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Subject: President's Letter

Sacramento Section Officers,

I am very excited to be the new Sacramento Section President of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Over this next year I see us doing a lot of great things and I would like us to focus our resources on the following four objectives:

- 1. Maintain a Strong Workforce,**
- 2. Increase Member Involvement,**
- 3. Increase ASCE Legislative Presence, and**
- 4. Increase Interaction with Students and Younger Members:**

Maintain a Strong Workforce: The economy is definitely down and hopefully in the next year or two we will start to see an improvement. In the meantime we have to continue to work hard and get the training we need to stay at the top of our fields. We also have to encourage our employees and promote a positive work environment. All these things will help us to maintain a strong and positive workforce.

Increase Member Involvement: Attendance at the branch level and Younger Member Forum functions has significantly decreased and our weak economy may be a factor. We need to hear from our members to find out what type of speakers, luncheons, functions, socials, etc. they would like to attend and thus increase attendance.

Do our members want to hear about new bills like the one that would require Civil Engineers in California to take continuing education courses?

Increase ASCE Legislative Presence: This past year I had the opportunity to visit my assembly member and senator through ASCE's Legislative Day at the Capitol. Considering the proximity to the Capitol the Sacramento Section needs to have a stronger presence at the Capitol. We need to meet with and contact our assembly members and senators to encourage them to support infrastructure projects throughout the state.

It is likely that many of our members have never contacted their legislators. Many may also not be aware of ASCE's Legislative Day at the Capitol or that ASCE Region 9 has a lobbyist at the Capital.

Increase Interaction with Students and Younger Members: Think back to when you were a college student or were starting out as a young engineer. Things were not always easy. Now imagine if you were in college right now with higher tuition fees or an entry level engineer right now trying to find a job. Clearly, the career path has gotten a bit rougher lately, especially for our younger members. We need to reach out to our younger members and students and help them on their path. Throughout the year there will be many opportunities for everyone to reach out to our younger members and students.

For instance the California State University, Sacramento will be hosting the ASCE Mid-Pacific Conference and the Construction Institute will be hosting Student Days both here in Sacramento. Both will be looking for help with judging, funding, and volunteers. Additional information will be sent as the events get closer.

In closing I would like to thank all of our Section, Branch, Institute, Younger Member Forum and Student Chapter officers for all their work. I look forward to meeting you all and working with you this year. I am looking forward to hearing from you all.



Thank you,
Oscar Serrano, P.E.
ASCE Sacramento Section President