



# NEWSLETTER

## President's Message



I have been serving as aaaa president for the past two years and according to the by-laws, I can not serve anymore. Therefore, this is the last message that I will be writing in aaaa newsletter. The experience for me has been challenging at times, time consuming always, and sometimes rewarding. The position has increased my patience and wisdom levels, and it has been a good experience. Overall, it is worthwhile experience for someone who is willing to spend the time, expect little or no direct reward, and is satisfied with the many indirect rewards including personal growth. I am presenting below a self assessment of what the board has accomplished, what it tried to accomplish, and what it could not accomplish. I will then give overall recommendations for the future boards.

- Office: due mainly to cost, we could not establish an independent office. We tried to establish a combined office with the other Arab professional association (Bar, Medical, and Business), however, that effort did not materialize.
- Secretary: the board hired Dima Abuhaseera as our first part time secretary. However, Dima left to pursue her graduate studies.
- Web site: have seen clear improvement, thanks to Mohammed Khudeira (first modification), Hani Maysoni (second modification), and Mohammad Kleit (third and current modification).
- Newsletter: the board worked hard to improve the quality and contents of the newsletter. It was not an easy task since participation from the members was marginal and the task had to be carried by only few board members.
- The Board initiated a logo/banner design competition. As a result, the logo was changed and we instituted a new banner.
- Brochure: aaaa published 1,000 copies of a professional looking brochure. The copies are all distributed.
- Educational activities: annual technical conference, seminars, offered the EIT and PE/Civil classes in conjunction with PESO (Philippines Engineers and Scientist Organization), ACT classes (twice a year), math tutoring every Saturday at Aqsa or Universal Schools, a new math tutoring at CIC on Belmont Ave., our members have continued to volunteer as science fair judges and for career days representing Engineers.
- Career Enhancement: The Board created a new Career Enhancement Committee which conducted monthly career related seminars.
- AAAAA continues to be an active member of IEC (Illinois Engineering Council). Hani Miri is the V.P. of IEC. I recently attended a meeting with IEC to establish an Engineering Hall of Fame in Illinois.
- Activities: The Board continued all the previous activities and added an annual bowling and changed the picnic locations.
- Scholarship: No scholarships were awarded in 2002. However, three scholarships were awarded in 2003.
- Financial: the association is financially stable. The bank account balance today is close to what it was in 2002.

## Recommendations for the future boards:

- Explore the issue of including Scientists to be part of AAAAA.
- Explore having full time office and a secretary.
- Prepare a package to give to others who are interested in establishing an engineering association similar to AAAAA in other U.S. cities. This is a necessary first step that will help aaaa become a national organization.
- Continue working on the minority issue.
- Explore ways to increase the membership.
- Update and print a new brochure.
- Continue working on the Illinois sales Tax exempt status.
- Continue all established programs and activities and explore and encourage new ideas to add new ones. Also, continue being an active member of IEC and the Chicago Engineers Week.
- Prepare a welcoming package to give to all new members.
- Revise the by-law to include the Career Enhancement as a standing Committee.
- Explore ways to encourage our members to run enthusiastically for a position on the aaaa board.
- Work with other Professional Organizations to establish a substantial educational scholarship for students from our community\_



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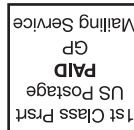
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## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[WWW.AAAEA.ORG](http://WWW.AAAEA.ORG)

## OR EMAIL US

[AAAAEA@AAAAEA.ORG](mailto:AAAAEA@AAAAEA.ORG)



AAAEA  
P.O. Box 2460  
Bridgeview, IL 60455

## AAAAEA Executive Board and Board of Trustees

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### Vice President:

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### Publication Committee:

*Hanie Miri*  
(847) 593-7595

### Career Enhancement Committee:

*Eyad Elqag, PE*  
(312) 357-1840

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*Dr. Sam Elmoursi, PE*

*Dr. Mohsen Issa, SE, PE*

*Suheil Nammari, PE*

*Ayoub Talhami, PE*



## First AAAEA/ PESO PE/EIT CLASSES

Report by: Soliman Khudeira

AAAEA and PESO (Philippine Engineers & Scientists Organization) conducted (for the first time) a combine EIT and PE Classes.

The Classes were at Devry University. AAAEA members paid the same fee as

PESO members. Instructors from AAAEA taught ALL the PE/Civil classes which included: Structural, Transportation, Water Resources, Environmental, and Geotechnical (see table below).



PE / Civil Class Instructors & Students

#	Topic	Instructor
1	Structural	Dr. Soliman Khudeira, PE
1	Water Resources	Jamil Bou-Saab, PE
2	Geotechnical	Adam Moghamis, PE
2	Transportation (Traffic)	Jamil Bou-Saab, PE
3	Transportation( Surveying & Alignments) AND Environmental	Dr. Ala Sassila, PE
3	Structural	Dr. Soliman Khudeira, PE

We mentioned to PESO that three classes for the PE/Civil are not enough, and we recommended increasing them to four. PESO agreed and will have four PE/Civil classes starting October 2004.

PESO paid the instructors a symbolic honorarium of \$180.00. I am happy to report to you that ALL the instructors agreed willingly to donate this small amount to AAAEA for educational related expenses. I thank all the instructors for donating their time an effort, and for leaving an impressive impression with PESO. Thank you again.



AAAEA Members at the Annual Arab Heritage Month in the Cultural Center, Chicago



Engineers Week Washington Awards Banquet

## AAAEA Social Dinner





## Minority Status

By: Ahmad Hammad

A Task Force of the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on Arab Affairs was convened to identify needs and provide policy recommendations, in the form of a Position Paper, on Arab Issues, as they relate to the City of Chicago. The Position paper is to be sent to the Mayor. The first meeting was held on April 3, 2003. Ahmad Hammad represented AAAEA. Seven issues of Concerns to Arab-Americans in Chicago were identified. One of the issues identified was The City should sponsor an empirical study that qualifies Arab-Americans as a "minority" for inclusion with Hispanics, Women, Asians, and African Americans in the "Set Aside Program". The Set Aside Program was initiated in the late 1980s through a City Council resolution that followed an empirical study sponsored by the City of Chicago on behalf of certain minorities: Hispanics, Women, Asians, and African Americans. However, Arab Americans were not included in that study and, therefore, were not qualified under the ordinance to partake in the Program which requires that a proscribed percentage of city contracts be awarded to those qualified minorities.

On July 9, 2003 the Task Force met with Commissioner Clarence Wood to discuss the report that was prepared by the task force. Later in July, the final report was sent to the Mayor's Office with a cover letter from Chairman Wood supporting the report and asking for the Mayor to meet with few members of the Task Force to discuss it. Members of the Task Force met with the Mayor on September 4, 2003 to discuss with him the findings of our report. The meeting was very successful. The Mayor asked that a statistical study be conducted to establish the status of Arab American. The Task Force to the Mayor received two proposals to conduct the study. One proposal was from an independent planning firm for approximately \$87,000. The other proposal received was for approximately \$50,000 from the University of Illinois at Chicago. It is expected that the funds will be collected from business owner who will directly benefit from this status and in particular the engineering businesses. The Task Force held several other meetings to discuss strategies. Questionnaires were prepared and sent and distributed to our community in order to collect a list of Arab owned businesses. Unfortunately, few responses were received.

The Chicago Tribune on December 30, 2003 published an article titled "Chicago set-asides illegal, Judge gives city 6 months to fix minority-contract program."

In response, Sahar Mawlawi, Director/Community Liaison Advisory Council on Arab Affairs, received a letter on March 16, 2004 from Eric Griggs, Chief procurement Officer, stating that the Mayor's M/WBE Task-Force and the City have scheduled two public hearings to be held on March 23 and March 24, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., in the city counsel chambers, regarding the revision of the City of Chicago's M/WBE Construction Program. He stated that he has received a copy of our document "Issues of Pressing Concern to Arab-Americans in Chicago. A copy of the letter was emailed to AAAEA members.

Following are members of AAAEA who gave testimony at the MBE/WBE Hearing held at City Council Chamber:

Dr. Soliman Khudeira President of Arab American Association of Engineers and Architects  
 Dr. Ahmad Hammad Chairman of Board of Trustees of Arab American Association of Engineers and Architects  
 Mr. Jamal Grainawi Treasurer AAAEA  
 Mr. Abder Ghoulah Vice President AAAEA  
 Mr. Eyad Elqaq, President of Advance Consulting Group International  
 Dr. Moussa Issa, Chief Structural Engineer of HBM Engineering Group, LLC  
 Mr. Adam Moghamis of Applied Geoscience, Inc.  
 Mr. Rafiq Kiswani President of Lucidline, Inc.  
 Mr. John Dasogi Trustee AAAEA  
 Mr. Ashraf Abdelhamied President of Gado Architects  
 Mr. Muhie-Din Arman Vice President of E&M Plumbing Contractors  
 Ms. Hayat Issa President and Treasurer of HBM Engineering Group

Other members of the community gave their testimony as well, those included: Judge Bill Haddad, Sahar Mawalwi, Louise Cainkar, Don Wagner, Talat Othman, Rob Mourad, Khaled El-Khatib, Rouhey Shalabi.

I want to take this opportunity to thank those who attended the public hearings and testified, particularly Judge Bill Haddad and Sahar Mawalwi for taking a leading role to advance this issue. I will keep our members posted of any progress being made.

## Treasurer's Report for April 6, 2004

The AAAEA is financially healthy with slowly growing cash reserves that are consistent with our growing membership. We have funds available for future activities, thanks in part to the generous sponsorship of our Association members and for the generous companies contributing to the Scholarship Fund.

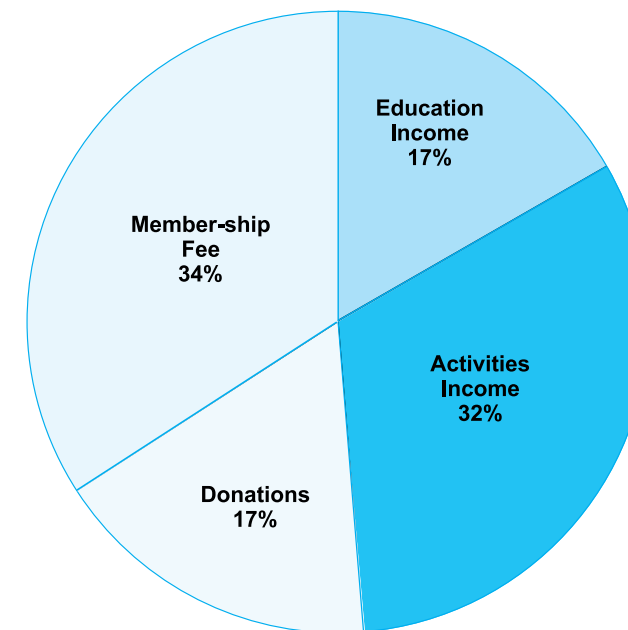
We have budgeted for general running costs of the Association and for funding the Association's web site this year and all education activities. All other activities have been self-funded, that is costs will be covered by the fees collected except the bowling parties where the AAAEA share 65% of the cost. Our budgeted income is based on a very small increase on our current membership. We naturally want to encourage all existing members to renew their membership and to encourage others to join the Association. Thanks to each of you that have sent monies in the form of dues and contributions. Please note that a detailed Treasurer's Report will be presented at the election meeting.

As a nonprofit organization, AAAEA must comply with state and federal tax regulations. We are required to file annually with the IRS. Our financial records must comply with accepted accounting procedures, and we must account for all our financial transactions. Our accountant does an audit annually and files our taxes. The chart below represents our financial statement during FY2003.

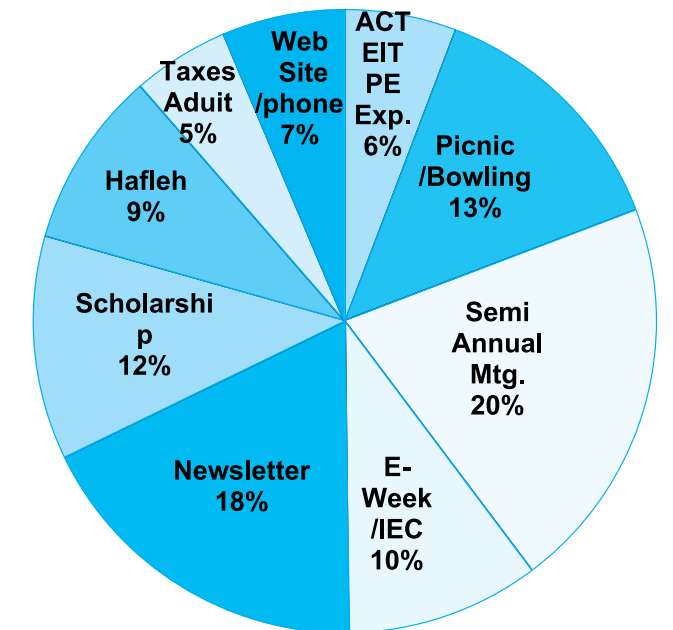
Treasurer

Jamal Grainawi, P.E., S.E.

**OPERATING INCOME: \$26,700**  
1-1-03 to 4-6-04



**OPERATING EXPENSES: \$25,806**  
1/1/03 TO 4/6/04



## Secretary's Report:

Keeping in touch with members and coordinating member-board correspondence are part of the responsibilities entailed by the Secretary's position. So, as we approach the end of this board term, I would like to take the opportunity to encourage our members to update their contact information. It is important that we be able to reach you and convey announcements in a timely fashion. The Association welcomes your suggestions, comments and complaints in order to better serve our community. Be a part of our growth as I found that it is much more fulfilling to be in the pitch than to be on the bleachers!



## Membership Committee report:

It has been almost a full year since my colleagues and I were elected to serve our association and its members. Throughout the course of the current fiscal year, we worked hard to maintain a strong and prosperous association. We are pleased to announce that we currently have 411 registered members. However, we only have 206 renewed members. Your continuing help and support in keeping this association a viable one is needed. This can be achieved through your commitment to timely renewal of your membership and your active participation in the association's activities.

Your membership committee has always strived to enhance our service and communication with our current and new members. This year, we have created a "Welcome Package" to our new members. This package will provide our new members invaluable information about our association and its activities.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for the great opportunity to serve you.

Thank You,

Mohammed Rashed

## Career Enhancement Committee Report:

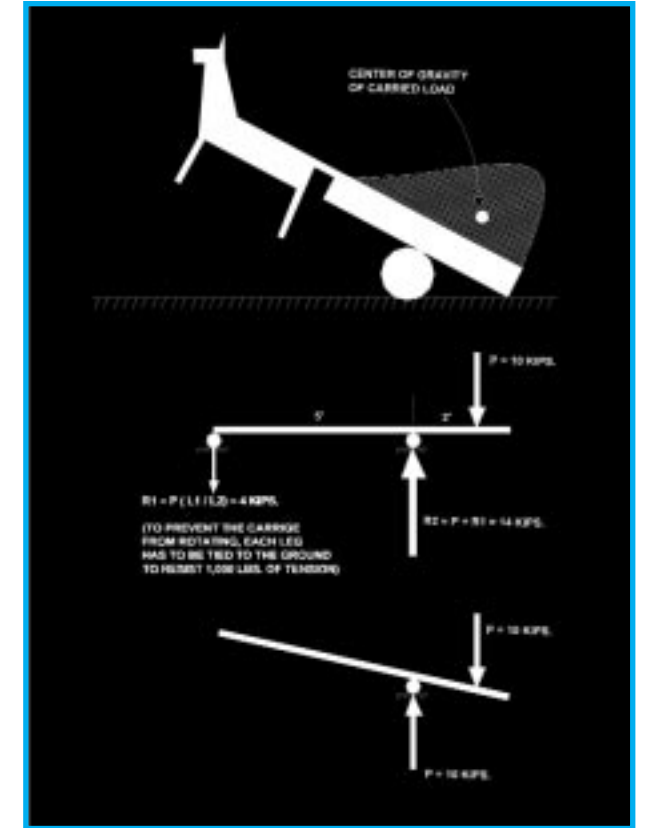
Several of our members contacted us via email to review their resumes and suggest some modifications. We also passed around announcements for available positions. We currently have members looking for positions as electrical, civil, mechanical, and biomedical engineers. We urge all active members to help us in advertising for job openings and improve our networking. The next career enhancement workshop is scheduled for Thursday April 22, 2004 from 5PM to 6PM at the offices of Advance Consulting Group located at 300 W. Adams Street, Suite 322, Chicago, IL. Please reserve your seat by calling Eyad Elqaaq at (312) 357-1840 or email: [eyad@acgintl.com](mailto:eyad@acgintl.com).

## CENTER OF GRAVITY (MASS)

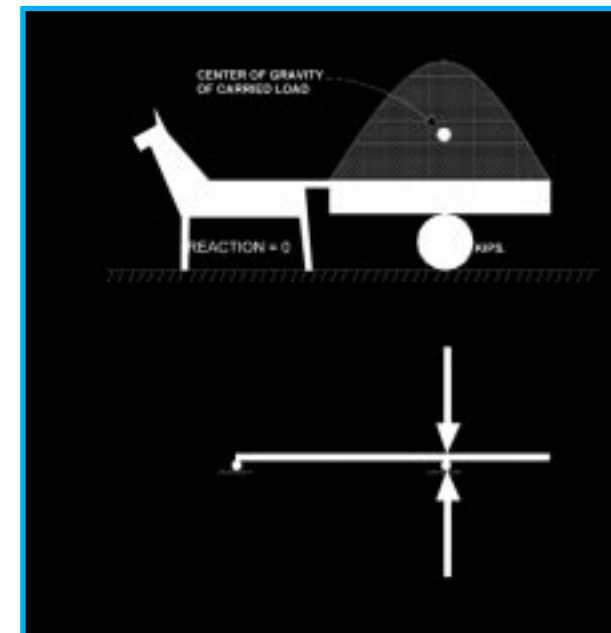
This article was published before in the January 2003 AAAE newsletter. However, it was not fully printed due to printing error. Since the author spent good amount of time preparing the drawings, etc. We are obligated to print it again, but will not mention his name.



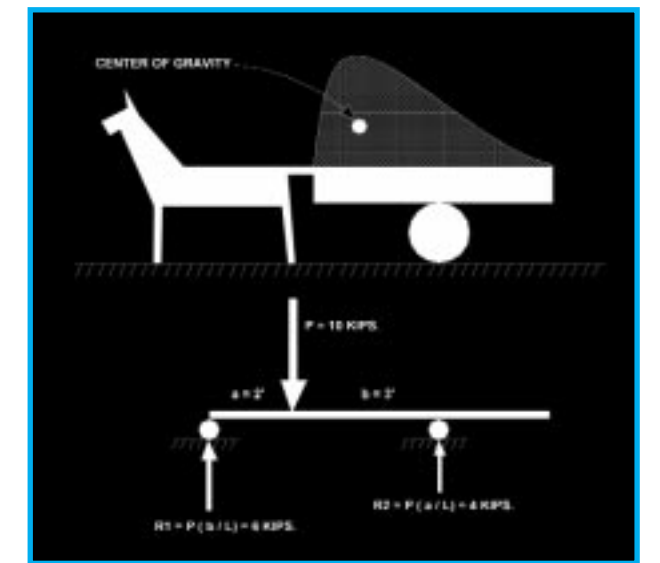
What happen is clear and needs no explanation. However, Engineers and Scientists take a common sense situation and make science out of it. We scientificate things, if their such a word. That is what Newton did for example and out of which, great discoveries were made. Below is the science of Static to explain something that need no explanation?



In this case, the C.G. is behind the tire. The animal is not carrying any load, instead, he is being carried.



In this case, the C.G. is directly over the tire. The animal is extremely comfortable since he is carrying no load (reaction = 0). The tire, however, is being severely punished and ready to burst.



In this case, the C.G. is closer to the animal. It's columns (legs) will buckle under this unmerciful load.





## COMPANY PROFILE

HBM Engineering Group, LLC, was formed by Hayat A. Issa and Dr. Mohsen A. Issa in December 2001 as Hayat Engineering Consultant LLC. In February 2003, Hayat Engineering Consultant LLC was amended by adding two new partners, Ms. Brenda Robinson and Dr. Moussa A. Issa, and changing the name of the firm to HBM Engineering Group, LLC. In April 2003 HBM leased an office in Hillside, Illinois anticipation business growth.

HBM Engineering Group, LLC is a consulting firm offering a wide array of engineering and construction services to a broad spectrum of clients, including government agencies, municipalities, private enterprises and contractors. HBM's diverse team includes structural engineers, professional engineers, construction managers, rating engineers and field inspectors with over 100 years of combined experience. Each team member brings a solid background of technical knowledge and experience to every project, earning HBM outstanding qualifications in the field of bridge/structural engineering. HBM Engineering Group, LLC offers the following engineering services: 1) structural analysis and design for buildings and bridges; 2) plans and specification preparation; 3) computer aided drafting and design (CADD) services; 4) construction management and estimating services; 5) hydraulic and hydrology analysis and design; 6) stormwater management facility design, inspection and evaluation; 7) construction inspection; 8) construction scheduling; 9) applied research and development; 10) mathematical modeling; 11) rehabilitating, strengthening and widening structures; 12) roadway design and inspection; 13) design of transportation related structures; 14) bridge inspection, testing, rating and condition assessment; 15) technical education and training, 16) quality control and quality assurance (QA/QC) services; 17) special services such as providing expert opinions and design reviews.

HBM Engineering Group, LLC has received Female Business Enterprise (FBE) certification with the Illinois Department of Central Management Services, Women Business Enterprise (WBE) certification from the City of Chicago, the Women Business Development Center and the Women Business Enterprise National Council (WBDC/WBENC) and Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) certification from the U.S. Department of Transportation. HBM is pre-qualified by the Illinois Department of Transportation for the following work categories: Highways-roads & streets and freeways; Highway Structures- simple, typical and advanced typical; feasibility studies; rehabilitation location/ design studies; and construction inspection. HBM is pre-qualified by the Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) for civil and structural engineering services. HBM is pre-qualified by the City of Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) for design of simple highway bridges, typical highway bridges, advanced typical highway bridges, complex highway bridges.

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## The Quebec Bridge Collapses - A Study in Perseverance

*Courtesy of Carl Peterson from the SEAOL.ORG*

One of the most tragic construction stories that I am aware of is associated with the dual failures of the Quebec Bridge. After considerable discussion for the need for such a bridge to connect the opposite sides of the Saint Lawrence River dating back to around 1850, a bridge site was selected, a design commissioned, and construction started around 1902. The designer of the bridge was Theodore Cooper, the inspector of steel manufacturing for the Eads Bridge in St. Louis, MO, considered by some to be the premier bridge designer of that time.

The Quebec Bridge Company was essentially the Owner and apparently acted as the general contractor. Incorporated by an act of the Canadian Parliament in 1887, the Quebec Bridge Company had accomplished very little prior to its discussions with Cooper in 1899. The Phoenix Company, of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania was the fabricator and supplier of the superstructure steel. It was reported that the Phoenix Bridge Company had performed a preliminary design before Cooper had become involved; and that design was the basis for the design used, except that the span was increased from 1600 to 1800 ft and higher allowable stresses were recommended by Cooper. These were purportedly recommended to diminish the effects of the anticipated ice flows on the main piers by moving them toward the shoreline and to shorten the construction schedule.

The cantilever method of construction had been used successfully by such designers as Eads, Telford and Rennie and others. Preliminary plans indicated that the design would eclipse all of the previous designs in the entire world in terms of the length of center span.

### First Design

The design of the bridge resembled that of the Firth of Forth Bridge in England which had a main span of about 1700 ft. Some said that the design looked fragile compared to the bridge after which it was modeled. Like the Firth of Forth, the Quebec Bridge was to be built with the anchor spans (portions from the main pier back to the shoreline abutment) and portions of the main span nearest to the main support piers cantilevered out over the river. In this type of construction, after the anchor spans

are constructed on both sides of the river, the main span is built sequentially, cantilevering further and further outward until both sides extend to the center where they are connected at mid-span to construct a fully continuous, steel through-truss.

During the erection of the main span in August of 1907, and at the time that the main span was extended about 680 ft from the support, there was a report of unexpectedly large deviation in the increase in the normal deflection of the cantilever tip, as well as deformation in the



bottom compression chord of the south anchor span. Apparently, in June the end details of the compression chords had shown signs of buckling and there were communications between Cooper's office and the Phoenix Co. discussing whether the connections were fabricated with some misalignment or the observed conditions had occurred after erection of the steel. Cooper, in his office in New York

City, determined, the day he received the dire report of the changed conditions, that this movement was a sign of incipient failure and the work should immediately stop. He sent an urgent telegram ordering that the work crews be taken off the structure. But the telegram arrived too late to save the lives of the 82 workmen that rode the failed structure into the river and perished in the cold water of the Saint Lawrence.

A Royal Commission of Inquiry investigated the cause of the failure and concluded, in 1908, that the curved tubular steel bottom chords of the



## The Quebec Bridge Collapses - Continued

anchor arms near the main pier were grossly under-designed from a compression buckling standpoint. There was considerable controversy as to the exact cause(s) of the failure, with both a poor estimate of the actual dead load and an exceedingly high stress in compression members, considered the most likely factors in the failure. There were extensive reports that the lack of adequate funding for the project was an issue from the start. Cooper did not design any other bridges after the Quebec Bridge and died a few years after the collapse of the bridge.

### Second Design

A second bridge was commissioned for design and construction in 1914 on the same site as the first bridge. The design was also a steel through-truss, but the designed weight of the second bridge was to be 2-1/2 times the weight of the first bridge, considerably more robust. All of the structural elements were made more massive and the bottom chords were made straight as compared to the curved shapes in the first bridge. The construction was also to be a through-truss erected by the cantilever method, except that the main portion of the mid-span was to be fabricated off site and lifted into place from barges.

In September of 1916, during the lifting of the main span, which weighed 5200 tons while the entire bridge main span was several feet above the barges on which it had slowly been brought into position, one of the bearing seats that supported a hydraulic jack failed and the span dropped into the river as a single unit. Eleven more workers were killed in this tragic accident



Another investigation team studied the conditions that lead up to the collapse.

This time the failure was blamed on the material failure of a steel casting at the southwest support point. Curiously,

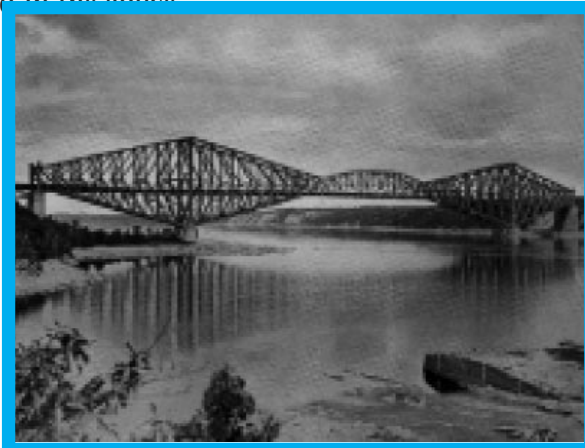
that bearing was reported to have supported more weight than at the time of collapse, when it was used earlier during the assembly of the center span (including some fabrication equipment loads).

### Perseverance Rewarded

Modifications were made to the supports at the point of the failed bearing seat and the main span was erected into final position in August of 1918. The bridge served the adjacent communities and carried vehicular traffic across the Saint Lawrence River for many years.

### Lessons Learned

Attempts at summarizing the cause(s) of failure of such complex structures are often unsatisfying. If you are interested in the above



please refer to the references listed below, especially the report of the Royal Commission. The commission indicated that the designer had incorrectly extrapolated design strengths of large-sized slender compression members from earlier empirically based design guides. It also appeared that there may have been unintended secondary stresses in some truss members, due to deformation of the members and the intersecting members not meeting at a single point at truss nodes. It was reported that this disaster did more to change bridge building than any disaster up to that of the Point Pleasant VA Bridge collapse, years later.

Jack Janney, a founder of Wiss Janney Elstner Associates, once told me that if a structure could survive birth and infancy, it was likely to have a long and healthy life. Experienced engineers know that structures will often experience unusual and often greater levels of stress and loading during construction than during their life times in regular service.

## PROFILE OF A COMPANY OWNER

Dr. MOUSSA A. ISSA, P.E., S.E.

Dr. Moussa A. Issa was born in 1959 in Lebanon. Married with three children. He obtained his BS, MS, and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) in 1981, 1982, and 1986, respectively. He is a registered Structural Engineer and Professional Engineer in the states of Illinois and Florida.

Dr. Issa has over 20 years of engineering experience in the field of structural design and analysis of bridge structures, personnel management, university professor, construction problems, bridge load testing (static/dynamic) and rating, seismic engineering, destructive/nondestructive testing of concrete and steel structures, applied research on structural and high performance materials, bridge/building inspection and maintenance, prestressed concrete, short/long term instrumentation and data acquisition, linear/nonlinear modeling of structures using finite element analysis and engineering mechanics. Currently Dr. Issa is a partner of HBM Engineering Group, LLC which established in December 2001. HBM Engineering Group, LLC is an Illinois based corporation, located in Hillside. The firm specializes in the design, analysis, inspection and construction management of bridges and other transportation/building related structures.



Dr. Issa is Chief Structural Engineer, responsible for structural engineering projects at HBM Engineering Group, LLC. HBM's work shall include structural design of highway and railroad bridge replacements, bridge rehabilitations, bridge and structure inspections, building structural design, inspection and assessments, solve field construction problems, and all other related structural engineering tasks.

Prior to joining HBM Engineering Group, LLC, Dr. Issa served as a Chief Structural Engineer, responsible for all structural engineering projects at T.Y. Lin International Great Lakes, Inc of years 2000-2003. He directed a staff of fifteen structural engineers on projects that include structural design of highway and railroad bridge replacements, bridge rehabilitations, bridge and structure inspections, building structural design, inspection and assess-

ments, solution of field construction problems, and all other related structural engineering tasks.

From 1998-2000, Dr. Issa served as a senior structural design engineer for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Structures Design Office. His duties included supervising and assisting in the design, rating and review of bridges, and development and revision of the Florida Structures Design Guidelines and Detailing Manual. He assisted in the formulation of Department policies as it related to bridge technology.

As Project Manager, he worked on several in-house and contract research projects for Florida DOT. His duties as a Project Manager included planning, supervising and evaluating the progress at each design/construction phase of the project. These projects focused on bond and transfer length, bond of cast-in-place concrete, pile embedment, strength of repaired piles, grout pressure, expansion joints, time-dependent losses, static/dynamic testing of bridges, thermal response of bridges, corrosion, epoxy jointing of concrete segments, pile splicing and linear/nonlinear modeling of bridges and structures in general.

From 1989-1998 Dr. Issa served at the Florida DOT Structural Research Center, Dr. Issa directed and supervised a staff of research/design engineers and support personnel in both laboratory research and field bridge testing and rating. He conducted full-scale static/dynamic bridge load testing/rating to identify and solve serviceability and load capacity problems of several old and new bridges.

From 1990-2000, Dr. Issa served as an Adjunct Professor at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering and School of Architecture, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in structural/bridge engineering.

He published several technical reports/papers in the field of structural engineering. Also, he acts as a technical reviewer on several structural journals and committees.

After graduation from 1987-1989, Dr. Issa worked at HLA Engineers, Inc, was responsible for the design/analysis of wide variety of steel and concrete structures, including bridges, buildings and offshore structures as well as cryogenic spherical liquid Oxygen and liquid Hydrogen Vessels for the space shuttle (NASA).

Dr. Issa has published several refereed papers in professional journals and technical reports in his field. Also, he acts as a technical reviewer.



# AAAEA CALENDAR OF RECURRING EVENTS

## Video Presentation & Seminar - Report

AAAEA conducted a seminar at UIC on Saturday February 21, 2004. Sixteen (16) members attended. Breakfast AND lunch were provided to our member free of charge. The total cost of the seminar to the AAEA was only around \$120. Thank you to all the volunteers who brought the computers and projectors. Dr. Issa provided a first quality conference room and video equipment. The presented topics included: Video presentation for the Design-Build of the Herald Washington Library in Chicago (Congress Pkwy. And State Street), a New method in gear design, and Chicago storm Water Agenda



Attendees of the Seminar



Design Build Video – Dr. Soliman Khudeira



Chicago Water Agenda - Bilal Al-Masri



New Method, Gear Design Dr. Ghaffar Kazkaz



Food

The plan is to make this video presentation (with or without a additional presentations) a monthly occurrence where an engineering video is presented and discussed by the attendees.

<p><b>January</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Scholarship Award Committee appointed before 1/31</li> <li>* Newsletter</li> <li>* Career workshop</li> <li>* Monthly speaker seminar</li> </ul>	<p><b>February</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Winter Business &amp; Professional Networking Reception</li> <li>* Engineer's Week Thompson's Center Exhibit and Luncheon</li> <li>* EIT classes begin</li> <li>* ACT classes begin</li> <li>* Career workshop</li> <li>* Monthly speaker seminar</li> <li>* Technical Field Trip</li> <li>* Winter visit to High School (with other professional arab associations)</li> </ul>	<p><b>March</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Auditing Committee appointed</li> <li>* Annual Hafleh March 29</li> <li>* Newsletter</li> <li>* Career workshop</li> <li>* Monthly speaker seminar</li> <li>* EIT classes continue</li> <li>* ACT classes continue</li> <li>* The Nomination Committee submit to the President the slate of nominees by March 31</li> <li>* Family Bowling Event</li> </ul>	<p><b>April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Membership expires April 15</li> <li>* Career workshop</li> <li>* Monthly speaker seminar</li> <li>* EIT classes end</li> <li>* ACT classes end</li> <li>* Deadline for submittal of written statement to election committee-April 15</li> <li>* AAEA Conference-April 19</li> <li>* Deadline for submittal of petition to nomination committee is April 20 (for those who did not submit before)</li> </ul>
<p><b>May</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Newsletter</li> <li>* Career workshop</li> <li>* Monthly speaker seminar</li> <li>* General Assembly/Election meeting-May 17</li> <li>* Math tutoring ends</li> </ul>	<p><b>June</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Picnic #1-June 8th</li> <li>* Career workshop</li> <li>* Monthly speaker seminar</li> <li>* Technical Field Trip</li> </ul>	<p><b>July</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Newsletter</li> <li>* Scholarship application deadline 7/31</li> <li>* Career workshop</li> <li>* Monthly speaker seminar</li> </ul>	<p><b>August</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Picnic #2 - Saturday August 16</li> <li>* Career workshop</li> <li>* Monthly speaker seminar</li> <li>* Logo design contest submittals due</li> <li>* Math tutoring begins</li> </ul>
<p><b>September</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Picnic #3 -Sept. 14th</li> <li>* Newsletter</li> <li>* Career workshop</li> <li>* Monthly speaker seminar</li> <li>* EIT classes continue</li> <li>* ACT classes begin</li> </ul>	<p><b>October</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Business owners/job networking meeting</li> <li>* Scholarship Committee interviewing applicants</li> <li>* Career workshop</li> <li>* Monthly speaker seminar</li> <li>* EIT classes begin</li> <li>* ACT classes continue</li> </ul>	<p><b>November</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Career workshop</li> <li>* Monthly speaker seminar</li> <li>* ACT classes end</li> <li>* Technical field trip</li> <li>* Newsletter</li> </ul>	<p><b>December</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Audit Committee meeting</li> <li>* December 5th Semi-Annual Meeting</li> <li>* Career workshop</li> <li>* Monthly speaker seminar</li> <li>* Nomination Committee appointed before Dec. 31</li> </ul>





Contributed by: Ahmad Basrawi.

## **CRSI Foundation Scholarships for Civil and Architectural Engineering Students**

The Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute Foundation (CRSI) has announced the availability of scholarships for the 2004-2005 academic year. The scholarships are intended to foster the development of practicing engineers in the field of site-cast reinforced concrete construction.

CRSI plans to award scholarships in the amounts of \$2,500 each to senior students who are majoring in Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering; and \$3,000 each to

incoming graduate students (master's degree program) in Civil Engineering, Structural Engineering, or Architectural Engineering.

Additional information regarding the 2004-2005 scholarship program is available by contacting Lisa Kelly, Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, 933 N. Plum Grove Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173-4758; e-mail: lkelly@crsi.org; or phone (847) 517-1200, ext. 14.

The deadline for receipt of applications is June 7, 2004.



Congratulation to Mark Bendok on being the current Chair of the ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers – Illinois Chapter) Younger Member Group. Mark is an AAEEA member and previous Chair of the AAEEA Financial Committee.

Our sincere apology for scheduling the Annual Dinner Social on Saturday April 10, which happen to be a religious holiday for some of our members. Regardless of the circumstances, we would have not scheduled it in that weekend, if we have known. The President takes full responsibility for this error, and I ask that you accept my sincere apology. In the future, we need to make sure that the board is inclusive of all backgrounds. I also recommend that our members should send information, ahead of time, on recommended important dates to avoid scheduling any AAEEA activities.

Two new Board of Trustees are appointed by the president and concurred to by the Executive Board. The two new members are: Ahmad Basrawi, who has been the Chairman of the Nomination Committee for the past three years, and Suheil Nammari, who has been a member of the by-laws Committee and acting Chairman of the Committee while Ayoub Talhami (the Committee Chairman) was overseas. We welcome both of them to the Board of Trustees.

## *Quotes*

Selected by Soliman Khudeira and other family members.

You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try. Beverly Sills

Do the thing you think you cannot do. Eleanor Roosevelt

Do the hardest thing on Earth. Katherine Mansfield.

The most effective way to do it is to do it. Toni Cade Bambara

A business owner who fails to plan, plans to fail. Covello and Hazelgren1

The blow that does not break your back, strengthen it.

It is better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing flawlessly

Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is probably the reason why so few engage in it." Henry Ford

People who feel good about themselves produce good results. The one minute manager

Help people reach their full potential, catch them doing something right. The one minute manager

The best minute I spend is the one I invest in people. The one minute manager

Everyone is a potential winner, some people are disguised as losers, don't let their appearances fool you. The one minute manager

Take a minute: look at your goals, look at your performance, see if your behavior matches your goals. The one minute manager

We are not just our behavior; we are the person managing our behavior. The one minute manager

Goals begin behaviors, consequences maintain behaviors. The one minute manager

"Laughter is the shortest distance between two people." -- Victor Borge

Let go of the things you cannot control and worry about the think you can - - (...)

If you want to succeed yu should strike out on new paths rather than travel the worn path of accepted success - - (...)



## *The Little Recognized Secret of Success*

Dale Carnegie recognized that an enthusiastic attitude is fundamental to success, happiness and personal growth.

Neither money nor fame ensures happiness. Happiness depends primarily (in addition to good health) on one thing only: your thoughts.

Our fatigue is often caused not by work but by worry, frustration and resentment.

We cannot change the past; we can influence future outcomes with a positive, enthusiastic approach to the opportunities of the present.

"Opportunities will go to the men and women who have enthusiasm." Charles Kettering





## CONTACT

By: Dr. Ghaffar Kazkaz (Chairman of AAAEA Education Committee). [gkazkaz@itwtech.com](mailto:gkazkaz@itwtech.com)

Over the past several years Mr. Ayoub Talhami has proposed that the AAAEA establish contacts with universities in Arab countries in order to donate Engineering books and professional magazines for their libraries.

Not only is AAAEA financially capable of such an endeavor, but it would be of great value to the universities. Additionally, it would allow us to recognize and thank the countries where we come from and the institutions that provided our education.

As chairman of the Education Committee, I discussed this proposal with AAAEA president, Dr. Soliman Khudeira, who was very enthusiastic about the idea. Incidentally, Dr. Khudeira completed most of his undergraduate studies in civil Engineering in Aleppo University in Syria. Also, I graduated from Damascus University in Syria.

While traveling in December, 2003 to Syria, I met with the Dean of the Civil Engineering School of the University in Damascus, Dr. Suleiman Al Shami, to express our proposal. He was very courteous and hospitable in spite of his busy schedule and the short notice. The meeting took about 30 minutes in his office. During our twenty minute meeting, I was able to tell Dr. Al

Shami about the AAAEA and expressed to him our desire to offer modest assistance to their Engineering library. He was very grateful and appreciative.

Additionally, during our discussion some opportunities emerged that might prove to be beneficial to Syria, the university, AAAEA and its membership. Dr. Al Shami mentioned that the Civil Engineering School supervises and participates in many of the construction projects in Syria, such as building roads, bridges and other projects. Arab or American engineers based in the United States might be able to provide the technical expertise needed for Syria to complete such projects.

If the AAAEA helps to facilitate and contact the appropriate engineering companies, it would lead to interesting opportunities for Arab engineers and Arab engineering companies in the United States.

If the association puts forth the required efforts and time to nurture such relationships it would prove to be of great value for many Arab people. Nurturing this relationship is the responsibility of the AAAEA and mainly its civil engineering membership.

## HUMOR

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

A little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah."

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

A teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was?

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head! She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are so many of your hairs white, Mom?"

Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face."

"Yes," the class said.

"Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?" A little fellow shouted, "Cause your feet ain't empty."

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apply tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

## AMAZING

Contributed by: Soliman Khudeira

Do the following exercise, guaranteed to raise an eyebrow. There's no trick or surprise. Just follow these instructions, and answer the questions one at a time and as quickly as you can!. Again, as quickly as you can but don't advance until you've done each of them.

- Think of a number from 1 to 10
- Multiply that number by 9.
- If the number is a 2-digit number, add the digits together
- Now subtract 5
- Determine which letter in the alphabet corresponds to the number you ended up with (example: 1=a, 2=b, 3=c, etc.)
- Think of a country that starts with that letter
- Remember the last letter of the name of that country
- Think of the name of an animal that starts with that letter
- Remember the last letter in the name of that animal
- Think of the name of a fruit that starts with that letter
- Answer: Kangaroo in Denmark eating an Orange??







# BOWLING BOWLING PARTY



## *AAAEA Education Committee activity for February/March/April 2004*

By: Ghaffar Kazkaz, Committee Chairman

ACT classes at Universal and Aqsa Schools:

Most of the students (22) took the ACT class last semester. This semester we have only seven students. Mahmoud and Hanan Aldaba are coordinating the classes and giving the mockup exams. They are doing great job. Basman Dahleh is doing very good teaching the Science Reasoning. We need volunteers for teaching English and Reading.

Math Tutoring:

Universal School: On Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:30. We have about ten students. It needs more coordination with the school and parents.

Aqsa School: On Saturdays from 11:30 to 1:00. The principal Dr. Nadia Saqer is taking a direct interest. As a result this program is more structured with students coming on time and regularly. We have about twenty students.

Chicago Islamic Center (CIC): A group of AAEA volunteers are coordinating and teaching mathematics and other subjects. I had not a chance to go there and observe their activities because they are at the same time when we are teaching at Universal and Aqsa Schools. However I heard they are doing a great job. At all three locations we need more volunteers.

EIT and PE classes:

They are offered once a year in coordination with Phillippino Engineers and Scientist Organization (PESO) where AAEA engineers are teaching some of the classes and our members are taking these classes for the same fees as the PESO members. Dr. Soliman Khudeira is coordinating this activity with PESO.

Seminars:

AAAEA had a seminar on February 21 at UIC where three presentations were made on: Building of Harold Washington Library, Gear Design and Chicago Water Reclamation System. On May 1st we will have the AAEA Annual Engineering and Sciences Conference at UIC. We are still soliciting papers or presentations. The deadline is April 15. Please come and participate.

We need engineers to become members of the Education Committee. We are doing great job, but to expand the activities for tutoring other subjects and in other Arab Schools, to improve ACT and teach it in other schools and to increase activities in seminars and engineering field trips we need more participation from our membership.

