

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

ORANGE / SAN_BERNARDINO/RIVERSIDE / SAN_LUIS_OBISPO / SANTA_BARBARA/VENTURA / DESERT / SOUTHERN SAN_JOAQUIN / METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mark Norton, P.E.
Section President



The Spirit of Competition and Choosing a Leader

It has been said that one of the major motivations of human endeavor has been competition. Competition in the field of sports, for example, holds a strong grasp in most American's daily life from the ball games that our children participate in to the professional sports teams we watch on television. It is sometimes undervalued and looked down upon as a

necessary evil in politics and business. Still most of us recognize the merits of competition in helping but not necessarily guaranteeing the best rise to the top. The spirit of competition is particularly apparent as we are bombarded from the media with the most recent developments of the national presidential election. The excitement of this year's national political selection process nationally seems in the air. So is it any surprise then that the ASCE Los Angeles Section is also entering into its first contested election with two nominees at this time for the Section Presidency?

For some this may seem a great step backward from the camaraderie of yesteryear where colleagues who may have served together in ASCE auxiliary volunteer organizations then mutually agree upon a single nominee for the future ASCE Section President. However, in my discussions with many other Regional, Section, and Branch presidents, contested nominations are not that unusual and in some cases been very beneficial. In the last ASCE Society Conference in Orlando, Florida that I attended, a discussion was held with the Section Presidents across the country. ASCE National indicated a surprising result of survey questionnaires that they conducted last with the ASCE membership societywide. The number one recommendation of improvement for the Society overall was the desire to see more than one nominee for ASCE Society leadership positions. The members were dissatisfied with voting for only one nominee for an officer position. What is so curious about this is that so often, we, as a civil engineering society, are so collegial and respectful of the volunteer nature of our organization, we tend to shy away from proposing multiple nominees so that no one's feeling may be hurt. I fully respect and empathize with this concern. Having served at the ASCE Section and Branch leadership level as well as on various committees, besides our desire to support a common cause, one of the most important reasons we participate in ASCE is the development of wonderful personal relationships and friendships. It is this network of peers that we work with side by side in which we interact sometimes at a business level and sometimes through a personal level. When a contested election arises, characteristics we often try to minimize or hide arise. Sometimes through a competition, differences become so pronounced and ambitions become so apparent that collegiality which we enjoyed may be lost with some members renouncing the associations and the Society totally.

As we consider our choices for the office of President-Elect for the ASCE LA Section (a three year term by service in the offices of President-Elect, President, and Past President), it is my hope that we consider many factors. First, I believe it is important to participate in the election process by voting for the best candidate. Measures will be taken to assure that confidentiality

VOL_XLVIII NO_4

In This Issue *page*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 1

EDITORIAL 2

BY LAWS REVISIONS 2

CAN A COLLEGE JUNIOR HELP US...?..... 3

OBITUARY 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS 4~5

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES..... 6~7

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY 8~9

Reminder:

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



Election Issue

It is that time of the year again when we begin our preparation for the coming of the next set of ASCE Los Angeles Section officers. In the more than a decade that I have been a part of our Section, however, I believe this is the only second time that we have two fine candidates run for the office of President-Elect. As you know, becoming Section President-Elect involves a three year commitment (President-Elect, President, Past President). Therefore, it is quite commendable that two of our members would want to serve our Section. I believe this is very healthy. Nevertheless, I echo the message of our current Section President Mark Norton, P.E. for us to intelligently vote for the best candidate we see fit. We will feature the platforms of each of the candidates in an upcoming issue of your newsletter.

Also in this issue is an article by Section Secretary Jay Higgins, P.E. on the forthcoming revisions to the ASCE Los Angeles Section Constitution and Bylaws. His article on this topic provides a detailed discussion of why we both have a Constitution and Bylaws; and why it is important that we get involved in the approval of these fundamental Section documents. Additional information will be arriving by mail to Section members shortly.

Brad Dybel, P.E., G.E., C.E.G. has written a very personal article outlining his recent discussions with Patricia De Leon, Cal State Long Beach Student Chapter President. The exchange had created thought provoking insights as to why individuals are passionate with what they do and how, in this particular case, that passion translates to our love for the engineering profession and our ability to encourage others to become engineers themselves. Read through the article in page 3 of this issue and be inspired as well.

Finally, we pay tribute to Mr. Gordon Stewart Magnuson, P.E. who passed away in February 24, 2008. Mr. Magnuson is an ASCE Fellow and a pillar in the engineering community. He was a resident of Whittier, CA and a consulting engineer for the the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. His work included an innovative rapid infiltration and extraction wastewater treatment process to accomplish secondary treatment that is in use today for the City of San Bernardino and City of Colton. Our tribute to him on page 4 provides additional details of the life a man worth emulating.

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.

Revisions to ASCE Los Angeles Section Constitution and Bylaws

Jay Higgins, P.E.
L.A. Section Secretary

In the coming months you will receive correspondence asking you to vote on a revised Los Angeles Section Constitution. You will also receive an announcement at least 30 days in advance of the Board meeting at which time the Board will be voting on the revised Los Angeles Section Bylaws. These actions will be culmination of months of work by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to revise these documents. Please note that a revision is a complete rewriting of these documents as opposed to an amendment which changes only a sentence or a paragraph. Since the entire document has been revised, you will also receive a copy of the latest approved Constitution (revised 2000) and the Bylaws (revised 1995) for comparison.

Prior to your receipt of the proposed revised Constitution and Bylaws, these documents will have been reviewed for clearance by the Society's Committee on Geographic Units (CGU), the authority within the Society that approves changes to Constitutions and Bylaws. Their goal is to assure that the changes are within the guidelines of the Society. One of CGU's suggestions during the review process was that the Articles of both documents be "parallel". In other words, a topic in an Article of the Constitution will be the same topic in an Article in the Bylaws. The Articles were selected to closely parallel the Society's Constitution and Bylaws, which explains why the revised Section documents look completely different. Keep in mind when you review these proposed documents that they are meant to work together and nothing in the Constitution is repeated in the Bylaws. However, the Bylaws may add more specific information on a broader Constitution topic. The governance of the Section has been entrusted to the Board of Directors. The Constitution and Bylaws are the basic rules under which it operates.

So why do we need two documents – a Constitution and Bylaws? It has been common practice to divide the basic rule of operation into two documents in order that one of them is more difficult to amend – the Constitution. To be amended our constitution must be voted on by the membership and is approved by a majority vote of the members voting. Amendments to the Bylaws may be approved by the Board but only after notice of the proposed changes and the pending Board vote has been given to the membership (in our case 30 days before the Board meeting at which the action will be taken).

For situations that are not specifically covered under the Constitution and Bylaws, a parliamentary authority to be followed is specified in an organization's Bylaws. The Section has chosen as its authority the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR). As stated in RONR, (10th ed.) p. 17, I. 5-9,

Such rules relates to the orderly transaction of business in meetings and to the duties of the officers in that connection. The object of the rules of order is to facilitate the smooth functioning of the assembly and to provide a firm basis for resolving questions of procedure that may arise.

You might be asking yourself why the Section is doing all this? The answer is to bring the Constitution and Bylaws in line with several ways in which the Board would like to operate in order to govern the Section more effectively. The Board has discussed these changes over the years and proposed re-wording has been written, and now through the membership and Board voting process, these proposed changes will be formally approved by the membership and adopted. If you have any questions regarding the process, please feel free to call me at (818) 406-4896.

Can a College Junior Help Us Realize ASCE's Vision for Civil Engineering in 2025?

By Brad Dybel, P.E., G.E., C.E.G.

Chair of the Orange County Branch Professional Practice Committee

The answer appears to be YES, if the efforts of Patricia De Leon, President of the CSU Long Beach student chapter of ASCE, are any indication. Ms. De Leon, seemingly out of the blue, called me on the phone last October to ask how she could sign up a group of students from CSULB for the Orange County Branch's Order of the Engineer ceremony. Ms. De Leon's initiative caught my attention, since, by that time, I had spoken to groups of ASCE student members from three university campuses, and had all but given up hope for a decent student turnout. Furthermore, by the time Ms. De Leon had called, I had learned that our ceremony had been scheduled in conflict with many civil engineering classes at CSULB.

At the ceremony, I was puzzled that Ms. De Leon herself did not participate in the ceremony; that is, until I learned that she was not close enough to graduation to qualify to participate. At that point, I could only conclude that Ms. De Leon's reason for attending the meeting was to accompany, support, and, maybe even push CSULB seniors through the ceremony. As it turned out, all but one of the student participants that evening were from CSULB.

I learned later what Ms. De Leon did to motivate the students. First, she asked students if they plan on participating. For the students who had a schedule conflict with a class, she asked professors to excuse them. For the students who were concerned about the cost, she rounded up financial support. She and the other officers also arranged carpooling, helped with writing resumes, and otherwise generated excitement about the event. She collaborated with CSULB Civil Engineering Faculty Advisor Jeremy Redman, who incidentally also participated in the Order of the Engineer ceremony. In the days after the event, she encouraged the student-participants to take pride in their accomplishment.

I know what you readers are thinking - Why did Ms. De Leon knock herself out like this for, of all things, the Order of the Engineer ceremony? I suspect that she perceives the ceremony as being a part of something that is bigger than her, bigger than the CSULB ASCE student chapter, and bigger than all of ASCE.

Ms. De Leon surprised me with her knowledge of the engineering life, which she gained in large part from both parents and several uncles, all of whom are licensed professional engineers. She intends to choose an employer after graduation with careful consideration of the character of the people with whom she will work. She wants to become "well-rounded" as an engineer and learn "how the engineering business works" with the long-term goal of being a consultant. In my interview with her, she mentioned a "moral obligation to help people in every way possible." She is particularly excited about the challenges of creating new structures and infrastructure that improve people's lives in a way that helps sustain the world's natural resources for future generations.

As I write this article, I am fully aware that college students may have much more time and energy than many professionals do to devote to public service activities and the idealistic concerns described herein. However, our profession will thrive in the decades to come only if we professional civil engineers, in the words of ASCE's Vision for Civil Engineering of 2025, "transform ourselves." Hopefully, this article will help motivate civil engineers to:

- Mentor more young people, including civil engineers' own children and extended family members;
- Act more like "people persons";
- Generate more excitement about civil engineering; and
- Take a greater interest in, and do more to advance, the long-term well-being of the profession.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued*

is maintained and a fair election process is conducted. However, if most Section members do not vote, it is the membership and Society of the L.A. region that loses the opportunity to provide the best leadership for the region. Your vote is more critical since we face a continually changing world. Second, as with any organization governing board, experience is invaluable in order to further the mission and goals of our Society. As is the case in most YMF, LMF, Branch, and Technical Group governing boards, a progression of offices often exists to allow the officer to become familiar with all aspects of the organization. I found this to be invaluable as I took on leadership positions. True, there are those who have such an intimate understanding of these types of roles perhaps from other professional organizations or past involvement that they may be able to hit the ground running. However, this is often an exception to the rule. Third, I have always been impressed with those who consistently follow through with assignments and with a sense of urgency. We see this in work and at play where people will promise the world and then deliver very little. A sense of responsibility is key to getting things done. Finally, there is one quality or factor that I consider as one of the most significant in considering someone for a position of leadership in an organization. That quality is passion. By passion, a busy person will make the time to involve themselves in an endeavor they care about. By passion, the volunteer work is not a burden but a joy to serve. By passion, a spark of energy and excitement exists in that person in which amazing things can be achieved despite other work time constraints.

It is my hope that we view this election for the ASCE Los Angeles Section President-Elect who would begin their three-year consecutive term starting in October 2008 as a positive move that will benefit the Society and our profession for the future. Please take the time to investigate the candidates and look for the qualities that you feel are most important.



*In Loving Memory of
Gordon Stewart
Magnuson, P.E.*

1922 - 2008

Gordon Stewart Magnuson, P.E., a beloved father and friend, civil engineer and business executive, died on February 24, 2008, in Whittier of complications from Parkinson's Disease. He was 85.

Born in Seattle on April 30, 1922, he move to Southern California with his parents during the Great depression. He was raised in Lynwood with his older sister and younger brother, and attended Compton High School and Menlo College before graduating from Stanford University in 1942 and eventually receiving his master's degree in civil engineering from USC.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he attained the rank of First Lieutenant, serving on a floating dry dock with the Seabees in the Pacific during World War II.

During the war, Gordon met and married Jean Shelloy Ramsing, a school teacher and UCLA graduate from Perris. The couple settled in Whittier and had two sons before she passed away in 1964. Two years later, he married his second wife, the former Esther Engstrom, who died in 2004.

As a civil engineer, he worked for the County of Los Angeles before moving to the private sector, where he worked for Gladding McBean & Co., Pacific Clay Products, Interpace and the National Clay Pipe Institute. He finished his career as a partner at Engineering-Science, which was later acquired by Ralph M. Parsons Co.

He formally retired in 1987, but continued to work as a consultant to the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority until the age of 80. His half-century-long career included many of Southern California's most important water treatment projects. He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Gordon is survived by his sons, attorney Michael Magnuson of Whittier and former Los Angeles Times editor and executive Robert Magnuson of Laguna Beach, and his sister, Elaine Kelley of Laguna Niguel.

Also surviving are his grandchildren Molly, Matthew, Alexandra, Gina and Katherine Magnuson; stepchildren Kathleen and Scott Dunham; step-grandchildren Brian and Marnie Granados, and a step-great-grandchild, Liliana Granados.

Announcement of nominations of the Los Angeles Section Officers for the term of office beginning October 2008

The Los Angeles Section Nominating Committee and Board of Directors have nominated the following for the office and term indicted beginning October 2008:

President-Elect (listed alphabetically):

- Greg Heiertz
- Jay Higgins

Secretary for a two-year term:

- Janice Horcasitas

Vice President - Technical Groups for a two-year term:

- Sonia Nasser

In accordance with Article III, Section 1, of the current Los Angeles Section Bylaws,

Additional nominations for each office to be filled may be made by a petition signed by not less than fifty (50) subscribing members of the Section provided that such petition is accompanied by a written acceptance of the nomination by the nominee and is filed with the Secretary prior to May 1.

Subscribing members are voting members (in accordance with the Society Constitution include are Associate Members, Members, Fellows, and Distinguished Members), whose dues are current or who are granted a Section dues exemption.

Petitions should be sent to:

Secretary, Los Angeles Section, ASCE
c/o Gayle Stewart Enterprises, Inc.
1405 Warner Ave.
Tustin, CA 92780

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. 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
818-345-9199 818-345-5283 fx

ASCE's 2008 Member-Get-A-Member Drive Depends on You!



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Presented by: Southern California Chapter of American Public Works Association

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2008

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Dean Lehman at (626) 458-5900 or email at dlehman@dpw.lacounty.gov

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801 East Carson Street
Carson, CA

To register, please contact:
Sylvia Robles at (714) 647-5674 or email at srobles@santa-ana.org

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

Our topics and speakers are as follows:

<p>➤ Street and Right-of-Way Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Are traffic control systems necessary for local agencies?" - <i>Elaine Jeng, City of Culver City</i> • Signing and Delineation: Background on the issues to be considered when placing signing & markings – <i>Steve Ford, Mendocino County</i> • "Selling Sustainability: Promoting, Marketing, and Advocating for Infrastructure in a General Fund World" <i>Daniel Hardgrove, City of Glendale</i> 	<p>➤ Cost Effective Pavement Treatments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Generation in Pavement Preservation – <i>Steve Rampton, BioSpan Technologies</i> • Technologies in the use of Asphalt Rubber Aggregate Membranes (ARAM) – <i>Erik Slaven, Western Pavement Maintenance Association (WPMA)</i> • Warm Mix Asphalt – <i>Donald Goss, Jr., Asphalt Pavement Association of California (APACA)</i> 						
<p>➤ NPDES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPDES compliance program & procedures used in street and drainage maintenance - <i>Joe Dillman, City of Irvine</i> • Technologies used in port maintenance related to tracking work for NPDES compliance and Green Port policies - <i>Harry Lorick, LA Consulting</i> • NPDES compliance practices and drain cleaning program - <i>Bill Kirk, County of Orange</i> 	<p>➤ Green Technology/LEEDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm water infiltration planters in Downtown Los Angeles streets - <i>Calvin Abe, Ahbe Landscape Architects and Tricia Johns, KPFF Engineers</i> • Planning Stages for the Great Park in O.C. – <i>Pat Fuscoe, Fuscoe Engineering</i> • Benefits to Green Building/Sustainable Projects – <i>Sam Ali, PSOMAS</i> 						
<p>➤ Pavement Technologies (Preservation, Maintenance, Design, Management)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asphalt Cold In-Place Recycling - <i>Don Matthews, Pavement Recycling Systems</i> • <i>David Akers, California Nevada Cement Assoc.</i> • <i>Marwan Youssef, City of Westminster</i> 	<p>➤ Recruitment and Retention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generational Diversity; Myths and Realities - <i>Flora Rostamian, LACDPW</i> • Action Leadership Groups (ALG) - <i>John Robinson, MWH Americas, Inc.</i> 						
<p>➤ Plans, Specs, and Estimates (PS&E)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans and estimates - <i>Steve Bucknam, Bucknam & Associates</i> • Specifications - <i>Erik Updyke, LACDPW</i> • Construction and quality control - <i>Jerome Ruddins, RBF Consulting</i> 	<p>➤ CEQA/NEPA 101</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Impact Evaluation Requirements for Roadway Improvement Projects - <i>Tom Smith, BonTerra Consulting</i> • <i>Sandra Jacobs, SFC Consulting</i> 						
<p>➤ How to Look for Funding for Your Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants 101 - <i>Kathi Delegal, LACDPW</i> 	<p>Fees</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px 2px 0;">APWA Member Price</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 10px 2px 0;">\$145.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 10px 2px 0;">Non-Member Price</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 10px 2px 0;">\$165.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 2px 10px 2px 0;">(Cost includes notebook and lunch)</td> </tr> </table>	APWA Member Price	\$145.00	Non-Member Price	\$165.00	(Cost includes notebook and lunch)	
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 Email: jhernandez@kpff-la.com

For Pasadena:

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

San Gabriel Valley Water Company, with nearly 240 employees, has an excellent opportunity for a civil engineer with water distribution experience for its corporate headquarters located in El Monte. The successful candidate will have responsibility for the design and installation of a variety of water production, treatment, and distribution facilities, structures, and related equipment in the San Gabriel Valley and Fontana areas. The Company offers generous benefits including vacation, sick leave, 11 paid holidays, group medical, dental, life and long term disability insurance, and a 401(k) plan with a company match. Duties include preparing designs in accordance with applicable codes and standards; preparing plans, calculations, specifications, bid requests, and cost estimates of materials and labor; designing and evaluating water distribution systems and performing hydraulic modeling and analyses; and preparing technical reports and analyses. Requirements include a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from an accredited college or university, a California Engineer in Training (E.I.T.) certificate, and a valid CA driver license and acceptable driving record. Civil engineering experience in water distribution system design and professional civil engineer (P.E.) registration are desirable.

Submit detailed resume and cover letter with salary requirement to HR@sgvwater.com or fax to (626) 442-2632.

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