



LOS ANGELES SECTION

Southern San Joaquin  
Branch

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

## What's Happening??

*by Dolores Salgado*

Have you been feeling “out-of-touch”? Perhaps you’ve been assigned a new fantastic project or your work duties have changed and they are keeping you from attending our meetings and events. **Great news!** We’re bringing the news to you so you do not wander away too far. Our Branch’s vision is to connect industry professionals with colleagues, younger members, students, and the community. We are a bunch of bright, talented, and gifted individuals with so much to offer! At the Branch, we provide a platform where you can learn, grow, and give back. Ways you can give back are by signing up as a presenter for our Branch General Meeting, by mentoring students, by visiting local high school students, or by donating to our Branch’s Scholarship Fund! All the details on how to get involved are in this newsletter so please keep reading...

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ASCE Southern San Joaquin Branch  
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*If there are any comments, questions, or concerns regarding the content in the ASCE Southern San Joaquin Branch Newsletter, please contact Dolores Salgado at [dsalgado@iecorporation.com](mailto:dsalgado@iecorporation.com)*

## Important!

[Mark your calendars](#)

### YMF Happy Hour

Temblor Brewing Company  
Thursday, March 31  
3200 Buck Owens Blvd. 5:30pm

### Joint ASCE/ APWA Meeting

Hodells 12 - 1pm  
Wednesday, April 20

### YMF Beale Library STEM Labs

1st and 3rd Saturdays every  
month  
For more information, contact  
Noor at [noor.saba@stantec.com](mailto:noor.saba@stantec.com)

### SSJB Scholarship Applications

Kern County High School and  
College students  
Deadline: April 15, 2016

### SSJB Scholarship Sponsorships

Sponsor a scholarship!  
Deadline: April 30, 2016

### Excellence Awards

2015 projects small and large!  
Deadline: May 16, 2016

## **Bakersfield College History of Kern County Infrastructure**

*by Dan Cronquist*

My favorite ASCE event of the year is our annual pilgrimage to Bakersfield College each February. Our membership had the opportunity to interact with engineering students and enjoy a good cut of slow-roasted tri-tip.

This year the format of the meeting was changed from a panel discussion to a presentation titled “Brief History of Kern County Infrastructure” in honor of Kern County’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. History can be important for engineers because so much of the infrastructure we have today is derived from it.

As an example take Spanish and Mexican ranchos where many of California’s geographic names and boundaries are derived. Their existence is credited to Andrés Pico, the commanding general for the Mexican army in California who negotiated land ownership rights as part of his surrender to American general John C. Freemont. Pico went on to accept American citizenship, help draft the California constitution, serve as state Senator, and became a Brigadier General in the California State Militia. Not bad for a man who lost the war. Another example is our city’s namesake, Thomas Baker. Baker had many talents being at one time or another attorney, district attorney, judge, federal land agent, and Kern’s first County Surveyor. Baker’s town of Kern Island was later renamed “Bakersfield” at the suggestion of Philo Jewett, who has a street of his own named after him.

If you haven’t stopped by the college in a while, we encourage you to stop by and hopefully join us next year.



Presenter: Dan Cronquist, P.E., PLS



Ralph Braboy, P.E.

## **You Will Always Be With Us, Ralph Braboy**

*by Mike McGovern*

We wanted to acknowledge that Ralph Braboy, passed away on February 16, 2016. Ralph was president of the Southern San Joaquin Branch from 2012 to 2013. Ralph was an active member in ASCE, and a friend beyond the workplace to many of his colleagues. Ralph had recently relocated to San Mateo this past summer to become the Deputy Director for the City of Mateo, working alongside former City of Bakersfield Public Works Operations Manager, Brad Underwood. In Bakersfield, Ralph served as manager of the City of Bakersfield’s Wastewater Division for 3 years and as an Engineer III for the City Of Bakersfield Public Works Capital Improvement Division for nearly 10 years. During his tenure at the City of Bakersfield, Ralph left his mark on the City’s infrastructure, including the Q Street Improvement Project between 24 th Street and Truxtun Avenue. Ralph graduated from USC with a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering in 1981. ASCE had always been a common thread throughout his 35 year civil engineering career. Those who worked with him on a day-to-day basis and those who served with him on our local ASCE Branch Board enjoyed his friendly personality and his quiet leadership skills. It comes as no surprise that his memorial service, held at New Life Apostolic Church on February 25 th, was well attended by the engineering community. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

# Congratulations to new life members!

*by Jeff Eklund*

Congratulations to Stephen Walker, William Wilbanks, and Terry Schroeffer! Advancement to Life Membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers is an honor and unique accomplishment reserved for individuals who have made a long time contribution and commitment to the Society and the profession. Furthermore, these members have reached the age of 65 years and have paid dues in any membership grade for a number of years such that when added to their age, the sum equals or exceeds 95.

As Life Members of ASCE, these members have represented to the people of this country the true nature of our people-serving profession. They have endured many obstacles as they've paved the way for us practicing today as well as future generations, and without their tenacity we would not experience our enhanced quality of life. Civil engineers are routinely the "unsung heroes" of the built environment, and today they are being singled out for their contributions to the health, safety and economy of our nation and the world. True professionals in which all people may have confidence, they have dedicated their talent, time and expertise to the advancement and betterment of people. On behalf of the ASCE Southern San Joaquin Branch, it is our profound pleasure to thank them for their contributions to civil engineering. May each of us aspire to reach their level of success and accomplishment as we continue to serve the Society in the years ahead.



Dan Cronquist, Terry Schroeffer, Dolores Salgado

Terry Schroeffer, an active member of ASCE and a past president, has been involved in the Southern San Joaquin branch for over 25 years. During this time, Terry has worked for Quad Knopf (18 years) and then Provost & Pritchard (9 years). He has been involved in many water and wastewater treatment and municipal infrastructure projects throughout Kern County. He has used his wealth of experience and lifelong learning to help complete projects that help our communities, and mentor and train the next generation of civil engineers.

Two projects that Terry is proud to have been a part of are the City of Corcoran Water Treatment Plant and the California Dairies, Inc. Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Corcoran Water Treatment Plant project is an 18 MGD facility that removes arsenic from groundwater. The \$18 million project was the largest of its kind in the State of California. The California Dairies facility processes 10 million pounds of milk per day and generates 1.3 MGD of high strength wastewater. Terry was involved in the original design and later modifications of the wastewater treatment facility. The facility treats the wastewater through a combination of waste segregation, mechanical vapor recompression (MVR) evaporation, aerated lagoon, polishing ponds and storage/percolation ponds. These are just a couple of examples of the unique projects that Terry has been involved in during his career.

Some advice that Terry would like to impart to younger engineers is to learn as much as you can from all people and places. There is a wealth of knowledge from other engineers, vendors, operators, and contractors. Additionally, get out of the office and learn about other civil works, past and present. Lastly, he encourages everyone to be civically involved, to be at the forefront of our agencies and their decisions.





## **Thank you Don for the presentation on BHE Renewables and Solar Star Projects!!**

Don Grafton is a project manager with BHE Renewables and oversaw construction of the co-located 579 megawatt Solar Star Projects, located in Rosamond, California. Mr. Grafton graduated with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Nebraska-Omaha and has a master's in business administration from University of Nebraska-Omaha. Mr. Grafton is a licensed Professional Engineer and ASCE member.





# YMF Leads STEM Lab at the Beale Library

*by Leslie Edwards*

On the first and third Saturday of each month you will find volunteers from the Younger Members Forum leading the Engineering Challenge Series at the Beale Library. The lab is focused for students between the ages of 10 and 17 and is intended to teach basic STEM topics in a fun, hands-on environment. The series of labs began slowly in October and has gained popularity through the winter months.

The lab on February 27th had 15 students working together to build geodesic domes. Volunteers spent time at the beginning of the lab explaining what a geodesic dome is, how they are used in real life, and how and why we use plans to convey information. Students self-formed their working groups, they were given plans of the structure, and they were required to work together towards their common goal. In the end, each of the 5 groups completed their domes and some even went on to improve on their structure. As we all know, there is just as much information to be learned from construction as there is from destruction so at the end of the lab, some groups chose to find the “structural weaknesses” inherent in the design.

The Engineering Challenge Series continues to run on the first and third Saturday of each month from 12-1:30pm in the Teen Lab at the Beale Library. For more information, contact Leslie Edwards at [edwardsl@co.kern.ca.us](mailto:edwardsl@co.kern.ca.us).

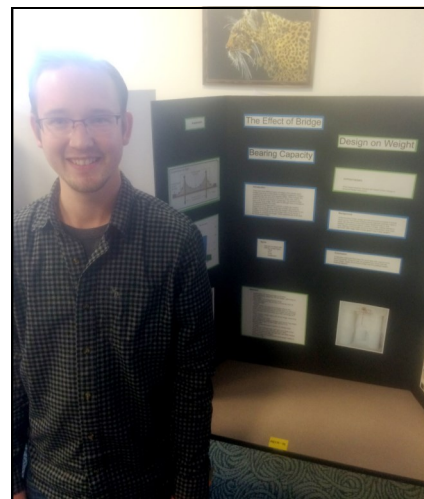


# Bakersfield Christian HS Science Fair

*by Dan Munn*

One of the primary goals of the YMF is to get the future engineers interested and involved in the engineering discipline. On January 22, members of the YMF participated in judging the Bakersfield Christian High School Science fair.

YMF members Austin Martin and Dan Munn judged a variety of topics including Environmental Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. BCHS Science Department Head Rachelle Romanoff said that on a good year the school will send as many as 30 students to district competition where the BCHS students will compete against other high schools in the area for a chance to advance to state.



Austin Martin, M. ASCE

Students are always encouraged to focus their projects on current events, and this year there were many projects that dealt with the drought/water conservation methods. In judging Martin and Munn would not only score the projects but spend time with the students discussing real life applications and giving them tips on how they could improve their presentation at the district level. It was a great opportunity for YMF to branch out and help the future of or discipline.



## YMF at Bakersfield College's Engineering Day

*by Corinne Goodwin*

Students and professionals gathered at Bakersfield College's Engineering Day. Several different companies and organizations showed up to promote all types of engineering found in the Bakersfield area as well as educate high school and junior college students in the many applications of engineering.

The YMF booth was able to provide a good representation of civil engineering in Kern County. Students approached the booth asking questions about civil engineering. Many of the students showed interest in petroleum engineering and mechanical engineering, as those are common interest areas for students in Kern County. We were able to answer their questions regarding the overlap in types of engineering and how they are all incorporated. The students responded well to the applicability of civil engineering to everyday life and how broad of a field it can be for those who do not know which type of engineering they wanted to pursue. The professionals who attended the event were well rounded and able to answer all of the questions asked. The pamphlets and ASCE promotion material was helpful in attracting students to the booth and it was a great success!

