

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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"Failure seldom stops you. What stops you is the fear of failure."

— Jack Lemmon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rich Haller, P.E.
Section President



Although this is the April newsletter, I'd like to briefly **"toot our horn"** and recognize good work during Engineers Week this past February. In addition to outstanding individual Branch and YMF activities, the Section participated in a **Legislative Day and honored new Life Members at the Life Member Forum brunch**. Timing is everything and our Legislative Day was perfectly timed to discuss the Governor's infrastructure bonds (see article by Mike Thornton, Region 9 Governor, in this issue). Thanks to the approximately 30 LA Section members who traveled to Sacramento for the Legislative Day event, the corporate sponsors, and Michael Thornton for organizing the event! We have made and continue to **make a difference!**

We were honored by the presence of **ASCE National President Dennis Martensen, P.E., F. ASCE** and many of the over 80 new Life Member inductees at the Life Member Brunch. Each inductee had a summary biography read and presented as part of a bound biographies booklet. The event recognized the many career achievements of the inductees; they have contributed significantly to Civil Engineering and our quality of life! Inductees are strongly encourage to be active in the Life Member Forum. Please contact Andy Machen, P.E., M. ASCE, to find out how you can get involved (call the LA Section office at (714) 258-8306, or email Andy at Andy.Machen@dot.ca.gov). Thanks to the Life Member Forum for conducting this special event, particularly Joe Buely and Ted McConville, and to Carl Blum for reading the biographies.

The Life Members also honored **Charles Ruiz, P.E., M. ASCE** with the **5th Annual Robert W. Bien Life Member Award**. Mr. Ruiz was recognized for his long term commitment and strong support to ASCE and the Life Member Forum. He also received a **congratulatory letter from Senator Feinstein**, a copy of that letter is shown on page 4. Congratulations and thanks to Charlie!

As noted earlier, the LA Section supported the Region 9 Legislative Day. I would like to tell you briefly about **how positions on issues are formulated** since I've been asked several times. Recognizing ASCE represents the diverse interests of public and private sector engineers, the **Section Board is limiting positions taken to those for which consensus can be reached**. As an example, the Section is an advocate for infrastructure and increased infrastructure funding (capital and O&M), and for ending the diversion of Proposition 42 transportation funds to the state general fund. Evidence of the current condition of infrastructure and future funding needs have been documented in Infrastructure Report Cards prepared by Branches within the Section. These report cards can be found on our website (www.ascelasection.org). The **Section Board will not take a position on issues for which there is not a consensus** such as Caltrans use/non-use of design-build services. These types of issues are already well represented by CELSOC, PECG, and other organizations.

LA Section website. Our website was inexplicably and maliciously attacked and brought down in late February. We apologize for any inconvenience caused our members. A new, better, and more secure website is being created. Check it out at www.ascelasection.org !

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Section or Branch activity!

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Reminder:

Copy deadline for the May 2006 issue is April 1, 2006; copy deadline for June 2006 issue is May 1, 2006.

ASCE
American Society of Civil Engineers

www.ascelasection.org

The Promise of Building Information Models

By H. Michael Hill, AIA, CSI, CCS, CCCA, LEED™ AP

When you stop and think about it, the technology of building design has not changed dramatically over the last several decades. CAD systems are wonderful tools that allow us to be much more precise in the way we design and engineer, but they are really just evolutionary changes to the old pencil-and-paper system.

There is one technology on the horizon that has the potential to revolutionize the way those involved in designing and creating buildings and other structures do their jobs. It's called Building Information Models, or BIM, and civil engineers need to familiarize themselves with this emerging system because it won't be long before their clients begin to demand it. In fact, some thought-leading owners have already made it clear that they will expect the use of BIM very soon. These include the Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, and other large federal owners and developers. Where they lead, smart owners will follow.

EDITORIAL

A Very Hard Decision

This may very well be the last paper of issue of the newsletter that you will be receiving. But then again, maybe not! You have received in the last two issues a postcard inquiring about your receipt preferences. Based on the response rate, it appears that majority of us would like to transition to the electronic version. Only a few of us would like to still receive the paper copy.

Where do we go from here? Based on our timetable, we are scheduled to begin electronic distribution of our newsletter in the May 2006 issue. But as you read in our President's Message, our ASCE Los Angeles Section website was unscrupulously hacked and maliciously brought down in February. We have been informed that it will take awhile before the new, more secure, website is rolled out. We are then faced with the challenge of continuing with the scheduled e-delivery of the newsletter. One part of us says that it is o.k. since the delivery will be by e-mail with back-up posting in the Section website for those who do not have e-mail addresses. Unfortunately, with the website down, about 25% of our members who do not have e-mail addresses (but hopefully have computer access) cannot receive the monthly newsletter.

Due to the situation with the website, we have decided that if by the time the scheduled roll-out of the e-newsletter comes around that the website is not ready, that we would postpone e-delivery of the newsletter until such time that we can post the document on-line.

I feel like the boy who cried wolf because of this decision. We have gained much momentum since February, but the setback on website access almost kills any enthusiasm we would have built since then. At any rate, we believe that this decision to postpone is defensible. Hey, we are here to serve you our readers first, right?

Enjoy this issue of the newsletter!

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

In a nutshell, a BIM is a computerized model linked to a database that houses the specifications, schedules, and other documents related to a project, not just the object based graphic components. Today, many are 3-D or 2-D. Ultimately, the true promise of BIM lies in their ability to provide 4-D, object- and process-oriented building information that is modeled and updated continuously over time – from project drawings and physical asset management, all the way through to demolition. And with further development, BIM will incorporate interactive bidirectional models for real time facility management.

A BIM can give designers and engineers a faster, richer process, owners more budget control through predictions about the project's construction process, and contractors projects with fewer surprises. It can generate work schedules, coordinate documents, and automatically update drawings as new design data is added or work is performed.

As an organization whose mission over the last 58 years has been to streamline the storage and retrieval of useful information throughout the construction process, the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) is heavily involved in BIM. For example, CSI is active in the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) process to develop a National BIM Standard that will help users and software developers by providing an open information and interoperable environment in which all applications can work. To illustrate the promise of BIM, CSI conducted a survey of visitors to its Web site in May 2005. Three-quarters of those who responded said that BIM will change the nature of construction forever.

How Engineers Can Embrace BIM

At the moment, no one has a clear picture of what BIM will ultimately become. It's a bit like the old parable about the blindfolded men who approach and touch just one part of the same elephant, and each comes away thinking it's a different animal. Some clients are demanding it, some vendors are offering it, but the future is a bit murky.

So given this uncertainty, what can engineers do to cope with these unprecedented changes? First, it's critically important that both designers and engineers be aware of the BIM concept. Even if clients aren't demanding it yet, they will soon. It's conceivable that within as little as five years, all buildings will employ BIM.

Second, engineering firms and practitioners need to think about how BIM will play into their individual business models. When will it make sense to incorporate BIM capability, for example? It's coming, and engineers could act before true standardization settles in if they move too quickly and lose business to more advanced competitors if they move too slowly. Getting informed now is the only way to avoid either of these outcomes. There will be training required and a learning curve to absorb just as with the emerging CADD systems we embraced over the last two decades.

Finally, and this is the element that will help engineers address the first two, engineers need to educate themselves. CSI has made BIM the theme of its recently concluded 50th Annual CSI Show & Convention in Las Vegas last March. A keynote address and educational sessions on BIM were made (you can find out more at www.thecsisshow.com). NIBS has some information available on its Web site at www.nibs.org. Plenty of industry trade publications follow the issue closely.

We live in interesting times in the construction business. We're on the verge of a revolution in the way buildings are designed, engineered, constructed, and maintained. Now is the time for engineers to embrace BIM and its tremendous potential.

H. Michael Hill, AIA, CSI, CCS, CCCA, LEED™ AP, serves on the Construction Specification Institute's Board of Directors and is an Associate Principal Technical Services at Perkins+Will in Charlotte, N.C.

Los Angeles Section – Life Member Forum



The Los Angeles Section's Life Member Forum (LMF) was conceived in 1990 and became a standing committee in 1992. Robert Bein, P.E. Past President of ASCE National and Keith McKean, P.E. (deceased) were instrumental in forming the original Life Member Committee. The stated mission was: "enable more Life Members to become active in Section activities." The goal: "improve Section service to its members and to the public by increasing the use of Life Members vast knowledge of ASCE functions and extensive experience."

The LMF was founded on the notion that a Life Member is probably no longer tied to the policies of their former organization and can advocate an independent view of what is best for the future of our communities, nation and the world. The Life Member receives the rewards of voluntary service, knowing they have made a contribution to the betterment of our communities.

The Los Angeles Section's LMF has a number of active committees that meet regularly to advance various engineering objectives. They are the **Technical Outreach Committee** that organizes the annual "Brunch" honoring the new

life members with the presentation of their experiences; the **Infrastructure Advisory Committee** that reviews current difficult infrastructure problems in highway and mass transit construction, submitting proposed solutions to appropriate organizations; the **Habitat for Humanity Committee** that reviews plans and offers advice to the Younger Member Forum when they undertake the preparation of plans and specifications for Habitat housing in several Orange County cities; the **Public Image Committee** providing guidance for programs to improve the public image of civil engineers; the **Political Involvement Committee** that encourages member involvement in various community commissions, forums and organizations that benefit from our engineering perspective and the **Disaster Assistance Committee** that assists the Los Angeles Section Disaster Preparedness Committee to train and maintain a pool of volunteers for engineering assessments after such disasters as earthquakes and floods.

Our annual Life Member Brunch during Engineers Week is our way of passing on our heritage to all new incoming members. This year we are most fortunate to have our national president, Dennis Martenson with us and welcome his thoughts on the challenges after Katrina. We also are most proud of our newest recipient of the Robert W. Bein award, Charles Ruiz. Charlie is the driving force behind the Life Member Brunch and the reason for its continued success.

The Life Member Forum activities are nothing if they are not enjoyable to its members. Our regular meetings are almost always tied into a luncheon affair. We also have various social affairs with spouses throughout the year. Our current Chairman Ted McConville, P.E., is an avid deep sea fisherman and invites all members out on his large boat for albacore fishing.

We encourage all new life members who want to continue their professional service to the Society and the community to join one of our committees today. Please leave your name and phone number with any of our members or contact Andy Machen at 909-383-7510 (e-mail Andy Machen@dot.ca.gov)

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

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February 25, 2006

American Society of Civil Engineers
California Society of Civil Engineers
1405 Warner Avenue
Tustin, California 92780

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all who have gathered here to celebrate the American Society of Civil Engineers' *Life Member Brunch*.

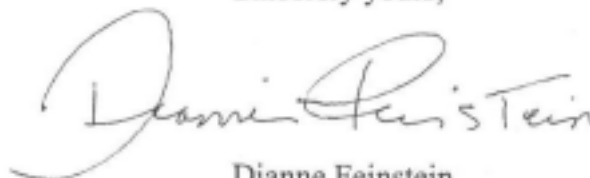
For over one hundred and fifty years, the ASCE has served our nation through its advocacy of an economically, socially and environmentally sound vision. Communities everywhere have benefited from its promotion of talented individuals to positions of leadership. Its dedication to its members and its commitment to their lifelong learning ensures the lasting legacy of the ASCE. Through its tireless efforts and comprehensive design, the ASCE is paving the way towards a brighter future for us all.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Charles Ruiz as he joins distinguished company as a life member of the ASCE. Throughout his career Mr. Ruiz has exemplified the highest standards of the engineering profession. I applaud his many accomplishments, and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

As your United States Senator representing the State of California, I commend Mr. Ruiz and the ASCE for their extraordinary contributions to our State. Please accept my wishes for a most memorable and enjoyable afternoon.

With warmest personal regards

Sincerely yours,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

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ASCE Region 9's Legislative Program

By Michael Thornton, Legislative Chair

American Society of Civil Engineers, Region 9 Governor, Los Angeles Section



Our position on the legislation is we support new funding for infrastructure; however, ASCE does not support transfers of existing gas excise taxes and truck weight fees as currently proposed. Those funds are currently used to fund local projects. Again, new funding is needed. In addition, members advocated new funding for local agencies including counties, cities, and water districts not currently considered in the Governor's proposals. Feedback from our representatives included that the legislation is "still cooking". As such, there are opportunities to help craft the final version of the bonds. Great news!!!!

The leaders are looking for legislation that meets all of the state's needs. So, ASCE members didn't have to convince legislators of the need as we did last year. Since everyone appears to understand the need, the question is how will these proposed loans be paid down. ASCE will

As part of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Strategic Growth Plan for California's future, the Governor has proposed several infrastructure initiatives including legislation for transportation and water and flood control improvements that would be placed before California voters in June of 2006. ASCE generally supports the proposed legislation. To ensure lawmakers are aware of ASCE's position and in accordance with ASCE's goal to become politically active, 60 ASCE members (including life and younger members) from each section in California attended ASCE's annual 'Day at the Capital' on February 22nd.

Members met with representatives from Governor Schwarzenegger's office and 96 of our 120 legislators. Members met with their own legislators and key committee representatives including Transportation, Natural Resources, Water, Appropriations and Budget Committees. In addition, ASCE hosted a reception in the Capital Rotunda in the evening that was attended by several legislators and staffers.



continue to work with legislators to develop pay back alternatives for the programs. ASCE supports new gas taxes, toll roads, and other user fees (water rates, etc.) provided such funds would be used strictly for infrastructure. For anyone with thoughts or comments about ASCE's position, please e-mail me at mthornton@tkeengineering.com.

It was a great experience for those ASCE members who participated. Members thoroughly enjoyed the experience, although all were very tired at the end of the day. Members not only learned more about the legislative process but also met their legislators and members from others sections. As I have said many times before, if you have any interest in government affairs, get involved. ASCE needs your help.

On behalf of Region 9, thanks to Stantec, RBF, CDM, URS, Associated Engineers, Hall and Foreman, Norris-Repke, John Egan and Associates, Krieger and Stewart, and TKE Engineering for their sponsorship of the program. Your sponsorship is vital to delivering this important message.



ASCE's Region 9 Areas of Focus

Carl L. Blum, P.E., F. ASCE

Chair — Region 9 Board of Governors

"The purposes and objectives of the Region 9 Board of Governors shall be to carry out the leadership and programs on a regional basis assisting the Society's Board of Direction in governing the Society" (Region 9 By-Laws). Early meetings of the Region 9 Board of Governors have focused on what value Region 9 can add to the Section's, Branch's, YMF's, Life Member Forum's, Technical Groups, and Student Chapters in California. We also focused on how we can add value to the relationship with ASCE's Seven Technical Institutes and the numerous National Committees.

As we begin to focus our energies, we are in the process of setting up some key committees. These committees will be made up of ASCE members in California. If you have an interest in serving on any of these committees please let me (clblum@pacbell.net) or one of the Region 9 Governors know.

The initial committees will be:

Government Affairs – to address State legislative issues that affect our profession and to train ASCE members (Students thru Life Members) in how to go about political advocacy.

Disaster Response Preparedness – to develop and maintain a cadre of trained and certified engineers to assist the State Office of Emergency Services in responding to disasters in our State.

Awards – to develop and run a State Awards Program that will complement existing local and national level award programs.

Liaisons with other Organizations – to coordinate our efforts, especially with political advocacy and outreach to young students, with organizations like APWA, SWE, etc.

Region 9 Annual Conference – to explore the value and feasibility of developing an Annual Region 9 Conference

Strategic Action – to develop an Action plan for Region 9 based on the ASCE Strategic Plan that is currently being updated/revised.

Geographic Boundary Review – to review the current boundaries of our Branches (many of which are 30 -60 years old) to see if the population growth in the last half century warrants some adjustments

Engineers Week – to plan and execute appropriate State level activities/programs during the annual E-week.

State Board of Registration – to work with the State Board on issues that may effect the Civil Engineering Profession.

State Infrastructure Report Card – to prepare periodic Report Cards on our State's Infrastructure.

As you can see we have an ambitious agenda. While we have gotten a start on some of these committees, we have a ways to go. We would especially like to have those of you who have been past officers of your local units or have been active on National Committees and now are no longer in office or serving on committees. You have the experience and knowledge that is needed at this time to help get Region 9 up and running.

The Los Angeles Section Nominating Committee

The Los Angeles Section Nominating Committee, comprised of Shahn Ahmad, Carl Blum, and Rich Haller propose the following new Section Officers to be effective October 1, 2006:

President-Elect - Mark Norton, P.E., M. ASCE (3 year term consisting of President-Elect, President, Past-President)

Vice President, Technical Groups - Sonia Nasser, P.E., M. ASCE (2 year term)

Vice President, Students - Don Sepulveda, P.E., M. ASCE (Continuing for one more year to put replacement of the 2 VP positions in alternating years)

Secretary - Jay Higgins, P.E., M. ASCE (2 year term)

Note that the term of office for the following individuals/positions continues in 2006/2007:

John Morris, President
Rich Haller, Past President
Diego Cadena, Treasurer
Carl Blum, Region 9 Director
Mike Thornton, Region 9 Governor
YMF Past President
LMF President
Seven Branch Presidents

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Newsletter Transition: Postcard Response Instructions

We continue in this issue our effort to transition to the electronic form of the Los Angeles Section Monthly Newsletter. This is the last issue that you will see a postcard with a question asking if you want to continue receiving the paper copy of the newsletter. You could respond on the affirmative or negative. A non-response means that you do not want to continue receiving the paper copy of the newsletter.

If you checked the "No" response in the postcard or if you do not respond at all, you will receive instead of the newsletter, a hardcopy postcard every month indicating the posting of the newsletter on the Los Angeles Section Website (www.ascelasection.org). At the same time, you will also receive an e-mail indicating where you can download or read a copy of that month's newsletter. We will use your e-mail address on file from ASCE National or any other e-mail address you specify for us to send you the electronic information.

We anticipate some challenges as we go through this transition. However, we want to assure you that we are doing our best to reduce if not eliminate those challenges during this phase.

Please free to contact Dr. Cris B. Liban, P.E., ASCE Los Angeles Section Monthly Newsletter Editor, for any questions or comments. He can be reached at cliban@UCLAAlumni.net or (213) 922-2471.

CHANGING OUR WORLD

New Book Profiles Women Engineers Shaping Today's World and Inspiring a New Generation

Engineering is the backbone of the technology that drives our world, from television to transportation, from automobiles to architecture. Why is it then, when so much of our world depends on engineering for its advancement and sustainability, society doesn't encourage young women to become engineers?

On February 21, 2006—during Engineers Week—the Extraordinary Women Engineers Project Coalition (EWEP) launched Changing Our World: True Stories of Women Engineers (by Sybil Hatch; published by the American Society of Civil Engineers), during a reception at the National Press Club. The first product of the coalition's long-term project, Changing Our World is a colorful, 256-page celebration of the contributions of women engineers to every aspect of modern life. Through its real-life stories, the book will serve as a fresh perspective on engineering for young women and their parents. It will also serve as the basis for the educational outreach resources developed during the next phase of the Coalition's project.

The long-standing under-representation of women in the engineering professions served as the catalyst for the formation of the EWEP—which represents nearly 60 engineering organizations, including government agencies, corporations, professional societies and universities—and which is dedicated to encouraging more young women to pursue careers in the engineering fields. The Coalition has successfully forged partnerships with educational organizations and program partners who can help engineers reach girls and parents with effective messages.

The educational resources included in the EWEP's long-range plan will be developed jointly by educators and engineers to inspire young women to enter the engineering field and to develop a new generation of role models for those in the field. The program components will provide both inspiring personal stories and a girl-friendly collection of hands-on activities that inspire young women to explore engineering as a career choice. In addition, the program will provide resources to those individuals with the capacity to influence and advise girls at the stage when they make decisions about college and careers. Other EWEP products and initiatives will include a television documentary, corresponding educational resources and training, and national outreach programs.

For more information on the Extraordinary Women Engineers Project, visit www.engineeringwomen.org, or contact Jane Howell at (703) 295-6403, jhowell@asce.org, or Laura Humphrey at (703) 295-6407, lhumphrey@asce.org.

This article was excerpted from www.asce.org.

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.



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ITT Rygt corporation's new full-service facility in the City of Industry means comprehensive coverage in Southern California along with our existing service in Northern California. As a result, municipalities all over the Golden State – from wine country to tinsel town and beyond – can enjoy the security that comes with Rygt's local factory-direct service.

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We are seeking a talented **Senior Civil Engineer** and an **Associate Civil Engineer** who will be responsible for the design and preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates for a variety of civil engineering projects.

The Senior Civil Engineer Position is as Follows:

- Manages a variety of civil engineering projects.
- Establishes and fosters client relations and develops proposals and budgets.
- Participates in professional and/or technical organizations.
- Uses technical knowledge to design plans for grading, drainage, utility, street improvements, storm drains, sanitary sewers, and water lines.
- Analyzes and recommends solutions to complex drainage problems.
- Communicates effectively with various departments, clients, and agencies.
- Mentors the design associates on technical matters and procedures.

Preferred Qualifications for the Senior Civil Engineer Position:

- 15 years experience in civil engineering.
- Proven expertise in land development and public works design.
- A plus, is experience in Hydrologic / Hydraulic Analyses.
- Experience in management of client relationships.
- CA Civil Engineering license preferred.

The Associate Civil Engineer Position is as Follows:

- Manages a variety of civil engineering projects.
- Performs calculations for earthwork, drainage, and grading.
- Uses technical knowledge to design plans for grading, drainage, utility, street improvements, storm drains, sanitary sewers, and water lines.
- Analyzes and recommends solutions to complex drainage problems.
- Communicates effectively with various departments, clients, and agencies.
- Mentors the design associates on technical matters and procedures.

Preferred Qualifications for the Associate Civil Engineer Position:

- 10 years experience in civil engineering.
- Proficient in AutoCAD and LDD.
- Proven expertise in land development and public works design.
- A plus, is experience in Hydrologic / Hydraulic Analyses.
- Experience in management of client relationships.

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