

Notes from the Editor's Desk



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About a month beforehand, my sister-in-law gave a call and wanted to know if we were planning on coming over for a Fourth of July barbecue. She had even bought a special pinwheel for my daughter! For Cindy, planning an informal barbecue only a month in advance was short notice; for my family's state of barely controlled chaos, however, it was much too early to make plans.

It's not too early, though, to start thinking about steel conferences in 2001 and 2002—especially if you're interested in submitting a paper.

Deadline for submitting an abstract for the 2002 North American Steel Construction Conference is October 1, 2000. While this may seem like a long lead time, it's necessary to plan the nearly 90 presentations offered annually at the conference. The 2002 Conference is scheduled for April 24-27 in Seattle

Submitted abstracts should be no more than 250 words in length, plus supporting materials such as photos or figures. And suggested topics include:

- Blast resistant design
- Design/Build related topics
- Meeting challenging project performance objectives
- Innovations in construction
- Innovative low floor to floor systems
- Fire protection/fire engineering
- Erection engineering techniques
- Innovative structural systems
- Innovative approaches to corrosion protection
- Innovative fabrication and detailing techniques
- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)
- Connection design
- Government regulations and how they affect the fabricator/erector
- The design, fabrication and erection of

architecturally exposed structural steel

- Innovative bolt-ing/welding applications
- Creative erection solutions for challenging projects.

Abstracts can be sent to: AISC Marketing, Inc., One East Wacker Drive, Suite 3100, Chicago, IL 60601-2001, Attention: Ms. Jeri Irwin - Call For Papers.

While it's too late to submit a paper proposal to the 2001 NASCC, it's not too late for the 2001 World Steel Bridge Symposium, scheduled for Oct. 2-5 in Chicago.

Abstracts of 500 words or less are due by Dec. 1, 2000 and the final papers must be received by May 15, 2001.

Papers should address innovative approaches in recent design, fabrication, erection, painting and superior aesthetics of steel bridges. The abstracts should be sent to: Arun Shirole, NSBA Executive Director, 1405 North Lilac Dr., Suite 212, Golden Valley, MN 55422 or faxed to 763/591-9499.

Conferences, such as the NASCC and the World Steel Bridge Symposium, are important forums for the dissemination of information on the latest and best design practices. No organizational committee can ever replace the input of the entire industry. It's critical to the success of these conferences—and to the industry as a whole—that those involved with cutting edge projects and concepts be willing to share them with their peers. If you're involved in one of these projects, I beseech you to submit an abstract.

It's not too early to work ahead.