

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEANUP *Saturday, October 21, 9:00 AM*

This Branch has a continuing commitment to our Adopt-a-Highway section on U.S. 101, northbound between Los Osos Valley Road and Madonna Road. An expedition to clean our highway (the shoulder, actually) is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, Oct. 21. All members, adult friends, and adult hangers-on are welcome.

The cleanup provides some physical exercise and leaves you with a warm feeling about again contributing to our community. Come share in the good fellowship.

If you are new to the cleanup, you must attend a training session prior to the work. The training starts at 9:00 am in the Public Works conference room in the County Government Center, 1035 Palm Street. Enter via the entrance on Palm Street near Osos Street (across the street from the library). The door will be propped open. The conference room is the first open door on the left.

Following training, we will assemble at the SLO City Maintenance yard, on Prado Road near U.S. 101, to begin the actual cleanup about 9:30. It should take a couple of hours.

If you would like to participate, please contact Ed Sullivan by Oct. 19 at esulliva@calpoly.edu.

If the weather that day is horrible, the cleanup will be postponed.

OCTOBER 2006 MEETING: *Guadalupe Water Storage Tank and Booster Station Project*

Small communities with limited capital resources face challenges as they strive to serve their customers with vital public services. For years, the City of Guadalupe has been plagued with inadequate fire flow, storage, and water pressure. Wallace Group has been working with the City since 2000 to develop much needed water infrastructure to correct these known deficiencies, successfully obtaining 75% grant funds through the USDA Rural Utilities Service Program, and providing design, construction management, and administration services to implement this vital tank and booster station project. The City's project was recently completed this past summer, and includes a new 1.6 mg welded steel reservoir and a 4,000 gpm booster station to provide domestic and fire flow to the entire city. This project quadrupled the existing storage and pumping capacity. Kari Wagner and Steve Tanaka, from Wallace Group, will present an overview of this project, from inception through final construction. Mark your calendars and please join us Thursday October 19 at Rosa's in Pismo Beach.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE: *Kickoff Article*

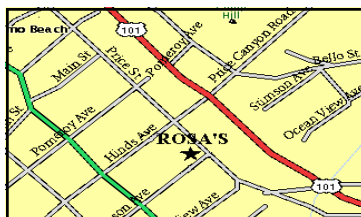
At an ASCE workshop I attended earlier this summer, I had the opportunity to meet several L.A. Section officers. The workshop included loads of information regarding the inner workings and goals of the L.A. Section and ASCE National, but what stood out to me the most was how favorably our Branch is looked at by some of the other officers in the Section. Given the relatively small population of SLO County and our location at the extreme northerly boundary of the Section, I assumed that we might be viewed as insignificant. In reality it appears that we are viewed as a vibrant Branch, having good attendance at our monthly luncheons, high quality newsletters, a full roster of officers year after year, as well as having local employers encouraging participation by their employees. I see this as something we can all take pride in.

For my "kickoff article," I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce the officers for 2006-07 and highlight a few priorities and goals for the coming year. A high priority has been to ensure continued operation of Branch activities while minimizing transition impacts with the changing of the guard. I see the newsletter and monthly luncheons as being important to the health of the Branch, and input and interaction at our monthly officers' meetings as being a

OCTOBER 2006 MEETING

LOCATION:

Rosa's Restaurant
491 Price Street
Pismo Beach, CA



DATE & TIME:

Thursday, Oct. 19th
12:00 pm (Noon)

MENU:

Food served "family style," including: salad, two pasta dishes: chicken and vegetarian, fresh baked bread, and dessert.

RESERVATIONS:

Please sign up by 1:00 pm Friday, October 13th, at the Branch web site (<http://ascleslo.org/>). For questions, contact Nola Engelskirger at 805-788-2100 or by email at nengelskirger@co.slo.ca.us. The cost is \$15 for members or guests and \$6 for student members.

MEET THE MEMBER—SYLAS S CRANOR



Meet Sylas Cranor, a Water Resource Engineer for San Luis Obispo County. He will be the newsletter editor for the next year.

He grew up in Napa. He earned his bachelor's at Cal Poly and wanted to stay in the county, in part because of all the outdoor recreation opportunities. He's an avid camper and fisherman, enjoying both ocean and freshwater angling. He's spent a good deal of time climbing the Seven Sisters, but prefers his SCUBA experiences in the warmer waters of Mexico or Hawaii.

After graduating from Cal Poly two years ago, he was uncertain whether he wanted to get a full-time job, thinking that it would prevent him from continuing his education. He took on a series of part-time jobs that allowed him time to pursue a master's degree in structural engineering. But then one St. Patrick's Day, after working 14-hour shifts for 13 days in a row, he decided there had to be a better way, and there was.

He's been with SLO County for 5 months now, and works with several past and present ASCE leaders: Jeff Werst, Nola Engelskirger, Courtney Howard, and Dean Benedix. Sylas spends much of his time monitoring the freshwater supplies for the County's numerous service areas. "I really enjoy going to some of the 'off the beaten track' areas where I may need to install or repair a piece of monitoring equipment." He's also

working on the County's Water Master Plan and says that his work's focus on water has given him a new understanding of just how important water is.

He's still working on completing his Master's thesis, and is confident that many of the skills learned in his structural studies will be transferable to his future work. "It's hard to know in school exactly what you want to do." Working for the County will give him opportunities to interface with all

aspects of engineering, allowing him the flexibility to develop in directions that suit his interests. As a wise man once said, "Though the rain falls upon all alike, each grows, takes its shape, blossoms, and bears fruit according to its own nature."

He's single, "but always looking." His long-term plans include getting his P.E. and buying a home in SLO County, preferably a fixer-upper on acreage. Wish him the best when you meet him at our next meeting.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

critical factor. For all of these reasons, in recruiting officers I sought to have a good mix of "old" and "new blood" as well as representation from a cross section of public and private sector employers.

Ed Sullivan, a distinguished professor in the Civil/Environmental Engineering Department at Cal Poly, will remain on the roster (thankfully) as Past President. I am very appreciative of all the folks that have agreed to serve in "elective" and mandatory (Ed) positions this year and have been impressed by the positive and enthusiastic attitude they bring. Courtney Howard, a senior engineer in the water resources department at the County of SLO, has agreed to a second term as Vice President. Her primary responsibility will be coordinating seminars throughout the year. The Trenchless Technology seminar last August was successful and exhausting (behind the scenes) at the same time. For this reason, the Branch is considering sponsoring one or more "webinars" which we hope will take less effort and also provide a greater variety of topics. Kari Wagner is a project manager at the Wallace Group and has agreed to be President-Elect. Greg Ray is an engineer at the City of Pismo Beach public works department and will be our

Membership Chair. Kari and Greg have also signed on to another term as Practitioner Advisors for the Cal Poly ASCE Student Chapter. Erin Westmoreland (the apparent youngster in the officer roster) is an engineer at Cannon Associates and will be our Secretary. Our Treasurer this year will be Nola Engelskirger, a hard working engineer in the Hydraulic Planning Unit at the County of SLO. Nola also brings additional diversity to the roster, since her husband Chad works at Cannon Associates. Sylas Cranor, an engineer in the water resources department at the County of SLO and a new ASCE member, will be our Newsletter Editor. [Note: it is becoming apparent to me that Sylas derives some twisted pleasure in nagging me to complete my President's Perspective articles.] Malcolm McEwen is an engineer at Garing Taylor & Associates and has agreed to be our Assistant Newsletter Editor. Our Historian (the "cameraman") will be Steve Tanaka, the Director of Water Resources at the Wallace Group. Our Webmaster this year will again be Jeff van den Eikhof. Jeff recently left the City of Atascadero Public Works department to become the Director of Engineering for Geo-West Land Consultants. Along with Ed Sullivan, Jeff has put in a lot of time serving the Branch over the past several years. One of the goals I have

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IN MEMORIAM

Robert Russell Pederson, born in Seattle, WA, Jan. 4, 1924, passed away suddenly Thursday, Aug. 31, in Carmichael, CA, at the age of 82.

Raised in southeastern Alaska, Bob was a journeyman carpenter, an officer with the U.S. Navy SeaBees in the Solomon Islands and the South Pacific during WWII, a graduate of USC, a civil engineer of 39 years with California Division of Highways, and for many years, a volunteer organist for chapel services at the California Men's Colony.

A gifted pianist and organist, avid backpacker and kayaker, and talented photographer, Bob will be remembered by family and friends for his love of music, humor, and Alaskan heritage.

GIS DAY 2006 - NOVEMBER 15, 2006

A GIS mini-conference will be held for GIS Day at the Kennedy Library on the Cal Poly Campus from 1:00 pm through 4:00 pm. This mini-conference will be attended by a number of students that are interested in GIS. If you, or your company, would like to give a short (20-40 minute) presentation or to set up a table or both, contact Tom Mastin at tmastin@calpoly.edu.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE (CONT.)

(Continued from page 2)

this year is to shift some of the routine monthly Webmaster duties off of Jeff's plate, given his new professional commitments (i.e. working 50-60 hours a week to bill 40 hours...).

There are a few other goals for the year that were discussed at the officers' meeting last week. Given the success of our fledgling scholarship program last year, we would like to sponsor another one for members of the Student Chapter this year, and to solicit contributions from local firms to increase the amount of the scholarship. This year, I would like to lay some of the groundwork to allow preparation of an "Infrastructure Report Card" for our County. I will share more about this in an upcoming article. If there is sufficient interest, I would also like to see a "Younger Member Forum" established in our County. ASCE National defines Younger Members as ASCE members 35 years of age or younger (definitely leaves me out...) and provides programs designed to "offer opportunities to network with peers, learn more about the profession, provide recognition and encourage the full professional development of Younger Members." I would welcome feedback on these goals as well as ideas regarding how we can best serve our members and our profession in SLO County in the coming year.

~ Jeff Werst, P.E.

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

If you have an event you would like posted at no cost, contact Syllas Cranor at 781-5260 or at scrantor@co.slo.ca.us.

The local chapter of the **American Public Works Association** meets every other month on the Wednesday before ASCE. For details, contact Jay Walter at jwalter@slocity.org.

The Central Coast Branch of the **Institute of Transportation Engineers** holds monthly meetings throughout the tri-county area. Contact Richard Marshall at 781-5252 or Rmarshall@co.slo.ca.us for details.

The Central Coast Branch of the **California Land Surveyors Association** usually meets the second Thursday of each month. Contact Rochelle Vierra at 549-3461 or Rochelle_Vierra@dot.ca.gov for more information.

Cal Poly's **Society of Civil Engineers (SCE)** welcomes local professionals to its regular meetings held alternate Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Room 13-118. For further information, contact Greg Ray (gray@pismobeach.org) or Kari Wagner (kariw@WallaceGroup.us).

The Central Coast Chapter of the **International Code Council** meets the first Thursday of the month at Margie's Dinner. Contact Sylvia Aldana at 781-4671 for information.


The **American Institute of Architects** meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Vista Grande Restaurant (Cal Poly). For information, call Jeff Emrick at 549-8658.

The **Central Coast Geological Society** meets every second Tuesday. For information, contact Lou Blanck at 542-4626.

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