



# San Bernardino & Riverside Counties Branch

Los Angeles Section, Region 9 - Since 1953

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2009

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## President's Message

As the ASCE fiscal year ends October 1, we prepare for the change in leadership here in our branch. **Brian Wolfe** M. ASCE will be taking the reins as your new President and has many exciting ideas. Next month, be certain to read what Brian has planned for the San Bernardino/Riverside County Branch of the LA Section of ASCE in the coming Year.

Our September Membership Meeting is planned officially as a joint meeting with the Younger Member Forum of our branch. This group is lead by Edwin Quinonez, M. ASCE, and I won't repeat here the program announced at the back of this newsletter.

It has been a difficult year for the Engineering Community right along with the rest of the world economy. Development has slowed; most investment values have retreated (even with bailouts) and the cost of energy skyrocketed. Cities, Counties and the State have seen budgets shrink more than in previous recessions. Those of us lucky enough to have vacations are returning to find our offices more sparsely populated. Retirements, layoffs and furloughs have been

ing every recession. This one just seems no less severe. The theory is that these adjustments generate new opportunity as the pendulum swings back to a state of growth. I have no doubt that there are many real opportunities out there right now. It just takes the vision of a few key entrepreneurs to seize the day for our next cycle of prosperity. Finding that need and filling it - that is where Engineers excel.

If you think about it, the challenges ahead are really technical ones. Energy, Health Care, Quality Education, Efficient Transportation, Sustainable Development, Clean Air and Water are at the top of our public needs. All require technical solutions. There is now - more than ever - a pervasive sense of responsibility by our society to the environment. What a great thing that is! That is an attitude that grew directly out of the social revolutions of the 60's and 70's. This resulted in a Government involved in enforcing a whole new set of environmental laws



NEWSLETTER

(Continued on page 2)

*(Continued from page 1)*

and the bureaucracy that goes with it. Our Democracy now relegates to the Politicians the responsibility for balancing that environmental conscience with our Engineered Solutions to the basic needs of man. Our technical abilities, as amazing as the advances made in the last 200 years, are clearly finite. The complexity of the natural world is still beyond our understanding – and there is the possibility that it may remain so permanently. What defines an “endangered species”? Does a sand fly with a particular local habitat differ so significantly

*(Continued on page 3)*

## This Month in History

### OTHMAR HERMANN AMMANN (1879 - 1965)

"In bridge designing, the aesthetics are quite as important as engineering details. It is a crime to build an ugly bridge."



Swiss-born and educated civil engineer and designer Othmar Hermann Ammann immigrated to New York City in 1904 and began a celebrated career designing bridges. In 1912 he started working for the renowned bridge designer Gustav Lindenthal, as assistant chief engineer, to guide the construction of the Hell Gate Bridge and the Sciotoville Bridge.

His penchant for combining graceful symmetry and harmonious proportions with utility and strength began to unfold in his elegant designs, ushering in a new era in bridge design. Exposed steel, slender decks, and anchorage aesthetics were Ammann hallmarks. It was during this period that he established himself as a consulting engineer and developed the preliminary designs for New York's acclaimed George Washington Bridge.

He served as chief engineer of the Port Authority of New York from 1930 to 1937 and director of engineering from 1937 to 1939. In 1933, he became chief engineer for the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority and guided the construction of many of New York's signature bridges, including the Triborough, the Henry Hudson, the Bayonne, the Goethals, the Bronx-Whitestone, and the Marine Parkway bridges. He was also responsible for managing the building of the Lincoln Tunnel. In addition, he sat on the Board of Engineers in charge of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, which opened in 1937.

In 1939 he opened his own engineering office, then teamed with Charles Whitney in 1946 to form Ammann and Whitney. Through this partnership, he was able to collaborate on some of the

best-known American bridges, including the Verrazano-Narrows, the Delaware Memorial, and the Walt Whitman bridges.

In 1964, Amman was awarded the National Medal of Science from President Lyndon Johnson, the first time the medal was given to a civil engineer. The citation read, "...For a half century of distinguished leadership in the design of great bridges which combine beauty and utility with bold engineering concept and method..."

Robert Moses was Chairman of the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority during Ammann's tenure. Moses spoke at the dedication of Ammann College at Stony Brook University, New York in 1968, noting "Othmar Ammann was at once a mathematician, a forerunner in the industrial revolution and a dreamer in steel. He was a master of suspension and a builder of the most beautiful architecture known to man, a combination of realist and artist rarely found in this highly practical world."

Edward Cohen was a partner in the consulting firm of Ammann and Whitney. In the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences (September 29, 1967) he wrote: "The outstanding characteristic of Ammann's design is simplicity; he was the enemy of the ornate, the complicated, the extravagant, the ponderous. With simple lines he achieved a cathedral solemnity, a beauty in shadow patterns."

John Kyle, chief engineer of the New York Port Authority, confirmed this view in the same issue of the Annals. He said, "This builder of beautiful bridges was a man of strong convictions. He believed in function with truthfulness; simplicity without ornamentation."

The two-level George Washington Bridge (GWB) crosses the Hudson River between upper Manhattan (West 178th Street) and Fort Lee, New Jersey and forms part of Interstate Highway I-95.

This suspension bridge was designed by Othmar H. Ammann who was the Port Authority's Chief Engineer during that time. Ground was broken for the original six-lane bridge in October 1927. The Port Authority opened the bridge to traffic on October 25, 1931.



from the billions of other sand flies on the planet that we should take the effort (and expense) to preserve it? Does the checkerboard co-habitation of this fly and its habitat with man and the subsequent restrictions on the maintenance of Flood Control detention basins, fire suppression, vector control, traffic safety - outweigh the need for logical development and Public Safety? As a result of the application of typical Government Bureaucracy to a really great idea, I believe we have finally arrived at a world governed by the "law of unintended consequences".

What is the solution? Here are a couple of my thoughts:

1. There should be an "evaluation period" of the effectiveness of every new enacted law - and frankly this should also be retroactive on past laws. If the laws don't solve the problem they were intended to address - say, where the "Unintended Consequences" exceed the good the law does - rescind it. Call it a good government "learner's permit".
2. If ignorance of the law is no excuse, then the law must be concise enough to be fully understood by everyone. All the currently enacted laws cannot be read within your lifetime. Better decide what everyone must know. Organize and clearly define what laws specially apply to each subset of the population with common sense language. Laws must be written in the educational level of the people they are intended to govern. There may need to be a second set of laws for which there is an "excuse of ignorance".
3. No application without notification: Everyone a law applies to must be notified - before they are made effective. That's a lot of notification. This must be part of any citizen's basic education. The Internet should make the burden on the Government much lighter. Just like software, everyone affected should get updates yearly. You can choose to read it or not. As I see it that is the only way there can be a world where there is "no excuse for ignorance of the law". Civilization should be as fair and efficient as we can make it!

In conclusion, it has been an honor for me to serve as your President this last year. I applaud your choice of professions and your continued personal success. It is your contributions to the betterment of our environment here on Earth that makes me confident the future of our profession will be in molding the environment of new worlds for the benefit of a mankind stepping out among the Stars.

Timothy R. Wilson PE, RA, M. ASCE President, San Bernardino/Riverside Counties Branch of the LA Section of ASCE

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## American Society of Civil Engineers, Region 9 Communication with Sections and Branches

### Teleconference Report for Section and Branch Leaders

Topic – newsletters

July 31, 2009 (12:00-1:00pm)

By Joan Al-Kazily

The following is a brief summary of the teleconference which was moderated by Tony Akel with Harvey Gobas, Shahn Ahmad, Mark Creveling, Joan Al-Kazily also on line. Section and Branch participants from the San Bernardino-Riverside, as well as participation from other branches.

The following were amongst several items discussed:

**Cost for business card advertisements in the Newsletters.** Most Sections charge \$300—\$600 per card, **however your San Bernardino-Riverside Branch charges \$250 per card a great deal.** San Bernardino-Riverside Branch has been able to cover their mailing costs by advertisement in the Newsletter.

**Newsletter layout/format.** San Bernardino-Riverside Branch has recently changed to a more contemporary layout. Electronic format offers opportunity to do this, and we are still able to offer mailings.

**Newsletter distribution.** All Sections either have or about to switch to electronic distribution. Some distribute the Newsletter attached to an e-mail and some distribute it by providing a link to the web site in the e-mail.

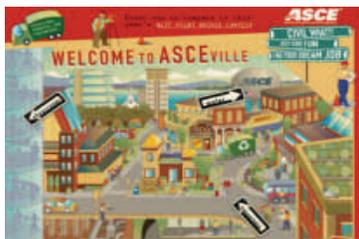
**Branch Newsletters.** It was suggested that a Branch newsletter could include lots of pictures and reports from recent events, a calendar, and one or two interesting or inspiring articles that will attract the attention of readers. Jokes are good too.

**General comments/recommendations** on what makes a good newsletter

- Content must be good.
- Regular columns/articles must be consistently provided
- The Newsletter should include information about what ASCE is doing
- Articles from external sources should be utilized if appropriate
- Sections could share sources for externally produced articles
- Newsletter date should be in large font.

### Turn Kids On to Engineering — Send Them to ASCEville

The Society has launched its first online presence dedicated to encouraging kids to explore the impact of civil engineering in the world around them and see the exciting challenges that engineers experience in their jobs. ASCEville.org, a new kid-friendly Web site developed by ASCE's Pre-College Outreach program, is designed to show that civil engineering is creative, rewarding and plays a vital role in our everyday life. The site's fresh approach includes engaging graphics, interactive activities and compelling stories of inspiring young engineers. "We're providing children with a fun, online village where they can see how civil engineers make a difference in our world," explains ASCE President Wayne Klotz, P.E., D.WRE. Parents, educators, and school counselors also will find valuable information about the history of engineering, engineering disciplines and career fields.



**Your Help Is Needed for Manual 45!  
ASCE Consulting Engineering Practice Survey  
2008 - 2009**

[www.asce.org/m45](http://www.asce.org/m45)

ASCE is improving Manual No. 45, How to Work Effectively With Consulting Engineers, which provides guidance on procuring engineering services for a quality project. We need your help to obtain the most accurate information on compensation for engineering services to make this next edition of Manual 45 more valuable than ever. It is critical that we obtain a broad response of actual project data. We are asking principals and project managers to submit one survey per office. The survey is available at <http://www.asce.org/m45>. We request that you pass this announcement on to your colleagues for their use as well. The survey is completely confidential and only ASCE staff will have access to individual survey responses and contact information. **Each respondent will be entered into a drawing for an iPod nano.** If you have any questions or want information on alternate submission methods, you may call Becky Waldrup, Manager, Professional Practice at 800-548-2723, ext. 6281 or send an e-mail to [rwaldrup@asce.org](mailto:rwaldrup@asce.org). Thanks for your help! Every response helps make this publication better.

**Volunteer For  
Mentorship Committee**

The Committee is actively pursuing a replacement for our Secretary who has accepted the position of Historian for the Committee. Please contact: Alfred Pedroza at [Alfred.Pedroza@aecom.com](mailto:Alfred.Pedroza@aecom.com) for additional information.

**CIVIL ENGINEERING JOBS**

During these challenging economic times, our branch is looking for sources for employment for Civil Engineers. Please use the attached link for some possible openings in our field:  
<http://www.getcivilengineeringjobs.com>

"Calling all Inland Empire Civil Engineering Companies: California Baptist University (CBU), Riverside, CA is looking for internship positions for their civil engineering students. If you have any positions available, please contact Dr. Jim Covey at (951) 343-4973 or [jcovey@calbaptist.edu](mailto:jcovey@calbaptist.edu). Any employment opportunities would be much appreciated by CBU."

**Membership Information**

Type of Membership and Annual Dues (National)

Students:	Free
Associate Member:	\$50 year of baccalaureate degree and first year after, then incremental increases to \$205 over five years
Member:	\$205 annually
Affiliate:	\$205 annually
Section (Branch) Dues	\$45/year

1. National ASCE Student Membership is now FREE! Those who have chapters or clubs still must be a member of them before joining National. Log onto <https://www.asce.org/online/> fill out the short application and instantly become a member of ASCE or call 1-800-548-ASCE (2723)
2. Online Membership renewal available, go to <https://www.asce.org/renewal/inforenewal.cfm>. You need your membership number, all payments must be made with a major credit card. An e-receipt is transmitted to the member upon completion of the transaction.

**Company Spotlights/Projects**

If you paid for a monthly business ad and you would like your company or one of your projects spotlighted in the monthly newsletter please contact the Newsletter Editor, Matthew Addington at [matthew.addington@cityofrc.us](mailto:matthew.addington@cityofrc.us)

We will be happy to place your spotlight in an upcoming issue.

**Advertising Rates**

Approximate number of mailings: 600 per month.

Professional Directory (Business Card Ads)	Per Card (10 issues)	\$250
Display Ads	Full Page (per issue)	\$235
	One Half Page (per issue)	\$125
	Quarter Page (per issue)	\$75

Advertising Information: To place ads, contact the editor. Payments are due 30 days from the date of publication. Copies must be received by the Editor by the 3rd Thursday of the month prior to publishing.

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## 2009–2010 BOARD MEMBERS

### Brian Wolfe, PE - President

Brian Wolfe is a Registered Civil Engineer for the Westland Group, Inc. in Rancho Cucamonga. His typical engineering duties include the design, project management, and construction support of water, sewer, and grading plans throughout the Inland Empire. Brian earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona where he also works as part-time faculty.



### Scott Petersen—President Elect

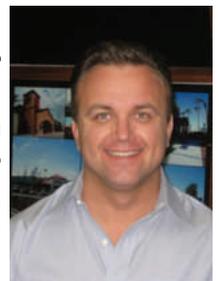


Scott Petersen is a Registered Civil Engineer and Project Manager with TKE Engineering, Inc. He is currently managing the design of several street, water system, sewer and storm drain facility improvements and is responsible for marketing and business development. He obtained a Bachelors of Science degree from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and a Certificate in Land Use and Environmental Planning from University of California, Riverside Extension Center.

Mr. Petersen is very active in professional and community based organizations, and is currently serving the American Society of Civil Engineers Riverside and San Bernardino Counties Branch as Vice President, Younger Member Forum as President Elect, and is an active member of the Inland Empire Chapter of Engineers Without Borders. He also serves the Arlington Division of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce as Vice President of Community Development and is a voting member of the Economic Development Council.

### Lauren Popescu—Vice President

Lauren Popescu is a Registered Civil Engineer with the City of Fontana, Department of Engineering Traffic Section. The Traffic Section is responsible for the analysis of traffic congestion, delays and collision records, throughout the City. Lauren received his Bachelors of Science degree in Civil Engineering from California State University, Los Angeles in 2002. In 2004, he helped start the San Bernardino & Riverside Counties Branch Younger Member Forum (YMF), where he served as the first YMF President.



### Rita Escobar, EIT - Treasure



Rita Escobar is an engineer in training (EIT) and obtained her Bachelors of Science degree in Civil Engineering from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She is a design engineer for a variety of public works projects including storm drain plans, street plans, bike trail plans, and drainage reports.

### Matthew Addington—Secretary



Matthew Addington is a Professional Engineer and Professional Land Surveyor with the City of Rancho Cucamonga. Mr. Addington leads the Grading Division in the Building and Safety Department. In addition, Mr. Addington reviews survey maps for the Engineering Department. Prior to joining the City of Rancho Cucamonga, Mr. Addington worked over 25 years in private practice. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, Pomona and a Certificate in Project Management from University California Riverside Extension.

### Francis Gbondo—Newsletter Editor

Francis Gbondo is a Registered Civil Engineer and a Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design Accredited Professional with RBF Consulting. He obtained a Bachelors of Science degree from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Mr. Gbondo has many years of design experience on various transportation and public works projects as a project engineer. He has worked on multi-agency projects that have included CALTRANS, the Port of Los Angeles (POLA), and many other Local Cities and Counties.



### Edwin Quinonez - Assistant Newsletter Editor



Edwin Quinonez is a Registered Civil Engineer with the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. His typical duties consist of preparing master drainage plans, including all supporting hydrology calculations, hydraulic analyses, quantity and cost estimates, and maps. He obtained his Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in civil engineering from the University of Southern California. He has been actively involved with the San Bernardino and Riverside Counties Branch Younger Member Forum (YMF) since its inception in 2004, and is currently serving as the forum's President.

### Tim Wilson, PE—Past President

Mr. Wilson is a Registered Civil Engineer and Licensed Architect in the State of California and graduate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in 1976. He has worked in Public Works for several local Municipal Agencies, Private Engineers and Architects until going into private practice with GTS Associates Inc., now for more than 30 years. He currently is employed by the City of Redlands. He is Past President of Riverside/San Bernardino Branch APWA in 2001 and President of Chapter 21 of CSPE in 1999 and 1993.



## Stormwater Committee

**2009-2010  
COMMITTEE**

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may assist you with  
your marketing  
efforts.



**Wednesday, September 9, 2009**

### Topic: National Committee on Levee Safety Update

**Synopsis:** The National Committee on Levee Safety is a diverse group of professionals from federal, state, local/regional governments and the private sector that have worked diligently at representing national interests in levee safety. This Committee has recently completed a report in response to the National Levee Safety Act of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. An update on the National Committee on Levee Safety will be presented by Mr. Warren "Dusty" Williams, General Manager, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

**Time:**

6:00 - 6:30 pm: Check-In/Networking  
6:30 - 7:00 pm: Dinner  
6:45 - 7:15 pm: Presentation  
7:15 - 7:25 pm: Q&A  
7:30 pm: Adjournment

**Location:**

Villa Amalfi Ristorante  
Hidden Valley Golf Course  
10 Club House Dr.  
Norco, CA 92860  
(951) 737-1010

**Cost:**

Members \$35 prepaid; \$40 at the door (with reservations); Non-members and walk-ups \$45.

Send your request for a vegetarian meal to [ascsebr.sc@gmail.com](mailto:ascsebr.sc@gmail.com)

**Reservations:** RSVP by September 3, 2009 at 12 noon to [http://www.projectpartners.com/ps/ps\\_show\\_events.asp?id=19](http://www.projectpartners.com/ps/ps_show_events.asp?id=19). No refunds after this date. Include the names of all persons attending with membership number (if applicable). Your advance reservations, made and honored, are essential to fulfilling our catering commitment. No shows will be billed. Seating is limited and payment at the door will be accepted based on availability. Reservation response is still necessary. By mail, please make checks payable to "**ASCE Stormwater Committee**" and mail to:

Bill Flores Jr.  
ASCE Stormwater Committee Chairman  
HDR Engineering, Inc.  
2280 Market St. Suite 100  
Riverside, CA 92501

**Parking:** Parking is free.

To reduce your carbon footprint, carpooling is encouraged.

**Reminder: Submit Your Nominations for the 2009 Public Service Awards!**



The Committee on Volunteer Community Service is seeking nominations to recognize ASCE members that have made contributions to their community through public involvement, public awareness, or public service. The Citizen Engineer Award recognizes individual ASCE members and the Public Service Award recognizes organized components within ASCE. **Nominations are due on October 1, 2009.**

The 2007 ASCE National Public Service Award winner was the Wisconsin Section Younger Member Group, which led food drives, fundraising for the Salvation Army, and an extensive K-12 outreach program.

For more information or nomination forms, contact Becky Waldrup at 1-800-548-2723, ext. 6281 or [rwaldrup@asce.org](mailto:rwaldrup@asce.org).

Nomination forms can also be found at: <http://www.asce.org/professional/commservice/awards.cfm>

**Calendar of Current Events**

September 9th	National Committee on Levee Safety Update	Hidden Valley Golf Crs
September 23rd	Joint YMF—General Meeting	See: <a href="http://www.asce-sbriv.org/">http://www.asce-sbriv.org/</a>
Mid-October	LID Design Workshop	See: <a href="http://www.asce-sbriv.org/">http://www.asce-sbriv.org/</a>
November 11th	Stormwater and Drainage Law	Mexicali Bar & Grill—
	Riverside	

**Lighter Side**

**Proud of a Father**

The proud father brought home a backyard swing set for his children and immediately started to assemble it with all the neighborhood children anxiously waiting to play on it. After several hours of reading the directions, attempting to fit bolt A into slot B, etc., he finally gave up and called upon an old handyman working in a neighboring yard.

The old-timer came over, threw the directions away, and in a short while had the set completely assembled.

"It's beyond me," said the father, "how you got it together without even reading instructions."

"To tell the truth," replied the old-timer, "I can't read, and when you can't read, you've got to think."

If you have a business card advertisement in this newsletter and would like your company or public agency “Spotlighted” in our newsletter please contact our Branch Newsletter Editor, Matthew Addington, at (909) 477-2710 extension 4202.

Mario A. Montes, PE  
Senior Project Manager  
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HDR provides engineering design, environmental planning and construction management services for transportation and water related improvement projects throughout

the Inland Empire. Notable projects include the Victoria Avenue Bridge project (2006 ASCE Inland Chapter, Project of the Year); 5th Street Bridge Widening in San Bernardino, Magnolia Avenue Grade Separation, Colton Crossing Grade Separation and Yucaipa Regional Water Filtration Plant.

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Maj. Gen. Riley

Hear what Maj. Gen. Don Riley of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has to say about the current threats and opportunities facing the civil engineering profession, and the importance of visionary, strategic leadership as a key factor in promoting innovation in the industry. The Corps' deputy chief sat down recently for the latest edition of Insights, ASCE's podcast conversations with engineering leaders. Riley also discusses the value of "anticipatory engineering" and the need to both adopt a systems approach and to adapt to future conditions. Take a few minutes to listen to one of the leaders in our field offer his well-informed perspectives.



### Manage These Times With ASCE's Helpful Resource

Are you feeling the pinch of the recession, or are you fearing that you soon will? ASCE has a one-stop resource of what the Society has to offer that can help you continue to succeed and move forward in your professional and personal life. From assisting you in a job search, to building your professional skills, to making sure your personal finances can withstand the buffeting of the markets, Survive & Thrive includes links to a wide array of help available from ASCE

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## Mark Your Calendar

An update on the National Committee on Levee Safety will be presented by Mr. Warren "Dusty" Williams, General Manager, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

We're on the web:  
<http://www.asce-sbriv.org/>



### Storm Water Committee Meeting

- Date:** September 9, 2009  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Location:** Villa Amalfi Ristorante (HV Golf Course)  
10 Club House Dr.  
Norco, CA 92860  
**Cost:** \$35/person pre-paid, \$45 w/o membership and walk-ups  
**Deadline:** September 3, 2009  
**Additional Info:** See ASCE website for more information  
<http://www.asce-sbriv.org/>

**REMINDER:**  
Award nominations are due on October 1

#### Volunteers

For the upcoming year starting in October we are looking for eager members who have initiative to serve on a committee .



c/o Matthew Addington, P.E., P.L.S.  
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