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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are the most fortunate people to be part of a profession where you can work with dedicated and trustworthy individuals, and you can have a major influence on your surroundings. On January 19th, the Illinois Section celebrated its 53rd year at the Annual Meeting; and, during the month of February, we celebrate National Engineers Week. U.S. President Hoover said, "Engineers have the highest privilege to elevate the standard of living and add to the comforts of life."

The 2001 Section Annual Banquet was a remarkable evening shared with fellow transportation professionals and friends. Congratulations to **Bob Grady** and **Tom Kaeser** as the recipients of the Past President's Award. It is the most prestigious award presented by the Illinois Section; and, it is granted to individuals who have contributed outstanding service to the Section and the transportation profession. Bob and Tom have and continue to dedicate themselves to making Illinois a wonderful place to live and work.



Congratulations are also extended to **Patricia Davidson** as this year's recipient of the Section's \$2,000 scholarship. She is a civil engineering major at UIC, a Tau Beta Pi member, works part time, attends school full time, and still has the time to coach her two daughters' traveling soccer team. Honorariums were given to **Peter Lemmon**, **Maynard Abuan**, and **YoungJae Ju** for their work on ITEMS and the web site. The Section's scholarship program and student paper contests are funded by part of your Section dues, individual contributions, and an auction at the Annual Meeting. **Continued on Page 2**

IT'S ENGINEERS WEEK Please Join Us at the Palmer House

Date:	Friday, February 23, 2001			
Time:	Reception at 11:00 A.M. Luncheon at 12:00 Noon			
Speaker:	Mr. Michael J. Birck Founder & Chairman of Tellabs			
Location:	The Palmer House Hilton 17 E. Monroe Street Chicago, Illinois			
Reservations:	For reservations or for further information, contact the Chicagoland Engineers Week Committee at the Western Society of Engineers Ph: (312) 913-1730			
http://www.ujima.org/new/event_folder/cewl.htm				
Cost:	\$35 per person			
Next Month:	Illinois Section March Dinner			
	Date To Be Determined Holiday Inn Brandywine Peoria, Illinois			
	As part of the: Traffic Engineering & Parking Seminar			
	Presented by the City of Peoria In conjunction with Bradley University			





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The entire Annual Meeting and Awards Programs would not be successful without the tremendous efforts by Section members. John LaPlante and Tom Kaeser did masterful jobs as MC and Auctioneer. Our thanks go out to all those who donated items for the auction and to those who participated so generously. Special thanks to John Mick who made a 10% match of the proceeds of the silent and live auctions. And for organizing the affair and program, my heartfelt thanks go out to Jeff Young, John Sauter, Joe Emery, Joel Christell, Steve Loveland, and Dorin Fera. By the way, Chester Kropidlowski won this year's joke contest even though would-be competitors were given multiple chances to unseat the Section's perennial winner.

The National Society of Professional Engineers is celebrating the 50th anniversary of National Engineers Week (February 18-24) with a host of new activities including "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" and the \$500,000 biennial Dolores H. Russ Prize. The purpose of E-Week, held during the week of George Washington's birthday, is to increase public awareness and appreciation of the profession. In Illinois, Future City Competition, MATHCOUNTS, and the Bridge Building Contest are some of the contests challenging seventh grade through high school students to become part of our great profession. The Washington Award is also held in Chicago during the week; and, it acknowledges a national engineering leader who has significantly contributed to make this a better world. Many of our friends in IEC, ASCE, ISPE, APWA and others support these efforts. Please join your fellow professionals at this year's E-week luncheon on Friday, February 23.

I hope to see you at the E-Week Luncheon. And, please contact me with your ideas on how the Section can be supportive of your efforts to improve our surroundings.

Your President, Dominick J. Gatto

Wilbur Smith Associates Phone: 312-782-1255 Fax: 312-782-1231 E-mail: <u>DGatto@wilbursmith.com</u>





2001 ANNUAL BANQUET WRAP-UP

At this year's Illinois Section ITE Annual Banquet, we were without the services of **John "Tex" Mick**. But in his absence, **John LaPlante** and **Tom Kaeser** did a bang-up job entertaining almost 90 guests. With several songs and endless shtick, the dynamic duo were on the ball and made the evening extremely enjoyable.

The big shocker of the evening was **Chester Kropidlowski** stealing the joke competition. Where does he get his material?

Among some of the big ticket items sold this year at the auction benefiting the Scholarship fund were customizable street signs, golf bags, and a traffic signal.

The door prizes given away by the Section this year were a \$50 gift certificate to *Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants*, 2 tickets to *The Second City*, 2 tickets to a *Chicago Wolves* hockey game, and 2 tickets to *Blue Man Group*. Congratulations to the lucky winners and have fun!

A thank you to **Joe Emry**, **Joel Christell**, and **John Sauter** for your help behind the banquet scenes.

Jeff Young - Treasurer Civiltech Engineering, Inc. Phone: 630-773-3900 E-mail: email@CiviltechInc.com



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AUCTION DONATIONS RECEIVED

The following people/agencies/companies (listed at random) have either donated their treasured items or contributed monetary bids toward an assortment of other auction goodies. On behalf of the Scholarship Committee, thank you one and all for your generous contributions that have resulted in a substantial deposit to the Scholarship fund for next year. I know I've missed some names this year; so please let me know who you are... I will add you in next month's ITEMS. The preliminary list so far includes:

Dennis Dal Santo PACE Matt Gauntt Western Engineering Inc. Steve Corcoran Metro Transportation Group, Inc. P.K. Gandhi Gandhi & Associates, Inc. City of Rockford Mike Williams **Traffic Control Corporation** Metro Transportation Group, Inc. Kari Brunn 3M Company **Civiltech Engineering** Kathy Meyerkord Jeff Young **Civiltech Engineering Dorin Fera** Metro Transportation Group Young-Jae Ju HNTB **Rolf Kilian** Metro Transportation Group AI De Los Santos Karen George Parsons Transportation Group **Bob Giurato Dominick Gatto** Wilbur Smith Tom Kaeser City of Chicago John Mick Clark Dietz Village of Downers Grove **Bob Schiller** Wayne Tanda City of San Jose, CA **David Angelakis** Metro Transportation Group Joe Fazio IIT **Harold Rowbottom Roy Fonda** Illinois DOT Todd Fagen Land Strategies, Inc. Mike Sutton Infrastructure Engineering, Inc. Linda LaPlante **Reid Fellows** Metro Transportation Group Metro Transportation Group Ron Rude TY Lin BASCOR **Chester Kropidlowski** Chad Hammerl Maynard Abuan Metro Transportation Group **Brian Scifers Civiltech Engineering** Gary Alden Edwards & Kelcev Kathy Morton Joe Emry **Civiltech Engineering** Joanne Morris Joe Anichini CTE Engineers **Mike Hurtubise Civiltech Engineering**

Mark Rinnan Eric Gallt

Edwards & Kelcey

Richard Klatt

Walker Parking Consultants

Just in case you are interested, according to my calculations and rounding to the nearest 1/16 of the lowest decibel, or in actuality to the nearest whole dollar amount, this year we raised and will deposit approximately \$1700 to the Scholarship account. Again, thank you for all your contributions. Let's look forward to another successful Annual Banquet in 2002!

Dorin Fera – Scholarship Chairperson Metro Transportation Group, Inc. Phone: 630-213-1000 E-mail: df@metrotransportation.com

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Patricia (Pat) Davidson, this year's \$2000 Scholarship winner. She is a Junior at University of Illinois - Chicago, enrolled in the Civil Engineering program, with graduation expected in May, 2002. She has recently become a member of the Tau Beta Pi, National Honors Engineering Society. Her paper entitled, "Build Operate Transfer (BOT) Private Investment in Public Infrastructure", was very interesting, focusing on CALTRANS' experience and discussed tolling mechanisms, HOV lanes, transit elements, and my favorite... traffic analysis. Pat currently works part time, attends school full time, and still has the time to coach her two daughters' traveling soccer team. Amazing!

Dorin Fera – Scholarship Chairperson Metro Transportation Group, Inc. Phone: 630-213-1000 E-mail: df@metrotransportation.com







2000 PEDESTRIAN PROJECT AWARD

On behalf of Commissioner Miguel d'Escoto, Mr. Tom Kaeser of the Chicago Department of Transportation accepted the 2000 Pedestrian Project Award for the South Lake Shore Drive (US 41) Phase I study at the Illinois Section Annual Banquet on Friday, January 19, 2001. Presenting the award on the behalf of the Institute of Transportation Engineers and the Partnership for a Walkable America is Mr. Mark Rinnan of Edwards and Kelcey, a project manager for the consultant firm that prepared the project study. Coawardees are the Illinois Department of Transportation as the lead agency, and the Chicago Park District as principal landowner responsible for park planning and development. The ITE national office selected South Lake Shore Drive as the best of 38 projects submitted from across the nation.



The project is located on Chicago's beautiful lakefront in Burnham and Jackson parks and includes the total reconstruction of the Drive from I-55 at the north end to 67th Street. The project includes Coast Guard Drive, and portions of Marquette Drive and Jeffrey Boulevard, all in historic Jackson Park. An Advisory Group of 30 interest groups, agencies, and elected officials continue to monitor the project as it develops.

The corridor is used daily by over 100,000 commuters for access to downtown Chicago and has an extensive pedestrian/bicycle/ equestrian path network. The Drive provides access to many facilities like oldest U.S. public golf course, a lawn-bowling field, yacht clubs, a hospital, tennis courts, beach houses, and the Museum of Science and Industry, which hosts about 2.1 million visitors annually.

The design includes several pedestrian/bicycle amenities including five new pedestrian underpasses, new bridge walkways and park paths to improve access for pedestrians, including those who are mobility impaired. Unique pedestrian design concepts are proposed to discourage bicyclists from mixing with pedestrian traffic. The plan includes Chicago's first beach boardwalk and returns over 14 acres to greenspace to park use. Architectural elements will enhance road, path, and park characteristics along the corridor.

The project is now in the final design phase and is being administered by the Chicago Department of Transportation. The design consultants are T.Y. Lin/BASCOR for the Burnham Park section and Consoer Townsend Envirodyne Engineers for the Jackson Park section. Construction is planned to begin in earnest in 2002 and is to be completed in 2004.

Mark Rinnan

Edwards and Kelcey Phone: (312) 424-5419 E-mail: MRinnan@ekmail.com

A NOTE FROM THE NEW ACTIVITIES GROUP DIRECTOR

As the new Director of the Activities Group, I would like to start by saying thank you to **Jeff Young**, now the Section Treasurer, **Mike Magnuson**, the past Program Committee Chairperson and **Steve Loveland**, who served on the House and Special Events Committee. Everyone will agree that they all did a great job with the past years events and monthly meetings.

I would like to welcome the continuing and new Committee members for the Activities Group. **Joel Christel** and **Joe Emry** will continue on with their involvement in the House and Special Events Committee. **Kim Kolody**, who served on the Program Committee last year, will join Joel and Joe this year. **John Sauter** will continue to head up the Awards Committee. The new Program Committee Chairperson this year is **John Ellis** with the Chicago Department of Transportation.

We are looking forward to the 4th Annual ITE Basketball Tournament and the 3rd Annual ITE Golf Outing where the proceeds go towards the Scholarship fund.

I would like to invite anyone who is looking to get involved with the Activities Group, whether you would like a small role or a large one, to give me a call. We are always looking for additional people to take part in the Illinois Section.

Reid Fellows – Activities Group Director Metro Transportation Group, Inc. Phone: 630-213-1000 E-mail: <u>rcf@metrotransportation.com</u>





E-WEEK LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Michael J. Birck, a founder of Tellabs and the company's chairman, will be the featured speaker at the Chicagoland Engineers Week Awards Luncheon on Friday, February 23, 2001 at the Palmer House Hilton in downtown Chicago.

Birck was inducted into the Chicago Business Hall of Fame in 1998 and recently received the Chicago Area Entrepreneuship Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at Purdue University and a master's degree in electrical engineering at New York University. Birck is a director of the Purdue Research Foundation, a member of the Dean's Advisory Council of the Krannert School of Management, a trustee of Purdue University and past chairman of the Purdue Alumni Foundation Board.

TRANSPORTATION RELATED PRESS RELEASE

METRA TO REPLACE OLD LOCOMOTIVES WITH \$79.4 MILLION ORDER

Metra's oldest locomotives, ten years older than the commuter railroad agency itself, will be replaced by new, more efficient and more powerful units by late 2004. The agency's board of directors today approved a \$79.4 million order for 26 units to be built by Motive Power Industries of Boise, Idaho. Metra's last motive power procurement took place in the early 1990s.

Fifteen new locomotives will replace units that went into service in 1974 on the Elgin and Fox Lake commuter routes operated by the Milwaukee Road. In 1984, Metra took over all Chicago commuter operations. The Fox Lake route is now Metra's Milwaukee North line, while the Elgin route is the Milwaukee West Line.

Terminating at Chicago Union Station, the two routes handle a combined total of about 44,500 passenger trips each weekday, compared with about 31,000 in 1984. Further growth will require even longer trains, putting greater demand on aging motive power.

All 15 Milwaukee units have been rebuilt twice by Metra. Further rebuilding would not be cost effective, according to Metra analyses.

Seven of the other new locomotives will replace older units yet to be designated and four will go for planned service increases. The federal government through the Federal Transit Administration will cover 80% of the new locomotive cost, with Illinois FIRST funds covering the entire 20% local match required by law.

The new locomotives will show significant technological improvements, as detailed below.

COMPARISON OF THE LOCOMOTIVES TO BE PURCHASED VERSUS THE EXISTING LOCOMOTIVE FLEET

- The locomotive will be aerodynamically styled.
- The locomotives to be purchased will have stronger collision posts, corner posts and alike complying with the requirements of FRA Regulation 49 CFR Part 238.
- The locomotives will be higher horse power (3800 versus 3200), which increases acceleration.
- The locomotives will have a greater fuel carrying capacity (2,400 versus 1,900).
- The locomotives will be more fuel efficient.
- The locomotives will be equipped with inverter Head End Power.*
- The locomotives will be equipped with microprocessor control propulsion.
- The locomotives will be equipped with electronically controlled air brake system.
- The locomotives will be equipped with an onboard heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.
- The locomotives will be compliant with EPA Tier I emission requirements.
- The locomotives will be equipped with a snow plow type pilot.
- The rear end of the locomotive will be accessible from the ground.
- The hand brake on the new locomotives will be applied electronically.
- With regard to product support, the training program provided by the Contractor has been expanded to detail the specific requirements for training not only operating and mechanical personnel, but administrative (materials management) as well. The program also includes the development of training aids, which become the property of Metra after the completion of training. This will enhance our ability to train future "New Hires" on the operation and maintenance of these locomotives.

^{*} Head end power (HEP) supplies electric lighting, heating and air conditioning for the passenger cars pulled by the locomotive, whether a train is moving or waiting in a station. The inverter will allow locomotives to generate HEP with greatly reduced noise and emissions while awaiting departure from downtown terminals.







EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PART-TIME TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER

Seeking a part-time Transportation Engineer for 20 hours per week. Qualified applicant will have 5 years experience in transportation engineering with two of those in the design of traffic signals. Duties include maintenance and programming of local signal systems, coordination of all county and state signals, project management of intersection design and construction projects, and traffic studies. Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or related field and excellent written and verbal communications skills a must, prior municipal experience preferred. Must be available to attend about 3 night meetings/month. Starting pay \$22.62 commensurate with experience.

Submit resume to:

Village of Schaumburg 101 Schaumburg Ct. Schaumburg, IL 60193 E-mail: <u>hr@ci.schaumburg.il.us</u> Fax: 847-923-2376. EOE m/f/d/v



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ITE ILLINOIS SECTION CALENDAR

February 18-24 Illinois Engineers Week

- February 23ITE Illinois Section February Luncheon as part of E-Week
Palmer House Hilton (17 E. Monroe Street, Chicago)
- March 1 Deadline for advertisements and articles for the March issue of *ITEMS*
- March 29 & 30 Traffic Engineering & Parking Seminar (Peoria, Illinois)
- March 29 ITE Illinois Section **March** Dinner Holiday Inn Brandywine - (Peoria, Illinois)

Events are always welcome for this calendar, please contact the ITEMS Editors.



Maynard Abuan / Peter Lemmon c/o Metro Transportation Group, Inc. 1300 Greenbrook Blvd. Hanover Park, IL 60103-5482

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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	STUDENT AFFAIRS GROUP						
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