

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last Friday evening, members of the CAGE board informally met with representatives of the ASFE External Relations committee. This newly chartered ASFE committee is charged with working with other organizations, both within and outside our area of practice, to advance the value of geotechnical engineering. These committee members were in Denver for the ASFE Winter Leadership Conference that was held over the weekend.

Prior to 2010, CAGE was a Regional Organization (RO) of ASFE. The RO status gave our members access to many of the ASFE member benefits; however, it also came with a relatively large annual bill. After a couple of years of participation, the CAGE board decided not to renew our RO status since we could not quantify the benefit to CAGE members. Apparently other RO's had similar experiences and ASFE is reevaluating methods to interact with partner organizations.

The ASFE External Relations committee representatives were interested to learn about the history of CAGE as well as provide an overview of the organization and mission of ASFE. ASFE was impressed with CAGE due to our size and our origin as an independent organization not created by a larger parent organization.

Both CAGE and ASFE recognize that we need to provide value to our members. While the mission of each organization is different, the overall purpose is similar: to advance and promote the practice of geotechnical engineering. As such, this ASFE committee will be working to utilize relationships with partner organizations, such as CAGE, in a manner that creates value to our profession. CAGE has indicated our willingness to discuss future alliances as the committee develops a work plan. If you are interested to learn more about our meeting with ASFE, please contact me or any of the other board members.

During the meeting with ASFE, we discussed many of the challenges we encounter in our practice, such as pricing, technical aspects, and litigation risk. The February lunch talk by Charlie Hemenway from National Home Insurance Company will present their national perspective on many of these challenges. I encourage everyone to attend the meeting this month to learn from prior failures and the varied repair options.

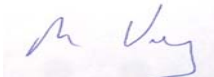
The CAGE board also is working with the Structural Engineers Association of Colorado (SEAC) to develop a joint meeting in May 2011. The tentative plan for the joint meeting is to provide a panel question and answer session with representatives of both professions. If there is a question you would like to direct to the structural engineering community in Colorado, here is your chance. Over the next few months we will be compiling questions. If you have any suggestions or are interested in participating as a panel member, please send your question to anyone on the CAGE board.

Also in February, CAGE received notice from ACEC regarding an amicus effort (friend of the court) they are supporting regarding a case against a geotechnical firm in Colorado. A recent ruling by a Larimer County court against a geotechnical firm has put the enforceability of Limitation of Liability provisions in jeopardy, especially in cases involving residential construction. The subject firm is appealing this ruling and the Colorado Chapter of ACEC will be providing an amicus brief to the Colorado Court of Appeals. The CAGE board has not yet discussed this matter; however, if you would like more information, please contact me or Marilen Reimer at ACEC Colorado.

Both the ACEC amicus effort and our February talk illustrate the difficult challenges of our profession. At times, the problems we see in our industry can be frustrating or demoralizing. However, I would encourage each of us to take a moment and think about the value we add to our respective projects, often without the acknowledgement of our peers and clients. We also should focus on informing our clients and owners of the value we create (or can create) if we are a respected partner throughout the project lifecycle. Of course, this is a two-way street and we all need to represent the profession in a manner that commands respect and value.

CAGE and organizations such as ACEC, ASFE, and ASCE were founded to improve our profession. Let's use these groups to our advantage. If you have any suggestions, please contact me or anyone else on the CAGE board.

I look forward to seeing you at the February meeting.



Mark Vessely, P.E.  
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Mark Vessely, P.E.  
CAGE President 2011

## RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Periodically, the CAGE board is forwarded papers and presentations that others feel should be shared throughout the organization. While copyright rules may limit this distribution, we can still offer the reference. The papers suggested this month include:

**Engineer's Legal Exposure for Facilities Built on Expansive Soils**, by David W. Mockbee and Jud R. Jones. Published in the January/February Issue of the ASCE Journal of Performance of Constructed Facilities.

**Prediction of End-Bearing Capacity of Rock-Socketed Shafts Considering Rock Quality Designation (RQD)**, by Lianyang Zhang. Published in the Canadian Geotechnical Journal No. 47.

**Long-Term Monitoring of a Drilled Shaft Retaining Wall in Expansive Clay**, by Andy Brown, Trent Ellis, Greg Dellinger, Jorge Zornberg, Chadi El-Mohtar, and Robert Gilbert, The University of Texas at Austin. Published in ADSC Foundation Drilling January/February 2011.

## NOCOGEO (NORTHERN COLORADO SECTION OF CAGE)

The next meeting of the Northern Section of CAGE will be on Wednesday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 AM. The meeting location and subject are not finalized yet, but we will forward the information once planning is complete.

## CAGE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Have you ever wondered how to use our math and science background to help others? Well CAGE has found the way! As mentioned previously, we have decided to volunteer as tutors for the Denver Public School system. **And WE NEED YOU!** With enough participation, we can offer FREE, weekly, one-on-one tutoring to children. Ideally, we will have a rotating schedule of volunteers, so the ultimate commitment may only be 1 – 2 times per month. If you are interested in participating, please contact Kathleen Noonan at [knoonan@jacesare.com](mailto:knoonan@jacesare.com) or 303-210-1284 and she will send you the volunteer tutor application forms. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kathleen.

## FEBRUARY CAGE MEETING

**Wednesday, February 9, 2011**

11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

**Lakewood Country Club**

**6800 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Lakewood**

*CAGE now accepts prepayment of luncheon registrations online.*

*Click on the February 9 event on the calendar at [www.cagecolorado.org](http://www.cagecolorado.org).*

*Please note that refunds will not be given if you must cancel or are not able to attend.*

### **Structural Claims**

presented by Charles Hemenway with National Home Insurance Company

National Home Insurance Company (NHIC) covers structural claims on homes located throughout the country. The majority of the claims are related to foundation distress caused by soil movement. NHIC typically will have a geotechnical investigation performed to determine the failure mechanism of the foundation. Mr. Hemenway will discuss the varied soil conditions encountered and geotechnical investigation techniques he has encountered working on these structural claims. He will also discuss some of the repair methods used to repair or stabilize the foundations.

Please FAX or email your reservations **before noon, Monday, February 7, 2011** to:  
Becky Roland, CAGE

Fax: (720) 230-4846, [admin@cagecolorado.org](mailto:admin@cagecolorado.org)

You can RSVP online at [www.cagecolorado.org](http://www.cagecolorado.org). Just click on the February 9 event!

**Walk-ins may not be guaranteed a meal, so please RSVP by February 7!**

**\$25 for CAGE members, \$30 for non-members, \$15 for students**