

The ASABE Quad City Section – A Centennial Retrospective
Compiled by David Smith, 2005

It usually takes several years of existence before any organization looks back on its own history. Thus it wasn't surprising that the first formal history of the ASAE Quad City Section wasn't compiled until after its 30th year of existence. During the 1979-1980 Section year, Past Section Chair John Wilson developed three documents to note the 30th anniversary of the Section's founding on April 9, 1949. John prepared (1) a narrative of the Section's [founding](#) in 1949, (2) a year-by-year [summary of Section activities from 1949-1965](#) based largely on Executive Committee minutes and (3) a [listing of the meeting technical session and after dinner speakers and their topics for Section meetings from 1949-1950 through 1978-1979](#).

The first of these documents served as a basis for the 30th anniversary celebration held at the Section's Annual Meeting on April 18, 1980. John wrote "The purpose of this task is to assimilate the fragmental information located in Section and national files into a single document of history. Our concern is that in time, we could lose some of this information since we have traveling files. The primary objective of this history is to make available information that will be useful in planning the activities of the Section, particularly in planning future programs."

As often happens in volunteer organizations, these three documents became part of the Section archives and were "rediscovered" in 1998 when it was realized that the Section was nearing its 50th anniversary. More recently, with the advent of the [Section's web site](#), these three documents have been posted electronically to provide ongoing access to the early history of the Section. The listing of meeting speakers and topics has been expanded to the present primarily by using the "trifold" meeting program announcements from the Section archives. However, there are gaps in these announcements, particularly in the mid 1990's, and the reader is asked to forward any meeting information they might have to close these gaps.

The Section archives mentioned above are a largely unorganized collection of correspondence, committee minutes, program announcements, newsletters, financial records, etc. maintained from the early days of the Section. (Note: Since the preceding sentence was written in 2005, the author has organized the Section archives sorting out duplicate records and arranging the material on the basis of the Section's program years. The resulting [archive](#) was accepted by the Special Collections Department at the Iowa State University Library for permanent retention in August of 2014.) As might be expected, there are gaps in these records that probably preclude the compiling of a really thorough history of the Section as John Wilson started with his [year-by-year summary covering 1949-1965](#). As an alternative to a thorough review of the archival material, the author of these notes has drawn on the John Wilson documents, Section newsletters and his background as a Section member since 1973 to summarize the Section's evolution. Such a reflection appears especially timely as ASAE (now ASABE) approaches its centennial in 2007.

The Quad City Section is one of the older [Sections within ASABE](#) which itself was founded as the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) in 1907. Formed as the Iowa-Illinois Section in 1949, the Section originally covered a much larger geographical area predating the

formation of the Central Illinois and Iowa Sections. The Iowa-Illinois Section's name was changed in 1955 to the Quad City Section.

With the possible exception of the Chicago Section, the Quad City Section is unique within ASABE in covering a rather compact geographical area (several counties in Illinois and Iowa rather than a whole state), having basically no academic presence and consisting overwhelmingly of members employed in the agricultural machinery industry and thus affiliated with ASABE's Power and Machinery Division. Even a quick look at the Section's meeting programs points out its machinery orientation.

If one were to summarize the Section's history in a few words, one might say "It's gone downhill!" based on membership numbers, meeting attendance and the number of members involved in activity programming. But a fairer assessment would be that the Section has evolved to meet changing times. Farm income and farm equipment sales peaked in the 1970's and greatly declined in the 1980's, resulting in the consolidation of the farm machinery industry. This considerably shrunk both the number of farm machinery employers and engineers in the Quad City area. The Section also had to shrink but continued to offer technical meeting programs and continuing education opportunities.

John Wilson noted "The Quad City Section owes its stature to the group of dedicated agricultural engineers who organized it, to those no less dedicated who have so ably shouldered the responsibilities from year to year, and to all the faithful workers in this Section." These notes are dedicated to all those faithful workers who have provided leadership to the Section over its 55+ year history.

Agricultural Machinery Conference (AMC): This [conference](#) was initiated in 1985 by the Quad City and Iowa Sections of ASAE and the Mississippi Valley Section of SAE to provide a forum for technical presentations, continuing education courses and a suppliers exhibit devoted to the agricultural machinery industry. The AMC was initiated, in part, due to the technical programs at ASAE's Winter and Annual/Summer Meetings becoming increasingly less industry oriented in nature.

Interestingly, R. E. Stewart's history of ASAE's first 70 years ([7 Decades that Changed America](#)) indicates that the ASAE Winter Meeting (traditionally held in Chicago) was initiated in December of 1924 when the Farm Power and Equipment Section (later the Power and Machinery Division) met in Chicago. Later the other ASAE Divisions joined the Power and Machinery Division setting up a second yearly meeting in addition to the Annual Meeting held in the summer. Undoubtedly, several of the older ASAE members in the Quad City area were regular attendees of the Winter Meetings in Chicago. In John Wilson's history of the founding of the Quad City Section, he mentions "... the Deere & Company people feel that a local section would be very attractive to young engineers who have not had the privilege to attend the national meetings."

As ASAE and the farm equipment industry grew during the period from the 1900's through the end of World War II, it became increasingly impractical for a high percentage of engineers from the Quad City area to attend the national meetings. Thus the formation of the Quad City

Section “brought ASAE to them” rather than them “going to ASAE” at its national meetings. The formation of the AMC was a continuation of this trend in bringing industry oriented technical programming to a central location (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) that was within a day’s drive of not only the Quad City Section members but other ASAE and SAE members within Illinois and Iowa.

Although sponsored by the Iowa and Quad City ASAE Sections and the Mississippi Valley SAE Section, the AMC soon developed a Planning Committee of its own on which several Quad City Section members have served. In addition, several Quad City Section members have served as Chair of the AMC (see [Local Recognition](#) for a listing). To provide continuity and a defined liaison between the Section and the AMC, the Quad City Section’s Chair-Elect has become the Section’s formal representative to the AMC Planning Committee and responsible for identifying a technical session organizer for each of the four half-day technical sessions. The ASABE Iowa Section and SAE Mississippi Valley Section provide a similar representative so that the AMC program consists of three concurrent technical sessions held in the morning and afternoon of both of two days of the meeting. Preceding the two days of technical sessions, the first day of the AMC is devoted to continuing education sessions.

The first AMC was held on November 4-6, 1985, at the Five Seasons Convention Center in Cedar Rapids which has remained its location. The next two AMC’s were also held in the first week of November in 1986 and 1987. Then a decision to switch the meeting’s timing to May led to an AMC not being held in 1988 with the first May AMC held in 1989. Since that year, the AMC has been held the first Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of May. The AMC has evolved into a successful, ongoing annual event that attracts both attendees and exhibitors from well beyond Iowa and western Illinois. In fact, the success of the AMC led the national ASAE Power and Machinery Division to initiate the Agricultural Equipment Technology Conference (AETC) whose format of invited speakers to technical sessions planned to be of interest to industry members was patterned after that of the AMC. Ironically, the AMC was itself patterned after the SAE Earthmoving Conference which was a local meeting sponsored by the SAE Central Illinois Section and held annually in Peoria in April for over 30 years. In contrast to the success of the AMC, the Earthmoving Conference ceased to exist in the late 1990’s.

The first AMC was a financial risk for the Quad City Section in that the Section agreed to assume responsibility for a proportionate share of any losses that might be encountered in staging the conference. Fortunately, the first and succeeding AMC’s have been financially successful primarily due to the supplier exhibit. In fact, the AMC returns a portion of its annual net proceeds to the Quad City Section each year which has allowed the Section to hold down local meeting costs and provide funding for a Section Scholarship program.

As might be expected, the AMC did have an effect on the Quad City Section’s annual technical programming. In the years before 1985, the Section held four local meetings (typically in November (Fall), January (Winter), February (Awards) and April (Annual) as well as two Educational Seminars in the February-March time frame. The initial AMC’s held in November of 1985 through 1987 caused the November (Fall) Meeting to be dropped along with one of the Educational Seminars. When the AMC changed to the May time frame in

1989, the Section resumed holding a Fall Meeting in late October and combined its Awards and Annual Meeting into a combined meeting usually held in late March.

Awards: An important function of a technical society is to recognize the outstanding achievements of its members. The Quad City Section has provided this recognition at both the local and national levels. Locally, the Section initiated an Engineer of the Year Award (first given in 1970) to recognize career achievements and an Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award (first given in 1979) to recognize individual and team accomplishment in a particular area. These awards were discontinued in the early 1990's but have recently been reinstated. A listing of the known recipients is given at [Local Recognition](#). The Section has regularly recognized Section members receiving U. S. Patents and those with 25, 40, 50 and 60+ years of Society membership. Section members authoring ASAE national papers have also been recognized in the past. These awards have historically been presented at the final Section meeting of the year and listed in the Spring Newsletter.

The Section has also been active in nominating Section members for ASAE/ASABE national awards such as the ASABE Young Designer and Young Researcher Awards as well as the Fellow grade of ASABE membership. A listing of Section members receiving national recognition is available at [National Recognition](#).

Even before the ASAE Quad City Section was formed, a Quad City engineer, Theo Brown, received the Cyrus Hall McCormick Medal in 1935. Theo Brown, regarded as one of the fathers of the Deere two cylinder tractor, was one of the ASAE members signing the 1949 organizing petition for the Section. Interestingly, his 1935 ASAE McCormick Medal was offered for auction at the Deere Collector's Center memorabilia auction in the summer of 2005 and brought \$ 3,750. One of Theo's grandsons, Willi Cade, has prepared a [reflection](#) on Theo's career. Theo's extensive [diaries](#) are also available online.

Career Guidance: An ongoing challenge for the agricultural engineering profession has been in recruiting high school students to its ranks. Traditionally males raised on farms and exposed to farm machinery operation at an early age were the most likely candidates. But the continual decline in the number of farms during the 20th century steadily decreased this prime recruiting pool. As a result, university agricultural engineering departments, already among the smallest engineering departments on most campuses, were under constant pressure to maintain and hopefully increase their student enrollments. This problem became especially acute in the mid-1950's after the "high tide" of World War II veterans had graduated. The departments looked to ASAE for aid. The result was the 1960 creation of a career guidance film "Agricultural Engineering: Profession with a Future" and accompanying printed materials.

The Quad City Section purchased a copy of this film for their recruiting efforts which had started even earlier. The minutes of the August 20, 1954 Executive Committee Meeting record "...The spring, or April, meeting was also discussed and it was generally agreed that we would attempt to include high school boys and their fathers in an effort to interest the boys further in the field of Agricultural Engineering."

A High School Student Committee was thus formed to accomplish this purpose under the chairmanship of Mahlon Love. This committee recommended inviting "...20 students along with their fathers and vocational instructors to the Annual Section Meeting and tour. It was generally recommended that they were desirous of a boy with a farm background, if possible interested in engineering work." As a result, 35 high school and junior college students attended the 1955 Annual Section Meeting including two (Dick Curry and Dale Tanis) who would later become long time Section members.

For several years up until 1982, the Section sponsored an annual Career Day usually held on a Saturday in February at Black Hawk College in Moline. Local area high school students were invited to attend presentations by both local community colleges such as Black Hawk and by representatives of the agricultural engineering departments at Iowa State and Illinois. After a lunch provided by the Section, the students were given a tour of a local engineering facility such as the International Harvester East Moline Works or the Deere & Company Technical Center with presentations by Section members on the types of work engineers do.

Starting in the fall of 1982, a different approach was taken of "going to the students" instead of having the "students come to us". However, this more ambitious approach never really took off after a good start. For several years, the Section has offered a reduced meeting fee for students and has supported career guidance by providing judges (and for several years a monetary award) for local area science fairs.

When ASAE decided to develop a new career guidance film in the early 1980's, a portion of the film (Agricultural Engineering: The Place to Be!) was shot in the Quad City area with Section Member Rick Clark being featured. A portion of this film showed Rick driving his convertible to work at the Deere & Company Headquarters Building! The Section also purchased a copy of this film in 1983 for \$ 650.

It was inevitable that both the agricultural engineering departments and the engineering organizations of farm machinery companies could not depend on a steady supply of farm raised males. Today those groups have a much more diverse workforce including an increasing number of females and minorities. The inclusion of biological and food engineering to the traditional fields of agricultural engineering has helped attract an increasingly diverse student distribution.

Changing Times: As with any 50+ year old organization, the Quad City Section has had to deal with changing times. The gradual consolidation of the farm machinery industry both nationally and in the Quad City area has reduced the number of engineers in the area with a consequent effect on the Section's membership and level of activity. When the Section was founded in 1949, engineers from J. I. Case, Minneapolis-Moline and International Harvester participated as well as John Deere engineers. With the closing of the Case-IH East Moline combine factory in the summer of 2004, only John Deere remains as a major employer.

The difficult economic times of the 1980's for the farm equipment business led to not only consolidation but early retirement programs and several years of virtually zero hiring. As the Section's membership numbers decreased, it became increasingly difficult to involve members

in Section activities. The Section's active committee structure consisting of five+ members on each of eight committees shrunk down to the elected officers keeping the Section running.

This problem was exacerbated by the transfer of the International Harvester combine design and test engineers to the Hinsdale area in 1981-1982. The return of the now Case combine engineers in the 1990's provided a welcome influx of diversity and manpower to the Section.

In the later 1990's, the Section began to regain some of its previous vigor as hiring resumed bringing in a new generation of engineers and Section members.

Company Participation: An interesting feature of Section meetings during the 1970-1980 period was the awarding at each meeting of a traveling award given to the company engineering department with the highest percentage of its members in attendance. Using percent attendance gave smaller companies such as Kewanee Machinery an equal chance to win the award.

Committee Structure: The Section early adopted a structure of an Executive Committee consisting of the elected officers and the chairs of the standing committees. In addition, an elected Nominating Committee of three members provided the important service of securing candidates for the elected offices. The Executive Committee minutes for August 25, 1951 indicate the standing committees at that time were the Program Arrangements, Properties and Decorations, Publicity, Membership and Special Committees.

The standing committee structure expanded so that by the early 1980's, there were nine standing committees:

Arrangements: Secured the meeting locations at local hotels and provided audio-visual equipment, etc. for the speakers

Awards: Handled nominations for and selection of the Section's Engineer of the Year and Outstanding Engineering Achievement Awards as well as recognition of Section members receiving U. S. Patents, those authoring ASAE National Papers and those with 25, 40, 50 and 60+ years of Society membership. The Awards Committee also was responsible for nominating Section members for national recognition such as the ASAE Young Designer and Young Researcher Awards as well as the Fellow grade of ASAE membership.

Career Guidance: Organized an annual Career Day for high school students to introduce them to the field of agricultural engineering. See separate section under this title.

Education: Organized continuing education seminars. See separate section.

Membership: Helped recruit new ASAE members.

Nominating: Annually elected by the membership with the person receiving the most votes becoming chair of the committee. Responsible for identifying and securing candidates for the elective offices.

Program: Secured technical session speakers.

Public Relations: Provided publicity in the form of news releases to the local media and a Section newsletter.

Steering: Made suggestions for future directions for improving the Section. Often containing Past Section Chairs.

Each of these committees consisted of a chair and a number of Section members. Thus the early 1980's represented the peak of member involvement in active Section participation. As the difficult financial times for the farm equipment industry in the middle 1980's led to early retirement programs, consolidations and layoffs, the Section membership began to decline and it became more difficult to find members interested in committee participation. As a result, the elected officers more and more took on the responsibilities formerly handled by the standing committee structure until only the Nominating Committee remained intact. Eventually several of these responsibilities were taken over by single individuals reporting to the Executive Committee. By 2005, these areas of responsibility were:

- Awards – Local (Patents and Membership Longevity)
- Awards – National
- Education
- Membership
- Newsletter
- ¼ Scale Tractor Design Contest Liaison
- Scholarship
- Social Hour Coordinator
- Young Professionals

Diversity: The Section has greatly benefited over the years from a diverse membership. The Section early provided an opportunity for engineers working in competing companies to get to know each other and work for the common betterment of the engineering profession. As more females entered the engineering profession, the Section welcomed their participation in its activities with Marilyn Maddox (now Marilyn Dumolien) serving as the first female Section Chair in 1994-1995 followed by Michelle Stivers in 1999-2000 and Brianna Heim in 2005-2006. Recent Section meetings have included a wide range of ages of attendees from Young Professional members in their 20's to retirees well into their 80's.

Education: Providing continuing education opportunities for its members is another important function of a technical society. The Section records indicate that at the 1953 Section Annual Meeting "...Carlton Zink offered a suggestion of a series of technical meetings in the form of a course similar in nature to the one held in Milwaukee by SAE." However, it appears the first such courses were offered in 1957. "The topic selected was important phases of product design. Four meetings were held in the Iowa-Illinois Gas & Electric Company Auditorium. No admission was charged for any of the two hour sessions which were held on January 4, 11 and 25 and February 1. Attendance for the series averaged about 75 with as many as 90 present for one meeting."

In the early 1980's, two evening educational seminars were held each year under the auspices of the Education Committee. With the advent of the first Agricultural Machinery Conference (AMC) in November of 1985, one of these educational seminars was shifted to being held in

conjunction with the AMC. That approach has continued to the present with a single educational seminar sponsored by the Section usually being held in February.

Emblems: Symbols are an important part of an organization's identity. For the Quad City Section, the ASAE octagon logo on the Section's podium and banner have served as a visible reminder of the members' affiliation with the Society representing their profession. The ASAE logo on the podium was the wood work of one of the Section members. Unfortunately, after being transported back and forth to Section meetings from a variety of storage places (usually at the office of a member's employer), the podium has become lost but the banner is still on display at each Section meeting.

Finances: Although ASABE allows its Sections to assess Section dues, the Quad City Section has chosen to not follow this route. Although ASABE does provide a modest rebate of its membership dues back to its Sections, most recently the Section has benefited considerably more from the distribution of net proceeds from the Agricultural Machinery Conference. This distribution has helped the Section maintain meeting fees at fairly constant levels for several years and provided funds for the Section scholarships. As a nonprofit organization, the Section attempts to keep meeting charges at a level to meet expenses.

Also important to the fiscal success of the Section has been the support provided by the employers of its members. Several employers encourage the participation of their employees in the Society through payment of their national membership dues and at least partial compensation for Section meeting fees.

Historic Landmarks: There are two [ASABE Historic Landmarks](#) associated with the Quad City Section. The [self-scouring moldboard plow](#) was recognized on November 11, 1976 by ceremonies in both Grand Detour and Moline while [shielded snapping rolls](#) were recognized in 1998. The Section also nominated the MaxEmerge planting unit for this recognition.

Joint Meetings: Over the years, the Section has held joint meetings with several other area technical societies. One of the most long lasting of these was the joint Winter Meeting held with the Mississippi Valley Section of SAE. The Section records indicate these joint meetings began in 1987 and continued through 2002.

Membership Numbers and Meeting Attendance: ASAE records indicate the Quad City Section, with 349 members in May 1980, was the Society's second largest Section trailing only the Iowa Section's 566 members. The economic pressures on the farm machinery industry during the 1980's led to a considerable consolidation accompanied by transfers, layoffs and early retirement programs resulting in a steady decline in Section membership during that decade. As a result, in 1989, the Section's membership had declined to 220. Since then with the resumption of hiring, the membership has made a rebound to approximately 250 members.

Perhaps a high point in meeting attendance was reached during the 1960-1961 program year with an average meeting attendance of 222 for four meetings that year. The average attendance for the four meetings held in 1979-1980 was still a very respectable 182. These

numbers seem remarkable compared to more recent typical meeting attendance figures of 60-70 members. Of course, the Section membership was considerably larger in those years with fewer organizations and activities competing for the time commitment of the members.

National Organization: One of the reasons given for the formation of the Quad City Section in 1949 was that a local organization “would be very attractive to young engineers who have not had the privilege to attend the national meetings.” Probably because of the relatively few engineers practicing agricultural engineering as a profession, ASAE was founded as a national organization in 1907. As the ASAE membership grew, especially after World War II, there were sufficient member numbers to found and support local Sections. To many of these members, their ASAE Section was ASAE to them. This has been the case for many Quad City Section members over the years.

As more Sections were formed, ASAE developed a regional organization consisting of several Sections in a given geographical area. The Quad City Section became part of the Illinois-Wisconsin Region which included the Quad City, Central Illinois and Chicago Sections in Illinois and the Wisconsin Section. The Illinois-Wisconsin Region elected officers and held annual meetings usually in association with the national Society’s Winter Meeting in Chicago in December. In 1988, a Society wide reorganization reduced the number of geographical units from ten Regions to five Districts accompanied by the elimination of the Illinois-Wisconsin regional meetings. The Quad City Section became part of District 3 which included the Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Chicago, Central Illinois and Quad City Sections. In both cases, the Illinois-Wisconsin Region and District 3 were represented on the ASAE Board of Directors. Quad City Section members Ralph Gerhardt and John Wilson served as Illinois-Wisconsin Region Directors while members Doug Bosworth and John Ackley served as Vice Presidents of ASAE’s Regional Council consisting of all the Region Directors.

Over the years, the ASAE/ASABE local geographical structure has often suffered from not having a large enough concentration of members in a given area to form a viable Section. Most of the Sections cover a single state with that state’s land grant university’s agricultural engineering department providing a nucleus for members and officers. The geographical dispersion of the members makes it difficult to generate a meeting turnout sufficient to keep the Section operating even on a one meeting a year basis. Thus several of ASABE’s Sections are currently inactive. The Quad City Section benefits from having a fairly large number of members interested in the power and machinery field and concentrated in a relatively small geographic area.

In the early 1990’s, the ASAE District Council sponsored a Standards of Achievement program to encourage the Sections to provide a prescribed minimum set of “services” to their Section members. This program had limited success and was not sufficient to untrack the demise of several Sections.

A national organization such as ASABE can provide only a limited amount of support for its Sections. The vitality of the Section ultimately depends on the willingness of the local members to keep it operating by volunteering to serve as officer candidates and support

Section activities. Also important is support from the members in general through their meeting attendance. The national ASABE organization does provide a Section Officers Handbook.

The ASAE/ASABE national organization does offer many opportunities for members to participate in a wide variety of professional activities primarily through its committee structure. Not surprisingly, a number of Quad City Section members have been active at the national level including four Section members who have served as ASAE Presidents: Stanley Madill (1951-1952), Charles Morrison (1965-1966), Douglas Bosworth (1992-1993) and Lyle Stephens (2002-2003). But perhaps the height of Quad City Section involvement at the national level occurred in 1987-1988 when all three of ASAE's Vice Presidents had their roots in the Quad City Section (John Ackley (Regional), Leroy Pickett (Technical) and Roy Harrington (Professional)).

Newsletter: The Section records note under 1956-1957 Section Chair Roy Harrington, the Section "...published a newsletter for the first time. He stated that we are planning to include a newsletter with each program announcement this year so that our Section members will be better informed as to local activities." The Section records include a continuous set of newsletters from September 1979 through December 1990 when the newsletter's publication was a function of the Public Relations Committee. Newsletter publication resumed in Winter 1994 with Wayne Block as the editor. David Smith took over as editor in the Winter of 1997. For the last several years, three issues a year have been issued after the Fall, Winter and Spring Section meetings. The newsletters were distributed as hard copies until the Fall issue of 2001 which was the first to be posted on the Section's new web site. With that issue, an email was sent to all members with an email address in the ASAE membership data base directing them to the newsletter posting at the web site. Hard copies were mailed to those without email addresses. Recently, the [last three issues of the newsletter](#) have been available for access on the web site.

¼ Scale Tractor Design Contest: This [student design competition](#) was initiated by ASAE in 1998 to provide a team design experience for students interested in machine design. The competition has been held in the Quad Cities since its inception with the tractor pull competition held at the Quad City Downs. Although administered at the national level, a number of Quad City Section members have participated on both the planning committee, as judges and to help stage the competition. Section members have been invited to join the students and their advisors at the pork chop sandwich supper held on the Friday evening of the competition.

Programs: Undoubtedly the major activity of the Section over the years have been the Section meetings and the major items in each meeting are the technical sessions and after-dinner speakers. An open exchange of technical information remains one of the major reasons for the existence of technical societies at both the national and local level. A decade-by-decade listing of the Section's meeting programs is available at [Local Meetings](#). Looking through these lists, one is struck that the technical session presentations mirror the changes in technology in the farm equipment industry over the last 50+ years. Other local technical events were also covered such as the construction of the second Bettendorf-Moline bridge

(now part of the I-74 bridge) in 1958 and the construction of the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Plant in 1970. The after-dinner speeches include presentations by many of ASAE's Presidents as well as corporate executives.

Quad City Engineering and Science Council (QCESC): The Executive Committee minutes for January 21, 1955 include the first reference to this organization of Quad City area technical societies: "Mr. (Charles) Morrison then told of attending a meeting of the Quad-Cities Technical Council, which already had 14 local society sections in its membership. It was suggested we join this council for the following reasons: (1) It would tend to publicize our Iowa-Illinois ASAE Section among other engineers in the area thus encouraging their attendance at our meetings which might be of special interest to them. (2) A monthly bulletin would also inform our members of meetings occurring in the other societies which might be of particular interest to them. It was explained that the cost to us would be 30 cents per year per member." The Executive Committee then unanimously moved that the Section affiliate with the Quad-Cities Technical Council which later became the Quad Cities Engineering and Science Council.

Besides offering liaison between the Quad City area technical societies, the QCESC (see its web site at <http://www.qcesc.org>) hosts an annual Engineers Week Banquet in February and offers scholarships to local high school seniors. The Quad City Section has regularly donated funds for these scholarships. Generally the Section's Past Chair has served as the Section's representative to the Council. Past Section Chair Marilyn Dumolien has also served as Chair of the QCESC.

The QCESC also annually names a Junior and Senior Engineer of the Year Award as well as a Society of the Year. Section member Jim Miller was named the QCESC Senior Engineer of the Year in 2002 while Section member Miles Keaton was named the Junior Engineer of the Year in 2005. The Quad City Section also was honored as the QCESC Society of the Year in 2005.

Scholarships: The financial success of the Agricultural Machinery Conference (AMC) and especially its supplier exhibit led to increasing annual contributions back to the Section from the AMC. With the availability of surplus funds, a Quad City Section Scholarship was initiated in 1992. Initially the scholarship was limited to the children of Section members. In 1995, this restriction was removed with two \$ 500 scholarships awarded from a field of 13 applicants studying agricultural engineering or mechanization. One of the 1995 recipients, Dale Quam, then a junior at the University of Wisconsin, later became a Quad City Section member after accepting employment with John Deere. See [Local Recognition](#) for a listing of the Section's scholarship recipients.

A single \$ 500 scholarship was awarded in 1996, 1997 and 1998 with the amount increasing to \$ 750 for 1999 through 2002. Two \$ 750 scholarships were awarded in 2003 and 2004 with two \$ 1,000 scholarships awarded in 2005. The essays submitted by the scholarship recipients have been published in the Section's Spring Newsletter.

In addition to funding its own scholarships, the Section has contributed funds for the [scholarships](#) awarded annually by the Quad City Engineering and Science Council to Quad City area students.

Social Hours: A popular part of the Section meetings has been the Social Hour between the late afternoon technical sessions and the evening meal. This time provides an opportunity for members to informally socialize and catch up on activities with members they haven't seen for some time. For several years, the suppliers to the major area manufacturers have sponsored the Social Hour. Dick Mong and more recently Bob Clancy have served as the organizers for this sponsorship for several years.

Tours: The Section has offered tours of local manufacturing facilities since its founding. Recently, these tours have included bus trips to a Caterpillar factory in Peoria and the Kinze facility in Williamsburg, Iowa.

Web Site: The Section's web site at <http://www.asabe.qcesc.org/> was initiated in 2000 through the efforts of Pat Barnes, the web master for the Quad City Engineering and Science Council. Since that time, all Section meeting announcements and newsletters have been posted at the web site for access not only by the Section members but by anyone interested in the Section's activities.

Young Professionals: This group had its genesis in the early 2000's at the national level with Section member Chad Yagow as one of its initiators and leaders. Locally, the Young Professionals sponsored baseball outings at John O'Donnell Stadium in May 2004 and August 2005 and a Mallards hockey outing in January 2005. All of these events were open to all Section members and attracted several prospective members just starting their engineering careers.

The Quad City Section can trace its formation to an earlier group of Young Professionals although that term only came into use recently. In a 1980 letter, Bob Meier, one of the Section's founders, wrote that the Section's founding received "... its impetus from the three young engineers hired by the John Deere Harvester Works in 1947. Two were from the University of Wisconsin, Bill Denniston and Bob Meier, and one from the University of Illinois, Des Miller. Our background with the ASAE student organizations served as a springboard to continue those activities in some manner."

Serving as a Quad City Section officer has served as a valuable leadership development experience for many of the Section's younger members.