

# Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John C. Hogan, P.E.  
Los Angeles Section President



### Section Dues—Where Does the Money Go?

Last month, I wrote about the tremendous value of ASCE membership. Expanding on that theme, this month's focus is on the value of membership in the Los Angeles Section.

As you know, ASCE membership has several dues components. There are the base dues for membership in the Society. Added to that are dues for membership in one's local section. Your dues statement may also include voluntary contributions for other causes, subscriptions to technical journals, et al. The

grand total is the amount one pays each year for the privilege of membership in our organization. At an average of \$20 to \$30 per month, the dues are very economical, especially in light of the benefits that are derived, as described in last month's and this month's newsletters.

Dues for membership in the Los Angeles Section are currently \$45.00 per year. This fiscal year, the Section's operating budget is \$250,000 in revenue; \$280,000 for expenses. The shortfall is made up by drawing upon the Section's reserves. (Comment: as I have previously reported, thanks to the foresight of past leadership, the Section built a healthy reserve during the banner years of the late 1990's and early 2000's. The reserve is there to support Section programs when the inevitable lean years hit. We have been drawing down the reserve in each of the past three years. This is not a sustainable business model; we have nearly reached the limit to which we can prudently draw on reserves. Next year, we will have to bring revenue and expenses into much closer alignment.)

Member dues make up the bulk (72%) of the Section's revenue. The remainder is from contributions and sponsorships, event registrations, and newsletter advertising. Obviously, the Section depends greatly on dues.

Where does this money go? The Section's largest expense (\$100,000) is for allocations to our Branches and YMF's to underwrite their programs and activities. These local programs and events are the primary means by which many of our members access ASCE. The local events provide a forum for members to interact with one another at general meetings, technical programs, networking events, social events, and seminars. Your section dues keep these groups in business so they can put on such programs for you.

A major priority of the Section is to provide for the future of our profession. Accordingly, another large block of the Section's annual expenditures (\$66,000) goes to support students in our area. This takes the form of allotments to our eleven ASCE Student Chapters. It also includes scholarships, which we awarded on March 9, 2012 at the very successful and well-attended Student Night. Included also are contributions the Section makes to programs benefitting ASCE students. One such program supported by the Section is the Pacific Southwest Conference 2012, held in March at Cal Poly Pomona. The Section also contributes to programs that foster interest in engineering within pre-college age young people. Shining examples of this are the ACE Mentor Program, the Popsicle Bridge Contest, and school outreach. Each of these programs piques interest in Civil Engineering as a career. Anyone who has heard testimonials from students in these programs knows how effective

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## The Value of Membership, and Other Thoughts

Where does our money go? That is in essence of what John Hogan, P.E., our Section President, tried to answer in his article. Our organization creates a significant amount of value for all of us, our profession, and the communities we live in. But most importantly, we also create a significant amount of intangibles that we would not even be able to put a price on. Consider the goodwill we create among our members and the community at large, the sustainability of our membership through continued exposure of ever-younger generations of potential engineers in our elementary and high school institutions, as well as the greater good we create through our projects. Infrastructure is endemic and benign-looking and so ingrained in the fabric of our lives that we do not really realize how important these projects are to the continuation of our existence. Have you stopped for a moment and really, seriously, contemplated what you would do if tap water did not come out of your faucets anymore? Or consider this: What would you do if electricity all of a sudden did not flow through and power our systems? How do you think you would travel if the bridges that you normally drive through all of a sudden collapse; or if the freeway you are using remains unrepaired and large potholes develop? Engineers build the quality of life we currently enjoy. We need to take care of our profession to make it last. ASCE and your Los Angeles Section is making that happen.

Don Sepulveda, P.E., ASCE Los Angeles Section Centennial Chair, provides additional perspective on what we are talking about but in the context of the history of engineering projects. There are a number of issues people have raised on forthcoming major infrastructure projects, but in his opinion we forget how the major national undertakings of the past were actually funded and created. In essence, we cannot be perfect in the planning of these projects, but we need to ensure that we get started with them first. Without that initiation, we will never (as a society) go anywhere with these projects.

We have also included some legislative updates in this issue that may be of interest to you. One article that you may want to take a serious look at is the nomination announcement for L.A. Section Officers for this coming fiscal year. We do welcome petitions but in the spirit of transparency, the L.A. Section Nominating Committee has recommended these fine members for consideration.

Finally, we recognize in two articles winners of the just-concluded 6th Annual Region 9 Awards held in Sacramento, CA. The Los Angeles Section's projects and members have garnered a significant number of these awards. We are truly represented in this event and hope to be in the years to come. Keep on achieving!

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter!

- Dr. Cris B. Liban, P.E.

### Reminder:

*Copy deadline for the May 2012 issue is April 1, 2012; copy deadline for the June 2012 issue is May 1, 2012.*

## Infrastructure Awareness and History

*By Don Sepulveda, P.E.  
ASCE L.A. Section Centennial Chair*

Over the past few months I have been talking about our Centennial and what that means for our past present and future. It can be argued that the past 100 years of Southern California have been defined by the efforts of civil engineers. The development of the Alameda Corridor and the California Aqueduct are examples of this. Both of these can be traced back to the efforts of civil engineers that saw a problem, developed a solution, and worked to get the funding and support to make it happen. In both of these cases it took strong legislative and other political action to gain the support for funding and development of these projects. In fact, if you trace the development of the Transcontinental Railroad, you can trace it back to Theodore Judah (a civil engineer) working closely with President Abraham Lincoln to develop the project. Civil engineers, while not yet in the forefront, have been very instrumental throughout history to bring awareness to and participate in the development of public projects.

Our Centennial will celebrate events of the past. While we normally associate commemorations as an acknowledgement of an opening or other significant event, we should be looking at the "behind the scenes" story leading to the event that is just as important as the event itself. Commemorations of driving the Golden Spike at the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad address the builders of the system. We should also remember the political outreach necessary to make this happen that is as important as constructing the project. In fact, our Centennial is not just remembering the completion of civil engineering projects or the thousands of engineers that went into the development of these projects, but a remembrance of the other actions that went into the success of these projects.

Over the past two weeks we saw the California Infrastructure Report Card released at an event in Sacramento. That report card, along with the national report card, is a wake-up call for all of us. I was asked once about the national report card grade on structures and what that meant for California. Our media is programmed to think about the doom and gloom related to these issues. "Is this bridge going to collapse?" "What does this grade mean?" It is up to us to get the correct message out to the public and the media.

Over the past several months we have all heard about the California High-Speed Rail Project. We have heard that the revised costs make it too expensive. Can we ask ourselves this question: What would have happened if President Eisenhower was told when he proposed the interstate highway system that it was required to have complete funding before he started? He would have had a cost estimate based on 1956 dollars. Since we are still building the system, then those dollars would have had to have been revised to 2012 dollars. What do you think the public support would have been?

I bring up the high speed train project because it is a very real example of needed infrastructure that in the short-term seems expensive but in the long-term is needed to meet the needs of the future of California. The same argument was made about the state water project, the interstate highway system, and numerous dams and infrastructure projects

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tive the programs are. Without Section dues, our ability to perpetuate our profession would be greatly impaired. The resulting fall-off in the CE student population would not bode well for our companies and agencies as they seek to meet their future staffing needs.

Do you enjoy reading the monthly Section newsletter? Your Section dues make the newsletter possible. While we strive to offset the \$17,000 annual cost of the newsletter through revenue generated from the business card directory and paid notices, during the past several years, the newsletter has not been financially self-sufficient. Ad revenue has fallen, requiring a subsidy from the Section to cover the costs of typesetting, printing, and distributing.

Another major priority of the Section is to advocate for legislation and governmental policies that are aligned with the interests of our organization. In that regard, the Section budget allocates \$14,000 for legislative activities, including funds we send to Region 9 to help underwrite the cost of ASCE's professional advocate in Sacramento. This great service to our membership is made possible by our dues. It's essential that we continue our advocacy and, ideally, step it up to a higher level in future years.

We expend \$15,000 annually for Section events such as the Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner, Student Night, and the Life Member Brunch. Each of these events is usually financially self supporting, but like all Section operations, they rely on administrative support provided by the Section. Administrative costs are another large component of the annual Section expense budget. This year we budgeted approximately \$50,000 for professional services related to event planning and staffing, record-keeping, accounting and tax return preparation for the Section and its two dozen subsidiary groups (i.e., Branches, YMF's, Student Chapters, and technical groups).

Finally, the Section's budget includes approximately \$20,000 for the expenses of its committees, much of which is also offset by revenue generated by the committees. A good example is the Centennial Committee, whose ambitious undertakings will be funded by contributions, donations, sponsorships, and event registrations.

To sum it up, the Los Angeles Section puts your dues money to work in a multitude of ways that benefits its members and our profession.

As your Section President, I can vouch for this. I have been witness to just how effective our programs are and can confirm that our funds are well spent. For example, I went to Sacramento for our Legislative Fly-in. ASCE brought a great message that our legislators wanted to hear and needed to hear. It was clear that visits such as this make a difference. I wish we could do it more often and bring more people.

I also saw how our LA Section / MLAB / YMF Student Night brought together enthusiastic CE students from throughout the Section—all of whom cannot wait to become practicing professionals. They were thrilled to see so many companies and agencies show up with recruiters at the evening's job fair. The scholarship recipients will be eternally grateful to ASCE.

Other events and programs supported by the Section were equally inspiring and worthwhile. I witnessed the great work done by the ACE Mentor Program at its annual Awards and Sponsors Night. It offered overwhelming validation that our investment was well placed. Ditto for the Popsicle Bridge Contest and the Pacific Southwest Conference. The Section's annual Life Member Brunch provided a great opportunity to celebrate and honor the careers of our new Life Members. Without the Section putting on this event, their only recognition would have been a certificate in the mail.

That the LA Section had such a strong showing in the recent Region 9 awards is another testament to the efforts of the Section and example of the benefits of section membership. The publicity and recognition brought about by these awards help advance our profession by demonstrating the important contributions that Civil Engineers bring to society and quality of life. Congratulations to our winners.

For all these reasons and more, I am thankful for my membership in the Los Angeles Section. I am grateful that so many of my fellow Civil Engineers have also made the wise and astute decision to join. Now let's go talk to our colleagues and get them to join so the Section can do that much more for us all.

## ARTICLE

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## Infrastructure: Ike's Interstates weren't subject to today's upfront funding queries

across the nation. This is an example of how thirty-second sound bites are controlling infrastructure development. This is our call to action about reaching out to get the message of the importance of infrastructure development out to the general public and our elected officials.

When we talk about the importance of the Centennial we need to understand that we are not celebrating the past only because it is how we got to today; we are building on our history to argue for our future. This is a future dependent on adequate investment in the infrastructure of our state and our nation so that we can continue to build the sustainable communities that we will need as our population grows. This is the future that our children and grandchildren will inherit. By using the past, we can inform the future. This is our message to our elected officials and the general public as we celebrate our past, present and future.



[www.ascelasection.org](http://www.ascelasection.org)

# 6th Annual Region 9 Awards Program Held on Feb. 28

By Kathy Haynes

Region 9 Governor, Awards Committee Chair

The ASCE Region 9 Awards Program was held on February 28, 2012 in Sacramento. We were honored to have the Society's President-Elect, Greg DiLoreto join us in helping to congratulate the award recipients. The 6th annual awards dinner recognized excellence in engineering at both the project and individual levels.

Project Awards recognize outstanding civil engineering projects for projects that have received an award from one of the four ASCE Sections in Region 9 (Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego) during the award year.

The ASCE Region 9 awards committee would like to recognize this year's awards that were selected from a strong pool of applicants.

## Project Award Recipients:

- Project of the Year—**Malibu Legacy Park**, City of Malibu: Geosyntec Consultants
- Outstanding Architectural Engineering Project—**City of Santa Rosa Utilities Field Office**: City of Santa Rosa, Winzler & Kelly | GHD
- Outstanding Bikeways & Trails Project—**Allan Hancock Bike Path**: City of Lompoc, City of Lompoc Public Works Department—Engineering Division
- Outstanding Bridge Project—**Valley Boulevard Grade Separation near Eastern Avenue**: City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering
- Outstanding Small Transportation Project—**East Center Street Reconstruction**: City of Anderson, OMNI-MEANS, LTD.
- Outstanding Environmental Project—**Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project**: County of Orange Public Works Department, Army Corps of Engineers
- Outstanding Water Project—**Folsom South Canal Connection Project**: East Bay Municipal Utility District, East Bay Municipal Utility District
- Outstanding Geotechnical Project—**Presidio Parkway—Phase 1**: Caltrans—District 4 & San Francisco County Transportation Authority, Caltrans / Arup
- Outstanding Energy Project—**Install Airfield Signs, Taxiway Lights, and Runway Guard Lights at the San Diego International Airport**: San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
- Outstanding Small Project—**Scripps Institute of Oceanography Stormwater Water Pollution Control Plan**: University of California San Diego, Nasland Engineering
- Outstanding Construction Project—**Interstate 5 Gateway Project**: Orange County Transportation Authority, & Caltrans—District 12, TRC Solutions
- Outstanding Historical Renovation—**First Avenue Bridge over Maple Canyon Retrofit and Painting Project**: City of San Diego, T.Y. Lin International
- Outstanding Community Improvement Project—**Sunset Strip Beautification**: City of West Hollywood, Harris & Associates
- Outstanding Park & Recreation Project—**Happy Hollow Park Bridge**: City of San Jose, HNTB Corporation
- Outstanding Water Conveyance Project—**Nacimiento Water Project**: San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Black & Veatch
- Outstanding Flood Management Project—**Natomas Levee Improvement Program**: County of Sacramento, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Outstanding Roadway Emergency Project—**Soledad Mountain Road Reconstruction**: City of San Diego, Helenschmidt Geotechnical, Inc.
- Outstanding Airport & Port Project—**Port Pavilion on Broadway Pier**: Unified Port of San Diego, Moffatt & Nichol · Blaylock
- Outstanding Structural Project—**St. Joseph's Medical Center Pedestrian Walkway**: St. Joseph's Medical Center / Catholic Healthcare West, ESE Consulting Structural Engineers, Inc.
- Outstanding Wastewater Project—**City of Bakersfield Wastewater Treatment Plant 3 Expansion**: City of Bakersfield, Parsons
- Outstanding Water Treatment Project—**Alvarado Water Treatment Plant Ozone Upgrade and Expansion Plant**: City of San Diego, Malcolm Pirnie/ARCADIS

## Individual Award Recipients:

All ASCE members in Region 9 are eligible for consideration for individual awards.

- Outstanding Civil Engineer in the Private Sector—**Shahnawaz Ahmad, P.E.**
- Outstanding Civil Engineer in the Public Sector—**Julie Labonte, P.E., M.S.**
- Excellence in Journalism—**Patt Morrison**
- Outstanding Civil Engineer in Community Service—**Jeff Spannbauer, P.E.**
- Outstanding Civil Engineering Student—**Spencer Reed**
- Lifetime Achievement Award—**L. Dale Mills**

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- Outstanding ASCE Life Member—**Terry Hartman, P.E., Howard L. Payne, P.E.**
- Outstanding Civil Engineering Faculty Advisor—**Lelli Van Den Einde**
- Outstanding ASCE Practitioner Advisor—**Diego Cadena, P.E.**
- Outstanding Younger Civil Engineer—**Jonathon P. Marshall**
- Outstanding ASCE Section Officer—**Gary Gilbert, P.E.**
- Outstanding ASCE Branch Officer—**Ziad Mazboudi, P.E.**
- Outstanding ASCE Younger Member Officer—**Shannon Lehman**
- Outstanding Engineer in Legislative Activities—**Serge Haddad, P.E.**

#### **Awards Committee**

Special thanks to the Awards committee:

- Amber Girard
- Thor Larson
- Greg Zeiss
- Tony Cinquini
- Dean Gibson

- Carlos Mendoza
- Joshua Nelson
- Kent Sasaki

#### **Sponsors**

Thanks to the generous Awards Dinner Sponsors:

- Kimley Horn and Associates
- GHD
- Black & Veatch, in conjunction with Magnus Pacific
- ACEC
- Akel Engineering Group
- Simon Wong Engineering
- Malcolm Pirnie/Arcadis
- HDR
- ESE Consulting Engineers

Photos from the event can be viewed and downloaded from the Region 9 web page, <http://www.asce.org/region9/awards/> ; just follow the link to the photos.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENT

## Disaster Training

Classes are being organized for volunteers to help in the event of a major disaster under the auspicious of the State of California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). Classes will be held in ASCE Branch areas when there are sufficient requests. Qualified individuals are California Registered Civil, Structural, Geotechnical, Certified engineering Geologists, or Architects. If you are interested in attending a class, or are interested in arranging a class, please contact the ASCE Disaster Preparedness Committee Chairman.

There is no charge for the class.

The class lasts 4 or 5 hours

The class can commence as early as 8 AM or after work.

Monday through Friday or on Saturday

Classes will be given for VOLUNTEERS from professional organizations to assess damage, and COORDINATORS from City or County to direct Volunteers for their area. Coordinators may act as Volunteers outside of their area of expertise.

To register for the class submit your name along with your telephone number and e-mail address. You will be contacted when 10 or more request a class. The maximum number in the class should not exceed 20.

If your Branch, or Firm would like to offer the use of its facilities for a class, please register and provide the name of contact person, phone, and E-mail. You will be contacted to make arrangements.

Thank you for your support.

Jack W. Rolston, Chair

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 ascedisaster@earthlink.net

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## L.A. Section Well-Represented at Region 9 Awards

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On February 28, 2012, ASCE Region 9 held its annual Awards Dinner and Program in Sacramento. These awards honor projects and individuals from throughout California for achievement and excellence.

The Los Angeles Section was extremely well represented among the award winners. Projects from the Los Angeles Section garnered 8 of the 21 project awards, including Project of the Year. Individuals from our Section received 10 of the 15 individual awards.

The Los Angeles Section winners were:

### Outstanding Project Awards

Project of the Year: **Malibu Legacy Park**, City of Malibu

Bikeway and Trails Project: **Allan Hancock Bike Path**, City of Lompoc

Bridge Project: **Valley Boulevard Grade Separation**, City of Los Angeles

Community Improvement Project: **Sunset Strip Beautification**, City of West Hollywood

Construction Project: **Interstate 5 Gateway Project**, OCTA and Caltrans – District 12

Environmental Project: **Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project**, County of Orange Public Works

Wastewater Project: **Wastewater Treatment Plant 3 Expansion**, City of Bakersfield

Water Conveyance Project: **Nacimiento Water Project**, San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

### Individual Awards

Outstanding Civil Engineer in the Public Sector: **Shahnawaz Ahmad, P.E.**, SA Associates

Excellence in Journalism Award: **Patt Morrison**, *Los Angeles Times*

Outstanding Civil Engineer in Community Service: **Jeff Spannbauer, P.E.**, Cannon

Outstanding Civil Engineering Student: **Spencer Reed**, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Outstanding Engineer in Legislative Activities: **Serge Haddad, P.E.**, City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Outstanding ASCE Section Officer: **Gary Gilbert, P.E., G.E.**, Diaz Yourman & Associates

Outstanding ASCE Life Member: **Terry Hartman, P.E.**

Outstanding ASCE Branch Officer: **Ziad Mazboudi, P.E.**, City of San Juan Capistrano

Outstanding ASCE Practitioner Advisor: **Diego Cadena, P.E.**, Los Angeles County

Lifetime Achievement Award: **L. Dale Mills, P.E.**

Congratulations to the award recipients. For photographs of the Awards Program, visit [www.asce.org/region9/awards](http://www.asce.org/region9/awards).

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<p>National ASCE (800) 548-2723 (ASCE) Access National ASCE at: <a href="http://www.asce.org">www.asce.org</a> L.A. Section web site at: <a href="http://www.ascelasection.org">www.ascelasection.org</a></p>
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# Legislative Update: This Month in Sacramento

By Richard Markuson

## Title Act Conversion Bill Reintroduced

As expected, AICHe has reintroduced their legislation, Senate Bill 1061, to convert the nine title acts into practice acts and authorize any licensed engineer to practice engineering work in any field in which he or she is competent and proficient. The bill is again carried by Senator Mimi Walters. The Region 9 Government Relations Committee will be reviewing the measure and recommending a position to the Region 9 Board of Direction. To see all of the legislation Region 9 is tracking, please visit our website to access this article with hyperlinks.

## On-line Renewals

Licensees may now submit their renewal payments to the Board via their new online system. During this trial period they are only able to accept renewal payments for the following disciplines:

- Civil
- Electrical
- Mechanical
- Land surveyor

All others must be renewed in the traditional manner.

## CEQA Experts Wanted

The Region 9 Water and Environment Committee is looking for a couple engineers with an interest in reviewing CEQA legislation and participating in the Committee conference calls. If you are interested—contact Mark Norton, committee chair or Region 9 lobbyist Richard Markuson.

## Recent Reports

The Department of Water Resources reports that its third snow survey

of the season has found California's mountain snowpack "holds far less water than normal for this time of year." It found statewide water content at only 30% of normal for the date.

The Legislative Analyst's Office has released its budget recommendation for staffing within Caltrans. It said, in part, "withhold recommendation on the Governor's January budget proposal to provide the Department of Transportation with \$2 million in federal funds and an extension of 25 limited-term positions for the administration of various federal transportation programs, pending future actions by Congress regarding these programs that are scheduled to expire on March 31, 2012."

The Legislative Analyst's Office released "Unwinding Redevelopment," that outlines the roles that state and local agencies play in the "wind down process," how former redevelopment agencies' funds and assets will be distributed among local agencies, it also highlights "related findings and recommendations for legislative consideration."

The Legislative Analyst's Office released its report, "The 2012–13 Budget: Cap-and-Trade Auction Revenues," that outlines the estimated revenue that the cap-and-trade auctions by the CA Air Resources Board in 2012–13 will generate.

The California Energy Commission has released its "2011 Integrated Energy Policy Report," the state's main energy planning document. It describes priority energy issues the state faces, such as reducing energy use in existing buildings, meeting demand for alternative and renewable fuels and developing statewide renewable energy targets.

The Legislative Analyst's Office has released its analysis of "Performance-Based Budgeting for Caltrans," says the Governor's budget proposes about \$11 billion and 20,400 positions for Caltrans in 2012–13.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

# Sami Masri to Receive the George W. Housner Structural Control and Monitoring Medal

The Los Angeles Section is pleased to announce that Sami Masri, Ph.D., M.ASCE, has been selected by ASCE's Engineering Mechanics Institute (EMI) to receive the George W. Housner Structural Control and Monitoring Medal. Dr. Masri is a member of the Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch, Los Angeles Section. This award recognizes contributions to the field of structural control and monitoring of civil infrastructure systems. The award will be presented at the EMI Conference at Notre Dame, Indiana, on June 17–20, 2012. Additional information and recipient photographs will be available at [www.asce.org/awards](http://www.asce.org/awards).

Congratulations, Dr. Masri!

## A Great Idea from the Life Members

The ASCE Life Members' Public Image Committee request that members take their (to be discarded) Civil Engineering magazines to their doctor's office or barber shop and merge them with the stack of magazines. We feel that this will be an effective way to make the general public more aware of what civil engineers do.

## Nominations Announced for L.A. Section Officers; Terms to Begin in October

The Los Angeles Section Nominating Committee has made the following recommendations to the Board of Directors for the slate of officers for the term beginning October 2012:

**President-Elect** (for a three-year term; President-Elect, President, and Past President):

- Yazdan Emrani, P.E., Hall & Foreman, Inc.

**Secretary** (for a two-year term):

- Amber Girard, CH2MHill

**Vice President Technical Groups** (for a two-year term):

- Charles Adams, P.E., Jacobs Engineering

In accordance with Article 4, Section 4.3.6, of the current Los Angeles Section Bylaws,

Additional nominations for each office to be filled may be made by a petition signed by no less than fifty (50) Voting Members of the Section provided that such a petition is accompanied by a written acceptance of the nomination by the nominee and is filed with the Incumbent Section Secretary within 30 days after the announcement of the nominees.

The Voting Member grades, as defined in the Los Angeles Section Constitution, Article 2, Section 2.2.1, are Associate Member, Member, Fellow Member, and Distinguished Member, whose dues are current or who are granted a Section dues exemption.

Petitions are due within 30 days of the distribution date of this announcement and should be submitted to:

Secretary, Los Angeles Section ASCE  
c/o Gayle Stewart Enterprises, Inc.  
1415 Warner Ave.  
Tustin, CA 92780

## Practices to Reduce Failure

By Roy Baughman

Member, Committee for Practices to Reduce Failures  
Council on Forensic Engineering

A failure is anything a customer, client, evaluating authority or the professional practice in general views as inadequate or not meeting the expected performance. These could be glitches during the construction phase, not meeting the expected life of the product, or at worst, a total collapse. We've all had, to some degree, at least one of these failures. Unfortunately, history has shown failures tend to repeat, which is often due to lack of knowledge of previous similar incidents. The question is how do you reduce failures? The most prominent answer is through education. Actually, it is through the knowledge of the past failures, mistakes, errors or just plain goof ups, that these can be avoided. The distribution of the knowledge is the education.

The February issue of the ASCE Los Angeles Section Newsletter has two interesting and pointed articles. The first article is titled "The Civil Engineering Revival" by Fareed S. Pittawala, Governor, ASCE Region 9. Mr. Pittawala stresses the need of education in all fields of study for engineers and future engineers. The second article by Joshua Nelson, President ASCE Orange County Branch, stresses the need for a larger and more encompassing "Book of Knowledge" pertinent to the demands of today's technical and leadership requirements. The Committee for Practices to Reduce Failures of the ASCE Technical Council on Forensic Engineering is starting a program to answer the needs implied in the two articles.

The knowledge, which all of us have gained through our experiences, should be shared with all. Sharing these experiences is our objective. What went wrong, why it went wrong and the practices needed to avoid or reduce these failures is our goal. We are requesting that ASCE members submit their experiences to answer the questions of what went wrong and why it went wrong and, a possible practice to avoid the same error. Please understand we are not in the blame game. No names will ever be displayed in connection with our program.

Upon receiving the submittals, the committee will categorize as to which civil and structural engineering field covers the event, rewrite the statements if necessary, and place all into a three ring binder for publication and distribution. We believe this should be a living document amended and expanded periodically as new cases emerge.

Please submit your events in 250 words or less. However, if you need more, use as much space as you feel necessary. You may also provide sketches, if necessary. If we need clarification or have questions about the event, we reserve the right to contact the author before publication. At no time will we arbitrarily decline to publish a submittal. All items submitted will become a copyright property of the American Society of Engineers

Please submit your experience via e-mail to rbaughman91305@verizon.net

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## In Memoriam: Thornton E. Piersall, P.E. 1924 – 2012

Thornton (Thorny) E. Piersall was born May 30, 1924 and died peacefully at his home in Anaheim on January 29, 2012. Interment was in Oklahoma next to his loving wife of 64 years, Johnnye. He is survived by his brother Bob, sister Dorothy, nephew Jerry and niece Gricelda.



Born in Shattuck, Oklahoma, Thorny served in the U.S. Army during World War II, achieving the rank of staff sergeant, and received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for heroism in the Battle of the Bulge. Discharged in 1946, Thorny attended Oklahoma A&M University where he received a B.A. in civil engineering and soon after entered public service.

Thorny was hired by the City of Anaheim on May 1, 1958 as Assistant City Engineer, and rose to the rank of Public Works Executive Director, a position he held until his retirement December 30, 1980. He was a man of great integrity who had a passion for excellence.

Noted for his engaging personality, Thorny achieved national acclaim for his many achievements in public works, serving as project manager for the construction of Anaheim Stadium and the Convention Center, and later its two expansions, construction of City Hall, as well

as the stadium renovation to house the NFL Rams team.

Thorny received the National Public Works Director of the Year Award during his tenure in Anaheim, an award that most accurately described his professionalism and dedication to the public works field and to the community he so unselfishly served.

Thorny was a Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and served as President of the Orange County Branch of ASCE in 1987–1988. He was also a member of the American Public Works Association where he received the APWA “Top Ten” Award, SCAG (MTEB), and the League of Cities, including the Public Works Officers group thereof.

Thorny, a humble, gentle man, was loved and admired by his family and many friends. He will truly be missed by all of us who had the privilege of knowing this 5’ 5” giant of a man.

*We thank Mr. James D. Ruth, General Manager of the Orange County Sanitation District, for preparing this obituary about Mr. Piersall.*

ARTICLE

## ACE Mentor Program Gives Honors for Volunteer Service

Turner Construction, Gruen Associates Architects and KPFF Consulting Engineers were the headliners on February 23. The ACE Mentor Program for Los Angeles and Orange Counties honored them and six individuals for exemplary volunteer service to students. The program is marking its tenth year in Southern California.

As 300 professionals gathered to celebrate at the California Club, three individual mentors stepped to the podium to be honored:

- Matthew Barnard, structural engineer with Degenkolb Engineers
- Donald Barker, architect with Richard Meier Partners prior to his retirement
- Noah Boro, project engineer with Turner Construction

Teachers cited for long-term service to inner-city students served by the ACE Mentor Program were:

- Rebecca Holliman of Century High School in Santa Ana, California
- Jose Rivas of Lennox Academy, Lennox, CA
- Richard McCarthy of Franklin High School, Los Angeles

On May 12, ACE Los Angeles/Orange Counties will award scholarships to high school seniors targeted post-high school careers in design and

construction. About 400 students, mentors, parents and teachers are expected at the Robert F. Kennedy Community School that morning.



**Kevin Dow, center, vice president of Turner Construction Company, accepts the ACE Los Angeles Construction Mentor Firm of the Year award on behalf of Turner. At left is Terry Dooley, FASCE, founder of ACE Los Angeles; at right, Chuck Whitaker, partner of John A Martin Associates, chairman of the Board, ACE Los Angeles.**

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