

Happy Thanksgiving to All!!!

# 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

### Developing Leadership – Introducing Students to Civil Engineering and Encouraging Civil Engineers to be Active in ASCE



In the last issue of the newsletter I highlighted my goals for the coming year which included developing leadership. Developing a continuous stream of responsible leaders and civil engineering advocates is crucial to our ongoing objective of providing value to our Section members. Developing leaders consists of two primary activities, 1) introducing students to the field of civil engineering and encouraging them to pursue a degree in civil engineering, and 2), providing opportunities for civil engineering college students and practicing civil engineers to learn the skills necessary to take on ASCE committee, technical group, or Board leadership responsibilities.

Student outreach begins as early as the elementary school level and continues on into junior high and high school. If we can interest students in civil engineering in their early school years by showing them the potential of an interesting and rewarding career in civil engineering, they can plan to take the high schools courses necessary to enter into a civil engineering degree program. The Branches and Younger Member Forums (YMF) also have an opportunity to work closely with the Student Chapters to encourage them to build their leadership skills. For some Branches, this effort is solidly in place. The coordination of the student outreach program section-wide is the responsibility of Section Vice President for Student Activities, Karen Sepulveda. With her experience in student activities, which began as a student at California State University, Long Beach, I'm sure the management of this program is in good hands. The goal for this program is to build on the successes learned for the ongoing Branch/YMF/Life Member Forum activities and to expand those activities that have been most effective in reaching students.

Encouraging student chapter members to continue in ASCE after graduation is one of the most crucial steps to developing leadership and is one that the Section Board will also focus on this coming year. An active Membership committee with the advent of social networking web sites has the potential of making this task easier than in the past. The YMF groups' involvement in this activity is important because of their ability to relate to issues facing younger engineers. The YMF groups are doing a great job of reaching out to the students and younger members through their general meetings and social activities. Let's build on the successes of the past and encourage these younger members to take on leadership responsibility with YMF and Technical Groups.

The Section will also continue to provide opportunities for developing leadership skills by conducting its Board Member Training and Planning Workshop held each August,

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**Reminder:**

Copy deadline for the Dec. 2009 issue is Nov. 1, 2009; copy deadline for Jan. 2010 issue is Dec. 1, 2009.



EDITORIAL

## Thanks Giving

There are a lot of things we should be thankful: our careers, our family, our health, our financial situation? Wait a minute, our financial situation? Some of us have had a very challenging time in the past year with no let-up in the immediate future. Forecasts of an economic recovery are endearing, but the reality prevails. I guess, it is a matter of how one looks at the reality of our current situation, is the glass half empty or half full. For example, would a slowing layoff rate be good news. People are still being laid off. People are still not finding full-time work. People are still underemployed. Regardless, to this we ask, when will this end? Soon.

Here at the ASCE Los Angeles Section we are doing everything we can to create and maintain the value of your membership. Not only is this a tool to engage engineers to participate in our activities and learn about the great things that our Section does, but more importantly to continue building our engineering community. In other words, make our Section much "smaller" than what it is. Yes, we have our strength in numbers, but we need to gel well and exploit those numbers to advance our Section, professional, and personal goals.

In addition to this, our Section President Jay Higgins, P.E. also talks about enhancing and developing leadership in his President's Message. We need look at our participation level in our Section. There's so much we can do and in these challenging times, there are also so many people that we can help.

We hear from Chuck Spinks, P.E., Chair - Region 9 Board of Governors, about ASCE Region 9's current efforts and opportunities for involvement. He also mentions the awards that the Region hands out. Let's support our fellow engineers and their projects by encouraging them to build great projects. We do so powerfully through their recognition in an awards program.

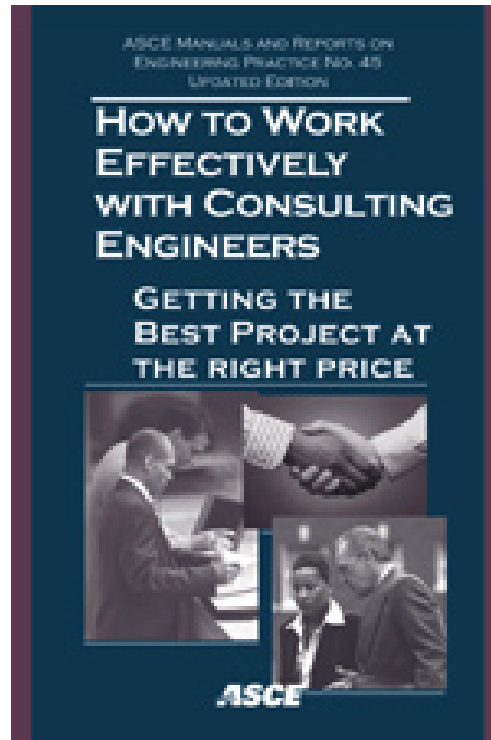
Our San Bernardino Branch provides us with an update of their activities. If you live within their geographic reach, it would only be to everyone's benefit to be involved. Need more opportunities? The Section Sustainability Committee is convening under new leadership. Why not get involved in this very worthwhile cause? Another very interesting and important committee to get involved with is our Forensic Technical Group. We also showcase their committee's goals and contact information in this issue.

Finally, just in case you are in the Middle East [particularly Cairo, Egypt] in June 2010, please check out the 6th International Engineering and Construction Conference. We include here some of the highlights of their program. Please consult their website for detailed information.

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter.

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

## Your Help is Needed for Manual 45! ASCE Consulting Engineering Practice Survey 2008 - 2009



**This is a reminder that ASCE needs your help** to finish improving Manual No. 45, How to Work Effectively With Consulting Engineers, which provides guidance on procuring engineering services for a quality project. In order to provide the most accurate information on compensation for engineering services, it is critical that we obtain a broad response of actual project data. We are asking principals and project managers to submit one survey per office, but to provide information on several of your projects. The survey is available at <http://www.asce.org/m45>. Please share this link with others in your office who may need to provide information to complete this survey.

The survey is completely confidential and only ASCE staff will have access to individual survey responses and contact information. **Each respondent who submits a completed survey before November 30, 2009 will receive a \$10 discount on the purchase of any ASCE publication.**

If you have any questions or would like information on an alternate method to submit the survey, you may call Becky Waldrup, Manager, Professional Practice at 800-548-2723, ext. 6281 or send an e-mail to [rwaldrup@asce.org](mailto:rwaldrup@asce.org).

Thank you for your help, and thank you to all of you who have already submitted your completed surveys. Previous respondents were entered into a drawing for an iPod Nano, which was awarded to ASCE member Timothy Granata.

For more information on the current edition of Manual 45 and other ASCE Manuals of Practice visit ASCE Publications - Manuals of Practice.

## A New Year

By Chuck Spinks, P.E.  
Chair-ASCE Region 9 Board of Governors



October 1st is the beginning of ASCE's new year, with our new Branch, Section, Region and Society officers starting the '09-'10 year with challenging and rewarding responsibilities. At the Region 9 level, we have two new Governors: Kathy Haynes replacing Mark Creveling and representing the San Diego Section, and Rich Haller replacing Harvey Gobas as one of the two At-Large Governors. Each new year seems to bring

a more challenging schedule at Region 9 as we embark on additional projects to effectively support our Branches and Sections.

The first four months of each calendar year are traditionally our busiest, and this year we are assuming a busier schedule since ASCE was selected to lead the Engineers Week 2010 Coalition. Our major upcoming activities include:

- February 10-11: Region 9's Legislative Day, Annual Symposium, and Awards Banquet.
- February 14 -20: Engineers Week; ASCE is leading the activities this year with our president Blaine Leonard as chair of the coalition.
- February 26-27; Multi Region Leadership Conference; this is where our leadership teams from the Branches, Sections, Younger Members, and Students from Regions 8 and 9 get together. This year's event is held in San Diego.
- March 25: OPAL (Outstanding Projects and Leaders) Awards Banquet in Washington D.C.
- April 8-10: Mid-Pacific Student Conference and Competition, held this year at California State University Chico.

First on our calendar is Region 9's annual event in Sacramento, centered around our Legislative Day where representatives from the Branches and Sections travel to Sacramento to meet with their legislators, develop relationships with them, inform them on ASCE's position on upcoming legislation affecting our profession, and establish ASCE as a resource for their staff. Mike Thornton will lead the Legislative Day activities, Shahn Ahmad, Governor representing the Los Angeles Section, will Chair the Infrastructure Symposium, and Jennifer Epp, At-Large Governor, will Chair the Awards Banquet.

We are already accepting award nominations for our 2010 Awards Banquet in Sacramento. Projects that won awards from our Sections are eligible to be submitted for a Region 9 award. The nominations are due Friday, November 13 (for good luck) to Jennifer at [jpepp@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jpepp@waterboards.ca.gov).

Our region is abundant with many great projects and outstanding leaders and we hope they receive the recognition they so deserve. The prestigious Region 9 awards also come in a unique wood plaque design shaped to represent the state of California. We think this award will stand out on your awards wall! For more information on the awards, please check out our Region 9 web site.

## San Bernardino/Riverside Counties Branch Update

By Brian D. Wolfe, P.E.  
President, ASCE San Bernardino/Riverside Counties Branch

It gives me pleasure to continue with our Branch Board, this time as President for the 2009-2010 year. Our Branch will continue to provide additional services and opportunities for participation this year as we work closely with the Mentorship and Stormwater Committees, as well as our Younger Member Forum. The Branch Board also congratulates Jessie Powell as he takes the helm of the successful Mentorship Committee for this year. Our increase in branch activities will include the formation of a Membership/ Welcoming Committee as we make efforts to extend our hand to those members beyond the metropolitan areas of San Bernardino and Riverside.

We are also making preparations for accommodating new ASCE student members as a new Civil Engineering Program has been established at California Baptist University, with a new student chapter soon to follow. Fortunately we have two strong entities, the YMF and Mentorship Committee available to encourage them to continue with ASCE as they exit the classroom and enter the workforce.

On the 14th of October our Stormwater Committee co-sponsored a Low Impact Development (LID) workshop in Riverside. We are fortunate to have Bill Flores continue to Chair the Stormwater Committee as they continue to provide valuable education and training services to our membership.

Please visit us at [www.asce-sbriv.org](http://www.asce-sbriv.org) to get to know our board members and committee chairpersons, and also to view our calendar for upcoming events.

## Sustainability: What Does It Mean To Civil Engineers?

By Paul Callaway, P.E., M.ASCE,  
Chair, ASCE Los Angeles Section Sustainability Committee

To many civil engineers it means best management practices for controlling erosion, to others it is designing into projects efficiencies that will reduce or eliminate their fossil fuel energy demands. What does it mean to you? Please join in with others interested in this evolving area and share your ideas and information on this timely subject with LA Section's Sustainability Committee. The committee is looking for a member from each branch to be assigned by the Branch's President to take part in our monthly scheduled teleconferences, so we can share what is being done throughout Southern California. We are looking forward to hearing from any one of you that is interested in the subject and we want to hear some good examples of how sustainability has been incorporated into projects in your areas. Please contact me at "[Paul.Callaway@ventura.org](mailto:Paul.Callaway@ventura.org)" for information on our upcoming teleconferences and take part in a lively discussion on this topic.

# Forensic Technical Group ASCE Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch

## Overview of Forensic Practice

The practice of Forensic Engineering is the objective investigation of conditions related to material, equipment or construction failures and accidents, and the technical evaluation of those conditions in order to apply engineering principles to determine the cause of such failures and accidents.

## What kind of projects do Forensic Engineers do?

In the civil engineering field, Forensic Engineers evaluate construction accidents, construction defects, structural and geotechnical failures, waterproofing and roofing failures, and flooding. As a result, it encompasses all aspects of civil engineering. Full services of Forensic Engineering can include the preparation of engineering reports and service as an expert witness in matters of litigation. Example projects will be investigation of recent bridge failure at Minneapolis, La Conchita landslide, and damage from earthquakes and hurricanes such as the Northridge earthquake and Hurricane Katrina.

## For whom do Forensic Engineers work?

Forensic engineers work closely with insurance industry and legal professionals.

## Goals of Forensic Technical Group

- Advancing knowledge and skill in the practice of Forensic Engineering;
- Facilitating the exchange of specialized information among its members; and
- Establishing a professional standard for Forensic Engineering practice.



## Board Members

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# Los Angeles Section 2009 Awards Presented on September 26th at the Annual Installation of Officers and Awards Dinner

One hundred and two Section members, guests, and students enjoyed an evening of celebration at the Autry National Center of the American West. Several gallery rooms were open for the viewing pleasure of the attendees prior to dinner. Region 9 Governor, Chuck Spinks, P.E., M. ASCE, installed the new officers from the Section, Branches, Younger Member Forums, and Student Chapters. Newly installed Los Angeles Section President, Jay Higgins, P.E., M. ASCE, and Past-President Don Sepulveda, P.E., F. ASCE presented the awards. Section Award recipients were as follows:

- **Outstanding Civil Engineer in the Private Sector**  
Wade Horton, P.E., M. ASCE
- **Outstanding Civil Engineer in Government**  
Ryan Gross, P.E., M. ASCE
- **Outstanding Younger Civil Engineer**  
Jamie Hutchins, P.E., M. ASCE
- **Outstanding Practitioner Advisor**  
Kari Wagner, P.E., M. ASCE
- **Outstanding Civil Engineer in Legislative Activities**  
Anthony Lusich, P.E., G.E., M. ASCE, Chairman,  
ASCE Kern Co. Infrastructure Report Card Committee
- **Outstanding Private Sector Civil Engineering Project**  
**Blue Bird Canyon Landslide Remediation Project**  
Geofirm/Stoney-Miller Consultants, Inc.
- **Outstanding Private Sector Civil Engineering Project, Honorable Mention** Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment (GREAT)  
**Program Brackish Water Desalter, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants**
- **Outstanding Government Civil Engineering Project**  
**Lompoc River Bend Park Bikeway, City of Lompoc, California**
- **Outstanding Government Civil Engineering Project, Honorable Mention** Repairs to 48-inch North Outfall Sewer under the L.A. River, City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works/Bureau of Engineering
- **Outstanding Sustainability Project**  
**Poly Canyon Village, Cannon**
- **Outstanding Sustainability Project, Honorable Mention** Harbor Replacement Station & Jail, City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works/Bureau of Engineering
- **Outstanding Architectural Engineering Project**  
**John Spoor Broome Library, California State University Channel Islands**
- **Outstanding Architectural Engineering Project, Honorable Mention**  
**Santa Maria Public Library, City of Santa Maria**
- **Excellence in Journalism Award**  
Huell Howser
- **Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Clark Robins, P.E., S.E., M. ASCE

The following Region 9 award s was also presented:

- **Outstanding ASCE Branch Officer, Region 9**  
Karen Sepulveda, Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch



Jamie Hutchins P.E.



Clark Robins P.E., S.E.

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THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS EVENT  
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Pioneer Level



Marshall Level



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Silver Level



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Quarter Table (two students)

- Terry & Kathy Dooley
- Rich & Beverly Haller
- Jay Higgins & Judy Lea
- Janice Horcasitas
- Mark & Nancy Norton
- Don & Karen Sepulveda

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ascelasection.org**

which is offered to Branch, YMF, and Students Chapter incoming Board members. We will also look for opportunities to hold section-wide workshops to expand our members' understanding of Branch and Section operations such as the recent Financial Reporting workshop held in July. We are currently in the planning stages for section-wide Legislative Activities workshop, similar to the successful one held by the Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch and YMF Government Affairs Committee in August, and a section-wide workshop on our Mentoring Program, which matches young civil engineers with experienced civil engineering professionals.

I believe that the most effective approach to encouraging the practicing civil engineers, who are not currently members of ASCE, to become active members is through your relationship with your co-workers, the one-on-one approach. Encouraging a co-worker to attend an ASCE activity with you is a great way to introduce them to the benefits of ASCE and Section membership. If you can show them the value of being a member, they will want to get involved. One of the greatest benefits of our organization is networking. It is an opportunity to stay current in your area of technical expertise, become familiar with the legislative issues of concern to civil engineers, and to stay current with business trends to name a few. For those civil engineers who are already involved with ASCE as a Committee or Board member, I ask you to find two new members, one to be groomed to replace you in your current ASCE position and one new member to grow the Section.

Civil Engineers become active in ASCE for various reasons. Many become active on their own out of a sense of giving back to the profession that has been so rewarding to them. Others may have thought about getting involved but haven't quite gotten around to it. A little encouragement to become a member may help. If you approach a co-worker who is currently not a member of ASCE and ask them to join, be prepared to answer the "why" question. They may ask, "Why should I be a member?" What are benefits? Beside the lifelong friendships that you make when you become active on an ASCE Board or Committee, there are many other benefits to being a member of ASCE. Recently the Society published a Membership Resources Guide that lists many of these benefits. The resource guide is organized into four categories, referred to as sub-brands. To assist you in finding information within your particular area of interest, activities and resource material are now categorized within one of the following benefits categories:

- Knowledge and Learning – ASCE provides access to industries newest trends, technical innovations, research facilities and most widely accessed repository of civil engineering knowledge;
- Leadership and Management – ASCE provides the tools needed to lead and manage projects, teams and organizations to achieve greater levels of success;

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## ASCE's 2009

# Member-Get-A-Member Drive Depends on You!

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- Issues and Advocacy – ASCE constantly informs and educates the public and lawmakers about key civil engineering issues and ensures that your opinions and the voice of the profession are heard; and
- Membership and Community - Whether networking with other engineers locally or reaching out to developing economies, becoming an active participant in the ASCE community illuminates the purpose of our work.

Point out these benefits to your prospective ASCE member.

Every Section member should look for an opportunity to introduce a student to the field of civil engineering, and encourage a co-worker to be a participant in ASCE activities. Find that person who has the leadership potential to move the Section forward toward achieving our goals. Let's grow the Section together and the leadership resources necessary to provide value to our members.

If you have other ideas on developing Section leadership, please contact me at [jay\\_higgins@urscorp.com](mailto:jay_higgins@urscorp.com). Next month my President's Message will focus on the Section's Legislative Activities and how these activities fit within our legal structure as a 501(c)(3) organization.

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### ANNOUNCEMENT

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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  
Jack W. Rolston, Chair  
818-903-5225 cell • 818-345-9199  
818-345-5283 fx  
[ascedisaster@earthlink.net](mailto:ascedisaster@earthlink.net)



## American Society of Civil Engineers

### 6th International Engineering and Construction Conference (IECC'6)



## Advances in Affordable Housing & Green Construction

Cairo– Egypt June 28-30, 2010

#### Organizers

ASCE Los Angeles Section - International Committee  
ASCE Egypt Section

University of California, Irvine  
Ministry of Housing, Utilities & Urban Development  
Green Building Council of Egypt



UCIrvine

#### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Prof. M. Eldemirdash, Ph.D. (Chair-Egypt)  
Housing & Building National Research Center
- Prof. A. Mosallam, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE (Chair-USA), University of California Irvine
- Dr. C. T. Bathala, P.E., Ph.D., F. ASCE (Co-Chair-USA), ASCE International Committee, California Department of Transportation.
- Prof. Mostafa Soliman, M. ASCE, (Co-Chair-USA), ASCE Egypt Chapter.
- Engr. Sonia Y. Nasser, P.E., LEED, A.P., M.ASCE (Co-Chair-USA), Bryan A. Stirrat & Associates, a Tetra Tech Company, California

#### HONORARY CHAIRS

- H.E. Engr. Ahmed Elmaghrabi, Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, Egypt.
- H.E. Dr. Hany Helal, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Egypt.
- H.E. Dr. Ali Almoselhi, Minister of Social Solidarity, Egypt.
- H.E. Ambassador Moshera Khatab, Ministry of State for Family and Population, Egypt.

#### INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Chairman: Dr. Mostafa Tolba

- |                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
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| S. Adanur, Turkey           | V. Kahya, Turkey       |
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| M. Alhayatmi, Egypt         | E. Kurniadi, Indonesia |
| I. Aljanabi, UAE            | A. Lau, China          |
| T. Almusallam, Saudi Arabia | F. Liu, USA            |
| Y. Alsalloum, Saudi Arabia  | I. Mehleb, Egypt       |
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| M. Hegab, USA               | P. Walker, UK          |
| D. Hui, USA                 | C. Warner, USA         |

#### GENERAL

The 6th International Engineering and Construction Conference (IECC'6) is a multidisciplinary forum with several symposia covering a wide range of engineering areas with emphasis on engineering design and construction. The goal of this conference is to enhance the lines of communication between researchers and technical professionals to exchange innovative research and technological advancements. This year conference theme focuses on two major challenges: affordable housing and adoption of green building approach.

#### CONFERENCE OBJECTIVE

The objective of the conference is to focus on various topics related to affordable housing, green construction, eco-villages and cities, energy efficiency code development, carbon finance, renewable energy, construction and environmentally compatible engineering design and construction projects, recyclable construction materials and systems, other state-of-the-art papers related to built environment and energy conservation are also encouraged.

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## Semi-Retired Civil Engineer

Semi-Retired Civil Engineer available for short term/long term commitments. **California P.E. with 40+ years of varied experiences and responsibilities, including claims consulting and expert witness testimony. C.V. and references will be available upon your request.**

**E-mail: [evnel@aol.com](mailto:evnel@aol.com)  
Cell phone: 323-356-7814**

## IECC'6

*continued from page 8*

### VENUE

The conference will be held at the Housing & Buildings National Research Center (HBRC) of Egypt located in the beautiful Cairo Metropolitan area. The address of HBRC is: 87 Tahrir Street, Dokki-Gaza, Egypt. Telephone: +202-3335-1564.

### INFORMATION

Visit the conference website: [www.IECC6.org](http://www.IECC6.org) for more information.

### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

#### International Delegates:

- US\$ 300.00 Early Bird (Full Conference)
- US\$ 350.00 Full Conference
- US\$ 150.00 One-day + CD Proceedings
- US\$ 400.00 On-site
- US\$ 25.00 for all Students

#### Egyptian Delegates:

- EP 300.00 Early Bird (Full Conference)
- EP 350.00 Full Conference
- EP 400.00 On-Site
- EP 25.00 for all Students

[Egyptian Pound (EP) ≈ \$US 0.18]

Full conference registration fee includes a copy of the proceedings, welcoming reception, lunches and banquet. It does not include hotel accommodation or optional social events.

## 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.

## KPFF CONSULTING ENGINEERS

KPFF Consulting Engineers seeks motivated and energetic structural engineers. 2+yrs of structural design experience with steel, concrete, masonry and timber desired. B.S., M.S. degree; a P.E. license plus. Excellent communication and teamwork skills are essential. Substantial growth opportunity for all levels, and the opportunity to work on a wide variety of interesting and challenging projects. Please contact, fax or email resume to the following:

### For Los Angeles:

Ms. Krystle Tabangcura  
**KPFF Consulting Engineers**  
6080 Center Drive, Ste 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
Ph: 310- 665-1536  
Fx: 310-665-9070  
Email: [ktabangcura@kpff-la.com](mailto:ktabangcura@kpff-la.com)

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