

Newsletter for the San Luis Obispo / Central Coast Branch • January 2007

JANUARY 2007 MEETING:

Major Capital Projects at Cal Poly

For our January branch luncheon, we are pleased to have Johan Uyttewaal, Associate Director for Cal Poly's Facilities Planning and Capital Projects Office, take us on a tour of the highly visible and technically challenging construction projects ongoing on the Cal Poly campus. Mr. Uyttewaal has been at Cal Poly for nine years. He is a registered PE in California and a member of ASCE. He obtained his undergraduate engineering degree from the École Centrale des Travaux Publics, Paris; an MS in Civil (Geotechnical) Engineering from UC Berkeley; and an MBA from UCLA. Join us to hear about a number of major physical transformations now underway on the Cal Poly campus including: the Engineering Plaza and new Engineering Buildings, the Construction Management Building, the Spanos Football Stadium, Faculty Housing, and the remarkable Poly Canyon Village project under development to house an additional 2,700 students on campus. We will also hear of some major projects now on the drawing board as well proposed circulation changes proposed in the 2001 campus Master Plan. Mark your calendars and join us at Rosa's in Pismo Beach, Thursday January 18th for the first meeting of the new year!

JANUARY 2007 MEETING

LOCATION:

Rosa's Restaurant
491 Price Street
Pismo Beach, CA

DATE & TIME:

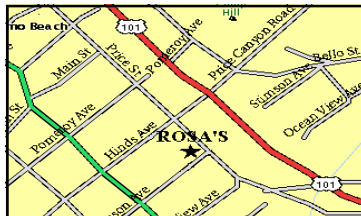
Thursday, Jan. 18th
12:00 pm (Noon)

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, January 12th, 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.



Check out photo albums of recent branch meetings on the ASCE Central Coast Website at:
www.ASCESLO.org/Gallery

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE:

Younger Member Forum

In a previous President's Perspective article, I mentioned that I would like to encourage the establishment of a Younger Member Forum (YMF) in our Branch. ASCE National defines Younger Members as ASCE members 35 years of age or younger. [Note: I can now view my age as falling somewhere between being ineligible for YMF & being eligible for the senior discount at Denny's...] ASCE National has recognized the special needs of younger members who are transitioning from academic life to their professional careers and have sought to provide programs to help the transition, to offer "opportunities to network with peers, learn more about the profession, provide recognition and encourage the full professional development of Younger Members." It is intended that the YMF not compete with the local ASCE Branch, but that the group would help create a bridge between the Student Chapter and the Branch by encouraging students to join ASCE when they graduate. ASCE National's Committee on Younger Members provides various resources, including a quarterly "Younger Member Newsletter." I found an article in the Fall 2006 Newsletter particularly intriguing. Here is an excerpt: "Civil Engineering professionals representing worldwide non-governmental organizations, academia, and practitioners from design and construction met in June to attempt to define a vision for the Civil Engineering Profession of 2025... The format of the three-day summit was discussion Groups which followed keynote speakers covering globalization, technology, and leadership and a practical futurist. The ASCE Civil Engineering of 2025 Steering Committee will use input from the discussion Groups to develop a report. This report will be available for public consumption by the end of 2006. The primary audience of this report is Younger Members, students of civil engineering, primary education students considering civil engineering as a profession, and even the general public." If I can obtain a copy of the final report, I may discuss the findings in a future article.

Getting back to my main topic, I first became aware of YMF at the Zone IV Leadership Conference last year. The younger members had several parallel track sessions/events at the conference and my recollection is that the topics were interesting and the attendees were enthusiastic. Perusing a few YMF chapter websites revealed typical activities to be equal parts professional enhancement (job fairs, P.E. exam review workshops, career advancement seminars) and socializing (wine tasting, skiing, ballgames, etc.). The rules and structure for forming and running a chapter appear

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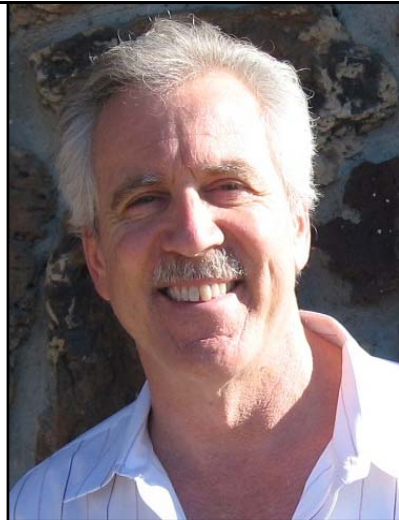
MEET THE MEMBER - MIKE LINN

Mike Linn, Assistant City Engineer for the City of Arroyo Grande, is a well known figure, and voice, at ASCE meetings. His distinctive deep voice serves him well at Toastmasters meetings, and when he's addressing the Traffic Commission or City Council regarding capital improvement projects.

A native of Richland, Washington, and construction-management graduate of Washington State University, he first went to work as an engineer at the Hanford Nuclear facility. When changes to the nuclear industry forced closure of his project, he chose a layoff over a transfer to the east coast. However, a tight job market in the early 80's convinced him to "head for California - like the Beverly Hillbillies". He worked in construction management for several years in the Bay Area and in southern California, moving every couple of years from big project to big project.

When he decided to settle down, home prices made him think about Washington. He took his family up to Edmonds, just north of Seattle, where he worked for the City on construction projects that were considerably smaller than one's he'd managed before. "I remember my first project - relining some leaking concrete planter boxes on the roof of a building. At the pre-construction meeting I asked for the CPM schedule, and the contractor looked at me like I was crazy."

But the rain kept him thinking of California, and so when a job opening in Arroyo Grande was advertised - he took it. He's worked on some interesting projects with the City of Arroyo Grande, including the 2.5 million gallon Reservoir #1 and the



Rancho Grande Park project. The latter turned into a contentious affair, but was eventually completed. He advocates taking a very organized, rational approach to project management. "Set up your filing system so that in the event a dispute arises, it's easy to locate all the documents the lawyers are going to want."

Happily married with a son and daughter, he enjoys playing guitar with his son John, who credits Jimi Hendrix as one of his musical influences. He also plays on the City of Arroyo Grande basketball team (The Fowls), and is confident that the team will improve on last year's results.

Mike didn't join ASCE until he came to Arroyo Grande. He values the ASCE for the networking opportunities. "Back in Washington, if I had a question about a special issue, a few phone calls later I'd have my answer. Here, it's sometimes harder because we're a smaller market, and there are fewer sources." And so he appreciates being able to attend ASCE functions, and realizes "we work in a great place with a lot of top-notch people. That's why we're here."

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR ASCE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007?

If you have, thanks! If you haven't, please remember that 2007 calendar dues were due by January 1, 2007. So, renew today! It's quick, easy and convenient. And fast if you charge your dues to Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover. Just:

- 1) Call 1-800-548-ASCE (2723) or (703) 295-6300 and renew over the phone, or
- 2) Renew online at ASCE's secure renewal website: www.asce.org/renewal

If you don't already have an ASCE online account, you'll have to take a minute or two to create one using your last name and member ID#. You may also take this opportunity to update your address and other ASCE database records by choosing the site's "Update Your Record" link and going to www.asce.org/my_profile.

AN IDEA FROM ASCE'S 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. They feel that this will be an effective way to make the general public more aware of what civil engineers do.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE (CONT)

(Continued from page 1)

fairly flexible and ASCE National has a number of resources available, including a start-up kit: "Younger Member Group Handbook - A Guide to Successful Local Younger Member Activities." Such a group would eventually need to formally adopt Bylaws, and the Handbook provides sample Bylaws which can be adapted to fit the local group. According to the information I read, it is recommended that a core group begin by coordinating social activities to get the ball rolling, and then identify an enthusiastic (and responsible) person to champion the project and get the group off the ground. How about it younger members; does this sound worthwhile? [It definitely beats oatmeal and skim milk at Denny's] Additional information is available at the ASCE National website: <http://www.asce.org/inside/youngermem.cfm>.

~ Jeff Werst

2006 PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to the City of Pismo Beach for winning the Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement award for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The award was presented to Dennis Delzeit at the December 2006 Branch meeting.



ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Last year, the ASCE – San Luis Obispo Chapter initiated an Annual Scholarship Program to recognize outstanding, accomplished SCE students. Last spring, the branch awarded two \$1,500 scholarships to SCE students who portrayed excellent leadership qualities and other desired attributes in various aspects of school and in the community.

This year, the ASCE – SLO branch has dedicated funds to continue this scholarship program. However, we need the support of our local engineering community to help award scholarships to more students. A donation, made by an individual or a company, would be greatly appreciated by our local ASCE and SCE chapters. Please assist us by making a tax-deductible donation to our scholarship fund by February 23, 2007. If you have any questions, please contact Kari Wagner at (805) 544-4011.

UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS

- Design, Construction, and Renovation of Masonry Structures
January 11-12 ~ Los Angeles
- Seismic Repair & Rehabilitation of Concrete and Masonry Structures Using FRP Composites
January 11-12 ~ Irvine
- Optimizing Structural and System Resilience - Newly Updated! (was Security Risk Assessment Procedures)
January 24-26 ~ Palm Springs
- Soil Constitutive Modeling For Engineers: Fundamentals, Evaluation and Calibration ~New!
January 25-26 ~ San Francisco
- Structural Design of Buildings and Industrial Facilities for Blast Loads and Accidental Chemical Explosions
Jan. 31- Feb. 2 ~ Sacramento

A complete list of upcoming seminars in your area and detailed descriptions of the seminars (by title) are available on ASCE's national website at: www.ASCE.org/conted/seminars.

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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Visit The ASCE Central Coast Website at:
www.ASCESLO.org

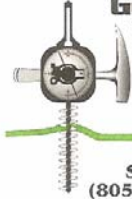
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