

# Los Angeles Section

*Monthly: Est. 1913*

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*"One who knows that enough is enough will  
always have enough."*

— Lao-Tzu

## LA SECTION GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Michael Thornton, P.E.  
Governor, ASCE Region 9



## Region 9 Report

For those who don't know, ASCE's Region 9 is the Los Angeles Section connection to ASCE National. As part of ASCE National's reorganization 2 years ago, Region 9, along with 9 other regions were formed. Region 9, unlike other regions, is one State only, the State of California. The Region includes 4 Sections, the grand Los Angeles Section together with the San Francisco, San Diego, and Sacramento Sections. The Region represents 17,000 members residing in the State.

Region 9 is governed by a board of seven governors. Each section has one governor representing it. The remainder of the board includes two at large appointed governors and a National Director who not only serves as the leader of the Region's board but also serves on ASCE's National Board of Directors, yes our connection to National.

So, what is Region 9 doing for you? To get things started, Region 9 has established several committees including three committees that are up and running, Awards, Disaster Preparedness, and Government Affairs Committees. The goal of the Awards Committee is to recognize outstanding people and projects in Region 9. The Disaster Preparedness Committee is preparing our membership to respond when the next major disaster occurs in the state. The Government Affairs Committee goals are to educate our members on legislative activities, to develop a program to make our state legislators understand our position on infrastructure issues, to actively interface with the media, and to place our members on State Boards that make civil engineering decisions. Each are discussed in the following paragraphs:

### 1. Membership Education

On February 5, 2007, Region 9 sponsored an infrastructure symposium in Sacramento. The theme of the symposium was "How Will the State Implement Bonds Approved by the Voters, November 2006?" Both water and transportation legislation were included in the program. The program included speakers from the State's legislature, Governor's staff, Bay-Delta Authority, Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, US Army Corps of Engineers, California's Transportation Commission, two Caltrans Districts, and regional and local transportation agencies. Over 150 members attended the program.

In addition to these types of programs, Region 9 will prepare a column for the Section newsletters to keep our members updated on region government affairs activities.

### 2. Meeting Our Legislators

On February 6, 2007, Region 9 held its third annual "Day at the Capitol". Members are not Republicans or Democrats, Conservative or Liberal; we are advocates for infrastructure. Our discussion points included secure infrastructure funding for both construction and maintenance of infrastructure, timely project delivery and increased resources.

*continued on page 3*

VOL\_XLVII NO\_4

In This Issue	page
LA SECTION GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE	1
EDITORIAL	2
FINANCIAL FOUNDATION	2
OBITUARY	3
POST DISASTER SAFETY	3
ANNOUNCEMENTS	4~6
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES	6~9
PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY	10~11

#### Reminder:

*Copy deadline for the May, 2007 issue is April 1, 2007; copy deadline for June, 2007 issue is May 1, 2007.*



www.ascelasection.org

## Issues Resolved, Etc.

I would like to address two issues that have come up during the last month. The first one is an e-mail from one of our members indicating that I may have offended a number of our readers through the publication of last month's front page quotation. I would like to issue a formal apology to you who got offended by those words. Just to be clear about the selection of quotes, every month I personally select a few quotes that create the theme for the issue of that month. The intent of those quotes is to either create a funny situation, identify a thought provoking idea, or otherwise provide a differing perspective about a common situation. We do not in any way consciously print quotes that bias against any group.

The second issue is the situation wherein some members have expected to see the upcoming issue in our website as soon as they receive their postcard announcing that the issue is downloadable. Just a little bit of history, then I will propose the solution.

As you know we conducted a survey a year ago inquiring on the preferences of members in receiving this newsletter. At the end of the process, the compromise was for members who request paper copies continue to receive paper copies then the rest of us receive a postcard announcing the availability of the newsletter from the website simultaneous with an e-mail containing the newsletter as an attachment. This way, we capture all of our intended readership in all aspects of newsletter delivery.

Now, as I indicated above, members who receive their postcard announcement attempt to immediately download their newsletter upon receipt of the postcard but instead of having the next month's issue as the postcard indicates, they instead see that only the current month's issue is available for download (of course, along with the archived newsletter copies).

We are immediately implementing a compromise wherein we are posting two newsletter issues on the same day as when the postcards are mailed. The two issues would include the next month's issue and the current month's issue. These two issues will remain on the website front page until the postcard mailings are sent out to members the following month. Watch out then for another hotlink that you can click (pertaining to the newsletter) beginning now.

Despite these issues, we have received messages in the past month validating our commitment to delivering a useful newsletter. This issue continues that tradition. We begin with a guest article from Mike Thornton, P.E. regarding ASCE Region 9's role and activities. We also highlight several upcoming events worth going to. We also celebrate the life of one of our Past Presidents who passed away in February: Art Bruington, P.E. A dedicated civil engineer and ASCE Member, Art will surely be missed.

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter.

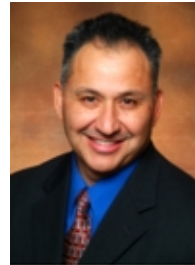
-Dr. Cris B. Liban, P.E.

## ASCE's 2007 Member-Get-A-Member Drive Depends on You!

### ARTICLE

## Financial Foundation March 2007

By Ruben Trigueros



It is that time of year again: tax time. Starting a small business retirement savings plan can be easier than most business people think. What's more, there are a number of retirement programs that provide tax advantages to both employers and employees.

### WHY SAVE?

Experts estimate that Americans will need 70-90%\* of their pre-retirement income to maintain their current standard of living when they stop working. So now is the time to look into retirement plan programs. As an employer you have an important role to play in helping America's workers save.

By starting a retirement savings plan, you help your employees save for the future. Retirement plans may also help you attract and retain qualified employees, and retirement plans offer tax savings to your business. You can also help secure your own retirement as well. You can establish a plan even if you are self employed. Better yet, you will join more than a million small businesses with 100 or fewer employees that offer workplace retirement savings plans.

A retirement plan has significant tax advantages:

- ✓ Employer contributions are deductible from employers income,
- ✓ Employee contributions are not taxed until distributed to the employee, and
- ✓ Money grows tax free.

Other incentives

- ✓ Owners can set aside larger amounts,
- ✓ "Catch up" provisions for employees over age 50,
- ✓ Tax credit for small employer\*\*.

There are two basic plan types; IRA-based which include: SEPS or Simplified Employee Pension Plan, and the Simple IRA or Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Employers. The other type of plans are the Defined Contribution Plans which include: 401(k) plans and Profit Sharing Plans.

If you are an employee, you may be wondering who oversees these retirement plans. ERISA or Employees Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is a federal law that sets minimum standards for retirement plans in private industry. The Department of Labor enforces ERISA.

Selecting the retirement plan for your business is not complicated, but may take some time, and the advice of a financial professional.

Ruben Trigueros is with Trilogy Financial Services, in West Covina.

\* US Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration  
Revised 10/2003

\*\* See your tax professional for tax advice. Early plan distribution are subject to income tax and 10% penalty

## ARTHUR BRUINGTON WATER RESOURCES ENGINEER

(Adapted from the Los Angeles Times)



Arthur Bruington, 79; his career was dedicated to conserving and improving water supplies for the Southern California region. Bruington was born in Santa Monica to Evelyn Hotchkiss and Paul Bruington. He attended schools in Redlands and Santa Barbara before attending Wilson High School in Los Angeles and the California Institute of Technol-

ogy in Pasadena, where he received Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Civil Engineering. He spent 30 years with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, the last nine of which as its CEO. After Proposition 13 in 1978 took away 80% of the agencies revenue, he led the successful, state-wide effort by flood control agencies to obtain temporary funding from the State and regain a reasonable local base of revenue for the long term. Later, he served for eight years as the General Manager of the Irvine Ranch Water district, which had established the first successful, large-scale, community wastewater recycling program. He finished his working career as a consultant on projects to increase the reliability of water supplies in Southern California. He was particularly active in the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Public Works Association, having served as President of the local sections of both organizations. For ASCE, he also served as a member of the National Board of Directors, and as National Vice President. In the late 1960s, he served four years on the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region. Recently, he served as Treasurer of the Irvine Historical Society, and on the Board of Direction of the Urban Water Institute, which works to assure reliable imported water supplies for Southern California.

He is survived by his wife, Louise, children Bobbe Haley of Lake Tapps, Washington, Brad Bruington of Mission Viejo, and Becky Stanford of Dallas, Texas, and seven grandchildren.

He passed away on Sat, Feb 3, 2007 of natural causes.

## 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.

## Post Disaster Safety Assessment Program (SAP) Evaluator Training Session [ATC-20]

SEAOSC is holding a Post-Disaster Safety Assessment Program (SAP) training session; also know as "Evaluator Training" on **Saturday May 12th, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM** at Beckman Auditorium at Caltech. A complimentary Lunch Buffet will be provided. Continuing education credits for this event will be available. **For registration forms and additional information, please visit [www.seaint.org/seaosc/](http://www.seaint.org/seaosc/) "Online Reservation", [www.projectpartners.com/ps/index.htm](http://www.projectpartners.com/ps/index.htm) "Disaster Emergency Services Committee", or contact the SEAOSC office directly at 562-908-6131.** Register early, space is limited.

The curriculum of this event will provide a comprehensive overview of the OES Safety Assessment Program, provide practical building evaluation exercises, discuss criteria for assessing the degree of severity of facility and lifeline systems damage, and discuss procedures for posting and barricading. Other hazards will also be covered. **The ATC 20-1 Field Manual**: "Post earthquake Safety Evaluation of Buildings, Second Edition" (\$25 value), and additional training materials will be provided.

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# 8th Annual 2007 Streets & Technology Conference



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**New This Year!**  
**Job Fair**

Don't miss out on the latest developments in public infrastructure as it relates to design, operations, maintenance and funding. **NEW** this year, **outdoor equipment displays** and a **job fair** where agencies, consultants, and contractors can display their job openings and also have job seekers post their resumes.

Our topics and speakers are as follows:

<b>Synthetic Turf</b> ➤ Dick Diamond and Fiona Sanchez, IRWD <b>Street Print</b> ➤ Dennis Weber, City of Los Angeles <b>Median/Individual Landscaping/ "Zero Desertscape"</b>	<b>Street Maintenance/Preservation Issues Due to Limited Funding/What can be done about our existing roads?</b> Potential Speakers (TBD): ➤ Erik Slaven, Western Pavement Maintenance ➤ Steve Esbenschade, City of Duarte ➤ Bob McCrea, Western Emulsions ➤ Ricardo Villacorta, City of Los Angeles ➤ Greg Scott, former Director of City of LA
<b>Neighborhood Traffic Calming</b> ➤ Eric Shen, City of Pasadena ➤ Francisco Orellana, City of Santa Ana	<b>NPDES- Session 1</b> ➤ Peter Fraire and Ruth Lehmann, Kleinfelder ➤ Rita Leahy, Nichols Consulting Engineers ➤ Ana Lantin, RBF Consulting
<b>ADA Compliance</b> ➤ Paul Bishop ➤ Elroy Kiepke, Willdan & Assoc.	<b>NPDES-BMPs - Session 2</b> ➤ Ken Farfing, City of Signal Hill ➤ Susan Paulsen, Flow Sciences, Inc. ➤ Richard Watson, Richard Watson & Assoc.
<b>Technology Session for Students and New Engineers</b> <b>Specification/Plans-Writing, interpreting, &amp; understanding</b> ➤ Erik Updyke, LACDPW <b>Project/Construction Mgmt, "Life of a Project"</b> ➤ Steve Bucknam, Bucknam & Associates ➤ Jerome Ruddins, RBF Consulting	<b>Contracting vs. In-house staff</b> ➤ Harry Lorick & Lydia Cox, LA Consulting ➤ Will Hayes, City of Santa Ana
<b>Fundamentals of PMP</b> ➤ Kash Hadipour, Kleinfelder <b>Pavement Mgmt Systems</b> ➤ Bill Hisey, County of Orange ➤ Harry Lorick, LA Consulting	

## Lunch Topic: Recently Passed State Bond Measures & Proposition 42

(Speaker: Paul Taylor, OCTA)

### Fees

APWA Member Price  
Non-Member Price

\$145.00 (Cost includes notebook and lunch)

\$165.00 (Cost includes notebook and lunch)

If you are interested in being an exhibitor,  
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Larry Blocker at (909) 469-5101 or email at  
[blocker@roadworks.net](mailto:blocker@roadworks.net).

Dean Lehman at (626) 458-5900 or email at  
[dlehman@ladpw.org](mailto:dlehman@ladpw.org).

For more information on the conference or to  
register, please contact:

Sylvia Robles at (714) 647-5674 or email at  
[srobles@ci.santa-ana.ca.us](mailto:srobles@ci.santa-ana.ca.us).

## Region 9 Report *continued from page 1*

We advised our legislators, by use of ASCE's Region 9 Report Card, that infrastructure needs are enormous and continued bonding to meet State and local needs isn't the answer. Members asked legislators to consider legislation that would provide State's General Fund amounts for infrastructure and modify requirements of Proposition 218 (2/3 voter approval) reducing it to a simple majority to permit local agencies to develop local funding. It appears that increased funding from the General Fund is a long shot at best. Education, public safety and social programs are in the funding line ahead of infrastructure.

In addition, members advised Legislators that new revenue generating programs are needed including toll roads, gas tax increases with self help agencies, vehicle registration fee increases, development fee increases and water rate increases. Funding is needed for local agencies to meet infrastructure needs (construction, operations and maintenance). Region 9 will continue to work hard to develop secure sources for infrastructure funding.

Second, the Governor has made project delivery a priority. We advised legislators to increase delegation to local governments, develop alternative project delivery methods (i.e. public/private partnerships), and implement environmental streamlining. Several legislators asked us for assistance with legislation that would streamline environmental processing. Those with ideas, please bring them forward.

Third, members discussed resources. We need more of everything: engineers, technical assistants, contractors, and materials. We must place new emphasis on engineering and construction trade education to ensure the growing State's infrastructure needs are met. We need more concrete, steel, aggregates and other construction materials as well.

Our program will continue through visits to local offices as this legislative session moves forward. Our discussion points will continue to be updated as engineering issues arise. Those who have thoughts on what our legislators need to hear, please bring them forward.

### 3. Media and State Boards

Region 9 desires to develop an effective media relations program. We are looking for members willing to develop personal relations with the media that can assist with getting our message out, yet another opportunity to get involved. In addition, as board positions open that affect infrastructure, Region 9 desires to have engineers serve: opportunity, opportunity, opportunity!!!!

So, after all of that, you can see that Region 9 is serving our membership. With so much to do, we will need help from you. We all have a professional duty to get involved. Our profession has provided for us well and we need to "give back" to ensure the stewards of our infrastructure will be recognized, ready to meet the challenges, and be heard by state legislators. Volunteer, the opportunities to serve are simply endless. How many times have I heard that I am just too busy at the office to get involved? More than I can count. To quote ASCE's Past Zone IV Vice President, Blaine Leonard, during last year's National Conference, "If not now, when? If not you, who?"

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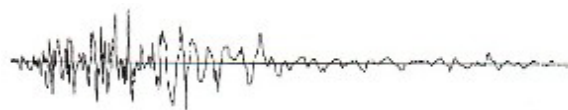
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