



# items

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## June Luncheon

Join Us at Maggiano's  
Oakbrook

**Date:** June 10, 2004

**Time:** Reception - 11:30 A.M.  
Luncheon - 12:00 P.M.

**Topic:** An Engineer's Perspective of State Legislative Issues Affecting Transportation

**Speakers:** The Honorable Senator Dale E. Risinger, P.E.

**Summary:** Discussion of the issues being debated by the Senate Republican Task Force on Transportation

More details are on Page 3 of ITEMS

## President's Message

What an exciting time for the Section. There is so much going on, I'm not sure where to begin. The luncheons, the conference, the students, the golf outing...

First off, **John Ellis** and his Program Committee have been bringing us some great topics for our monthly meetings. In March and April, we had discussions on the Chicago Metropolis 2020 Plan and the new 2003 MUTCD, respectively. Regarding the MUTCD, it is always good hearing about the changes and why they have come about, especially from someone that helped write the book, **Robert Seyfried**, also a member of the Section. In May we had Tony Khawaja from the Lake County DOT discussing their innovative work in integrating traffic signal systems throughout Lake County.

The June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a special event for us. The **Honorable Dale Risinger, P.E.** will speak on the transportation issues facing all of us from his perspective both as a Professional Engineer and a State Senator. See the enclosed material for more information. The cost for this one-time event is higher than usual. However, the proceeds will go towards our growing scholarship fund. We hope to see many of you at this special June luncheon at Maggiano's in Oak Brook.

In the last newsletter, I incorrectly stated the Section's donations for our Student members. The amount given was not \$3,300, but rather **\$5,300!** Again, we can't do this without your continued support for our future colleagues.

The District IV Conference is only about a month away. Have you signed up yet? If not, this year's conference is online! You can sign up and register on the internet through your Section's own website at: <http://www.ilite.org/meetings/district4meeting.htm> From June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>, you can come, lis-

ten, and share ideas with your fellow members from not only Illinois, but from around the Midwest. The guest speaker on Friday will be Illinois Transportation Secretary Tim Martin.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, **Amarpal Matharu, Ray Murphy, Sagar Sonar, Karen George, and Denis Dal Santo** spoke to the Transportation Students at IIT. Each spoke sharing their experiences in the profession and the relevance of a membership with ITE. The goal with the Student Affairs Group is to reach out to our potential student members and help establish a Student Chapter at those Universities that don't have Chapter yet.

On Wednesday, September 1, 2004, the Illinois Section will be hosting our Annual Golf outing. The event will be at the Bloomingdale Golf Club in keeping with tradition. Before you know it, the date will be upon us, so reserve the date now. Fun, food, drink, and prizes abound, not to mention golfing as well. For more information, see the attached flyer or contact **Joel Christell** or **Steve Pautsch** at (630)773-3900.

Northwestern University is once again holding their Summer Infrastructure Institute. This is a free week long class open to area High School Students. The program is geared towards informing and educating students through fun and innovative lectures and field trips about public infrastructure in the Chicago area. Northwestern asked the Section to recommend a few students for the program. I am please to inform you that the Board recommended **Dave Cullums** from Leydon High School. Dave is a very motivated young individual who we think will benefit greatly from the program.

Lastly, but probably most important is the

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Did you know?

Over the past ten years, alcohol-related crashes killed an estimated 170,000 people and injured nearly five million others at a cost to taxpayers and the economy of nearly \$500 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT). At this rate, one of three Americans can expect to be involved in an alcohol-related crash in their lifetime.

*(Continued from page 1)*

issue of Federal Transportation funding scenarios. There are still 3 numbers out there: \$256 billion from the White House, \$318 billion from the Senate led by Democratic Minority Leader Tom Daschle, and the compromise, somewhere in between the two, from House Speaker Hastert. At least the range in funding levels have gotten closer, but no news on this front is unfortunate. Contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives to inform them of the importance of this bill as it relates to Illinois and our profession.

Listed below is the link to the House of Representatives members listed by State: [http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW\\_by\\_State.html](http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.html)

The Senate site for Illinois is: [http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm?State=IL](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=IL)

See you soon,

Very truly yours,  
Jeff Young, P.E.  
President

## IL-ITE Activities Group Survey Results

Illinois Section members were surveyed this year during late February and early March. The survey intended to gauge member preferences and opinions of on-going activities such as the monthly meetings, and possible new activities. The survey was sent to all IL-ITE members with email addresses, and was also posted on the [www.ilite.org](http://www.ilite.org) web site. There were approximately 20 responses to the survey, which is likely not representative of the greater IL-ITE membership. However, some useful information, and suggestions for on-going and future programs were obtained from the survey, summarized as follows:

- A 2/3 majority of respondents preferred the downtown meeting location, however a significant 1/3 of respondents prefer a suburban location. Future consideration should be given for switching to one additional suburban meeting for the current year program of 2 suburban meetings and 7 downtown meetings. Some helpful suggestions were provided for suburban meeting locations.
- A majority of respondents (76%) prefer the noon luncheon meeting format. However, a significant number (26%) suggested an evening meeting format. Consideration should be given on a trial basis for this format in the future.
- The monthly meeting cost was not an is-

sue for most (82%) of the respondents. However, it was an issue for two respondents, and could be for other members who we did not reach with the survey. Future consideration should be given for trying an alternate meeting format in terms of cost and as a result, type of establishment.

- Only one respondent supported the concept of meetings outside the Chicago area.
- Some good suggestions were provided for alternative social activities that could be considered, including a bike ride, baseball games, a picnic, a pool or table tennis tournament, bowling, and softball.
- A majority of those responding supported the idea of a Bulls game event for fund raising. It could be tried perhaps next season with support from another group such as ASCE.

The membership survey results will be used for planning next year's program of activities. Thanks to all who participated in the survey. Anyone with additional thoughts or ideas, or having an interest in serving on the Activities Group committees (Program, Special Events, and House committees) can contact John Ellis at 773-935-5614 ( [jellis@trafficonline.com](mailto:jellis@trafficonline.com) ).

## IL-ITE Scholarship Update

An update from last ITEMS, the auction at the annual banquet netted \$1,036. Thank you to everyone who participated.



**Illinois Sections  
Institute of Transportation Engineers and  
American Society of Civil Engineers – Transportation  
Group  
Joint Suburban Luncheon Meeting**



Date/time:	Thursday, June 10, 2004 / 11:30 Reception, Noon Lunch
Speaker:	The Honorable Senator Dale E. Risinger, P.E. Illinois State Senator, 37 <sup>th</sup> District
Presentation Topic:	An Engineer's Perspective of State Legislative Issues Affecting Transportation
Location:	Maggianos, Oak Brook, 240 Oak Brook Center (see map)
RSVP:	ITE members contact Joel Christell ( jchristell@civiltechinc.com ) at 630-773-3900 before Tuesday, June 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2004
Cost: Fund)	\$40 for ITE Members (Meeting proceeds will benefit our Scholarship Fund) \$10 for Students (free first time)



Dale E. Risinger became the first Professional Engineer to serve in the Illinois Senate when the 93<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly convened in January, 2003. Senator Risinger has an excellent background for understanding and addressing legislative issues affecting transportation in Illinois. He has served as a District Engineer for the Illinois Department of Transportation, and worked in private practice for Clark Engineers before his election to the Illinois Senate. Senator Risinger is currently a member of the Senate Republican Task Force on Transportation. The issues being debated by Senator Risinger and the Task Force that affect local governments, businesses, and Illinois' transportation system include:

- Legislation to prevent State Roadway funds from being diverted to uses other than transportation.
- New capital improvement legislation to replace the expiring **Illinois FIRST** funding cycle. The new legislation should have greater accountability, including publicizing how funds are spent, and evaluating progress against performance measures.
- The Illinois Federal Congressional Delegation is seeking higher funding levels for the Reauthorization of TEA-21. Will the Illinois General Assembly capitalize on higher funding at the Federal level by providing corresponding State match funds for needed transportation projects?
- Many higher fees for local governments and tax exemptions having a negative impact on business in Illinois should be repealed, according to legislation sponsored by Senator Risinger and his Task Force.



#### Directions to Maggianos Oakbrook

##### Directions Heading West on I-88:

Take 22nd St/ Cermak Rd exit off I-88 right after toll. Exit turns into Spring St. At stop light with 22<sup>nd</sup>, go straight. Turn left at Commerce. At mall ring road, turn right. Maggiano's will be on your left and is attached to the mall.

##### Directions Heading East on I-88:

Take the Midwest Rd Exit; Turn R on Midwest Rd  
Take Midwest Road to 22<sup>nd</sup> St; Turn R on 22<sup>nd</sup> St  
Take W 22<sup>nd</sup> St east to Spring; Turn L on Spring. Turn left at Commerce. At mall ring road, turn right. Maggiano's will be on your left and is attached to the mall.

# ITE Illinois Section Golf Outing

The ITE Illinois Section is hosting a Golf Outing on **Wednesday, September 1, 2004 at 10:00 AM.**  
The event will be held at:

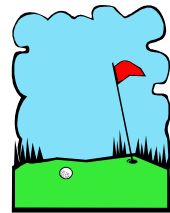
**Bloomington Golf Club  
181 Glen Ellyn Road  
Bloomington, Illinois**

The cost will be \$65.00 per player for reservations prior to Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. \$70 before Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Join us for fun, competition and camaraderie. Bring your friends, family members, and clients for this late summer golf event. Prizes will be awarded for the longest drive, closest to the pin, etc. Brats and Burgers to follow.

To sign up, send, e-mail, call or fax your reservation to:

Joel Christell (jchristell@civiltechinc.com) or  
Steve Pautsch (spautsch@civiltechinc.com)  
Civiltech Engineering, Inc.  
450 East Devon Avenue, Suite 300  
Itasca, Illinois 60143

Phone: (630) 773-3900  
Fax: (630) 773-3975



Please make check or money order to **ITE Illinois Section.** We need confirmations by Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> for early registration at \$65 per player or by Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at \$70 per player.

## ITE Illinois Section Golf Outing

Name		Cost
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
_____	@ \$65/\$70	_____
<b>Total Paid</b>		_____

**Thank You For Your Interest**

# ITE Illinois Section Golf Outing Sponsorship



The ITE Illinois Section is hosting a Golf Outing on **Wednesday, September 1, 2004 at 10:00 AM**. The event will be held at:

**Bloomington Golf Club  
181 Glen Ellyn Road  
Bloomington, Illinois**

The proceeds of the Golf Outing will go towards the ITE Illinois Section Scholarship Fund to assist future Transportation Engineers in their education.

Sponsorship of a hole will be recognized with a large sign indicating the company's or individual's name.

Minimum donation of \$100 please.

Hole prizes will be awarded for the longest drive, closest to the pin, etc. Half of the sponsorship amount will be awarded to the golfer and the other half will go towards the Scholarship fund.

Send a check payable to **ITE Illinois Section** to:

Joel Christell (jchristell@civiltechinc.com) or  
Steve Pautsch (spautsch@civiltechinc.com)  
Civiltech Engineering, Inc.  
450 East Devon Avenue, Suite 300  
Itasca, Illinois 60143



Phone: (630) 773-3900  
Fax: (630) 773-3975

We need confirmations by August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

## ITE Illinois Section Golf Outing Sponsorship

Yes, We would like to help sponsor the ITE Illinois Section Golf Outing.

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You For Your Assistance





## Operations Group News

If you haven't already heard, Dan Plottner, the Illinois Section's Records & Mailing Chairperson, has moved to New York City. He has accepted a management position with Sam Schwatz & Associates, where he will be continuing in the field of traffic engineering. I'm sure everyone joins me in thanking Dan for all his contributions to the Illinois Section and in wishing him the best of luck in New York.

Govindarajan (Govind) Vadakpat will be taking Dan's place as the Section's Records & Mailing Chair. Govind is a Traffic Systems Engineer with Parsons. He has extensive experience in design and analysis of traffic signal systems, ITS design and transportation facilities design. He has worked on several high-profile projects in Maryland, New York, Washington, D.C., Colorado and Illinois. In addition to his varied interests, he is an ardent supporter of Penn State Football. If you meet Govind, be sure to thank him for taking on this responsibility for the Illinois Section.

Joe Emry  
Director, Operations Group

## Seminar on ITE at Illinois Institute of Technology

ITE conducted a Seminar on Careers in Transportation Engineering and Planning at IIT Chicago on April 16th. Thanks go to Dr. Joe Fazio and Prof. Jonathan Shi of IIT for scheduling the seminar. Amarpal Matharu, Karen George, Dennis Dal Santo, Ray Murphy and Sagar Sonar presented at the seminar. Being a nice day outside, five students attended the seminar.


Amarpal coordinated the seminar and showed a spectacular video by ITE on Design your Future: Careers in Transportation. Karen spoke about opportunities in Transportation Engineering and the organizational structure of ITE. Dennis spoke about the upcoming District 4 conference in Chicago and the various ITE activities that students can attend. Ray's presentation on opportunities with the Federal Government was very educational for all. Sagar described his experiences in transitioning from the student life to working in a transportation firm. The students listened keenly to the presentations and asked many questions about careers and forming a Student Chapter at IIT.

Becoming an ITE student member is the first step into a student's chosen profession. ITE is one of their most valued and indispensable resources throughout their studies. They can gain access to cutting-edge transportation information across all specialty areas that will assist them in accomplishing their academic goals. ITE Student membership is a source of knowledge with unparalleled networking opportunities and good fellowship that provides the students with unique opportunities to establish important relationships with potential future employers. For more information, log on to <http://www.ite.org/students/index.asp>.

### Do you have employment opportunities?

Advertise your job opening in *ITEMS*. Contact your *Items* editor for information.

Mark de la Vergne  
773.305.0800  
[Mdelavergne@landstrategiesinc.com](mailto:Mdelavergne@landstrategiesinc.com)




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# Help make a Difference in your Profession

A few of our wonderful volunteers are stepping aside and we would like to thank them for the service over the years.

Dorin Fera is stepping down as the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. He has established a great program to run the Scholarship. We wish him well in his work and thank him for his dedication.

Craig Moore is planning to step down from coordinating Summer Internships. We thank Craig for his efforts and dedication in putting together the internships.

Call for volunteers - If anyone is interested in either of the above positions, please get in touch with me at [asmatharu@mactec.com](mailto:asmatharu@mactec.com) or 773.693.6030. It is a great way to reach out with your fellow professionals and network. You can help bridge the engineering field between students and professionals. There is ample lead time before working with universities and companies for Scholarships/Internships.

Amarpal Matharu  
Director of Student Affairs Group

## ITE Young Professional Scholarship

The ITE Consultants Council is sponsoring a scholarship program for young professionals (35 years of age and younger) in the transportation industry. Winners of this scholarship will be provided \$1,500 in travel assistance to attend the 2005 ITE Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Melbourne, Australia. Below are links to the scholarship fact sheet and application form. Please distribute to any eligible members throughout your districts and sections. [www.ite.org/councils/2005Scholarship\\_Program.pdf](http://www.ite.org/councils/2005Scholarship_Program.pdf)  
[www.ite.org/councils/Scholarship\\_App\\_Form.doc](http://www.ite.org/councils/Scholarship_App_Form.doc)



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## Past President's Award

The Past President's Award is the most prestigious award presented by the Illinois Section. It is given to an individual who has contributed outstanding service over the years to the Illinois Section or to the transportation profession. This award can be presented for one or both categories in a given year. This year's recipient, **Mr. Dominick Gatto, P.E.**, embodied both aspects of the award. Dominick has a variety of talents in transportation including transportation planning, traffic engineering, environmental impact studies, ITS, and design and construction engineering services. Dominick has worked in both the private and public sector. He currently works for Wilbur Smith Associates, leading the Chicago office.

Dominick has a BSCE from Cooper Union, a Masters in Transportation and Traffic Engineering from Northwestern, and an MBA from the University of Chicago. Dominick is registered in over 7 states, including Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan. He is very active in the American Society of Civil Engineers, Transportation Research Board and the Society of American Military Engineers.

As if this wasn't enough, Dominick has been a strong force in the ITE Illinois Section. Dominick served on the Board for 7 years and has continued to be active in the Section to this day. He has served as a mentor for many of us and is well deserved of this award.

## Summer Travel News

Skyrocketing gas prices aren't putting the brakes on Americans' Memorial Day weekend and summer travel plans, according to new surveys from industry experts, but road trips may be shorter than usual.

The AAA reports nearly 37 million will vacation the holiday weekend, a 3.6 percent increase from last year. In a separate survey, the Travel Industry Association of America found that summer travel in general is expected to increase 3.2 percent this year.

"Record high gas prices won't keep Americans from traveling this holiday," Sandra Hughes, AAA's vice president, said in a statement. "Despite gas prices that are nearly 50 cents per gallon higher than they were a year ago, record numbers of travelers will hit the highways."

As a way to economize, Hughes said, Americans are planning shorter stays, traveling closer to home and driving more fuel-efficient vehicles for their road trips.

About 84 percent of vacationers plan to take to the roads over Memorial Day, which unofficially kicks off the summer season. That represents a 3.4 percent jump over the 29.9 million who drove last year. (courtesy of cnn.com)



## Request for technical articles

All members of the ITE Illinois Section are encouraged to contribute to *ITEMS*. Please consider submitting technical articles to the Section's quarterly newsletter. Although you may not have a technical paper currently written, you may have presented a study at an ITE conference. Consider transforming your presentation into a technical article.

Mark de la Vergne  
Mdelavergne@landstrategiesinc.com

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# Job Opening

## Transportation Engineers

NCDOT's PDEA Branch (Raleigh,NC) seeks transportation engineers for project management, engineering and environmental (NEPA) analysis, and public involvement in accordance with a newly approved organizational structure.

Both entry level and advanced engineering positions are available. Job openings are anticipated during late April and May, 2004 and will be posted at <http://apps.dot.state.nc.us/personnel/jobvacancies/> Information regarding the NCDOT PDEA Branch may be found at [www.ncdot.org/planning/pe/](http://www.ncdot.org/planning/pe/)

For further information regarding job openings, contact Sandra Corbett at (919) 733-7844,

## District IV News

As President of District IV this year, I have had quite a learning curve, but I am enjoying the relationship building with other Sections. Currently, District IV rotates Section leadership into the District IV Board. For example, I am currently the President of District IV because I was the Illinois Section President last year. If we were to continue the rotation, the 2004 Wisconsin Section President would be the 2005 District IV President. This was done in an effort to link the District IV President with the host city of the District Conference.

In an effort to get members to become more active at the District level and in an attempt to make the District more distinctive within ITE, a proposal has been put together to move towards elective District IV Board officers. This will be discussed in detail at the next District Board meeting as well as at the District Business meeting.

The next District Board meeting and the District Business meeting will be held during the District IV conference. This year's ITE District IV Conference is being held in Chicago. The Conference is planned for June 30 through July 2, 2004 at the Allerton Crowne Plaza Hotel on North Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago. Please mark your calendars and register now to attend. You can find more information and register by going to <http://www.ilite.org/meetings/district4meeting.htm>. You can even register on-line!!

The District IV Board will be meeting during the Conference on June 30 in the afternoon (location within the Allerton Hotel to be determined). The Board has a full agenda, including discussing the proposed Bylaws Amendment to transition from appointed officers to elected officers. Please feel free to join us at the meeting.

I hope that you have all had a chance to review the new Midwestern ITE (District IV) website and the new Midwestern (District 4) on-line Journal at [www.midwesternite.org](http://www.midwesternite.org). If you have any comments or additions you would like to see, please contact Reggie Chandra at [rchandra@marc.org](mailto:rchandra@marc.org). Reggie is the new Webmaster and Newsletter Editor.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding District IV, please feel free to contact me at 630-782-9557 or [kmg2@iteris.com](mailto:kmg2@iteris.com).

Sincerely,

Karen M. George, PE, PTOE  
2004 ITE District IV President



### Transportation @ ITEMS

Do you have any transportation related topics or websites you would like to see featured in *ITEMS*? Please submit them to:

Mark de la Vergne  
[mdelavergne@landstrategiesinc.com](mailto:mdelavergne@landstrategiesinc.com)



# 2004 **SIGHT**

*Identifying Transportation Solutions & Financing*

## **District IV Annual Conference**

Institute of Transportation Engineers

**Allerton Crowne Plaza Hotel**  
Chicago, Illinois

June 30<sup>th</sup> thru July 2<sup>nd</sup>



***Mark Your Calendars!***

[www.midwesternite.org](http://www.midwesternite.org)

For more information on this annual meeting including the technical program, schedules, and accommodations, please visit the website or contact the conference planning committee. You can now register for the conference online.

*Planning Committee Co-Chairs:*  
Tom Kaeser 773.792.9000  
T.Y. Lin International

Kathy Meyerkord 630.773.3900  
Civiltech Engineering, Inc.

# ITE Illinois Section Calendar

## June 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

## July 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## August 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Upcoming Dates

- June 10** Luncheon and Section Meeting—Oakbrook
- June 30-July 2** District IV Conference Chicago
- August 1-4** ITE Annual Conference Lake Buena Vista, Florida
- August 15** Section Executive Board appoints Nominating Committee
- August 16** Deadline for Advertisements and Articles for the Fall 2004 issue of *ITEMS*
- August 23** Distribute *ITEMS*



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## Illinois ITE Section Officers and Committees

### OFFICERS

President	Jeff Young	(815) 334-4980	jryoung@co.mchenry.il.us
Vice President	Todd Fagen	(773) 305-0805	tfagen@landstrategiesinc.com
Secretary	Dennis Dal Santo	(312) 793-2267	dalsantodg@dot.il.gov
Treasurer	Peter Lemmon	(312) 853-0820	pcl@metrotransportation.com

### ACTIVITIES GROUP

Director	John Ellis	(312) 774-4608	jellis@trafficonline.com
<b>Committees:</b>			
House & Special Events	Joel Christell	(630) 773-3900	jchristell@civiltechinc.com
Program	Steve Pautsch	(630) 773-3900	spautsch@civiltechinc.com
	Kevin Bischel	(312) 321-6101	kevin.bischel@dmjmharris.com
Awards	Matt Letourneau	(312) 424-5424	mletourneau@ekmail.com
	John Sauter	(847) 362-3950	jsauter@co.lake.il.us

### TECHNICAL GROUP

Director	Chris Hagar	(312) 251-3000	chagar@ekmail.com
<b>Committees:</b>			
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