

# *Presidential Address*

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

## *MILESTONE SIX*

### *Presidential Address of William S. Zoino<sup>1</sup>*

As we conclude the 132nd year of our Society's activities, the 6th since the merger of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers with the local section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, it is appropriate that I summarize for you some of the highlights of the last 12 months many of which have reflected favorably upon the Society.

#### *Membership*

During the year a membership drive was undertaken under the supervision of Richard M. Simon, Chairman of the Membership Committee. The primary thrust of the drive was toward members of the American Society of Civil Engineers living in Massachusetts who were not members of the BSCE Section. A secondary thrust of the membership drive was toward students.

An important part of the membership drive was the involvement of engineers from the various design firms, the universities, and Federal, State, and local agencies in the solicitation of new members. To date, 18 new members have been added during this membership drive and it is hoped that this trend will continue for the coming year.

#### *Financial Condition*

The Treasurer's Report presented earlier in this meeting indicated the busy financial activity of the Society for the past twelve months. It is significant to note that this financial activity was conducted without the necessity of utilizing income from the Society's Permanent Fund as had been done in past years. As the permanent fund continued to grow we were able to utilize new financial resources largely from the 1979 ASCE National Convention, a

<sup>1</sup>Presented at Part I of the Annual Meeting of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section, ASCE, April 22, 1980

lecture series by the Geotechnical Group on embankment dams, a lecture series by the Structural Group on the renovation of buildings and a lecture series by the Environmental Group on water and wastewater. I want to pay particular tribute to our Treasurer, Norman Bennett, who supervised our financial activities and served as Chairman of the Investment Committee. The Investment Committee met during the year with the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company, Custodian of the Society's invested funds, to assure that the investment activities of our Permanent Fund are being conducted in a proper way.

#### *Student Activities*

A continuing source of pride for the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section is the performance of our Student Chapters. During the past year, ASCE National Headquarters sent Certificates of Commendation to the ASCE Student Chapters of Tufts University, Southeastern Massachusetts University, Northeastern University, University of Massachusetts, and the University of Lowell. During the year I had the personal pleasure of presenting to Tufts University a certificate in commemoration of 25 years of activity of its student chapter.

The student chapter at Northeastern University continues to maintain outstanding activity, and we have recently been notified that Northeastern University has won the Robert Ridgway Student Chapter Award for excellence, for the fourth consecutive year. This award was given for the chapter's planning, financing, and constructing innovative playground equipment and facilities for handicapped children at the Kennedy Memorial Hospital for Children in Brighton, Massachusetts.

The Student Affairs Committee has instituted a permanent memorial to Roger Gardner, former chairman of the Student Affairs Committee who died in July, 1979. The memorial will be in the form of a scholarship and I am pleased to announce that the first scholarship will be presented to a civil engineering student at next year's annual dinner meeting.

I am sure all of you will join me in extending heartiest congratulations to our outstanding Student Chapters and sincere thanks to the Student Affairs Committee for its coordination of this most worthwhile endeavor.

#### *Disadvantaged Youth Program*

During the year the Board of Government established an ad hoc committee to review the activities of the Disadvantaged Youth Committee. This committee, chaired by Donald T. Goldberg, recently recommended to the Board of Government that the Disadvantaged Youth Committee be expanded into

a Minority Affairs Committee. This new committee will cover not only programs for disadvantaged youth, but other minority affairs including Affirmative Action Programs and minority entrepreneurship. I am confident that this new committee will have a positive impact on the affairs of the Society in the coming years.

#### *Employment Conditions Committee*

During the year the BSCE Section participated, with Northeastern University and ASCE, in a survey of the employment experience of Northeastern University civil engineering graduates of the last 30 years. The results of this study will be made available during the coming year. In addition, the Employment Conditions Committee distributed a questionnaire at several of the Society meetings to obtain information on civil engineers' activities and working conditions and also their goals and objectives. This information will enable the Society to give better service to its members in the coming years.

#### *Public Image of Civil Engineers*

This year the BSCE Section established a new Public Relations Committee. This committee is charged with the responsibility of enhancing the image of civil engineers through dissemination of information regarding the Society and its programs. Our first Public Relations Committee Chairman was Virgil Paulson, who has transferred to another state and has been replaced by Robert Dunn. The committee has prepared rules and regulations for the Section's new Outstanding Civil Engineering Award, and has worked with the editor of the BSCES Newsletter in bringing to the attention of the membership programs which enhance the image of civil engineers. The committee has cooperated with the American Red Cross in planning actions to be taken in disaster situations involving flooding and structural damage.

In addition, the Public Relations Committee has been successful in finding a local civil engineer to be featured on the television program "Money Sense". Ernest Herzog, past president of BSCE, was selected. A recorded program in which he appears is being aired during April, 1980.

#### *Visit of Chinese Delegation*

One of the most memorable activities during the year was the visit of a six-member delegation from the Peoples Republic of China. The visitors were members of the Tunnel Commission of the China Civil Engineering Society. The group was particularly interested in the technology of tunneling in the New England area. On June 26, the BSCE Section was host to the group for dinner at the Engineer's Club. This meeting with the Chinese engineers was

a most valuable contribution to goodwill between the two countries. I want to acknowledge with appreciation, the work done by former ASCE Zone I Vice President, Cranston R. Rogers, who organized the stay in Boston and also Dr. Thomas K. Liu, past President of the BSCE Section, who acted as tour guide for the group during visits to the Red Line tunnel construction and other projects.

#### *Action Program - Professional Practice*

The Society is indeed indebted to Domenic D'Eramo who served as Chairman of the Action Program - Professional Practice Committee during the past year. This committee was most active in monitoring legislation of concern to members of the civil engineering profession. The activity included not only the identification of proposed legislation that would affect engineers, but also the influencing of this legislation toward a proper course. Our Action Program Committee was also an active participant in the Design Professionals Joint Government Affairs Council composed of several professional societies including architects as well as engineers. The Action Program Committee also worked closely with the Public Relations Committee on the Red Cross project mentioned above.

#### *Monthly Luncheon Series*

A Monthly Luncheon Series was started this year under the Chairmanship of Brian Hogan. It was indeed gratifying that the attendance increased at each succeeding meeting; at the March meeting we had close to 100 members and guests. The purpose of the monthly meetings is to afford an opportunity for civil engineers to meet informally and to hear talks on subjects not narrowly limited to particular technical disciplines. I feel that the idea of the Monthly Luncheon Series is now well established and I hope it will be continued in the coming years.

#### *Ad Hoc Energy Group*

In response to appeals by many of our members and in keeping with the National Policy of ASCE, the BSCE Section has formed an ad hoc Energy Group. This Group serves as a focal point within the Section for the development of energy programs, meetings, and other areas of education on energy issues which are in the public interest. The May meeting of the ad hoc Energy Group will include presentations by Chairman Robert Foster of the MBTA, State Senator Michael LoPresti and Fran Weidenmen, Nuclear Information Officer of the Boston Edison Company.

*Conclusion*

The 132nd year of the Society has been a most active one and I think it is fair to say that the Society remains vigorous and financially healthy. It has been a real pleasure for me to serve as your President during this period. The work could not have been carried out without the outstanding help of our Executive Director, Ms. Susan Albert and her staff, and the members of the Board of Government. I want to thank each of them for the outstanding support which they gave me. I want to thank all the Chairmen of the Technical Groups and standing committees for their assistance. I also want to acknowledge the continued support of ASCE District 2 Director, S. Russell Stearns. Lastly, I want to thank all the members for their courtesies during the year and for their enthusiastic support.