

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

ORANGE / SAN_BERNARDINO/RIVERSIDE / SAN_LUIS_OBISPO / SANTA_BARBARA/VENTURA / DESERT / SOUTHERN SAN_JOAQUIN / METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jay Higgins, P.E., M.ASCE
Section President

Engineers Week and Spotighting Civil Engineer Volunteers



February is the traditional month to conduct activities dedicated to raising public awareness of the positive contributions of engineers to our quality of life. This year, Engineers Week (EWeek) is celebrated from February 14th through the 20th, although there are many activities that continue year round. This newsletter contains an article by the Region Governor, Tony Akel, explaining the Engineers Week Coalition, of which ASCE is a part. This year our ASCE President, Blaine Leonard, is the chair of the coalition along with honorary co-chair CEO of Exxon Mobil, Rex Tillerson. The article points out how the coalition is "Inspiring Tomorrow's Engineers". EWeek promotes recognition among parents, teachers, and students of the importance of a technical education and a high school level of math, science and technology literacy. I encourage you to read Tony's article and learn how you can become involved in these activities.

The EWeek theme for this year is "Celebrate Volunteerism". I would like to thank the many Section members who will be volunteering their time to participant in EWeek activities. I would also like to recognize the Section and Branch accomplishments over the past year which could only have been achieved due to the dedication of the members willing to volunteer their precious time to advance the profession of civil engineering. Some of these same individuals volunteer their time in local communities in the spirit of goodwill. I personally have participated in such activities and would encourage each of our members to support their communities by serving on local boards and commissions.

This February, the San Luis Obispo (SLO) Branch and the Cal Poly SLO Student Chapter will be conducting their annual EWeek activity. Civil Engineering students and local professionals celebrate Engineers Week by visiting schools where volunteers introduce civil engineering and encourage students to dive into their math and science coursework. The week's efforts are twofold; some volunteers will visit individual classrooms to give presentations and engage the students in civil engineering teamwork activities, while others will attend career fairs at several campuses to make their first hand civil engineering knowledge and various informational resources available to students. This is a great opportunity to get students excited about the civil engineering profession, college, and their future. Last year, local students and professionals visited 15 different schools and presented to more than 30 classes, reaching approximately 500 students, and hope to have a similar success this year. I would like to thank Jeff Spannbauer, President of the SLO Branch, and all of the volunteers from the branch and student chapter, for taking the time to be involved in this truly worthy activity that reaches so many students.

In December, I received a letter from the Society informing me that the Los Angeles Section received the Society's "2009 Outstanding Section and Branch Award" for Very Large Sections and Branches. This is truly a great accomplishment which could only

VOL_XLX NO_2

In This Issue	<i>page</i>
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
EDITORIAL	2
INSPIRE TOMORROW'S ENGINEERS.....	2
BOUNTY OFFERED TO SECTIONS	3
ENGINEERS WEEK PACKETS AVAILABLE	3
CURIOUS GEORGE SERIES - YMF	4
INT'L COMMITTEE CONGRESS IN CAIRO ...	6-7
ANNOUNCEMENT.....	5, 8
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.....	9
PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY.....	10-11



Awards and Altruism

Euphoria is in the air! Our Section humbly accepts the 2009 Outstanding Section and Branch Award for Very Large Sections and Branches in recognition of the great efforts and volunteerism our Section members have put in the past year. Newsletters of our Metro Los Angeles and San Bernardino/Riverside Branches have also bagged respective awards for their significant efforts of producing an effective communication tool within their Branches. But let us not forget that these awards would not have been possible without your specific contribution of resources. Whether it is volunteering for an event, writing a short article of interest, participating in forums, or simply being a member who cares, you are part of what this Section and its Branches have become and are now recognized by ASCE National. As we celebrate Engineers Week (EWeek) this month, let us contemplate on what we have done collectively as a Section and what we can do as a profession to better everyone's lives.

In separate articles, Our Section President and Region 9 Director talk about Eweek in similar tones. They talk about the things that we can do within our own sphere of influences and if you dare venture out, within your community. They talk about resources available to us that we can tap into.

These commentaries provide a good segue' to the Curious George Let's Build series participated in by our Younger Member Forum, Metro Los Angeles Branch, and Los Angeles regional colleges volunteers last November 2009. What's truly amazing with that effort is the sheer number of our members who reached out [and continue to reach out], especially to the next generation of engineers.

February, through EWeek, is a great month to feel proud to be an engineer primarily because of the personal satisfaction this profession brings in making the lives of others better. And what better testament it is to say to others that "I helped build that" when one goes around the city pointing to the various engineering landmarks they helped build. I do that often with my 9-year old son, not necessarily because I want him to be an engineer; but specifically because I want him to know how engineers really make a difference and how those infrastructures are used to make this great region of Los Angeles more livable each day. That intrinsic spirit of altruism is the key lesson of this profession that I want to impart to him.

To all engineers, Mabuhay (Long Live)!

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter.

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

Reminder:

Copy deadline for the Mar. 2010 issue is Feb. 1, 2010; copy deadline for Apr. 2010 issue is Mar. 1, 2010.

Inspire Tomorrow's Engineers

By Tony Akel, P.E., Region 9 Governor



"Scientists and engineers ought to stand side by side with athletes and entertainers as role models and here at the White House we are going to lead by example. We're going to show young people how cool science can be."

This was part of President Obama's November 2009 speech where he introduced the nationwide initiative "Educate to Innovate" which is intended to help scientists, engineers and teachers inspire young people to excel in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The initiative will engage 100,000 volunteers to reach more than 10 million students over the next 4 years.

Many indicators point to a serious and genuine effort by the current U.S. administration to plant the seeds of excellence in science and engineering education. Consequently, our profession will benefit with increased enrollment and achievers needed for a globally competitive technological market.

For our part, ASCE has been a very active participant and was even a founding member of Engineers Week Coalition, which includes more than 70 engineering, education, and cultural societies, and more than 50 corporations and government agencies. In fact, this year our National President Blain Leonard is the chair of the coalition, and the coalition honorary co-chair corporate sponsor is the CEO of Exxon Mobil, Rex Tillerson.

Engineers Week (Eweek) activities for 2010 are scheduled between February 14-20 and are dedicated to raising public awareness of engineers' positive contributions to the quality of life. EWeek promotes recognition among parents, teachers, and students of the importance of a technical education and a high level of math, science, and technology literacy. It also motivates youth to pursue engineering careers to maintain a diverse and vigorous engineering work force. Each year EWeek reaches thousands of schools, businesses, and community groups across the U.S.

What EWeek outreach programs are available and how can you volunteer? The Engineers Week Coalition's website www.eweeek.com lists 48 opportunities where you can get involved. These intuitive and motivational sites include:

- Discover Engineering is intended for middle school students www.discoverengineering.org.
- Zoom into Engineering is intended kids ages 6-12 pbskids.org/zoom.
- Future City Competition is intended to provide fun and exciting educational programs for seventh- and eighth-grade students. www.futurecity.org
- Introduce a girl to engineering www.eweeek.org/EngineersWeek/Introduce.aspx
- Discover Engineering Family Day held in Washington D.C. on February 20. eweeekdcfamilyday.org
- Finally, greatest engineering achievements of the 20th century is a reminder of our contribution to enhancing the quality of life www.greatachievements.org

continued on page 4

“Bounty” Offered to Sections and Branches for Peer Review Referrals

Sections and Branches appreciate additional revenue sources to help carry out their programs and services. There is now another source of income available from ASCE National. The Committee on Peer Review for Public Agencies is introducing a \$250 incentive for referrals that result in a peer review.

What is Peer Review?

The purpose of ASCE’s Peer Review for Public Agencies Program is to help public sector engineering and construction agencies improve the management and quality of their engineering services through a quick, confidential, and affordable process. Reviewers study an organization’s policies and objectives and conduct staff interviews to determine how well those policies and procedures are understood and practiced. Management areas covered include: organizational management, project management, emergency management, technical procedures, human resource management, finance, and public relations. The focus may cover planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance – and can include an entire agency or just a portion. The team concludes the process with an oral report to the engineer/director requesting the review, and if requested follows up later with a written report.

The process was modeled after a similar one used by the American Council of Engineering Companies in the late 1980’s. Since 1987, almost 70 different local entities have benefitted from the ASCE Peer Review for Public Agencies program. Typical comments include “We were and still are very happy with the review that was performed.” and “Experience showed and was very valuable.” More information, including a brochure, is available on the ASCE Web site at http://www.asce.org/professional/peereview/peer_review.cfm.

ASCE Peer Review is a voluntary and confidential program for public infrastructure organizations and is conducted by experienced government engineer/managers who are trained in the process. Timing is typically controlled by the requesting agency. A review can be done quickly. The turnaround time can be within 90 days of the request. Cost is low for this kind of study since reviewers volunteer their time, and therefore no cost is included for their salaries. The fee covers reviewer travel costs and administration. It typically ranges from \$6,000 to \$20,000 but depends on the size of the agency being reviewed and whether the agency requests a more customized review to address specific challenges or opportunities that they are facing.

Benefits of A Peer Review

A peer review provides an objective outside assessment of strengths and weaknesses by fellow government engineers experienced in leadership and management. They have no stake in future work; their intent is to provide a useful service to colleagues. Agency management can gain insights into procedural difficulties, communication obstacles, organizational problems, and employee morale but also positive reinforcement from staff feedback. This helps them prioritize and implement suggestions for improvement of effectiveness in a manner that utilizes both staff and management input.

Incentives Process

Sections and Branches should email Becky Waldrup, ASCE’s staff contact for the Committee on Peer Review for Public Agencies, at rwaldrup@asce.org to recommend an agency.

Provide the following information:

1. ASCE Section or Branch name and contact, and
2. Government agency name and contact information.

Becky will acknowledge your submission, enter the contact information into ASCE’s Peer Review tracking system, and follow-up with the agency to determine their interest. Upon completion of a review and payment of the review fee, the ‘nominating’ Section or Branch will receive payment of \$250. There is no limit on the number of referrals that a Sections and Branches may make or the number of referral fees that they may earn.

Agencies who have used this service have found that the process is very valuable. The Committee on Peer Review for Public Agencies hopes that this incentive offer will increase the exposure of this service. Please consider participating in the referral program for the benefit of your local public agencies as well as for the financial assistance that it will provide to your Section or Branch.

Engineers Week Packets Available for Outreach Planners

Engineers Week 2010 is slated for February 14 – 20. This year’s theme, Discover Engineering, is a call for engineers everywhere to help kids discover the fun and excitement of engineering and, in doing so, celebrate engineer volunteerism. Are you making final preparations for engineers week? ASCE Pre-College Outreach can help! ASCE has just received a large supply of Engineers Week packets with loads of information to inspire your outreach activities, and is distributing them to members free of charge. The packets include:

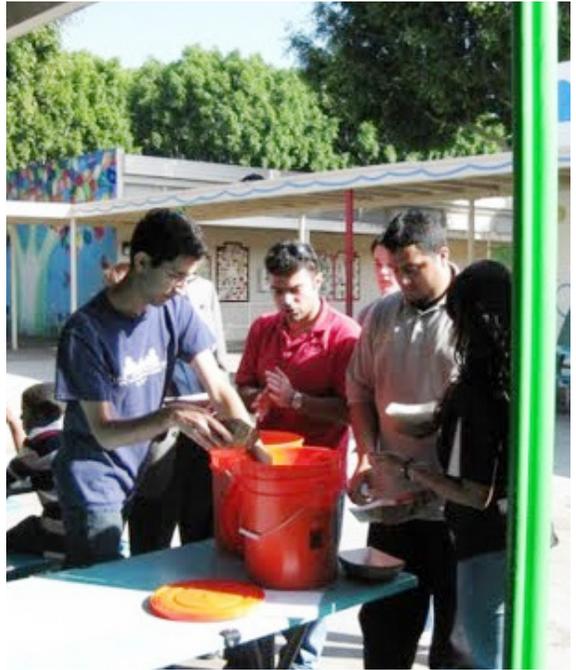
- Engineers Week poster featuring the Discover Engineering logo
- Introduce a Girl to Engineering poster with cool activities girls will love!
- Schedule of National Engineers Week events
- Ideas about and links to Engineers Week volunteer activities
- 2010 Engineers Week catalogue of promotional items and outreach giveaways

Order yours TODAY! Email your request to outreach@asce.org

K-12 Outreach Curious George: Erosion

By: Jane Tran

On November 6th, 2009 the ASCE YMF K-12 Outreach Program kicked off their 2009-2010 with a fantastic lesson on beachfront erosion and mitigation part of the Curious George Let's Build series at Clover Avenue Elementary School. Entitled "Shifting Sands", this hands-on activity showed our young engineers how natural forces can change the coastline and what engineers can do to shape them. The event was a huge success, with over 60 fifth-grade students and 26 volunteers in



attendance. Not only did YMF, MLAB, and Section have representation, but so did our local student chapters at CSULA, CSUN, UCLA, and Loyola Marymount University. Thank you to everyone who came and helped us enjoy another successful educational event!

Curious George is a joint program with PBS Kids that aims to develop math and science skills in elementary school students, and engage their natural curiosity to build and create. To learn more about PBS Kids' Curious George Let's Build Program, visit <http://pbskids.org/curious-george/parentsteachers/>, and to find out how you can help, email Jane Tran at jane.tran@hatchmott.com.



Inspire Tomorrow's Engineers

continued from page 2

This year's EWeek theme is "Celebrate Volunteerism". In Region 9, we have an army of engineering volunteers who donate their most valuable commodity, time, to successful and effective annual outreach activities within each Section and Branch. Each Region 9 Section and Branch holds annual award programs that recognize project and individual technical excellence, as well as volunteerism. Though most of the outreach activities are noticed during EWeek, our programs are implemented successfully throughout the year.

On behalf of Region 9, I extend our grateful thanks to those engineering volunteers for their dedication and invaluable contribution to our profession. The seeds you are planting are simply priceless and I hope your most gratifying reward is the knowledge that you are definitely making a big difference.

A wise man once said: "It is easy to count the seeds in an apple, but we cannot count the apples in a seed".

Happy Engineers Week!

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's 2010 Member-Get-A-Member Drive Depends on You!

**ASCE ♦ METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES BRANCH ♦ YOUNGER
MEMBER FORUM**

SPRING 2010 P.E. REVIEW COURSE INFORMATION

LOCATION

Los Angeles City Department of Public Works
1149 S. Broadway
Los Angeles, CA 90015

TIME/DATES

February 10th through March 24th, 2010
Mondays and Wednesdays 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM
And two Saturdays 8:00 AM through 5:00 PM
(Note: Exam Dates are April 16 and 17, 2010)

CURRICULUM

Geotechnical (Sampling, Properties of Soils, Soil Mechanics, Shallow Foundations, Deep Foundations, Retaining Structures)
Structural (Loadings, Analysis, Mechanics of Materials, Concrete Mix Design)
Water Resources (Hydraulics, Hydrology, Groundwater)
Environmental (Water/Wastewater treatment, Biology, Solid/Haz Water)
Special Seismic Examination Review (Saturday)
Special Surveying Examination Review (Saturday)
Transportation (Horizontal & Vertical Curves, Vehicle Dynamics & Accident Analysis, Construction Earthwork, Pavement Design)
Construction (Earthwork Construction and Layout, Cost Estimating, Scheduling, Construction Loads, Material Tests)

TEXTBOOKS

Material provided (included in cost of OVERALL review series):

NCEES PE Civil Engineering Sample Questions and Solutions Book

*Instructors will provide their own study materials and guides at each class

Recommended Text:

Civil Engineering Reference Manual, 11th Ed., 2008, Michael Lindeburg, PE

Surveying Principles for Civil Engineers, 2nd Edition, Paul A Cuomo, P.L.S.

Seismic Design Review Workbook, Steven T. Hiner, S.E.

CONTACT

For more information, please contact us:

Maria Miranda: mariam@pfeilerassociates.com

Julie Kentosh: jkentosh@gmail.com



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DISASTER TRAINING

Classes are being organized for volunteers to help in the event of a major disasters under the auspicious of the State of California, Office of Emergency Services (OES). 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, or are interested in arranging a class, please contact the ASCE Disaster Preparedness Committee Chairman. There is a charge of \$15 for the class.

The class begins at 9 or 10 and lasts 5 or 6 hours.

Classes will be given for Volunteers to assess damage and / or Coordinators from City or County to direct Volunteers for their area of damage.

To register for the class submit your name along with your Telephone number, Fax number. Zip code, and Email address. You will be contacted when 10 or more requests 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 contact person, phone, Fax, and E-mail. You will be contacted to make arrangements.

Thank you for your support of the A S C E

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have been achieved by the dedication of the many volunteers in the Section and Branches. I would especially like to thank Don Sepulveda, Section Past President, for his leadership over the past several years and for taking the time to assemble the nomination package that highlighted all the great activities of the Section's Branches, Younger Member Forums, Life Member Forum, and Technical Groups.

I was also notified that the Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch (MLAB) is the recipient of the Society's 2009 Outstanding Newsletter Award for Very Large Sections and Branches. The MLAB newsletter was revamped in 2007 under the direction of then MLAB President, Karen Sepulveda, and was improved under the leadership of Androush Danielians, MLAB President, Serge Haddad, MLAB President-Elect, Andy Duong, Vice President, and Newsletter Editor, Pat Nicholson. I would like to thank Karen, Androush, Serge, Andy, Pat and all of the volunteers who worked so hard by contributing articles, producing the newsletter, and, most importantly, providing the activities to write articles about. These volunteers' hard work has made the Branch and the newsletter a success.

But the holiday season kept on giving! I received even more good news. The San Bernardino/Riverside Branch (SB/R) was notified that their newsletter is the recipient of the Society's "2009 Outstanding Newsletter Award" for Medium Sections and Branches. Congratulations to Brian Wolfe, SB/R President, and thanks to all the volunteers in the SB/R Branch who made their newsletter and activities a success.

The accomplishments of all of the Los Angeles Section organizations are truly amazing and this could only have been achieved through the dedication of the members who are willing to offer their time for the advancement of the Civil Engineering profession. I am fortunate to serve as President of such a fine Section.

Let's all take the time this February, and throughout the year, to recognize the contributions of our volunteers and thank them for their time to the advancement of the Civil Engineering profession. For those of you that have thought about volunteering but haven't quite gotten around to it – "If not us, who? If not now, when?" (Quote by John F. Kennedy, variation based on the quote from the prophet, Hillel).

If you have any questions and comments please feel free to send me an e-mail to jay_higgins@urscorp.com. Articles for the Newsletter may be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, Cris Liban, at LibanE@metro.net.

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For Los Angeles:

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