

Newsletter of the Birmingham Branch/Alabama Section

December 2005

P.O. Box 190366, Birmingham, AL 35219

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December Meeting: Golden Corral, Lorna Rd, Hoover

This month's meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2005 at the Golden Corral, which is located at 3117 Lorna Road behind the Bill Byrd Kia Dealership and Burlington Coat Factory approximately 1.25 miles north of the Galleria. Lorna Road runs parallel to and behind Hwy. 31 until it intersects with Hwy. 31 at the I-65 Interchange. The phone number is 822-1314. Call the restaurant if you need directions or contact any Branch officer.

Meeting Agenda

Renew Acquaintances/Meal* 11:30 - 12:15
Business Meeting 12:15 - 12:45
Speaker 12:45 - 1:15

Please get your meal as soon as you arrive and proceed to the meeting room located at the rear restaurant.

*Attendees will be eligible for a drawing to receive a free meal at this month's meeting. The drawing will be held before the business meeting. Please sign the attendance register to enter the drawing.

Speaker for December Meeting

Our speaker for this month's meeting will be from Alacom Finance. The presentation will discuss "Adding SBA to your client toolbox" creative approaches to funding projects.

Branch meetings are the first Thursday of each month, September through May. Each month's meeting includes a presentation by a guest speaker. If you have an idea for a speaker or topic, please contact Jonathan Byrd.

U.S. Infrastructure is Crumbling

On March 9, ASCE released the *2005 Report Card for America's Infrastructure*, with updated grades on the condition of our roads, bridges, drinking water, transit systems, energy and schools, among other critical infrastructure. The 2005 Report Card assigned an overall grade of D, down from a D+ in 2001, and estimated that an investment of \$1.6 trillion over five years is needed to improve the situation.

On par with the rest of the county, Alabama infrastructure systems requires improvements in order to handle the increasing population and aging facilities. According to the ASCE 2005 Report Card, 30% of Alabama's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete, 32% of Alabama's major urban roads are congested, the drinking water and wastewater infrastructures needs are estimated at 4 billion dollars, and Alabama is the only state without a dam safety program. All these systems are critical to quality of life for our communities. As Civil Engineers, we can have a great impact on the community if we educate public officials on the state of affairs of the deteriorating infrastructures and the consequence in delaying in action.

(Information obtain from ASCE website "Report Card for America's Infrastructure")

Birmingham Branch Scholarship

Do you know of any bright and intelligent high school students who are seeking an engineering major? Expose them to the Civil Engineering profession and the Branch Scholarship. Applications are due on April 1, 2006 and forms are available on the Birmingham Branch website at <http://branches.asce.org/birmingham/scholarship.htm> or contact Susan Goertz. Applicants must be planning to attend an accredited Alabama University, majoring in Civil Engineering, in the fall of 2006.

PLEASE RETURN THIS STUB WITH PAYMENT:

DUES: ASCE Birmingham Branch (2005-2006)
(Tax Id. No.63-0371391)

Total Due \$10.00

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: ASCE-Birmingham Branch
P.O. Box 190366, Birmingham, AL 35219

2006 Younger Members Awards Seeking Nominations

The ASCE Committee on Younger Members (CYM) is seeking nominations for 6 Younger Member Awards for exceptional young engineers 35 years of age or less. The deadline for all award nominations is February 1, 2006. If you have any questions, you may also contact Nancy Berson at 800-548-2723, ext. 6010 or at nberson@asce.org. Nomination forms and additional information for all awards may be found at http://www.asce.org/pressroom/honors/cym_awrds.cfm.

Newsletter Goes Electronic

The ASCE Birmingham Branch Newsletter is jumping into the 21st century by going to an electronic format. Starting with the next edition, the newsletter will only be e-mailed to members rather than being mailed. If you require a hard copy of the newsletter, **you must let me know prior to January 1, 2006**. Otherwise you will only receive it electronically. The Birmingham Branch hopes that this new format will be more valuable to the membership, encourage greater and more expedient distribution, and reduce printing and mailing costs. The quickest way to provide information is via e-mail and the website. The ASCE Birmingham Branch Website is the place to go for information on the latest happenings in the Branch. Information available includes contacts within the branch, newsletters, and upcoming events. If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter by mail, please send me an e-mail at hooperv@contech-cpi.com or call at 823-6224.

ASCE National and State News

The latest ASCE National News can be viewed at www.asce.org.

The State Section web site can be found at <http://www.alabama-asce.org/>

Branch Dues Update

It is a new budget year, so we are accepting dues for the 2005-2006 meeting year. Branch dues are still only \$10! Remember that Branch dues are not included in your National or Section dues. Our Branch budget is supported by branch dues with a small allotment from the Alabama Section so please support your Branch by paying your dues at the meeting or by mailing them to the Branch post office address listed in the newsletter.

Newsletter Advertising

If you or your company is interested in purchasing advertising space in a future newsletter, please contact one of the officers. The price is \$50 per issue for a business card size space. With nearly 500 newsletters being distributed each month, your company could be exposed to nearly 500 of your peers!



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