POLISH-AMERICAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED



In 1934

P.O. Box 241, Northbrook, IL 60065-241, USA • www.polishengineers.org

All members and friends of Polish-American Engineers Association are cordially invited to attend our meeting.

DATE: Friday, January 15th, 2021

TIME: Business Meeting begins 8:00 p.m.; Presentation to follow immediately

PLACE: virtual meeting via Skype: https://join.skype.com/t4h5mFMbYbgJ

(not Zoom as before, due to the 40 minute time limit on Zoom)

SPEAKER: Dr. Andrzej S. Nowak

TOPIC: Are Our Bridges Safe?



Dr. Andrzej S. Nowak

Dr. Nowak is Professor and Department Chair of Civil Engineering at Auburn University, after 25 years at the University of Michigan and 8 years at the University of Nebraska. He received his MS and Ph.D. from Politechnika Warszawska.

His area of expertise is structural reliability and bridge engineering, and major research accomplishments include the development of a reliability-based calibration procedure for the calculation of load and resistance factors. The procedure was successfully applied to the calibration of AASHTO design code for bridges, ACI 318 Code for Concrete Buildings and Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code.

He made important contributions in bridge diagnostics and evaluation, analytical load models for bridges and buildings and the development of efficient experimental procedures for WIM measurement of truck loads, dynamic loads on bridges and fatigue load spectra.

Dr. Nowak has authored over 450 technical publications, chaired 38 doctoral committees, and chaired a number of committees associated with professional organizations such as: ASCE, ACI, TRB IABSE and IABMAS.

He has an Honorary Doctoral Degree (Honoris Causa) from Warsaw University of Technology, he is a Fellow of ASCE, ACI and IABSE, he received the ASCE Moisseiff Award, IFIP WG 7.5 Award, Bene Merentibus Medal, Kasimir Gzowski Medal from the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers.

ABSTRACT

The presentation outline: importance of bridges, major problems, safety measures and implementation of safety in bridge engineering practice. On the other hand, overdesign can be expensive. Bridge performance depends on load and load carrying capacity (resistance), in an optimum bridge, the load carrying capacity is slightly above the expected load.

Inadequate safety results in need for frequent repairs and in drastic cases – collapse of a bridge. Therefore, knowledge of the actual live load is important for a rational management of highway bridges.

It has been observed that traffic load is strongly site-specific. Recently, a substantial data base has been collected using Weigh-in-Motion (WIM) stations. Load carrying capacity of bridges depends on materials, technology and maintenance.

Major causes of deterioration include corrosion, fatigue of materials, illegally overloaded vehicles and poor/inadequate maintenance. The adequate safety margin is determined by the design specification in form of load and resistance factors.

PAEA Announcements

MEETING LOCATION

Due to the current situation with COVID-19, our May meeting will be held virtually, via Skype:

https://join.skype.com/t4h5mFMbYbgJ

We are trying Skype again, as Zoom has a 40-minute time limit (which disrupts our meeting, usually during the presentation).

The meeting can either be accessed via:

- 1. a <u>browser</u>, by clicking on the link above, and joining as a guest- no account needed (note: a plug-in may need to be downloaded; and this only works with newer versions of **Chrome or Firefox**);
- 2. the <u>Skype application</u>- needs to be installed on the computer (<u>https://www.skype.com/en/get-skype/</u>; or through a link on the page above), and a (free) account needs to be established (note: one can use a personal Skype account if already established).

2021 Membership Dues

There is no change in dues for 2021: \$70 per year, senior citizens and students \$35 per year.

We ask that everyone pay their dues as soon as possible, as this is our source of operating funds. Membership Cards will be provided to all those who paid their dues; and will have to be mailed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Questions? You may inquire at the meeting or send an email to: administration@polishengineers.org
You may send your dues (checks payable to the Polish American Engineers Association) to:

Mr. Andrew Pawlowski P.O. Box 241 Northbrook, IL 60065-241

You may also pay your dues at our meetings (once we re-start face-to-face meetings), and receive your Membership Card immediately.

Again, dues are critical in supporting the work of the PAEA- thank you for your support.

Happy New Year! & Planning for 2021

We would like to wish all PAEA Members and sympathizers a very Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a safe, enjoyable Christmas holiday. And we wish everyone a healthy and successful 2021- may it be better than 2020 for everyone!

2020 was a very difficult year. In addition to personal and professional challenges posed by the Pandemic; our PAEA calendar of events had to be significantly curtailed. We miss all of you-seeing you face-to-face at our meetings; at our Summer Picnic; as well as our Christmas Party.

As in 2020, we will continue to monitor the Pandemic; and will work to return to normalcy as safely possible in 2021. We have to be aware that this may not be till the Fall session. However, in the meantime, we will continue to focus on the silver linings; such as that virtual meetings allow us an expanded possibility of speakers and topics.

As stated before, if anyone needs help during this difficult time- whatever may be needed- please let us know. Above all, our mission, especially of mutual support, must not stop!

Ralph Modjeski Scholarship

We are very happy to announce that the 2020 Ralph Modjeski Scholarship will be awarded to Ms. Victoria Niedzinski! The award this year will be in the amount of \$1000.

Ms. Niedzinski attends Auburn University, in the Master's Program in Civil and Environmental Engineering; and intends to pursue her PhD in Environmental Engineering. We congratulate Ms. Niedzinski, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

As a reminder, the award comes with a 1-year membership to the PAEA. And we always encourage winners (past and present) to become active members.

As announced before, due in part to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we extended the deadline for applications and widened the criteria for the award in 2020.

We would like to thank our 2020 Scholarship Committee- Grazyna Czyszczon, Malgorzata Grochal, and Ewa Mroczek- for their support in the award process.

Donation – Ms. Grazyna Bazylewski

We would like to thank Ms. Grazyna Bazylewski for her generous \$250 donation to our Ralph Modjeski Scholarship fund! Though not affiliated with the PAEA, Ms. Bazylewski was inspired to donate based on our call for applications sent to the Polish Museum of America distribution list.

Below is the letter Ms. Bazylewski sent with her donation (redacted to protect personal information). We are very grateful for the support, as well as the recognition for our efforts to support Polish & Polish-American technologists of the future.

Andrew Pawlowski Polish American Engineers Association Ralph Modjeski Scholarship Fund

Dear Andrew,

Please find enclosed a check for \$250 intended for inclusion in the Ralph Modjeski Scholarship Fund as we discussed. As a now retired city planner, educated years ago at the Illinois Institute of Technology School of Architecture Planning and Design, I have an affinity to science, technology and engineering fields. While not a member of your organization, I was intrigued that you offer a scholarship in these fields of study. Currently, I mentor several students in the planning related fields of study and realize how much more expensive such technical education is today. Also the fact that you focus on students well into their college career as upper class persons gave me a comfort level that scholarships will likely result in completed degrees.

Historically, Poles and those of Polish ancestry have shown talent and excellence in engineering and technology worldwide. Helping future technology driven professions is an excellent pursuit. That they are of Polish ancestry is a great idea as well. Glad I can join you in your cause. Do keep me posted on the awarding of scholarships. It is exciting to learn of achievements of young people seriously taking on the world through education.

Wishing you success in effectuating the support of education.

Sincerely,

Grazyna Bazylewski

We would like to remind everyone that we are looking for achievements of as well as other noteworthy news about our Members (that's you!). Please send us information about yourself or another Member (please ensure they agree to have this information publicized) to contact@polishengineers.org. We will publish in the next Bulletin available.

Job Postings – Please Send

Member News/Update

As part of our mission of mutual support, we would like to offer job openings to our Members. Please send any openings you know about to contact@polishengineers.org. Please let us know where it is OK to post (our website in Members Only, our public page; Facebook, LinkedIn pages, etc.

We would also like to post on our website (in the Members Only section) links to job listings of companies in our network. So please send those as well. We would like to list your name next to the link, so those applying through those links can have a reference person to cite. Please let us know if you would rather not be listed.

Thank you in advance to taking time now to send us this information, which supports our common mission!

Reminder- Polish American Engineers Association on LinkedIn!

We would like to remind our Members & Supporters that the PAEA is on LinkedIn:

www.linkedin.com/groups/12032140

Check out our Group, become a member, and post interesting and relevant content. The more active we are, and the more interesting information we post, the more likely we are to attract others to our Group, in addition of course to the benefits of inter-Group communication.

Reminder- the Polish American Engineers Association on Facebook

We would also like to remind our Members & Supporters that the PAEA is on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/Polish-American-Engineers-Association-PAEA-1153830014674800/

Please check it out, and help us keep it active by 'like'-ing and posting interesting material.

Next Meeting Date

19 February, 2021

Special Interest

If anyone has an item of Special Interest to the PAEA Membership and sympathizers, please sent the details to contact@polishengineers.org for inclusion in the next (monthly except for June-August & December) published Bulletin.

Polish American Congress of Illinois Events Calendar

For a comprehensive and up-to-date listing of events in Polonia, please see the PAC-IL Polonia Calendar (many thanks to Mirek Niedzinski, Roman Korczak and the PAC-IL team for leading!):

https://www.pacillinois.org/calendar/

Kosciuszko Foundation Accepting Applications for Scholarship

Applications accepted through January 28, 2021

The Kosciuszko Foundation has made us aware that they are now accepting applications for the Drs. James and Wanda Trefil Science Scholarship from citizens and permanent residents (green card holders) of the United States who are of Polish descent. Eligible candidates include current college freshmen, sophomores and juniors who are majoring in the Natural Sciences (physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, earth science, etc.) and who

have a minimum GPA of 3.5. Applications and supporting materials will be accepted through Thursday, January 28, 2021.

One \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded for full-time studies in the United States for the Fall 2021/Spring 2022 academic year. For more information and to apply, please see:

https://www.thekf.org/kf/scholarships/tuition/science/

Lyra Singers Carols Video

Available for view on-line through February 2, 2021; cost \$5.00

The Lyra Singers invite all PAEA Members and Sympathizers to view their Carols video on line. In this time of Pandemic, please consider supporting the Lyra Singers, and the performing arts, which is forced to adapt to the new realities to survive.

Below is information from the notification:

In keeping with Polish tradition, the Lira Ensemble's video of Polish and American Carols will be available on the Lira website through Candlemass – February 2nd.

Poles and Polish Americans sing and listen to Christmas carols well into January and often until Candlemass.

Lira's video gives you an opportunity to:

- -see the Lira Singers appear on stage during a theater concert
- -hear Lira's beautiful and unusual repertoire sung in three and four-part harmony which is becoming rare in the United States
- -see the Lira Singers appear in authentic folk outfits from the Kaszubian region of Northern Poland which are rarely seen in this country

The Carols Video is available on Lira's website. For only \$5.00 you can view the video as often as you wish, through February 2nd, 2021. To purchase, see:

www.liraensemble.org

(note: the video link is on the Home Page, just below the large photos)

Chopin Theater GoFundMe

As sent in a separate email, the PAEA received a GoFundMe appeal from our friends at the Chopin Theater. We have been guests at the Chopin Theater for several excellent plays; and have been invited for many more, which we were not able to make as a group. Lela and Zygmunt have always made us feel at home, and have supported us as they could.

It would be a true shame and loss to Polonia (and all of Chicago) if they had to close their doors permanently due to this terrible pandemic. Please consider supporting as you can; and let your family and friends who might be interested/able to support them know.

For more information, and to make a donation, please see:

https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/chopin-theatre-humble-request-for-30th-anniversary

Copernicus Foundation Request for Support

The Copernicus Foundation is requesting Polonia support for their bid to purchase a property adjacent to theirs, from the City of Chicago. Below is the content of an email we recently received, with more details about what each of us can do to help (by signing their petition).

Please consider supporting them (in the spirit of mutual support, as is part of our mission); as they support many Polonia organizations; and hosted our meetings for many years.

Dear Polish Engineers,

As you might know, the Copernicus Foundation is trying to buy the abandoned firehouse at 4841 N. Lipps from the City of Chicago in a negotiated sale. The Foundation would renovate the property keeping its historic façade and having it be part of our campus. The Copernicus Foundation is willing to pay \$300,000 for the property which the city appraised at \$208,000.

Sadly, the city appears to be accepting an offer from an outside developer, 4841 N. Lipps LLC (Ambrosia Homes) who will only be paying \$1 for the property. There are a number of steps that have to be taken before that sale is final, so we are asking for your support in trying to stop the sale.

Please sign our petition at www.FightForTheFirehouse.com and express your support of the Copernicus Foundation. The site will also allow you to send an e-mail directly to your Alderman asking him not to vote for the negotiated sale of the firehouse to 4841 N. Lipps LLC.

<u>Please pass this information along to any of your friends and colleagues and share it on your social media!</u> This will show Mayor Lightfoot and the Aldermen that our community supports the Copernicus Foundation in its endeavor to develop this property in the best interests of the many communities we serve.

Thank you,

Alina Bosak Event Coordinator Copernicus Foundation 773-313-3893



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