

March 08

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mark Norton, P.E.
Section President

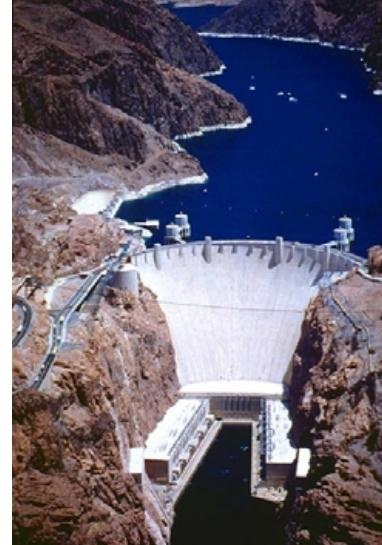


Life Members: Leaving a Legacy of Achievement

On March 1st 2008 the Life Member Forum is holding its Annual Life Member Brunch to honor those ASCE members who have advanced to Life Member status in the Society and in recognition of their career achievements. As in past years, the President-Elect of ASCE has been invited to speak at this occasion. Life Member status is conferred by ASCE when the member reaches age 65 and has paid dues for at least 30

years and has 10 years of continuous membership immediately preceding the attainment of Life Membership. The Life Member Forum came into being in the early 1990's as a result of the efforts of Bob Bein, P.E., past President of both the LA Section and ASCE, and retired Caltrans District Director, Keith McKean, P.E., now deceased.

Having attended the Life Member Brunch event last year, it is a real pleasure to hear about the career highlights of these experienced civil engineers. Because there are over 7800 ASCE members located here in the So Cal region, many of the major engineering achievements in our country over the past 50 years can be traced to the prominent roles that our local Life Members have played. I recall last year one of the life members' highlights stated that he was part of the engineering design team that had worked on the Hoover Dam. I recently attended a behind the scenes tour of the Hoover Dam and was deeply struck how technologically advanced the dam power generation system was for having been constructed in the 1930s, years before the advent of CAD systems, computers, and calculators. In fact, a recent History Channel broadcast entitled, "Life After People" shared that if humankind were to die away suddenly much of the world would fall into darkness with the exception of southwest portions of the United States where the mighty Hoover Dam power generators, so finely tuned and constructed, would continue their power generation many months to years without human intervention.



In our society, it is a sad reality that the importance of civil engineers and their achievements are largely underappreciated and lost in history. Last summer, I had a unique opportunity to visit the Civil War Gettysburg Battlefield in Pennsylvania. In an area known as Little Round Top, a bronze statue is erected of a man looking out over the battle area. It has been said that of all the battles that occurred in the Gettysburg, the battle of Little Round Top was the most pivotal wherein due to one man's quick ability to visually survey a key strategic battle location and redirect troops to support this high ground, the Union soldiers were able to turn the tide on the third day of the most important battle in the Civil War. That man was Brigadier General Gouverneur Kemble Warren. Warren was a remark-

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Reminder:

Copy deadline for the April 2008 issue is March 1, 2008; copy deadline for May 2008 issue is April 1, 2008.

ASCE
American Society of Civil Engineers

www.ascelasection.org

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The Past and the Future

Springtime is here. This is a period of renewed life after a challenging winter. This issue of our newsletter focuses on the past and what we can learn from it. It focuses on those individuals within the engineering profession who have contributed much to what we see now. Those same individuals also contribute to how our future will be shaped. We also will read about the vision for the future on engineering licensure.

The Life Member Forum is a critical group of individuals who guide our future. Conceived by two of the most prominent local civil engineers here in Los Angeles, the Life Member Forum has evolved to be one of the most influential groups that shape our Section. In fact, it has come front and center recently with ASCE National now looking into using our Life Member Forum as the model for the formation of similar groups in other Sections. Our Section President Mark Norton, P.E. has written a very endearing and informative piece on how our Life Members achievements relate to the great achievements of engineers in the past. For history buffs out there, this is one engineering historical piece that you may not want to miss.

Don Sepulveda, P.E., our Section President-Elect, has written another excellent article on the many unsung heroes among us engineers. He further challenges us by placing the responsibility for engineer involvement in other non-technical matters squarely into each of our shoulders. Should we be involved with anything more than the technical issues of our projects? Are we qualified to get involved? We should get out of the familiar and become the role models we should be.

Speaking of competency, please read a short article regarding the intent to "raise the bar" for engineering licensure. Bradley Dybel, P.E. has summarized the pertinent information for us on this very important issue. The issue of increasing requirements prior to applying for professional licensure has been brought up for so many years now. It will be interesting to see how this topic will play itself out in the future.

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter.

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

Heroes Among Us

*Don Sepulveda, P.E.
Section President-Elect*

The Los Angeles Section of ASCE recently had the Officer's Installation and Awards dinner at the Huntington Library. At this event, we install the leadership of the Section and present awards to those that have made substantial contributions to the civil engineering profession. Since I wrote about this previously, I will not go into the details of this meeting. As an attendee of this event for the past 15 years, I cannot help but walk away with a great sense of history, and admiration for the leaders of our Section.

At the meeting this year, I was speaking with Jack Rolston. You may know Jack as the chair of the Disaster Preparedness Committee for the Section and Region 9. For several years, Jack has led the group that has recruited, trained, and supplied civil engineers to respond to natural disasters. At this banquet, he was honored as Outstanding Life Member for the Section. This night, Jack was wearing a Purple Heart lapel pin. This medal, given to a service person injured in battle, is a mark of sacrifice and courage, which very few of us will ever earn. I have spoken with Jack many times at various ASCE meetings and events and have always thought of him as a model for what we believe. He is an admirable man in his dedication to our profession.

When I was speaking with Jack, an interesting thought struck me. Here is a man that we read about in history books. Jack climbed over the side of a landing craft off the Normandy Beaches and crawled through hedgerows, snow, and mud to the Battle of the Bulge, having been denied the promise of being home by Christmas. I could not help but remember something that the historian Stephen Ambrose had said in "Citizen Soldiers". Mr. Ambrose, in the Epilogue to this great book said of these men, "They had seen enough destruction; they wanted to construct. They built the Interstate highway system, the St. Lawrence Seaway, the suburbs...". After becoming heroes on the battlefield, these men came home to become heroes for society.

Each of us has the capacity to be a leader. We have the freedom, given to us by men like Jack, to take a stand for what we believe and make a change in this world. The question you should ask yourself is "Where can I make a difference?" Each of us will have a unique answer to that personal question. All around us are examples of leaders that have asked and answered that question. They have set out to make a difference in this world and make changes where they see change is needed.

As engineers, we need to take the lead in providing solutions for some of the problems that we have in our society. Student dropout rates are at record highs. Kids are getting involved with gangs and other violent crime at early ages. Test scores of our children, as compared with those of the world, are substandard. The great interstate highway system that was designed and constructed by the heroes of a previous generation is not only decaying but, in many cases, obsolete. The water system is under attack by political and biological elements. These areas are little battlefields where, as engineers, we should be taking a stand and showing solutions. While we all cannot be head of local water agencies or transportation departments, we can make a difference by being the technical leaders to solve these problems.

I was speaking to some students recently about ethics. Specifically, we were talking about the involvement of engineers in policymaking decisions. One of the students stated that engineers did not have the experience, knowledge, or

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Heroes Among Us

continued

leadership to have input into the decisions regarding infrastructure. In some cases, they had thought that engineers were not qualified to make these decisions or even lead a department making those decisions. Unfortunately, I see this in the engineering industry as a whole. We are a profession that lacks the desire or drive to be leaders. We strive to manage that project or that engineering technical group within our firms but we stop short when we think that we have to be responsible for something more than signing plans. Taking responsibility for our designs shows remarkable leadership. With our stamp, we are saying that the public can trust this design with their lives.

In *Citizen Soldiers*, Stephen Ambrose mentions that a major difference in the battle for Europe between the command structure of the United States Army and the German Army is that leaders at all levels of the U.S. army made decisions regarding the outcome of a battle. Where the German leader had to get authorization through a chain of command, the American sergeant or lieutenant made decisions regarding the actions of his command and carried them out. Men the same age as our college students, leading small to large groups in a very difficult endeavor were making life and death decisions. Mr. Ambrose attributes this as a great factor in our winning this war. We can draw a parallel to this with our engineering projects. Each of us makes very important decisions each day that concern the safety of society.

We all have our heroes and mentors that have had an effect on how we think and live. Each of us has these role models for a number of reasons. It is time for all of us to be role models and leaders in our sphere of influence. By striving to be leaders for change, we honor men like Jack and many like him who took a stand for their beliefs. It is through their example that we can reach our goals. Since we have a highly advanced society built through the struggles of recent generations. It is our turn to give back and build the quality of life for future generations.

When we look up at our flag, we sometimes think of those that gave of themselves on the beaches of Normandy, in the mountains of Korea, in the jungles of Vietnam, and in the deserts of Iraq and we wonder what it was all for. Each of us has our own answer for this. I think that one of the answers is that they gave of themselves so that we can succeed in making our beliefs reality and build a world for which we can all be proud.

NCEES Plans to “Raise The Bar” with “Bachelor’s Plus 30”

By: Bradley E. Dybel, P.E.

*Chairman of the Professional Practice Committee,
ASCE Orange County Branch*

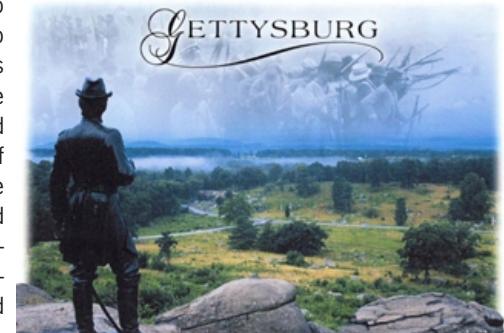
The National Council of Examiners for Engineering & Surveying (NCEES) established a task force several months ago charged with re-defining the educational prerequisites for professional licensure. NCEES’ new Model Law, informally known as Bachelor’s Plus 30, requires that an engineering intern have a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Engineering, four or more years of qualifying experience, plus at least 30 additional credits of acceptable upper-level undergraduate or graduate level coursework from approved providers prior to sitting for the Principles of Engineering (PE) examination. An acceptable Master’s degree or Doctorate degree in Engineering would satisfy the coursework requirement and also count as one or two years of qualifying experience, respectively. The Task Force may spend two or more years crafting the final version of these “Model Rules.” NCEES has set a target date of 2015 for approval of Bachelor’s Plus 30 by all governing legislatures, and subsequent adoption by all state and territorial licensing boards. Additional information is available online at www.ncees.org/licensure/licensure_exchange/ and at www.asce.org/professional/educ/.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

continued

ably talented West Point graduate and a civil engineer, taught mathematics at West Point, worked on many transcontinental train routes, completed the first comprehensive map of the western United States and was appointed the Chief Engineer for the Union Army during the Civil War.

This story of civil engineering achievement continues with a surprising twist. Among Brigadier General’s staff was a young civil engineer named Washington Roebling. Roebling married Kemble Warren’s sister, Emily, and then he continued his engineering studies in Europe. After studying European design practices, Roebling returned



with his wife to the U.S. to work with his father on the design and construction of one of the most beloved civil engineering achievements and icons in history, media and art, the Brooklyn Bridge. Upon the death of his father early in the bridge surveying effort, Washington Roebling took on his father’s role as the engineer and designer of the massive bridge project. Over time unfortunately the stress and strain of the construction management took its toll on Roebling and he became bedridden. It was Roebling’s wife and Warren’s sister, Emily, who played a prominent role in helping oversee the daily engineering and construction operations of the Brooklyn Bridge as Roebling



monitored progress on the bridge from his home overlooking the bridge. It was Warren’s sister who was responsible for the erection of the statue of Gouverneur Kemble Warren on Little Round Top in Gettysburg today.

Though we may not play as prominent a role in history as Warren or Roebling, the achievements of local Life Members should be remembered and honored. In fact, after President David Mongan attended the LA Section Life Member event last year, he decided to form a Task Committee on Life Member Forums to review the existing model of the L. A. Life Member Forum, consider other potential models for similar functions throughout ASCE’s organizational entities, and develop a guide for Life Member Forums in ASCE. By the very early action of the two civil engineers that formed the Life Member Forum here in the ASCE Los Angeles Section, a legacy has been established. We encourage all members to extend a hand of appreciation to those remarkable individuals, our Life Members.

DISASTER TRAINING

Classes are being organized for volunteers under the auspices of the State of California, Office of Emergency Services (OES) to help in the event of a major disaster. 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 please contact the ASCE Disaster Preparedness Committee Chairman. The class lasts 5-6 hours and the cost is \$15. Classes are midweek and start at 9 or 10 AM.

To register for the class, submit your name along with your telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, and zip code. You will be contacted when 10 or more individuals request a class. The maximum number in a 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. All of our classes have been held at a private firm or governmental office. The class should have at least 10 and not more than about 20.

Thank you for your support of the American Society of Civil Engineers

Jack W. Rolston

Chair, Disaster Preparedness Committee, ASCE L.A. Section
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Congressional Fellows Program

In 1996 ASCE inaugurated its Congressional Fellows Program, which provides an opportunity for an ASCE member to spend one year working in the U.S. Congress. The Federal Legislature deals with a multitude of technical issues, many of which directly impact how civil engineers conduct their professional practice. Congress will make decisions with, or without, input from the civil engineering community.

ASCE's Congressional Fellows Program places a civil engineer in the middle of these important policy debates. The Fellow works on Capitol Hill as a staff member of either a Committee or an individual member of the U.S. Senate or House of Representatives.

ASCE will provide an annual stipend of \$57,000 to the Congressional Fellow. ASCE welcomes support from the Congressional Fellow's employer and is willing to consider alternative arrangements, not to exceed \$57,000 in cost to ASCE. ASCE will also provide a \$3,000 relocation reimbursement and provide full reimbursement for finalists selected to travel for interviews.

Society members selected for congressional fellowships would typically take a one-year leave of absence from their employers. ASCE will not provide any benefits and encourages ASCE Congressional Fellows to make arrangements with their employers.

To date eleven ASCE members have been selected to serve as Congressional Fellows on Capitol Hill. The deadline for applications for the 2008-2009 Fellowship year is **March 14, 2008**.

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

Civil Engineering Magazine Now Available Online!

Now you can enjoy the profession's premier magazine, *Civil Engineering*, online each month. With your new digital *Civil Engineering* magazine you have the ability to turn each page with a simple click of your mouse, search key terms and click directly to the sections and articles that interest you most. Read *Civil Engineering* and do your part to address environmental concerns by enabling ASCE to eliminate the printing of thousands of copies.



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Green California Summit & Exposition

Builders, architects, developers, facilities managers, commercial real estate professionals and anyone interested in green building should not miss the Green California Summit and Exposition (April 7-9, Sacramento Convention Center). Join with state and local government officials to discover ways to save money and preserve the environment – and learn about regulations that are changing the industry. ASCE members get 20% discount. Enter "ASCE" coupon code when registering. Information: www.green-technology.org/gcsummit

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.



American Society of Civil Engineers

Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch
Younger Member Forum
Presents its Annual

Student Night and Job Fair



Date/time: 3/07/08, 4:30-9pm

Location: The Westin Bonaventure
404 S. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Deadline for registration is Feb 22, 2008.

Please mail registration form and enclose a **check payable** to ASCE YMF to the address listed below.
Support through your company's participation and sponsorship is greatly appreciated.

ASCE Los Angeles Section YMF
P.O. Box 79702
Los Angeles, CA 90079-0702

For sponsorship information, contact:

Alejandro Moreno
Phone: (213) 847-0359
E-mail: alejandro.moreno@lacity.org

OR

Julie Kentosh (University contacts)
(310) 458-9916
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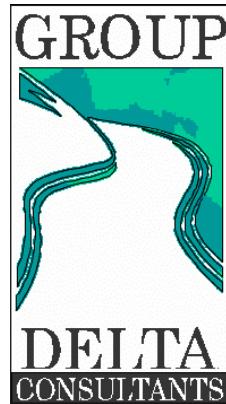
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Construction Engineering faculty position(Assistant Prof.) in Civil & Env. Engg. Dept., California State University, Fullerton. Applications are invited for a **Tenure-Track Faculty Position** starting August 2007. Review of applications will start immediately and will continue until filled. The department offers Bachelors and Masters degrees. For more information on the position, visit

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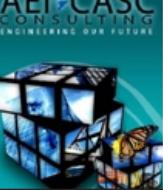
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