

Los Angeles Section

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mark Norton, P.E.
Section President



Walk The Talk

Perhaps like many of us, years ago I had a teacher who impressed me not just by what he taught but that he lived by what he taught as well. It was my sophomore year at Bartlett Begich High School near Anchorage, Alaska back in 1974. The instructor was James Hamilton, my teacher for environmental studies. Mr. Hamilton would share his passion for the environment and lived a lifestyle which many of us would call sustainable now. He would often bike to work (an accomplishment in itself being in Alaska at the time), raised many of his own crops to eat, and

was active in seeking to protect the environment. This was at a time when the U.S. was just kicking off major initiatives to protect our environment with the recent formation of EPA, when regular Earth Days were being starting up, and when everyone knew what a "Whole Earth Catalog" was. His ideas planted seeds of interest in me that generated some initial interest in my teens but sadly seem to fade somewhat as I continued in my life and career.

Surprisingly, it would be some 34 years later that I see that as a civil engineer I can now call myself an environmentalist-in-training. Plus I don't think I am unique in this category. As a member of ASCE, we are now called upon to be "stewards of the natural environment and its resources" necessary to "create a sustainable world" as defined in the ASCE "Vision for Civil Engineering in 2025". When I read the ASCE Vision last year, I was profoundly impacted that we, as civil engineers, need to start educating ourselves and moving into leadership roles in arenas that we typically may have not felt too comfortable in the past. As part of my goals for the LA Section, I encouraged the Section Board to take a stronger role in sustainability and water conservation. I am now pleased to report that two new Section committees, the Sustainability Committee and Water Policy Committee, were formed and are up and running. I am also pleased to see leadership being taken in some of the branches as well in forming their own committees or technical groups in related areas.

Continuing this leadership role on May 2nd, I was given a unique opportunity to serve as a panelist for the Riverside County Water Symposium held in Cabazon, CA. I was invited not as a representative of the agency I work for but rather as a spokesman for ASCE. The panel focused on economic development. My comments as a panelist included our need to continue to work with the business community in support of infrastructure. I discussed the remarkable work achieved by the ASCE infrastructure report cards in helping to bring attention to infrastructure needs and funding for the region. When asked what could be done to create new opportunities to spur economic growth, I emphasized the role of the civil engineer in encouraging growth for the long term through sustainable development and practices. Since this was a water conference, I emphasized that when one describes "green building practices" civil engineers are often on the forefront of what needs to occur and that these green practices include water use efficiency in landscaping and internal building use. By applying green practices, stormwater can be captured onsite and infiltrated and cleansed in the process. Green practices also include systems to reuse materials, resources and even waste generated by a building and its occupants. As an important member of the team that constructs green buildings, civil engineers will be asked more and more to be on the forefront of what is necessary to move the tide on how development occurs for the future ensuring that sustainable practices are recognized and that our environment is preserved for future generations.

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Reminder:

Copy deadline for the July/Aug. 2008 issue is July 1, 2008; copy deadline for Sept. 2008 issue is Aug. 1, 2008.



Opportunities

We mentioned in last month's newsletter two very new concrete opportunities for involvement in our Section: Water Policy Committee and the Sustainability Committee. In this issue, articles were prepared by each of the members of the committee to highlight not only each of the Committee's purpose, but their most recent activities as well.

To borrow from our Section President Mark Norton's message, we are now called upon to be "stewards of the natural environment and its resources" necessary to "create a sustainable world". He has challenged the Section leadership to take a stronger role in sustainability and water conservation. The response resulted in the formation of these two very active but mostly important committees. Contact information to get more involved in these opportunities are presented in each of the articles.

You are also encouraged to vote in this Section's elections. At this time, you should have received an e-mail indicating information on the candidates who are vying for the Section's President-Elect position, as well as the instructions on how to vote. Please vote for the best candidate to serve our Section in the next three years.

Finally, we celebrate the life of Floyd George McLellan Jr. Floyd was the past Director of the Department of Building and Safety of Orange County. In 1962, he was President of the ASCE Orange County Branch.

Summer is almost here. With energy prices skyrocketing, we are challenged to conserve and become more efficient in our use of our energy resources. This is an opportunity to look into our current practices and determine if we can effect any changes without significantly compromising our quality of life.

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued*

As a civil engineer, it is clear to me that our environment is changing around us and we need to adapt as well and educate ourselves in skills and practices that are necessary for the future. As a civil engineer of some years of experience and education with a master's degree, I feel that I too must adapt personally and walk the talk as they say. A few months ago, I decided to join about five others from my staff and begin lunch hour study sessions to prepare for an exam to become a LEED Accredited Professional. LEED is a certification process under the U.S. Green Building Council for "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design". After going through about half the resource manual and learning about the testing the procedure, becoming an AP is no cakewalk. It involves hours and hours of study and at 50 years of age, my brain cells aren't quite as spry as they were in my college years. Still just by the study process, I am learning so much and now have a better understanding of what it will take to "create a sustainable world", at least in the world of green building development.

It is my hope that we each ask ourselves are we doing all that we can for future generations to preserve natural resources. If so, perhaps we too might emulate those teachers from our own past that touched something within us because their lives reflected what they taught us.

Water Policy Committee

The Los Angeles Section has established a Water Policy Committee which will focus on infrastructure needs and policy in this region. The Committee will serve the following main purposes:

1. To support a major initiative involving the release of ASCE's Liquid Assets documentary program and public service broadcast in Fall 2008. This would include assisting efforts to publicize the broadcast with video trailers and implementing outreach tool kits under development by ASCE Headquarters.
2. To support existing hydraulics and hydrology technical groups and Environmental and Water Resource Institute activities that promote attention to water supply, water quality, and water infrastructure needs.
3. To promote and support integrated regional water management planning and multi-beneficial project implementation. Review and support, as appropriate, legislation and legislative activities at the state level related to water supply and water infrastructure.
4. To serve as a Section liaison with a proposed ASCE Region 9 Water Policy Committee under development. The Section water policy committee would support ASCE Region 9 with support of its annual ASCE Region 9 Symposium, provide early policy direction regarding water issues to ASCE members in preparation for the Annual Day at the Capitol Event, and to work with other professional associations and organizations in the State of California whose main focus is on water issues.

The Chair of the committee is Joe Reichenberger, P.E., BCEE. Joe is a Professor of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science and Director of the Graduate School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Sciences at Loyola Marymount University. He is a Fellow of ASCE and a Life Member.

The first meeting of the committee was held on March 12, 2008 at Metropolitan Water District of Southern California headquarters. There have been subsequent conference calls with the committee.

The committee applied for a State Public Affairs Grant (SPAG) from ASCE. The grant would provide funding to get out the message to the public about Liquid Assets Documentary prepared for broadcast by Penn State University.

The Committee currently has 15 members and has established three subcommittees: legislative, liaison, and outreach. If you are interested in joining the committee or would like to receive information about the committee, please contact Joe Reichenberger at (310) 338-2830 or by e-mail: jreichenberger@lmu.edu.

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.

ASCE Los Angeles Section Sustainability Committee



Twenty five years ago, the Brundtland Commission, formally the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), was convened by the United Nations to address the growing concern “about the accelerating deterioration of the human environment and natural resources and the consequences of that deterioration for economic and social development.” It was a worldwide call for governments and businesses to understand the linkages between environment and development. This concept of people, planet and profit creates the triple bottom line, out of which sustainability grew.

Far from simply being “green”, the call for sustainability creates significant challenges for all of us. Sustainable development of which, we as engineers are expected to be involved with, is a pattern of resource use that aims to meet human needs while preserving the natural environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but in the indefinite future. This is the fundamental, and most often quoted definition of “sustainability”.

In response to the need for a local forum for sustainability and sustainable development, the Los Angeles Section has organized a Section-wide Sustainability Committee. Its first meeting was held on March 13, 2008 at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Chaired by Dr. Cris B. Liban, P.E., the Sustainability Committee boasts more than 45 members in its roster consisting of professional engineers from public, private, and upstart firms.

The Committee has developed a vision statement as follows: “We envision the ASCE Los Angeles Section Sustainability Committee to be an agent for enhancing our community and our quality of life through environmentally, socially, and economically responsible civil engineering practices within the Los Angeles Section in a manner consistent with the purposes of ASCE.”

Members have also developed its fundamental mission to:

- Promote, practice, and advocate sustainability principles through professional development, innovation, and outreach activities within the Los Angeles Section;
- Lead the civil engineering community in the Los Angeles Section to become practitioners of sustainable civil engineering principles and practices;
- Generate ideas and to identify potential opportunities and strategies that will expand and enhance the leadership role of ASCE Los Angeles Section in advancing science, engineering and technology and in building capacity for sustainable development in a local perspective; and
- Use partnerships and coalition building opportunities that will promote and encourage sustainable engineering education and practice.



In its short existence, the Committee has already developed criteria for the first ASCE Los Angeles Section Sustainability Award which it plans to give out this coming Fall. The Committee has also recently organized a panel of speakers in one of its meetings that talked about the business, engineering, architecture, and construction aspects of sustainability. The Committee will be hosting its first major seminar on “Low Impact Development” to be held at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Headquarters, Los Angeles, CA in June 2008. This event has been co-sponsored by the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

Committee officers are currently in discussion with other organizations for possible partnerships and joint activities. Please contact Dr. Cris B. Liban, P.E. at cliban@UCLAlumni.net or 213/922-2471 if you are interested in joining or participating in any of the Sustainability Committees activities.

Note: All photographs were provided by Mark Norton.



Floyd George McLellan Jr. 1925-2008

Floyd George McLellan Jr., Civil Engineer, past director of the Department of Building and Safety of Orange County died peacefully at home on the 23rd of April, he was 83.

The son of a floor layer, Floyd George, Sr. and housewife and later nurse Ellen Hedberg, Floyd was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on October 16, 1925. His childhood was during a time of prosper-

ity that changed into poverty with the advent of the Great Depression. With the outbreak of WW II Floyd graduated early from High School so he could join the army. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps (U.S. Air Force after WW II) and was assigned to the 390th Bomb Group as a tail gunner on B-17 bombers operating out of a small airfield in England. He flew 37 missions over Germany and Poland in World War II.

After the war he attended the University of Minnesota where he met and married his wife, Mary. With his degree in Engineering and her RN certificate, the couple moved with their daughter Nancy to Eagle Rock, California (East of Los Angeles). Floyd worked as a building inspector for LA County for three years. The family moved to Orange County settling in Santa Ana in 1955. Floyd worked as an inspector for Orange County Building Services and became Director of Orange County Department of Building and Safety in 1965.

Floyd received his Bachelor of Civil Engineering from University of Minnesota in 1951, his Master of Civil Engineering from USC in 1964, ASCE Fellow in 1974 and became a Professional Engineer (California) in 1955. He served Orange County for 37 years during a period of explosive growth and retired in 1992. After his retirement, Floyd served on various committees and advisory boards for County of Orange and for the City of Santa Ana.

Throughout his career Floyd was involved in various professional organizations. In 1962 he was president of the American Society of Civil Engineers (Orange County Branch). In 1970, he was president of the International Conference of Building Officials (Orange Empire Chapter) and in 1971, president of the County Building Officials Association of California. In 1981, he was popular president of the Orange County Engineers Club.

Floyd was also involved with community service clubs including the Santa Ana Elks Club, the Uptown Lions Club (president 1974-1975) and the Rotary Club of Santa Ana, North.

A memorial service was held on May 10, 2008 at the Salvation Army Church in Tustin. Floyd's surviving family include his sister, Mary Ann Blodgett of Las Vegas, his daughter, Nancy Ballard and her husband Joe in Chico, CA, his son Patrick McLellan and his wife Marianne of Weyba Downs, Queensland, Australia. Grandchildren: Amanda Ballard von Moos of Berkeley, Tiffany Ballard of San Francisco, Hannah Johnson of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Finian McLellan and Clancy McLellan of Weyba Downs, Queensland, Australia.

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DISASTER TRAINING

Classes are being organized for volunteers under the auspices of the State of California, Office of Emergency Services (OES) to help in the event of a major disaster. Classes will be held in alternate 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 please contact the ASCE Disaster Preparedness Committee Chairman. The class lasts 5-6 hours and the cost is \$15. Classes are midweek and start at 9 or 10 AM.

To register for the class, submit your name along with your telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, and zip code. You will be contacted when 10 or more individuals request a class. The maximum number in a 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 contact person, phone, fax, and e-mail. You will be contacted to make arrangements. The class should have at least 10 and not more than about 20.

Thank you for your support of the American Society of Civil Engineers

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