

# Los Angeles Section

*Monthly: Est. 1913*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greg Heiertz, P.E.  
Los Angeles Section President



## Engineers' Week

It is not a coincidence that National Engineers' week is always celebrated the week of George Washington's birthday. George Washington made his living as a young man as a land surveyor and engineer. In this sense, he is the father of the American civil engineering profession as well as the father of our country. Washington got started in the profession at the behest of an older brother, although his mother apparently thought it was not a respectable enough occupation for a young gentleman. Her objections were overcome by the excellent earnings of land surveyors at the time due to their relative scarcity in this new and wild country. Washington completed his first surveys when he was only 14 years old. He was eventually appointed as an assistant to the Prince William County, Virginia surveyor. Before he was 21 years of age, he became a county surveyor for Culpepper County at the princely salary of 50 pounds per year. He later used this surveying experience as the foundation for military engineering he did when he was District Adjutant of the Militia for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Washington was actively employed as a surveyor for only about five years, but the skills and discipline he learned in the profession shaped the rest of his career.

Engineers' Week will be celebrated the week of February 20 through 26 this year. Engineers' Week was originated by the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1951 and is supported by a formal coalition of more than 70 engineering, educational, and cultural societies, including ASCE. The word "National" was recently dropped from the name of Engineers' Week to reflect the global scope of the engineering profession today. More than 50 corporations and government agencies participate in various activities during the week. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers is the chair of this year's celebration. ASCE was the Chair in 2010. Engineers' Week is intended to increase the public's awareness of engineers' positive contributions to everyone's quality of life. It promotes recognition among parents, teachers and students of the importance of technical education and a high level of math, science, and technology literacy. It aims to motivate youth to pursue engineering careers in order to provide the diverse and vigorous engineering workforce necessary to advance technology and improve our standard of living. Each year Engineers' Week reaches thousands of schools, businesses, and community groups across the United States. Engineers' Week 2011 focuses on future international issues and challenges and on the role of women in engineering. The goal of Engineers' Week 2011 is to celebrate the global engineering community and share its positive message around the world.

I urge you to participate in local Engineers' Week celebrations. You might want to think about celebrating Engineers' Week in your company or agency. It is a great way to increase morale and build enthusiasm among your co-workers and subordinates. It is also a great way to educate your non-engineer co-workers about the important contributions of the engineering profession. There is a tremendous amount of information about Engineers' Week on the web with plenty of ideas on ways to celebrate. Check out <http://www.eweek.org>.

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## Of Engineering and Other Topics

February is an interesting month of celebrations. We celebrate love, great U.S. Presidents, and of course, engineers. An interesting mix, indeed!

Los Angeles Section President Greg Heiertz, P.E., stated the connection on the origins of Engineers' Week's connection with President's Day. I am quite excited with the realization that we share our profession with the father of our country. We should be proud of this fact as we talk about the things that we do to those that we mentor through activities with the junior staff at our offices or passively, through the work products and engineering feats that we achieve. These feats can be as simple as a fence, or as great as the rail projects, bridges, dams, water treatment plants, etc. We build a better world.

There are a lot of opportunities during Engineers' Week to do this. One of these opportunities is to engage kids at all levels of a school for them to get excited about engineering. Yes, you will get the usual "Do I need to study math and science?" question. However, that should not be the end. Yes math and science, especially math, is a challenge for a lot of kids; but, as I see in my 10-year old son's school, making math and science exciting, fun and REAL for kids, diminishes the initial hesitation to go in and explore these subjects.

Our Section President offers a website wherein you can find out various ways of celebrating our profession this month. There is also an opportunity (in this issue) to participate in a formal training program to be equipped to speak in your local high school; and encourage your neighborhood kids to become an engineer. Plenty of opportunities are available. Just grab any one of them.

I have known Fred Meier for many years through my ASCE activities. He and I at one time collaborated on trivia pieces in our Section Newsletter so our general membership would get familiar with some of our most famous local engineering landmarks. It is with sadness that I announce his passing. We celebrate his life in this issue to serve as an inspiration, especially to us who are just beginning our careers in engineering.

Finally, please mark your calendars for the Life Member's Brunch. It will be held on March 5, 2011. Not only will our ASCE National President-Elect be there, you will also get to meet some of our local engineering superstars whose careers we will be honoring.

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter!

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

### Reminder:

*Copy deadline for the Mar. 2011 issue is Feb. 1, 2011; copy deadline for Apr. 2011 issue is Mar. 1, 2011.*

At my agency, we devote our February Engineering Department staff meeting to fun and educational activities related to the week's festivities. The high point is always a competitive game that is usually adapted from the ASCEville Just for Fun website materials. Everyone in the department looks forward to this spirited contest. The Just for Fun web page is intended to show school children in grades K-5 why engineering is important to their lives, but it is always amusing to watch adults' enthusiasm to compete at children's games.

One of the priorities of Engineers' Week is to introduce girls to the engineering profession as a viable career choice. Women are underrepresented in the engineering profession, making up only 10% of the engineering work force. More women are becoming involved in the profession, but still only 20% of undergraduate engineering students are women. Lack of preparation in science and math in high school and institutionalized gender discrimination were once thought to be the cause of fewer women choosing engineering as an undergraduate major. Recent studies seem to contradict this. High school girls and boys take required math and science courses in similar proportions.

Experts now believe that the cause of the low proportion of women studying engineering is perceptions about the field among girls and the people who mentor and influence them, including teachers, parents, friends, and the media. Girls are not taught to believe that engineering is an attractive and interesting field of study for young women. Girls do not envision themselves becoming engineers, therefore they do not. Nothing conveys the message that girls can and should become engineers as effectively as the influence of trusted mentors and role models. Consequently, the National Engineers' Week Foundation developed their "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day". This program, which brings girls and mentors together, celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Over that time they have introduced over one million girls to the engineering profession. This year Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is February 24. I encourage you to talk to young girls of your family and friends about the benefits of an engineering career. Ideas for starting this conversation are available at <http://eweek.org/EngineersWeek/Introduce.aspx>.

Happy Engineers' Week!

## 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.



## In Memory of Fred Meier

The American Society of Civil Engineers lost one of our most devoted engineering brothers on December 29, 2010 when Frederick J. Meier passed away. Fred's first visit to California was as a member of the University of Nebraska football team when he played center for the Cornhuskers against Stanford University in the 1941 Rose Bowl game. He was president of ASCE's Nebraska student chapter in 1941-42. Fred and his beloved wife Jane were married shortly after graduation in 1942. His professional career began as a member of the U.S. Navy's famous "SeaBees" (Construction Battalions) deployed to the Japanese-occupied South Pacific Island, Guadalcanal, where he was involved in airfield construction.

After the war Fred and Jane relocated to California where he became a construction engineer with the Navy's contractor building the 80 mile-long San Diego Pipeline to deliver water from the San Jacinto Tunnel of Metropolitan Water District's Colorado River aqueduct. Most of Fred's family life with Jane was in Orange County where he was an estimator for construction companies, construction manager/consultant, expert witness and arbitrator. Fred is survived by Jane and three sons, Michael, Stephen and John along with 4 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

As President of ASCE's Orange County Branch in 1977-78, Fred initiated a Branch History and Heritage Committee. Later, he chaired the committee for the next 20 years. Under his tutelage and authorship ten Civil Engineering Historic Landmark projects in Orange County

have been added to the Los Angeles Section list of landmarks. In 2002 Fred and Jane initiated, edited and produced a hard cover book, *Civil Engineers Building a Better World*, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The book includes 31 Southern California project histories 7 of which he authored personally.

At the Los Angeles Section of ASCE, Fred was a member of the History and Heritage committee for ten years and he authored the Section's nomination of the Colorado River Aqueduct as a National Civil Engineering Historic Landmark. He also served as chairman of the Construction Technical Group and a member of the Forensic Group. Fred authored successful nominations for national recognition, including George Williams for Honorary Member of ASCE, George Osborne as Zone IV ASCE Government Engineer of the Year 1994, and Orange County Branch for National History and Heritage Citation.

Fred himself won the following honors; National Civil Engineering History and Heritage Award 2005, Los Angeles Section Outstanding Life Member 2002, Orange County Engineer of Merit Award 1992, Lifetime Achievement Award 2001, and Prestigious Engineering Service Award 2002.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

## Call for Sustainable Project Nominations

The Section Sustainability Committee is seeking nominations of civil engineering projects that use sustainable technologies in their construction or in their operation.

The projects to be submitted must be in construction now or have been completed within 2010. The projects' location must be in the geographic area of the Section.

The projects submitted will be reviewed by the committee for the purpose of use as examples of sustainable technologies used in civil engineering projects and for consideration in awards of merit for sustainability in civil engineering.

Please include in the nomination;

- 1) Photos of the project and the sustainable aspect(s) of the project,
- 2) A description of project and it's sustainable aspect(s) or sustainable construction methods used,
- 3) Contact information on the owner of, designer of, and contractors for the project.

Please submit your nomination to the committee chair, Paul Callaway, by email at [Paul@Greenmountainengineering.net](mailto:Paul@Greenmountainengineering.net). The nomination submittal must have a maximum size of 25 MB. Your submittal must be received by March 31, 2011.

The committee will contact you by phone or email if any additional information is required and or if the project is to receive an award. If you have any questions about the nomination process or the selection process for merit awards please contact the committee chair at the email address above.

## ASCE's 2011

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

## DISASTER TRAINING

Classes are being organized for volunteers to help in the event of a major disaster under the auspicious of the State of California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). Classes will be held in ASCE Branch areas when there are sufficient requests. Qualified individuals are California Registered Civil, Structural, Geotechnical, Certified engineering Geologists, or Architects. If you are interested in attending a class, or are interested in arranging a class, please contact the ASCE Disaster Preparedness Committee Chairman.

There is no charge for the class.  
 The class lasts 4 or 5 hours  
 The Class can commence as early as  
 8 AM or after work.  
 Monday through Friday or on Saturday

Classes will be given for VOLUNTEERS from professional organizations to assess damage, and COORDINATORS from City or County to direct Volunteers for their area. Coordinators may act as Volunteers outside of their area of expertise.

To register for the class submit your name along with your telephone number and e-mail address. You will be contacted when 10 or more request a class. The maximum number in the class should not exceed 20.

If your Branch, or Firm would like to offer the use of its facilities for a class, please register and provide the name of contact person, phone, and E-mail. You will be contacted to make arrangements.

Thank you for your support.  
 Jack W. Rolston, Chair  
 818-903-5225 cell • 818-345-9199 ph  
 818-345-5283 fx  
 ascedisaster@earthlink.net

## REGION 9 Fall 2010, Winter 2011 Continuing Education Calendar

Region	DATES	SEMINARS AND COMPUTER WORKSHOP LINKS	Technical Division
9	Feb. 2-4, 2011	GIS for Hydraulic and Hydrologic Modeling Using ArcGIS Desktop ~New	Hydraulics & Water Resources
9	Feb. 3-4, 2011	Modern Detectors for Traffic Surveillance Management, and Traveler Information ~New	Transportation
9	Feb. 10-11, 2011	Stormwater BMPs That Work: Effective Analysis, Design and Maintenance	Environmental
9	Feb. 17-18, 2011	Financial Management for the Professional Engineer	Management & Leadership
9	Feb. 23-25, 2011	Introduction to Tunnel Design and Construction	Geotechnical
9	Feb. 24-25, 2011	Aluminum Structural Design with the 2010 Aluminum Design Manual	Structural
9	March 8-11, 2011	Pumping Systems Design for Civil Engineers	Hydraulics & Water Resources
9	March 17-18, 2011	Design Build Contracting	Construction/Development
9	March 17-18, 2011	Water Hammer in Transmission and Distribution Systems	Hydraulics & Water Resources
9	March 24-25, 2011	Risk Assessment in Geotechnical Engineering	Geotechnical/Transportation





The Los Angeles Section

*Cordially Invites You and Your Spouse to*

# *Life Member Brunch*

**March 5, 2011**

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 Society President-Elect,  
Andrew W. Hermann, P.E., SCEB, F.ASCE***

Members & Guests: \$30.00 per person

Table Sponsor: \$300.00 (4 seats for Sponsor & 6 for Honored Life Members)

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

Lunch: Chicken Chardonnay, Vegetarian available

***Reservation must be received no later than Friday, February 25.***

***Monterey Hill Steakhouse***

3700 W. Ramona Blvd.  
Monterey Park, CA 91754  
323-264-8426

*For reservations, please send checks to:*

*ASCE, Los Angeles Section  
1405 Warner Avenue  
Tustin, CA 92780*

## ***Return Coupon***

***Return to: ASCE, Los Angeles Section, 1405 Warner Ave. Ste B, Tustin, CA 92780  
Attn: Gayle Stewart    Phone: 714-258-8306***

**Name (for nametag)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone (     )** \_\_\_\_\_

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**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse / Guest Name(s) (for nametag)** \_\_\_\_\_

**My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for \_\_\_\_\_ guests/members/table. # \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian**

***Make checks payable to: ASCE, Los Angeles Section***



**ASCE Region 9**  
**Announces the Fifth Annual**  
**California Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Dinner**  
***SAVE THE DATE***  
**March 9, 2011**

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) realizes that critical infrastructure systems are facilities and assets so vital that their destruction or incapacitation would disrupt the security, economy, safety, health, or welfare of the public. One of ASCE's top priorities is to raise the grades on California's infrastructure.

ASCE Region 9 is taking the lead by presenting the **Fifth Annual California Infrastructure Symposium** to be held on **Wednesday, March 9, 2011**, in Sacramento. The Symposium will address such topics as roads and highways, bridges, high speed rail, water supply, and flood control. The speakers are invited to give you the most current information on Federal and State priorities, alternate modes of funding, the stimulus plan, gas tax restructuring, and more. There will also be discussion of National and Statewide Report Cards which will identify and bring attention for infrastructure support and renewal in California.

Following the Symposium, you may also register for an evening to help celebrate excellence in California Civil Engineering projects and honor the outstanding accomplishments of individuals at the 2010 ASCE Region 9 Awards Dinner.

Please mark your calendar to join us on **Wednesday, March 9, 2011**, at the Hyatt Regency, 1209 L Street, Sacramento, California for continuing education, networking, and social events you will not want to miss. Look for more information as it becomes available at [www.asce.org/region9](http://www.asce.org/region9).

Also, please note that ASCE Region 9 Legislative Day will take place on March 8, 2011 at the California State Capital in Sacramento.

For additional information, please contact Lori Campbell, Administrator, [lkc.consulting@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lkc.consulting@sbcglobal.net), or by telephone at 916.965.1536.



*ASCE Region 9 represents more than 18,000 ASCE members in the State of California.*

**P.O. Box 2575 | Fair Oaks, CA 95628 | 916.965.1536 | FAX 916.965.6234 | [www.asce.org/region9](http://www.asce.org/region9)**



## **SPRING 2011 P.E. REVIEW COURSE**

Registration is now open for the SPRING 2011 PE Review Course. That is correct! Now is the time to advance in your civil engineering profession by obtaining your Professional Engineer's license. Our course is taught by practicing professionals in their respective fields. Our PE Review instructors cover all of the exam's subjects such as Environmental, Geotechnical, Construction, Water, Transportation, Structural, and the specialized topics of Surveying and Seismic.

The PE Review Course is taught at the Los Angeles City Department of Public Works, centrally located in the heart of Los Angeles, meeting twice a week on Monday and Wednesday nights. The Surveying and Seismic courses are offered on three different Saturdays.

Please take note that registration is now open for the Spring 2011 PE Review. The review course will begin early February and go on through early March, 2011. The PE Exam is scheduled for Friday April 8th and Saturday April 9th. Sign up to maximize your potential to pass!

There is a discounted rate for those that are ASCE members. If you are a member, register now and receive the discounted rate for the Spring 2011 PE Review Course. To become an ASCE member, log on to <http://www.asce.org/membership> and register. There are many advantages to becoming a member of ASCE. Take heed of our website ([www.mlab-ymf.org](http://www.mlab-ymf.org)) as it contains insight of our tools, resources, events, and news for the well-rounded engineer.

Hone your testing preparation for the PE exam and use this opportunity as a great networking tool by getting involved with the myriad of ASCE MLAB-YMF talent pool.

**Share this with co-workers and colleagues.**

If you have additional questions, feel free to contact Maria Miranda at [mlmiranda3@gmail.com](mailto:mlmiranda3@gmail.com) or Omar Sanchez at [oasanchez25@yahoo.com](mailto:oasanchez25@yahoo.com).

**[www.mlab-ymf.org](http://www.mlab-ymf.org)**

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## **EWRI 2011 Congress Call for Abstracts**

The organizing committee of the World Environmental & Water Resources Congress 2011 welcomes abstract submissions for this year's event, being held May 22-26, 2011, in Palm Springs, California.

A variety of tracks and sessions will be hosted at the 2011 Congress. The Environmental and Water Resources Institute anticipates strong participation and a diverse sampling of technical content in the conference program.

Visit the Congress website for a list of sub-topics to supplement the above-listed subject matter. The website also provides additional information on housing, international attendees, tours, and opportunities to sponsor or exhibit in Palm Springs.

For questions, or more information about the 2011 World Environmental & Water Resources Congress, visit the web-site, contact the Congress Technical Chair at [ewri2011tc@asce.org](mailto:ewri2011tc@asce.org), or send inquiries to [ewri@asce.org](mailto:ewri@asce.org).

If you would like to exhibit or cosponsor the conference please contact Sean Scully at 703-295-6154 or [sscully@asce.org](mailto:sscully@asce.org) or Kira Simonson at 703-295-6349 or [ssimonson@asce.org](mailto:ssimonson@asce.org).

## DOING OUR PART TO EDUCATE STUDENTS!

*"Become an Engineer" Campaign*

### ENGINEERS' WEEK 2011

#### Presenter Participation Form

The National Engineers' Week (E-Week) was developed by a coalition of more than 75 engineering, professional and technical societies, and more than 50 corporations and government agencies. E-Week promotes pre-college literacy in math and science, and strives to increase the understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers among high school students.



As an E-Week Presenter, you will visit a high school during the weeks of **February 14-25** and share with the students your experiences as an Engineer. Presentations typically last from 35-40 minutes and can be made to a classroom or larger assembly of students. The ACEC - Los Angeles Chapter has prepared and will make available for your use a short video and a 15-20 minute power point presentation titled "Become an Engineer".

**Please complete and return this form.**

\_\_\_\_\_ YES, I will participate as a presenter in the **"Become an Engineer" Campaign 2011** during the weeks of **February 14-18 and February 21-25, 2011.**

Please indicate which training session you will attend:

\_\_\_\_\_ **January 28, 2011 - Caltrans District 7, 100 S. Main Street, Room 01.040A, Los Angeles, CA 90012, Time 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **February 2, 2011 - METRO, Windsor Conference Room, 15th Floor, USG One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012, Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Interest to [Millie.CalSOP@marrscorp.com](mailto:Millie.CalSOP@marrscorp.com)  
Phone: 714.213.8650 x 101 Fax: 714.213.8657



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Ph: 310- 665-1536  
Fx: 310-665-9070  
Email: [ktabangcura@kpff-la.com](mailto:ktabangcura@kpff-la.com)

### For Pasadena:

Ms. Tamara Kealty  
**KPFF Consulting Engineers**  
301 N. Lake Avenue, Ste 550  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
Ph: 626-578-1121  
Fx: 626-578-9121  
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Cell phone: 323-356-7814**



### PE Review Course

RBF Consulting will present the Professional Engineering License Review Course for 2011.

This educational experience prepares applicants for the 2011 Civil Engineering License Examination.

The training is centrally located in

Irvine and takes place on 13 consecutive

Saturdays from January 8 - April 2, 2011.

The course fee of \$1800 includes textbooks, practical exercises and over 100 hours of instruction.

This program is accredited: Participants will earn CEUs.

For more information or to apply please visit our website [www.rbf.com/Outreach/PE\\_Review.asp](http://www.rbf.com/Outreach/PE_Review.asp) or please contact Lori Schnaider at [lschnaider@rbf.com](mailto:lschnaider@rbf.com) or (949) 330-4138.



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
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