for their junior or senior year of study in professional engineering or land surveying. This year's recipients are:

**CODY BECKES**

JUNIOR AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA  
CIVIL ENGINEERING  
SON OF RICHARD BECKES, SR. ENGR. SPEC.,  
MNDOT – ST. CLOUD

AND

**JUSTIN SCOTT**

SENIOR AT UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA – DULUTH  
DOUBLE MAJOR IN MECHANICAL & INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING,  
SON OF MICHAEL SCOTT, SR. ENGR., MNDOT–CENTRAL OFFICE

## **2008 Connie Minetor Memorial Scholarship**

The Minetor Memorial Scholarship is named in honor of the late Connie Minetor, MGEC's first President from MPCA (1997-98). Up to \$1,000 is offered to one MGEC member seeking a degree or advanced degree in engineering or land surveying, or seeking additional work-related training. This year's scholarship is awarded to:

**BENJAMIN J. JILK**  
GRADUATE ENGINEER 1, MNDOT

# MGEC INCOME & EXPENSES

Fiscal Year 2008

(July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

<b>Income</b>	\$231,470.04
State of Minnesota Member Dues	
Hennepin County Chapter Dues	858.00
Interest/Dividends	16,318.66
Miscellaneous	<u>1,548.16</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$250,194.86</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
Annual Meeting	\$ 9,537.23
Board Activities	2,771.00
Communication	3,399.86
Grievance	4,061.39
Labor Management Activities	387.94
Lobbying	74.22
Membership Activities	1,573.08
Miscellaneous	2,006.59
Negotiations	3,964.58
Office	27,254.99
Lost Time / Payroll / Benefits	168,899.30
Printing	807.93
Professional Services & Association	2,491.25
Scholarships	500.00
Subscriptions	111.80
Supplies	823.93
Training	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$228,665.09</b>

**Net Balance** \$ 21,529.77

<b>Assets as of June 30, 2008</b>	
Checking	\$ 18,544.41
Savings	42.64
Money Market	76.99
Certificates of Deposit	<u>343,948.30</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$362,612.34</b>

**MGEC BUDGET**  
**Fiscal Year 2009**  
**(July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009)**

<b>Income</b>	
State of Minnesota Member Dues	\$232,592.88
Interest/Dividends	14,191.43
Miscellaneous	<u>600.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$247,384.31</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Annual Meeting	\$ 11,990.00
Board Activities	8,700.00
Communication	4,700.00
Grievance	11,700.00
Labor Management Activities	500.00
Lobbying	2,500.00
Membership Activities	2,900.00
Miscellaneous	750.00
Negotiations	2,225.00
Office	26,470.00
Lost Time / Payroll / Benefits	178,096.15
Printing	750.00
Professional Services & Association	10,025.00
Scholarships	2,000.00
Subscriptions	350.00
Supplies	1,100.00
Training	<u>1,250.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$266,006.15</b>
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>-\$ 18,621.84</b>

## MEMBERSHIP 1994 – 2008

<b>Agency</b>	<b>7/94</b>	<b>7/96</b>	<b>7/98</b>	<b>7/00</b>	<b>7/02</b>	<b>7/04</b>	<b>7/06</b>	<b>7/07</b>	<b>8/08</b>
Administration	5	5	3	6	6	7	5	4	3
Commerce	1	1	0	5	5	4	4	4	5
Employment & Economic Security	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Environmental Assistance	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Health	26	29	31	32	34	34	26	26	26
Labor & Industry	6	5	7	8	9	4	12	14	13
Military Affairs	8	8	6	5	6	6	5	6	6
MN State Colleges & Universities	1	0	0	1	1	6	6	7	7
Natural Resources	32	29	28	29	31	24	24	26	31
Pollution Control Agency	92	95	92	82	70	79	82	86	85
Public Safety	8	10	10	12	14	13	13	12	10
Public Service	4	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Utilities Commission	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0
Revenue	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1
Trade & Economic Development	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Transportation	559	585	606	698	714	700	686	678	699
Water & Soil Resources, Board of	4	4	3	3	4	3	4	5	6
<b>Total in Unit #12 (members &amp; fair shares in active status)</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>893</b>
Associate Members	74	84	83	90	91	93	66	64	63
Hennepin Co. Chapter Members	14	12	11	14	15	14	11	11	0*
<b>MGEC Total Membership</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>956</b>

\*Hennepin County Chapter voluntarily dissolved eff. 12/31/07