

# Los Angeles Section

*Monthly: Est. 1913*

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*“Avoid fruits and nuts. You are what you eat”*

— Jim Davis

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

John Morris, P.E.  
Section President



With the appreciation for your support in attaining the passage of the infrastructure bonds this Fall, I ask for your continued assistance in providing advice to the legislature for the mechanics of implementing the legislation.

During his 2007 State of the State Address, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger outlined his vision for the State’s future. The Governor continued to further define one of the main goals of his administration: infrastructure development. Immediately following his State Address, Governor Schwarzenegger released his budget for fiscal year 2007 – 2008. In this budget, we can now see much of the detail of

the Governor’s plan as to where his Administration plans to put its emphasis.

With a proposed vision and budget now in place, the State Legislature is next in line to complete the initiation and implementation of the Governor’s plan. Many lawmakers either share the Governor’s vision or have their own ideas on which direction the State should take. Over the next few months, the legislative process will provide their direction as well. Much of the \$40 Billion in Infrastructure Bonds passed by the voters will require enabling legislation.

The forum for most of this legislation is policy committees in both the Assembly and the State Senate. The following table is a schedule for this year’s legislature.

January 3	California Legislature 2007- 08 Legislative Session Begins
January 10	California Budget Submitted by Governor to Legislature
January 26	Last Day to Submits Bills to Legislative Counsel
February 23	Last Day for Bill Introduction in California Legislature
March 29	California Legislature Breaks for Spring Recess
April 9	California Legislature Returns from Spring Recess
June 8	Last Day to Pass Bills Out of House of Origin for California Legislature
June 15	California Budget Bill Must Be Passed by Midnight
July 13	Last Day for Policy Committees to Hear & Report Bill
July 18	California Legislature Breaks for Summer Recess Unless the State Budget has Not Been Enacted.
July 20	California Legislature Summer Recess Begins, Provided Budget is Passed
August 20	California Legislature Reconvenes from Summer Recess
September 14	Last Day for Any Bill to be Passed by Legislature and Enrolled at the Governor’s Office

VOL\_XLVII NO\_3

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**Reminder:**

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



## The Future

This issue deals with a number of items regarding the future. These include the future of the infrastructures within our state, our financial future, and most importantly, the future generation.

Our Section President encourages us to voice out to our State Representatives our opinions on how the infrastructure funds recently authorized by the great people of our state should be spent. We are at the crossroads of this process. The money is here, how do we allocate it according to the importance of projects needed by each community? We need you, our fellow ASCE members, to be active in this process.

We are publishing another article written by Ruben Trigueros, currently working as a financial planner, but deep in his heart, remains to be a true civil engineer. His piece regarding permanent life insurance policy does make sense. While there are other products available to us in our financial toolbox, this seemingly benign tool appears to be of benefit in times we need it. Not when we die, but while we are living.

We are also reprinting here a thank you letter sent by the ACE Mentor Program for our Section's generosity in supporting the program. As the program's motto says, this program provides career directions for students in architecture, construction, and engineering. Our Section's financial contribution will surely go a long way in this program's efforts.

Our YMFs have also contributed to this month's issue, highlighting the activities of the future officers of our Section. Just reading the articles brings back a lot of my memories as a YMFer myself. That was not too long ago, but I got termed out. Well, the YMF continues to be a very dynamic group.

We would like to highlight the 2007 Trent Dames Lecture that will be held on March 2, 2007 at the Friend's Hall of the Huntington, Library, Pasadena, CA. The topic "The Toothpick: Technology and Culture" is intriguing enough that you may want to block out the time to attend this thought provoking lecture. I am sure it will be worth your while.

Finally, we have a new contact person in our Section Office. Christina Lucas has moved on to better opportunities. We should thank Christina for all the great work she has given our Section. On the same token, please welcome Brook Hickson. She will be assisting us in our day-to-day Section operations, hopefully, for years to come.

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter.

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

## 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: Life Insurance for Living

By Ruben Trigueros



More than two-thirds of American families include life insurance in their financial strategies.<sup>1</sup> Many of these people think of life insurance as a source of ready cash in the event that a wage earner's death creates a financial hardship – and you should too.

You must have a need for a death benefit in order for life insurance to be a suitable purchase. But there are some less common uses for permanent life insurance that you may have not considered.

Over time, your need for a life insurance death benefit may change perhaps because your children have grown and no longer depend on your income, or your mortgage is almost paid off. If these events occur, a permanent life insurance policy might play a different role.

### Supplemental insurance income

A permanent insurance policy has the potential to accumulate cash value on a tax deferred basis. After a period of time, you may be able to withdraw any cash value up to your cost basis in the policy, which is the amount of premiums paid, without incurring any income tax liability.<sup>2</sup>

When your cost basis has been withdrawn, you may be able to borrow against the death benefit. However, the amount of any outstanding loans plus any interest will be deducted from the death benefit after the insured has died.

Of course, this strategy might not be suitable for everyone. Access to cash values through borrowing, partial surrenders, or withdrawals can reduce the policy's cash value and death benefit, increase the chance that the policy will lapse, and possibly result in a tax liability. Consult your tax advisor regarding your personal situation.

A permanent life insurance policy can help protect your family when your children are young and later to help pay for college or retirement. You might want to learn more about the role that life insurance can play during your lifetime.

The cost and availability of life insurance depend on such factors as age, health and the type and amount of insurance purchased.<sup>3</sup> And finally do not assume your employer's life insurance is sufficient or right for you. Some employers offer life insurance, but it is typically not a permanent policy.

*Ruben Trigueros is with Trilogy Financial Services in West Covina and a former licensed civil engineer.*

<sup>1</sup> American Council of Life Insurers, 2006

<sup>2</sup> Policy withdrawals are not subject to taxation up to the amount paid into the policy. If the policy is a Modified Endowment Contract, policy loans, and/or withdrawals are taxable to the extent of gain and are subject to a 10% tax penalty

<sup>3</sup> As with most financial decisions, there are expenses associated with the purchase of life insurance. Policies commonly have mortality and expense charges. In addition, if a policy is surrendered prematurely, there may be surrender charges and income tax implications.

# 6 YM Groups Snowboarding Mammoth

By Andrew Pham and Edelyne Miguel, OC YMF Mammoth Organizers

During the last weekend of January 2007, over eighty stressed out engineers, friends and family from four YM branches hit the Mammoth slopes. Members of the MLAB and OC YMF met up with members in San Diego and Santa Barbara/Ventura area to create one memorable event. Less than half the group decided to stay in Mammoth for three nights while the remainder of the group opted for the two day stay. All of the members were divided into ten condos at Mammoth Estates. After a long day of snowboarding or skiing, over 50 YMF attendants congregated at the Clocktower Cellar for YMF sponsored food and drinks. During the happy hour, members had the opportunity to network and share a few laughs with other members of different groups. Everyone had a good time and praised the weekend's great weather conditions. A thank you to all the coordinators that worked hard to put this event together. Micheal Hindle from SD YMF stated, "I have been attending this event for the past four years and this year's event may have been the best one ever. It is great when [all YMF groups] can get together and have as much fun as we did." Another comment from John Lange stated, "It was a **GREAT** trip. It just keeps getting better every year! I too cannot wait for the next one!" OC YMF also hopes to see the Mammoth snowboarding trip get bigger and better next year.



## Holiday Celebration and Toys for Tots Drive with the McConvilles

On December 16, 2006 LA and OC ASCE YMF meet at Ted and Ruth McConville's house for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Boat Parade party and Toys for Tots Drive. Thirty plus members and guests were in attendance to enjoy good food and company, and to contribute to the Toys for Tots drive. We had delicious foods such as roast turkey, ham, chicken, various salads, veggies, and a variety of wine. After eating, everyone gathered around the patio to watch the decorated boats as they passed. There was a light rain that evening but it did not dampen anyone's spirits. Afterwards we returned inside to sit by the fireplace and enjoy wine and deserts. The Toys for Tots drive was a huge success with more than 30 toys which were delivered to the Balboa Island Fire department.

Special thanks to **Ted and Ruth McConville** for sharing their house with us to watch the boat parade and spend a wonderful evening together.

Find out the latest Section  
& Branch news @  
[www.ascelasection.org](http://www.ascelasection.org)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued*

After February 23, a complete list of the introduced legislation with the respective policy committee assignments will be available. The policy committees offer excellent opportunities to follow and comment on any legislation as it makes its way through the legislature to the Governor's desk. Through this year and the 2007 – 2008 legislative session, hundreds of bills will be introduced on a wide range of issues including the topics of most interest to civil engineers.

Those policy committees to keep an eye in the State Senate include Energy Utility and Communication, Transportation, Agriculture and Water and Local Government. Key Assembly Committees include Local Government, Transportation, Utilities and Communications, and Water, Parks and Wildlife. For a complete list of the Assembly and Senate committees and their memberships, please log on to [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov). This website, the official site of California Legislative Information, is your definitive source on the State Legislature. You can search on individual legislation or subscribe to bills by subject matter. Some of the bills I am aware of that you should watch include:

- SB 45 (Perata) Transportation Funding for Capital Projects and Capital Expenditures
- SB 9 (Lowenthal) Trade Corridor Improvement/Transportation Project Selection
- SB 5 (Machado) Flood Management/Levee and Flood Protection

Civil engineers will never have a better time to engage the policy making process than we have right now. With unprecedented funding and an Administration eager to address the State's infrastructure needs, now is the time to support the future of our profession.

Look for a complete report from the Los Angeles Section Region 9 Governor Mike Thornton in the April issue of the Newsletter on Infrastructure Symposium and Sacramento "Fly-in". As always, please contact me at [morriswater@earthlink.com](mailto:morriswater@earthlink.com) on this or any issue pertaining to civil engineers or ASCE.



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January 8, 2007

**Rich Haller, PE, President**  
ASCE Los Angeles Section  
c/o Santa Ana Watershed Authority  
11615 Sterling Ave.  
Riverside, CA 92503

**SUBJECT: DONATION TO THE ACE MENTOR PROGRAM**

Dear Rich:

On behalf of our ACE Mentor Board of Directors and on behalf of our students who are the true beneficiaries, a very hearty "Thank You" to the Los Angeles Section for its \$10,000 donation to our program, received last week. We shall put the funds to good use, for the future good of our profession and our communities.

We are a qualified non-profit program with 501 c (3) status, and our Tax ID number is 03-0505898. This letter will certify that you have received no goods or services from us for this donation.

I intend to send to the Tustin office the text for a short Thank You Notice, with the hope that space can be found in the newsletter. I'll include a few facts about the growth of the program.

With my appreciation,

**C. Terry Dooley, PE, FASCE**  
Secretary, ACE Mentor Program Los Angeles Metro Area

**Cc: Diego Cadena, PE, Treasurer-Los Angeles Section**  
**Cc: Paul Taylor, PE, OCTA**

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**The Huntington  
Fund for the Heritage of Civil Engineering**

cordially invites you to the

**2007 Trent R. Dames Lecture**

by

**Henry Petroski**

***The Toothpick:  
Technology and Culture***

**Friday, March 2, 2007**

**7:30 pm**

**Friends' Hall**

**Huntington Library**

Often called "the poet laureate of technology," Henry Petroski will give a lecture about the fascinating if little-known history of an everyday tool: the toothpick. A professor of civil engineering at Duke University, Petroski has written a number of popular works on engineering and design, including *To Engineer Is Human: The Role of Failure in Successful Design* (St. Martin's Press, 1985); *Small Things Considered: Why There Is No Perfect Design* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2003); *The Pencil: A History of Design and Circumstance* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1990); and *The Evolution of Useful Things* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1992). His history of the toothpick will be published by Knopf in fall of 2007.

**Reception to follow talk**

**—The Huntington Bookstore will also be open for purchase and signing of  
a number of Dr. Petroski's previous books—**

**Free to the public**

**For additional information call 626-405-2206 or email [dlewis@huntington.org](mailto:dlewis@huntington.org)**

**Please enter at the Allen Avenue Gate**



The Los Angeles Section

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# Life Member Brunch

## March 3, 2007

In Honor of those members who have advanced to Life Member status in the society and in recognition of their career achievements.

### Keynote Speaker:

**ASCE National President-Elect,  
David G. Mongan, P.E., F.ASCE**

Members & Guests: \$25.00 per person

Table Sponsor: \$250.00 (4 seats for Sponsor & 6 for Honored Life Members)

**Reception: 11:00am    Brunch: 11:30am    Program: 12:30 – 2:00pm**

*Please call the Section Office for reservations.*

<p><b>Monterey Hill Steakhouse</b> 3700 W. Ramona Blvd. Monterey Park, CA 91754 323-264-8426</p>	<p><i>For reservations, please send checks to:</i> <i>ASCE, Los Angeles Section</i> 1405 Warner Avenue Tustin, CA 92780</p>
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### -----Return Coupon-----

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## ASCE Seeks 12th Congressional Fellow

ASCE is now beginning the process of selecting our 12th Congressional Fellow. The ASCE Congressional Fellows Program provides an opportunity for an ASCE member to work for one year on the staff of a Congressional Committee, U.S. Senator or member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The deadline for applications is March 16, 2007 for the Fellowship year beginning Sept. 1, 2007

Congressional Fellows participate directly in the lawmaking process and learn how the federal government operates. In addition, Congress gets the necessary engineering expertise and, at the end of the fellowship year, the civil engineering community has an engineer with an in-depth knowledge of the congressional decision making process.

Once chosen as a Congressional Fellow by the ASCE Congressional Fellows Committee, an ASCE member selects his or her congressional assignment through interviews with congressional offices. ASCE Congressional Fellows are expected to choose assignments with committees or members with jurisdiction over transportation, infrastructure, environment or technology issues and programs. ASCE's current Fellow, Stephan Butler, will begin his Fellowship assignment in January, working in the office of Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA). He will be working on rebuilding infrastructure (New Orleans, Mississippi River and coast line) and emergency preparedness and response.

For more information, visit the Congressional Fellows pages on ASCE's Website at: <http://www.asce.org/pressroom/publicpolicy/cfprogram.cfm> or contact Martin Hight, Senior Manager, Government Relations at [mhight@asce.org](mailto:mhight@asce.org) or 202-789-7843.

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For further information on these positions, please e-mail to [ce@csupomona.edu](mailto:ce@csupomona.edu) or call 909-869-2488.



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**For Pasadena:**

Ms. Tamara Kealty  
**KPFF Consulting Engineers**  
 2 N. Lake Avenue, Suite 820  
 Pasadena, CA 91101  
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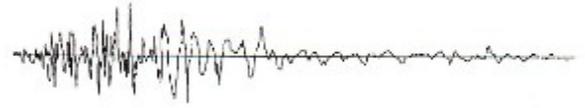
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