

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathereen Shinkai, P.E., M.ASCE
Los Angeles Section President

VOL. LVI NO. 9

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ASCE Goals! Let Us All Tackle It Together.

I still can't believe that the time has come for me to take the position as ASCE Los Angeles Section President! When I was student chapter president at the University of California, Irvine, I dreamed of one day being Branch President, but never had thought I would be serving as Section President. I am very honored to have this opportunity to serve as your President and enthusiastic about this upcoming year.

The Los Angeles Section has always had strong leadership and I hope that I can follow in the footsteps of Past President, John Rogers, P.E. and Past-Past President, Kenneth Rosenfield, P.E. I take the responsibility seriously and eagerly ready to take this challenge. I am confident about the work we can do this year due to the capabilities of the Directors on the Board.

Now, let us proceed with some business. At our last Los Angeles Section Board meeting, I shared with the Board my goals for the 2016 ~ 2017 year. I would like to share these goals with you and how we, as a Section, can incorporate it into our own future goals with your help.

Goal #1:

Let us increase membership and improve membership participation and retention. Our Section is one of the largest in the Nation and have a lot of resources that we can share with each other. Let us all develop leadership to strengthen the Section and to broaden our member's perspective. The Los Angeles Section and the Branches have always been seeking new ideas on how we can improve. My involvement in ASCE has definitely helped me out with the leadership skills I have needed on the job and has also been a tremendous asset in regards to networking. If you haven't had a chance to get involved it's never too late. Participating in the monthly Branch luncheons is a great way to start. If it's an interesting topic, share and invite a coworker.

Goal #2:

Promote member involvement in public policy decision making and in the finance of infrastructure at the national, state, and local levels. The Legislative Committee for all the Branches would like to see each member get involved. We as civil engineers need to be the biggest advocate in promoting infrastructure maintenance and ensuring that our communities understands what is at stake.

Goal #3:

Develop pre-college student outreach programs throughout the Section. Some of the Branches have had a big push in soliciting volunteers and schools for our K-12 Outreach



continued on page 3

L.A. Civil Engineers, Symposing towards Sustainability!

by Linden Nishinaga and Eugenia Lin



On August 26th the Los Angeles Section Sustainability Committee (LASSC) hosted its 3rd Annual Sustainability Symposium. The event was held at the John Ferraro Building, downtown headquarters of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP). This year's event was ably organized by the 2016 LASSC Planning Committee comprised of Jason Zhang, P.E.; Eugenia Lin, M.S., P.E., Env SP; Gina Palino, E.I.T.; Uriel Cobian, MS; and Linden Nishinaga, P.E., LEED AP, former PMP, with collaboration with LADWP's Water Employee Club (WEC). Approximately 30 people attended.

The day began with LADWP's WEC President, Paul Dia, P.E., duly welcoming the attendees. This was followed by LASSC Chair Jason Zhang offering some great opening remarks.

Linden Nishinaga then introduced the first speaker, Tony Kirby, P.E., who is an Associate Principal for the firm ARUP. Linden explained how he had first met Mr. Kirby's company colleague, Vincent Lee, P.E., LEED AP, Env SP, when the latter gave an auspicious talk at the April 2016 USGBC Municipal Green Building Conference and Expo in Downey. Linden was impressed by Mr. Lee's knowledge and integration of both the building sector and infrastructure sector in terms of advanced civil engineering sustainability. At this meeting, Mr. Kirby delivered a similar albeit modified version of the presentation called, "Blue-Green Cities for Water Resilience." In their words, "With rapid global population growth and a trend towards people increasingly living in cities, water is becoming a very scarce resource. It's estimated by 2045 over 6 billion people will be living in cities; we therefore have to find a way to better manage this precious resource throughout the water cycle. [Tony's presentation] explored the risks we face around access to water, sea level rise, and climate change. It used a series of global examples to show how we can better plan and design our cities' infrastructure in order to manage water resources in a holistic and sustainable manner."

The next speaker was LADWP's Manager of Corporate Sustainability Programs, Maria Sison-Roces. Maria spoke in lieu of LADWP's Chief Sustainability Officer Nancy Sutley. As such, Maria talked



about the Department's efforts on sustainability and LADWP's achievement in LEED Dynamic Gold. She described LADWP's role in Mayor Eric Garcetti's Sustainable City pLAN: The Department's goal includes reducing imported water purchase by 50% by 2025, and source 50% of water locally by 2035, reducing LADWP's operations energy use by 18%, and operational water use by 25% by year 2025. As an ongoing effort in sustainability, LADWP is consistently in the process of upgrading their general office building pursuant to LEED and beyond. She also talked about the Department's energy efficiency and water conservation programs, implantation of native drought resistant plants around the John Ferraro Building, and acquisition of the new highly energy efficient office space in Downtown Los Angeles, were the Department's newest efforts in promoting sustainable working environment.

The third speaker was Jim Stewart, Ph.D who represents the Sierra Club. Dr. Stewart gave a science-based presentation about the serious current and future state of affairs of the earth's atmosphere including greenhouse gas emissions build up, relative social economic emissions differences, climate change, disaster time tables, and urgently needed remedies. His talk included discussion of past and current relevant California State Legislation. He cited SB 32 in terms of California's response to climate crisis. It seems apparent civil engineers need learned scientists like Dr. Stewart (and vice versa) in order to secure the underlying environmental scientific principles, information, and data to then be able to go forward from there with knowledge, confidence and purpose on their related sustainability projects.

Mark Capron, P.E., of Ocean Foresters was the fourth speaker. Mr. Capron talked about the big picture resilience via ocean forests. As such, Mark spoke about a team led by him winning an ASCE innovation contest for its proposal to sequester CO₂ from the atmosphere by harvesting seaweed near the ocean shores and building huge membranes on the bottom of the deep ocean in order to store excess and problematic atmospheric CO₂. It was pointed out by a questioner that his next big challenge may be to develop and transform his innovative scientific concepts into concretely definable

Program. These kids are our future and I encourage every member to go to your kid's school for a job fair or participate in our outreach school visitations. If each of our branch members volunteered just three hours of their time each year, imagine the number of schools we can visit. We need to get these kids interested in civil engineering at an early age so they can be open to the option of a career in civil engineering or be educated enough to understand the importance of what our field and projects accomplish in the world.

Goal #4:

Promote the profession in our communities to enhance its stature through education of our members and the public concerning infrastructure needs and sustainable development. I hope that each one of you will take a few moments to communicate with your family, friends and colleagues regarding the importance of infrastructure funding and how sustainable development will change the future. If we don't start making a change, who will?

Goal #5:

Advocate professional development through professional registration, Society and Section membership, and lifelong learning to aid our members continued growth throughout their careers. The Section is proud to have such an active Younger Member Forum with whom we are big advocates of obtaining professional registration. We must continue our education and seek innovative approaches to old and

new problems.

I hope each one of you will pick at least one goal and run with it! I look forward to working with each member on these goals. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to let me know. Lets get the ball rolling on these goals and make this one of the best years ever!

I wanted to take this opportunity of writing my first article to thank everyone who has made this Section what it is and continues to do so out of their own generosity. Thank you for reading and I hope you enjoy our future newsletter articles as we make every effort to keep them entertaining and informative. We have a lot of people that volunteer their time to help our Branches and Section. The Section would not exist without each of your membership and I wanted to just say "Thank you for your continued service and I hope we can help each other to create a stronger group!"

Finally, I would like to invite everyone to attend our Annual Meeting, Installation of Officers & Awards Luncheon on Saturday, October 8th at the Queen Mary. We have never had it at this venue and we are really looking forward to having a good time there. Registration and sponsorship forms are available in this newsletter. It will be a very exciting event and I encourage everyone to attend. I hope to see everyone there!

engineering projects. Also to secure if possible government sponsors that would fund pilot projects along opportune areas along the coast and in the ocean.

The final speaker was Doug Sereno, P.E., F. ASCE. Doug, who works at the Port of Long Beach, also represents the national ASCE Committee on Sustainability. Doug talked about ASCE Board's strategic initiative of sustainability. Accordingly, Doug presented to LASSC the award for the **Best New Concept** in the Green Engineering Category of the 1st ASCE Innovation Contest for their entry "Big Picture Resilience via Ocean Forests." He went on to talk about civil engineering project resilience, doing the "right project" rather than the most expedient, and "systems thinking." He spoke to the need of young professional civil engineers to think "outside the box" by questioning projects' impact on the overall project systems, agencies and communities they serve. When asked by a questioner, Doug agreed that upper management and political support via "advocacy" would be needed in order for civil engineers to have the necessary cover to do all this. Also discussed was the need for **life cycle cost analyses**, as opposed to first price, as determinant in decision maker's alternative project selections and approvals. Due credit, including financial, must be given for better and more sustainable engineering designs. Again advocacy would be required.

Lastly, the LASSC Planning Committee presented **certificates of appreciation** to each distinguished Symposium speaker as Mr. Tony Kirby, Ms. Maria Sison-Roces, Dr. Jim Stewart, Mr. Mark Capron, and Mr. Doug Sereno. The Committee also presented an award to Mr. Paul Dia for his coordination effort between LADWP's WEC and ASCE. Closing remarks were offered by Linden Nishinaga who mentioned that civil engineers' expertise, discipline, and skills are absolutely needed by society and that CE sustainability issues are big ticket items. Along with buildings, infrastructure is highly affecting of our environment and takes up a large percentage of our nation's total natural resources and energy usage. As such, there is a lot to be gained by advanced civil engineering sustainability. Linden also talked about the interconnectivity of CE with other disciplines in the built sustainability field. We therefore need to be more aggressive, whilst scientific, in "catching up" with other more renowned built sustainability sectors such as the USGBC/LEED. This will allow us the wherewithal to contribute our **fair share** of garnering badly needed sustainability projects, building widespread green/sustainable infrastructure, creating better and more sustainable communities, and protecting the single most precious place that we all share, the planet earth.

State Investments and Legislative Update

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



The State Legislature concluded the 2016 session without a transportation fix. Senator Beall and Assemblyman Frazier combined their two bills into a comprehensive measure that would have included a \$7.4 billion annual funding package to repair and maintain state and local roads, improve our trade corridors, and support public transit and active transportation and a \$706 million repayment of outstanding transportation loans for state and local roads. The effort

was thwarted by a reluctance on the part of some in the Legislature to approve higher gas taxes and fees, and an apparent lack of Administration interest in making the package part of the bigger smorgasbord of last-minute deal making. The “special session” called by Brown two years ago expires at the end of November and some have opined there may be a “lame duck” session after the November election.

ASCE supports AB 2800 (Quirk D) It would establish a Climate-Safe Infrastructure Working Group at the Natural Resources Agency to examine how to integrate scientific data concerning projected climate change impacts into state infrastructure engineering. The bill embraces the findings of a 2015 ASCE report - *Adapting Infrastructure and Civil Engineering Practice to a Changing Climate* that presents an accurate discussion of the potential significance of climate change to engineering practice. The Legislature sent the bill to Governor Brown for his signature.

ASCE supported AB 1928 (Campos D) that extends the date the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission is required to adopt landscape irrigation equipment performance standards and labeling requirements from January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2018 is on Governor Brown's desk. The bill also requires the CEC to take into consideration recent developments in landscape irrigation efficiency when developing the standards and requirements.

ASCE supported SB 1085 (Roth D) Is enrolled. It will require licensees under the BPELSG, upon renewal of their license, to complete a board-administered online assessment to reinforce their knowledge of laws applicable to their practice area is in Assembly Appropriations. It provides that failure to complete the assessment within the allowed timeframe is cause for disciplinary action but provides that failure to complete this assessment does not prohibit renewal. The board is prohibited from charging a fee to take the assessment.

AB 2873 (Thurmond D) that would have required that all building inspectors employed or retained by a local agency who conduct permitting and plan check services be Certified Access Specialists is dead.

Brown signed ASCE supported SB 1165 (Cannella D) that extends the delinquent license reinstatement timeframe of a professional engineer and land surveyor's license from three to five years after the expiration of the license is on the Assembly consent calendar.

The bill also allows geologist applicants to substitute relevant study in geology, for a degree, to apply for licensure.

Recent Reports

The **State Water Resources Control Board** has released statewide water conservation data, finds that statewide water savings by urban water districts for June 2016 was 21.5 percent, which is down from 27.5 percent in June of 2015.

The **Public Policy Institute of California** released Accounting for California's Water. “In this report, we identify gaps in California's water information systems. We recommend that the state adopt an overarching goal of modernizing its water accounting, and that key state agencies—supported by an oversight committee of key stakeholders and independent experts—develop and adopt a common accounting framework. We outline a dozen priority actions to strengthen water accounting by: improving measurements and estimates of water availability and use; firming up legal claims on water rights and water reserved for the environment; establishing protocols, standards, and models for transparent water accounting at all levels across the state; and making water information more available and accessible to water managers, water users, policymakers, and the public.”

Environmental Science & Technology Letters released “Detection of Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs) in U.S. Drinking Water Linked to Industrial Sites, Military Fire Training Areas, and Wastewater Treatment Plants.” “Drinking water supplies for more than six million Americans contain unsafe levels of industrial chemicals that have been linked to cancer and other serious health problems, a U.S. study suggests. The chemicals—known as PFASs (for polyfluoroalkyl and perfluoroalkyl substances)—are used in products ranging from food wrappers to clothing to nonstick cookware to fire-fighting foams. They have been linked with an increased risk of kidney and testicular cancers, hormone disruption, high cholesterol, and obesity.” The study found drinking water from 13 states, including California, accounted for 75% of the unsafe supply, and the highest concentration was found around military bases and industrial sites.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Update released “Graduated Driver Licensing Night Driving Restrictions and Drivers Aged 16 or 17 Years Involved in Fatal Night Crashes – United States, 2009-2014.” “Fatal crash risk is higher at night for all drivers, but especially for young, inexperienced drivers. To help address the increased crash risk for beginner teen drivers, 49 states and the District of Columbia include a night driving restriction (NDR) in their Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) system. NDRs have been shown to reduce crashes among newly licensed teens, with higher reductions associated with NDRs starting at 10:00 p.m. or earlier. However, in 23 states and the District of Columbia, NDRs begin at 12:00 a.m. or later, times when most teen drivers subject to GDL are not driving.” This report shares state data regarding the proportion of drivers aged 16 or 17 years involved in fatal crashes at night.

Sustainability & Envision™ Leadership Update

by Mark R. Norton, P.E., LEED AP, ENV SP, Chair, ASCE Region 9 Sustainability Committee



In early September, I learned the sad news that a great ASCE local leader, Gary Gilbert, had unexpectedly passed away. Gary was a past ASCE Orange County Branch President (2014-2015) and ASCE Los Angeles (LA) Section Treasurer, and a good friend of mine. He was someone who I admired and had spent many hours with in various ASCE events and activities. Gary was passionate about advancing the civil engineering profession, and served as an example to others. One area which we talked at length about was the importance of Sustainability in the civil engineering profession. He shared with me that he too felt that the Envision rating system for Sustainable Infrastructure was an indispensable tool that should be used for infrastructure projects of all types, sizes, complexities, and that all ASCE members should be trained in its use. He became not just an Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP), but also a certified reviewer of sustainable infrastructure projects. Gary will be sorely missed by his family, colleagues, and friends!

For those engineers who may not be familiar with the program and tool, Envision™ is an infrastructure rating system established by a non-profit organization called the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI), by three founding organizations, ASCE, American Public Works Association (APWA), and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). Similar to LEED, which is a sustainability rating system predominantly for buildings under the Green Building Council, Envision was established to serve as a sustainability rating system for infrastructure that supports our communities. It is supported by a wide array of respected organizations involved in infrastructure design, construction, and operation.

Envision provides guidance on sustainable best practices at no cost to users, and serves not only as a planning and design tool, but also as a means of evaluating infrastructure projects once completed. Envision can be used by anyone involved in the delivery of infrastructure—thus providing value to owners, designers, community groups, environmental organizations, constructors, regulators, and policy makers.

Envision provides a framework for evaluating and rating the community, environmental, and economic benefits of all types and sizes of infrastructure projects. This resource consists of a broad range of criteria that help individuals make better decisions at each step of the project. These criteria address a project's impact on the surrounding community and environment, technical considerations regarding materials and processes, and other critical choices spanning the project's lifecycle.

Envision also allows individuals to increase the level of personal impact they can have on projects' sustainability—and in the process,

increase their value to not only their organization but their broader community as well. They also have the opportunity, once they have been trained in the use of Envision, to be credentialed by ISI as an Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP), an indication of their commitment to excellence in their profession. Individuals who have successfully completed the Envision credential training course and exam demonstrate their expertise with the Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) designation.

As the first Chair of the ASCE Region 9 Sustainability Committee and co-founder of the Sustainability Committee for the ASCE LA Section back in 2007, I too have a passion for helping civil engineers apply sustainability to their practice. The concept of sustainability is not a new one though. For over a decade, the principles of sustainability have been promoted in various national and international organizations as well as through ASCE.

To deal with the growing needs of ever expanding society, we must now ask the hard questions of not just whether a project is to be designed right but is it the right project, not whether we grow but how we grow, and not just if a project designed for a design life but for future generations in a sustainable manner. By becoming involved in ASCE Sustainability Committees across the State, we are teaching and promoting sustainability programs and practices that span all forms of infrastructure that civil engineers design for.

I invite you to become involved in your local sustainability committee through your ASCE Branch, YMF or Section. Finally, in honor of my friend and fellow ASCE member, Gary Gilbert, I invite you to take the lead, like Gary and many of your ASCE leaders including the ASCE Executive Director, to become certified as ENV SP and add this credential after your name. Now is the time to take on ENV SP online learning process (see details at <http://www.sustainableinfrastructure.org>) or attend an upcoming ENV SP workshop, to take the test and start applying sustainability practices to your civil engineering today. Let's encourage every ASCE member to become an ENV SP.

For more information contact Mark Norton, Chair, ASCE Region 9 Sustainability Committee, at mnorton@sawpa.org





The Los Angeles Section

Cordially Invites You to

The Queen Mary

1126 Queens Highway, Long Beach, CA 90802 (Windsor Salon)

Annual Meeting, Installation of Officers & Awards Luncheon

Saturday, October 8, 2016 at 11:00 am

Registration & Reception—11:00 am | Lunch & Program—11:30 am

Member & Guest—\$70 per person | Student—\$25

(After Sept. 30th, Member & Guest—\$85 per person | Students—\$35)

Menu Selection

Grilled Tuscan Style Chicken or Roasted Vegetable Wellington (Vegetarian)

For reservations by check, mail to:

ASCE LA Section, 1405 Warner Ave., Ste. B, Tustin, CA 92780

Register online at www.ascelasection.org.

Questions can be directed to the ASCE Office at 714-258-8306.

Please Print & Return Coupon with Payment

Registration Deadline is Friday, September 30, 2016

Name (for name tag): _____ Phone: _____

Company: _____ Fax: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email (Reservation Confirmation): _____

Spouse/Guest Name(s): _____

Check for \$ _____ enclosed for # _____ Chicken # _____ Vegetarian



ASCE Los Angeles Section

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Annual Meeting, Installation of Officers & Awards Luncheon at The Queen Mary

October 8, 2016 at 11:00 am

This year's event promises to attract the firms, agencies, and people who have helped shape Southern California. We will also be installing our new Section Officers. By helping to sponsor the event, your company will be featured at the Awards Event and in the ASCE Newsletter. The breakdown of the benefits is as follows:

BENEFIT	PLATINUM (\$1500)	GOLD (\$1000)	SILVER (\$500)	BRONZE (\$250)
Listed in Event Program	X	X	X	X
Logo in Program	X			
Logo on display at Event	X	X	X	X
Acknowledgement during Event	X	X	X	X
Ticket(s) Provided to Event	6	4	2	1
Reserved Seating at Event	X			
Newsletter Publicity in December Issue				
- Listed by Name	X	X	X	X
- 1/2 Page Ad Space (\$465 value)	X			
- 1/4 Page Ad Space (\$300 value)		X		

SIGN ME UP! I want to be a part of the ASCE LA Section Awards Celebration and take advantage of the promotional opportunities afforded to me as a selected sponsor (check one).

Platinum ____ Gold ____ Silver ____ Bronze ____

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

of Included Tickets: ____ # of Paid Tickets: ____ x \$70 = ____ Total Due for Tickets: ____

Sponsorship Fee: ____ + Amount Due for Tickets: ____ = Grand Total: ____

Names (for name badges): _____

☐ We cannot attend but still wish to sponsor. Please give our ticket(s) to a student.

PLEASE return to Gayle Stewart Enterprises, 1405 Warner Ave., Ste. B, Tustin, CA 92780

Phone: (714) 258-8306 Fax: (714) 784-7806 Email: GStewart@associationplanet.com

☐ Check Enclosed

☐ VISA

☐ MasterCard

Credit Card #: _____ Exp.: _____ CSC (Code on Back of Card) _____

Name on Card: _____

Gary Gilbert, P.E. (September 18, 1972 - August 30, 2016)

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



My good friend and colleague, Gary passed away from heart complications while attending an event at the Hollywood Bowl on Tuesday evening, August 30. Gary and I go way back to our ASCE Younger Member Forum days. I also had the privilege to work together with him in a number of LA Metro projects.

I last sat down with Gary for dinner at an event at the LA City Club this past summer 2016. It was a very different night. I've never seen him for awhile, but we chatted about life, how things are, and many of the possibilities ahead of us. There was no indication that our very long conversation that evening was to be my last with him. One of the most memorable is that while it has been awhile, I still vividly

remembered the European River cruise he took with his parents; and how enjoyable that was to him. I still need to experience that cruise but Gary's depiction of how enjoyable and relaxing (and unique the trip is) still resonates to me to this day. Gary had many friends and colleagues and I'm sure like me, you have fond memories of how Gary has made an impact in your personal and professional life.

Gary was involved in many activities and played an important role in people's lives. He spent his career with the Diaz Yourman & Associates' family for more than 18 years, and he had been an Associate/Shareholder since 2008. Gary had been actively involved with ASCE for more than 20 years, serving many leadership roles within ASCE Orange County and Los Angeles Branches (most recently as Immediate Past President of ASCE Orange County Branch); he was also very engaged with Engineers Without Borders Orange County Chapter. He is the penultimate engineer leaving a legacy of service to our community.

His family, friends, co-workers, fellow board members, and colleagues will miss him tremendously. A sincere condolences to Doug and Cindy Gilbert (Gary's Parents) and April Tornillo (Gary's Sister).

ARTICLE

ASCE Supports Raise the Bar



ASCE's Raise the Bar strategic initiative seeks to advance the profession and the public welfare by actively supporting the national movement to raise educational requirements for licensure of future professional engineers.

This ASCE-backed initiative promotes change in state licensure laws so that civil engineers of the future continue to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

Without these changes, U.S. civil engineers will rely on an early-1900s educational model to face 21st century challenges.

The engineering education of the present—a four-year undergraduate degree—will not be sufficient to prepare the licensed civil engineers of the future.

What would change?

Currently, the educational requirements for professional engineer licensure call for an accredited bachelor's degree in engineering. Under Raise the Bar, future PEs would also need:

- a master's degree in engineering or
- an additional 30 credits of graduate or upper level undergraduate courses in engineering, science, mathematics and professional practice topics completed inside or outside a university setting.

The additional post-baccalaureate education would not apply to engineers already licensed before the effective date of a new law (generally anticipated to be at least 8 years after actual passage).

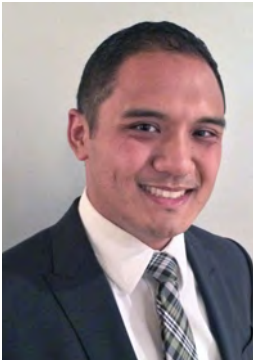
Raising the bar is essential. It is here, now!



www.ascelasection.org

Younger Member Forum (YMF) Update

by Gidti Ludesirishoti, P.E., M.ASCE, Chair, ASCE Region 9 YMF Committee



The New Region 9 YMF Committee

A good friend asked me the other day about the purpose of the Region 9 committee for Younger Member Forums (YMFs). I will assume that most of you have already realized the value of ASCE membership in general, since you are reading this article. I hope this article can help you further understand the value of YMFs in particular, and the need for a robust Region 9 YMF coordinating

committee to provide additional support.

ASCE has a member classification called Younger Members (YMs) for ASCE members 35 and younger. Many Sections and Branches in California have a Younger Member Forum (YMF) to encourage involvement of their Younger Members (YMs). Where you are a YM or just employ one, I highly recommend active involvement in the YMFs. My time in YMF has been (and continues to be) one of the best opportunities for professional growth in my career. Through YMF, I built skills for: project management; Operations management; leadership; and Marketing, for my organization, others, and myself. It has also provided me with lifelong professional relationships and friendships.

Being a member of YMF provides many resources for technical growth, community outreach, and networking opportunities. However, there are also significant benefits to be realized as a contributing board member. Board members are provided opportunities to organize and coordinate events, and these can provide skills and expertise in project management. An executive board member will get a peek into operational management, when having to manage the resources of the YMF board, and in planning for the future of the group. Board members are also involved in leadership and inspiring others to join the group, although this is encouraged of every member. Most, if not all, YMF events will have a networking component that provides practice in marketing.

YMFs may have been best described in the newsletter article 'The Incredible Journey of the Orange County YMF' [http://www.asceoc.org/newsletter/article/2016_young_member_group_award_the_incredible_journey_of_oc_ymf_july_2016] by my colleague and friend, Remi Candaele, 2015-16 past-president of the Orange County YMF, on the occasion of the Orange County YMF receiving the 2016 ASCE Younger Member Large Group Award:

"I like to assimilate our YMF environment to that of a leadership accelerator, or incubator given the extensive soft infrastructure provided by ASCE [...]. YMF forms the ideal cluster of younger leaders to expand on effective communication, creative thinking, adaptability, collaboration, and time management, to only cite a few

skill sets. We truly believe that getting involved and supporting our local community establishes the framework to develop innovative, productive, and respected leaders."

Some important goals of YMFs include:

- Supporting the mission and vision of ASCE;
- Bridging the gap between students and professionals;
- Fostering the development of young engineers through involvement in ASCE.

ASCE Region 9, the only region that is comprised of one state (California), is home to 4 Sections and 12 YMFs. Two of these Sections elect a YMF Director to coordinate between the multiple YMFs within that Section. There is also Society-level committee that provides input and guidance on YMF activities, the ASCE Committee on Younger Members (CYM).

One important role of the YMFs is in aiding in the transition from ASCE Student member to Associate Member (AM). Aside from being home to 12 YMFs, Region 9 is also home to far more Student chapters than I can name (about 25 and counting!). We find that many of these students go through a similar circumstance whereby an active ASCE student graduates, then finds a job in a city where they don't know other engineers, and then may commence a working career that might result in having no major involvement with engineering societies outside of their office for several years, and no transitional involvement with ASCE. Unfortunately, this might also happen even with students moving within the same state! It has been shown by case studies that YMFs can play a major role in helping to reach out to such transitional students, and bring them back into the ASCE fold much sooner than might ordinarily happen.

One of my roles as the new Region 9 YMF committee chair would be to work with YMFs around the State to help foster student transition, as well as to support many of the other ASCE goals and objectives for the YMFs. A coordinated effort among all the YMFs and their existing connections to university chapters can provide a major solution to the issue of student transition to Associate members. I hope that all Region 9 ASCE individual members, as well as all employers of engineers, will support the efforts of your local ASCE YMFs. One of the best ways is to encourage another younger engineering colleague to join YMF and become involved. Their growth will benefit your organization, the individual, and most importantly the community.

For more information contact Gidti Ludesirishoti, Chair, ASCE Region 9 YMF Committee, at Gidti.egr@gmail.com



www.ascelasection.org

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