



**GEO-
INSTITUTE**

GEO-INSTITUTE CHAPTER AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Check the box to indicate the award for which this application is prepared.

Best Chapter Award

Chapter Achievement Award (new/small chapters)

Chapter Name: Minnesota Geotechnical Society

Chapter Regional Location: Minneapolis, MN

Parent ASCE Section: 3 - MN

Number of Members (current year): 83 (as of January 20, 2023)

Numbers of Members (prior year): 91

Number of Meetings/Events (current year):
attach description/flyers and attendance 9 Events put on in 2022

Complete the following sections to describe G-I Chapter activities in the category prompts below. Activity in every category is not required to apply for the award. Supporting information can be included in the Appendix. Examples of supporting information include; meeting announcements, newsletters, scholarship forms, conference agendas, social media posts, etc. Please limit meeting announcements, newsletters, and social media posts to 1 example for each.

1. Holding well-attended regular meetings:

MGS hosts monthly meetings and social events between October and May every year. Summers are usually only social events due to construction season. The monthly meetings are hybrid in format and contain a networking social hour, dinner and an hour-long presentation or panel discussion with varying geotechnical engineering topics. The monthly meetings are aired and recorded via Zoom for our remote members.

2. Providing quality presentations on relevant technical subjects:

We balance our presentation topics to cover various backgrounds and sectors of our members, including government agencies, academics, engineers, geologists, contractors, and labor force. The crowd that we draw for each event are as varied as the topics themselves. There is a regular core group that attends each meeting, but you can tell when we are hitting on a topic that one individual group is truly excited about

<p>(heavy engineer crowd for instrumentation presentations, and heavy contractor attendance for case studies on earth retention or deep foundations)</p>
<p>3.Communicating effectively with local Geo-practitioners (emails, websites, newsletters, social media, etc.)</p>
<p>Our primary communication method is through Google group account. Each of the MGS officers is given an MGS Gmail account to communicate and perform their tasks. We keep a calendar for our upcoming events on our website (www.mgs-gi.com), send announcements and newsletters to all our members 2 to 3 weeks prior to upcoming events. We maintain an MGS-GI LinkedIn account, where MGS Social Chair provides updates to our membership on a weekly basis. We also run a YouTube Channel (MGS TV) for posting the recorded monthly presentations.</p>
<p>4.Hosting or participating in regional geotechnical seminars</p>
<p>Each year, we partner with the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities in organizing and planning the annual University of Minnesota Geotechnical Conference – held in February each year. We combine the conference with our normal February education meeting with local ASCE Chapter, and organize an extra dinner speech and networking opportunities for the members of Minnesota, Dakotas, Iowa and Wisconsin that are not able to attend our Twin Cities meetings regularly.</p>
<p>5.Interacting with parent ASCE Branch/Section and other affiliated organizations:</p>
<p>We have an ASCE Liaison who helps us stay connected with the local ASCE and their events. We also try to partner with other professional groups (e.g. MnSEA, SEI) in the area for combined presentations, panels or social events in order to grow our membership and gain insight into what other organizations are doing to be successful. As stated above, we partner with ASCE for our February meeting in advance of the U of M Geotech Conference</p>
<p>6.Interacting with and supporting G-I Graduate Student Organizations & Younger Member Groups:</p>
<p>In 2022 we sent officers and members to four (4) local colleges and universities to present about MGS and geotechnical engineering. The intent of this program is to publicize students about what geotechnical engineers do, draw future members to get involved with MGS at a young age, and also to keep them involved in the geotechnical engineering world. There are many paths to go down in geotechnical, so we bring an engineer, a contractor, or a PM to present the vast differences in where students can potentially be in this industry. Our latest presentation at University of St. Thomas brought about 20 college students to the next social event, and some of those students now have internships with some of our member companies.</p>
<p>7.Providing relevant ethics presentations</p>
<p>We provide at least 1 hourlong ethics PDH seminar every two years. Sometimes we partner with other local engineering groups for a larger 2-hour seminar to meet the biannual Minnesota PE license renewal requirement. Finding ethics presenters on a limited budget can be challenging, so partnering with other groups for better speakers has been in our benefit</p>
<p>8.Providing scholarships to geotechnical students:</p>
<p></p>

Since 2018, MGS-GI endowed our own Minnesota Geotechnical Society Scholarship. We also provide funds to two local scholarship funds, the Andrew Drescher Scholarship and Miles Kersten Memorial Scholarship. The scholarships are given to engineering students that have an interest in geotechnical engineering. In 2022, our scholarship winner was granted a \$3,500. The scholarship recipients are listed on our website: [Scholarship Winners](#)

9. Outreach: K-12 programs, public service/awareness, championing sustainability principles

Due to the Covid pandemic, outreaching to K-12 program and other public events were challenging in the last two years. In the past, we relied on local ASCE Chapter for public outreach, i.e., Civil Engineering Day at the Minnesota Science Museum, regional MATHCOUNTS competitions. MGS officers and members would volunteer in these events. We plan to resume participation in public outreach if these events return.

10. Setting and achieving healthy membership goals:

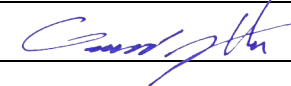
We were able to maintain our membership subscription and financial wellness even during the Covid pandemic. Currently, we are utilizing the hybrid format, including in-person and virtual presentation via Zoom. The virtual presentation option allows more members outside of Minnesota to join our monthly meetings. We are always trying to find more groups to partner with in order to bring new and exciting topics to our monthly meetings that will gather more people to attend. This year, we are partnering with the Minnesota Structural Engineering Association (MnSEA) to host a panel discussion - "Q&A for Structural and Geotechnical Engineers". Once we can get people in the room for a presentation and they see the benefits of being a member (and just have a good time with our existing group), it is relatively easy to get them involved and active in the membership. This year, we set a goal to boost government employee and student participations in our monthly meetings. We encourage their participations by providing \$20 discount code to all our events. We also actively reach out to student chapters at local universities to advertise and provide resources.

11. Other Notable Activities:

Nomination Prepared By:

Gary Hahn – MGS Vice President

Signature/Electronic Signature:



Phone:

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Email:

VP@mgs-gi.com

Date:

1/20/2023

<https://www.geoinstitute.org/community/chapters/best-chapter-award>.

Please see the application website (above) for application deadline After completing the form and attaching Appendix items, print/combine the pages to one PDF document and submit to Krystina Scott at kscott@asce.org If hard copies are desired, they can be sent to:

Krystina Scott, Geo-Institute of ASCE, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4400

Thank you for supporting the Geo-Institute!

APPENDIX