

# Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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*“Seven days without laughter make one weak.”*

— Joel Goodman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Morris, P.E.  
Section President



## The Future of Engineering

As 2006 draws to a close, it's customary to look back at the accomplishments of the past year and look forward to what the New Year will bring. As engineers, we are also planners and dreamers for the future of our profession. Commitments to local, State and federal infrastructure improvement offers our profession a very bright and promising future. Educating the next generation of civil engineering students offers a truly unique opportunity for the future as well as an opportunity to partner with secondary and college educational programs.

One of ASCE's primary focus during 2007 will be it's continued educational outreach efforts to elected and appointed officials. This effort is aimed at raising the profile of civil engineers and the civil engineering profession in the eyes of lawmakers and other key policy makers at all levels of government. Two very popular annual events are ASCE's "Fly-in" to Washington, D.C. and the visit to the California State Capitol in Sacramento. ASCE members are dispatched to visit their local legislators on issues important to them as well as ASCE. The Washington Fly-In is funded and organized through ASCE's Washington D.C. Office and typically includes a one-day orientation by ASCE Staff followed by visits to Capitol Hill with members of Congress and their staffs. The Sacramento counterpart of this effort takes place at the State Capitol with Los Angeles Section members meeting and establishing relationships with State senate and assembly members. These two events highlight ASCE's focus on educational outreach and provide its members with a unique opportunity to expand their knowledge while showcasing their talents and expertise to an important constituent.

Without question, the future of civil engineering lies with ASCE's younger members. With a worldwide shortage of qualified engineers, the direction of our profession is firmly in the hands of the youngest of our ranks. I have seen the dedication of these highly motivated engineers and witnessed their commitment through involvement in community projects and helping those less fortunate. If our profession has a future, it's because both ASCE and the civil engineering profession at large nurture our students and younger members. There are 5 younger member forums (YMF) within the Los Angeles Section. This segment of ASCE needs our continued support.

### A Call To Action

As a hallmark of my presidency, I'd like to offer each and every ASCE member in the Los Angeles Section the opportunity to serve their profession as well as themselves. Providing "value-added" to our membership will be the single greatest service ASCE can offer. To provide you and ASCE with a bright future, I'd like to challenge you to become involved with your profession through a number of different channels. ASCE technical groups provide the single best opportunity for continued education at whatever professional level may you might be.

~  
"Happy Holidays  
To All"  
~

VOL\_XLVI NO\_12

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**Reminder:**

Copy deadline for the January, 2007 issue is December 1, 2006; copy deadline for February, 2007 issue is January 1, 2007.



## An Infrastructural Beginning

I am writing this piece on November 9, 2006, one day after Propositions 1A through 1E were approved by the voters of California. There was much excitement at my place of work today. The excitement was expected as we really need to upgrade and build additional infrastructure to our ever growing cities and outlying areas.

As ASCE, we campaigned hard to get these initiatives pass. Michael Thornton, P.E. was instrumental in getting these propositions developed. He was critical in getting the word out and rallying other engineers and citizens to support these measures. This newsletter did its small part in advocating for the propositions.

The ASCE report card for California ([http://www.ascecareportcard.org/Data\\_Specific/2006\\_ASCECA\\_reportcard.pdf](http://www.ascecareportcard.org/Data_Specific/2006_ASCECA_reportcard.pdf)) released only last October shows where the projected \$37 billion is needed. Propositions 1A through 1E address these needs. Christmas has arrived early for the people of California. We now have the money to fulfill the infrastructural needs of our state. We as civil engineers are in the frontline to help in that process and make those visions become a reality. Civil engineers build a better world.

We present in this issue two other articles of interest. Our Section President outlines his opinion on where we as civil engineers are headed in the future. Ruben Trigueros, a professional engineer and financial planner outlines the need for financial planning to prepare for the inevitable: retirement.

Have a safe holiday season to all of us. It gets dark earlier, we tend to sweat slower, and are expected to become heavier. Completely unrelated ideas but it all happens during these next 60 days of eating, feasting, and shopping. Have a safe holiday season!

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

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued*

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The networking opportunities can provide an invaluable source of exposure for the private, public or academic sector engineer. I urge each of you to attend one or more of the many engineering project tours offered by an ASCE branch or Section. We can always use your help to identify an interesting civil engineering project in your area or at your worksite to host ASCE members. And the opportunities don't stop there. Your future should include involvement in your local government. As a "citizen civil engineer", I hope you plan to use your skill and expertise on your local planning commission, water or school board. The civil engineering profession continues to be underrepresented in virtually every policy related position in the country. We need more civil engineers in positions of leadership and it's up you to pursue this important role to ensure a bright future.

For more information and to get involved, please contact ASCE or myself with your ideas, comments and suggestions.

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## 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.

## Financial Foundation

Hello again, this is Ruben Trigueros, former bridge engineer now financial services professional with Trilogy Financial Services in West Covina. I will write today about PROCRASTINATION, Your Costly Foe.

Getting people to make a decision is the number one problem financial professionals face when working with clients, according to a recent poll<sup>1</sup>. Of the three main barriers that most people face when trying to reach their financial goals – taxes, inflation and procrastination – the first two are practically guaranteed to occur, but the latter has the potential to be the most costly, yet is the easiest to overcome. Why do people procrastinate when preparing for their financial future? Here's a look at some common reasons.

**Fear of Bad Decisions** – People often procrastinate because they are afraid. "You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take," hockey great Wayne Gretzky said. When it comes to making decisions – such as how to invest, where to invest, and what to do with underperforming investments – there will always be the risk of making wrong choices. But even bad decisions can be more valuable than no decision at all because they present a learning opportunity.

**Lack of Knowledge** – many people think they don't know how to pick a suitable investment because this difficult task usually requires education and experience. One way to avoid this problem is by seeking professional guidance. Although there is no assurance that working with a professional will improve investment results, a financial professional who focuses on your overall financial objectives can help you consider options that could have a substantial effect on your long term financial situation.

**Poor time management** – The day to day demands of having a career, raising a family, and maintaining a home often take precedence over investment needs. Most people schedule time to get the oil changed, visit the dentist, and get their hair done. Why not schedule regular appointments to review investment matters and measure the progress made toward financial goals? Time is one of the key ingredients to financial success, and procrastination can potentially cost you thousands of dollars. Squandering time is one mistake from which many people never recover. Professional guidance can help you make informed decisions and manage the uncertainties inherent in preparing for retirement.

Ruben Trigueros is with Trilogy Financial Services in West Covina.

<sup>1</sup>Financial Planning, March 2006

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# “Happy Holidays To All”

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# ASCE Revised Fall 2006/Winter 2007 Continuing Education Seminars

In our continuing effort to enhance communications between ASCE's Regions, Sections and Branches and ASCE National, Geographic Services is pleased to provide you with the following list of upcoming Continuing Education seminars in your geographic area.

These in-depth, practice oriented programs are produced by ASCE's Continuing Education Department and may be of interest to many ASCE members in your region. We would greatly appreciate if you would consider posting information on these seminars in your newsletters and on your websites.

Detailed descriptions of the seminars (by title) are available on ASCE's website at [www.asce.org/conted/seminars](http://www.asce.org/conted/seminars). Lists of CE courses available in other Regions are listed under the "Links" tab on each Region's website at [http://www.asce.org/inside/sec\\_branch.cfm](http://www.asce.org/inside/sec_branch.cfm).

Streambank Stabilization for Restoration and Flood Control (Hydraulics)  
Sacramento, CA  
**October 25-27, 2006**

Structural Design of Buildings and Industrial Facilities for Blast Loads  
And Accidental Chemical Explosions (Structural)  
San Diego, CA  
**October 25-27, 2006**

Earthquake Induced Ground Motions (Structural/Geotechnical)  
Palm Springs, CA  
**November 16-17, 2006**

Design, Construction, and Renovation of Masonry Structures (Structural)  
Los Angeles, CA  
**January 11-12, 2007**

Seismic Repair & Rehabilitation of Concrete and Masonry Structures Using  
FRP Composites (Construction)  
Irvine, CA  
**January 11-12, 2007**

Optimizing Structural and System Resilience (Infrastructure Rehabilitation)  
Palm Springs, CA  
**January 24-26, 2007**

Soil Constitutive Modeling For Engineers: Fundamentals, Evaluation  
and Calibration (Geotechnical)  
San Francisco, CA  
**January 25-26, 2007**

Structural Design of Buildings and Industrial Facilities for Blast Loads  
and Accidental Chemical Explosions (Structural)

HEC-RAS Computer Workshop for Unsteady Flow Applications  
(Hydraulics)  
San Diego, CA  
**February 7-9, 2007**

Structural Vibration Analysis, Design and Troubleshooting (Structural)  
Sacramento, CA  
**February 7-9, 2007**

Structural Design of Industrial Facilities (Structural)  
San Jose, CA  
**February 8-9, 2007**

Design and Construction of Microtunneling Projects (Geotechnical)  
Sacramento, CA  
**February 14-16, 2007**

HEC-HMS Computer Workshop (Hydraulics)  
San Francisco, CA  
**February 22-23, 2007**

Dam Safety and Rehabilitation (Infrastructure Rehabilitation/Hydraulics)  
Sacramento, CA  
**March 8-9, 2007**

Design for Cold Formed Steel Structures (Structural)  
Los Angeles, CA  
**March 15-16, 2007**

Structural Condition Assessment of Existing Structures (Structural)  
Long Beach, CA  
**March 15-16, 2007**

Planning, Construction and Risk Management in Tunneling (Geotechnical)  
San Francisco, CA  
**March 21-23, 2007**

Financial Management for the Professional Engineer (Management)  
San Diego, CA  
**March 22-23, 2007**

Water Hammer in Transmission and Distribution Systems (Hydraulics)  
Los Angeles, CA  
**March 22-23, 2007**

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Kelly Jarvis, Continuing Education Registrar at [kjarvis@asce.org](mailto:kjarvis@asce.org) or me at [mcook@asce.org](mailto:mcook@asce.org).

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## ASCE National Calendar

- Jan. 1: Membership Renewal Deadline
- Jan. 12-14: Regions 4 & 5 Leadership Conference-Nashville, Tenn.
- Jan. 26-27: Regions 1 & 2 Leadership Conference-Princeton, N.J.
- Feb. 1: Nominations for National ASCE Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement and the Daniel Mead Prize for Younger Members are due.  
Nominations for Government Civil Engineer Award and Young Government Civil Engineer Award are due at ASCE World Headquarters.  
Nominations for Younger Member Group Award are due at ASCE World Headquarters
- Feb. 9-11: Regions 3, 6, & 7 Leadership Conference-Milwaukee
- Feb. 23-25: Regions 8 & 9 Leadership Conference-Seattle
- May 4: Response due at Headquarters for national collection of Section dues
- June 1: Deadline for submission for the Outstanding Section and Branch Web Award Competition
- Aug. 4: Submission deadline for the State Public Affairs Grant Activity Report to ASCE Washington Office
- Aug. 15: Nomination deadline for Casagrande, Construction Management, Kapp, Middlebrooks, Peck, Seed and Terzaghi Awards

## 2007 Conferences



2007 Ports™ "30 Years of Sharing Ideas...1977-2007": *Registration and Preliminary Program coming in October!* Join us March 25-28, 2007 in San Diego. This will be the eleventh in a series of international port and harbor development specialty conferences held on a tri-annual basis. The conference will feature technical short courses, plenary session, concurrent technical sessions, exhibition and technical field tours to sites of interest in San Diego Harbor. For additional information visit us at: <http://www.portsconference.org>



Coastal Sediments 07: *Registration and Preliminary Program coming soon!* Be sure to join us in New Orleans, May 13-17, 2007 for an international exchange of information among coastal engineers, geologists, marine scientists, shallow water oceanographers and others interested in the physical processes of coastal sediments transport and morphology change. For additional information visit us at: <http://www.asce.org/conferences/cs07>

## Calls for Expressions of Interest in Building Envelope Issues

The Architectural Engineering Institute of ASCE (AEI) is exploring the level of interest in building envelope issues among the general ASCE membership. In locations where a significant level of interest exists, AEI is considering starting local Architectural Engineering groups in cooperation with the ASCE Sections and Branches. AEI would appreciate it very much if Section and Branch Presidents could find out the level of interest in such topics among their members. If a reasonable level of interest exists, please contact Amar Chaker, Director of AEI at [achaker@asce.org](mailto:achaker@asce.org).

## Continuing Education Webinars

Please go to [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org) for additional information and instructions on how to participate in these webinars.

- Tues., Dec. 5 ~ 12 Noon - 1:00pm Eastern Time  
[Renovation of Building Façade](#)
- Wed., Dec. 6 ~ 12 Noon - 1:00pm Eastern Time  
[Leadership: Developing the Leader In You and Others, Part I](#)
- Thur., Dec. 7 ~ 12 Noon - 1:00pm Eastern  
[Traffic Incident Management New Webinar](#)
- Tues., Dec. 12 ~ 12 Noon - 1:30pm Eastern  
[An Introduction to Roadside Delineation and Safety Systems](#)
- Wed., Dec. 13 ~ 12 Noon - 1:00pm Eastern Time  
[Leadership: Developing the Leader In You and Others, Part II](#)
- Thur. Dec. 14 ~ 12 Noon - 1:00pm Eastern Time  
[Knowing My Style: Improving Productivity and Style Through Self-Knowledge](#)
- Tues., Dec. 19 ~ 12 Noon - 1:00pm Eastern Time  
[Renovation of Pre-Engineered Buildings](#)
- Wed., Dec. 20 ~ 12 Noon - 1:00pm Eastern Time  
[Project Work Plans: Why and How?](#)

## ASCE's 2006

### Member-Get-A-Member

### Drive Depends on You!



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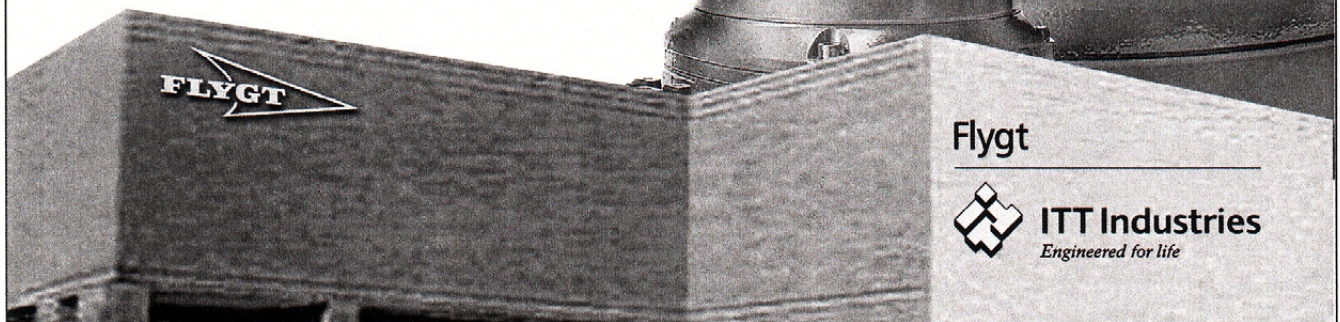
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Email: [jhernandez@kpff-la.com](mailto:jhernandez@kpff-la.com)

### For Pasadena:

Ms. Tamara Kealty  
**KPFF Consulting Engineers**  
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