

Newsletter of the Birmingham Branch/Alabama Section
February 2007

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February Meeting: Golden Corral, Lorna Rd, Hoover

This month's meeting will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2007 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 February Meeting

The speaker for the February meeting will be Brian Poole, P.E. with Contech Bridge Systems. He will provide an overview of use and typical installation of plate, precast and truss bridges. 1 PDH will be provided.

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 Virgil Hooper.

What's in a Title?

In recent years, ASCE leaders have discussed whether the title of Honorary Member effectively captures the significance of ASCE's most prestigious member grade. In 2005, ASCE commissioned a Task Committee to examine the issue by

reviewing the programs of other organizations, as well as interviewing ASCE past-presidents and Honorary Members. The Committee agreed the term "honorary" does not adequately recognize the indelible impression ASCE's 555 Honorary Members have made in civil engineering and society. Therefore the ASCE Board, on the Committee's recommendation, approved moving forward with the change to the elite member grade to "Distinguished Member." ASCE invites its members to finalize the change by voting this summer.

More information will be available online in the coming months. Check www.asce.org/awards for updates. (ASCE e-newsletter, 1-19-2007)

Design Squad



ASCE's new student outreach program: it is meant to "spark" kids' interest in engineering. This program will introduce the engineering process to teens through television episodes aired on PBS, the

website (www.pbskids.org/designsquad/engineers) and the outreach campaign.

Also visit ASCE's website for information on the Design Squad at:

<http://www.asce.org/membership/voluntary/designsquad/>

ASCE in Washington

Should ASCE form a parallel 501(c)6 organization? Our current 501(c)3 status caps the amount of money we are allowed to spend on lobbying at \$1 million. The parallel organization would allow us greater flexibility to take part in the decision making on legislation that directly affects the engineering practice and the general public.

More information is available in the President's Monthly Message (January 2007):

<http://content.asce.org/President%20Page/JanuaryPresidentsMessage.html>.

Do you want to voice your opinion and discuss it with your peers? ASCE is sponsoring two webinars, free of charge:

PLEASE RETURN THIS STUB WITH PAYMENT:

DUES: ASCE Birmingham Branch (2007)
(Tax Id. No.63-0371391)

Total Due \$10.00

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

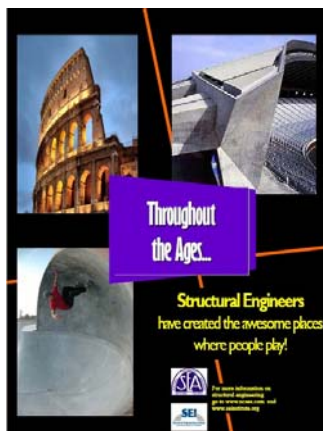
Wednesday, January 24, 2007, 1-2 PM ET
Thursday, February 1, 2007, noon-1 PM ET

To participate in these discussions please email govwash@asce.org for registration.

Partnership Produces Engineering Education Poster



Each year, SEI and the National Council of Structural Engineers Association (NCSEA) partner to create a career poster promoting structural engineering. The intent of the poster, which is distributed to middle schools and high schools, is to increase young people's awareness of structural engineering as a career by featuring different appealing aspects of the profession. It is SEI and NCSEA's hope that young people will be inspired by the structures shown in each year's poster and consider structural engineering as a future profession.



Alabama Section Meeting 2007

The Montgomery Branch will be hosting the 2007 Alabama Section Meeting on March 15, 2007 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Montgomery. We are looking for speakers to fill the morning program with a variety of topics suitable for PDH credits. The afternoon program will feature speakers and tours of projects in Downtown Montgomery. Perhaps you have had an interesting speaker at your branch that would be of interest to the entire Section. Anyone interested in speaking needs to contact Robert Thompson, P.E. (rthompson@danbrownandassociates.com or 334-850-2794) or Kidada Dixon, E.I. (dixonk@dot.state.al.us or 334-353-6940). A postcard will be mailed to the entire Section in December. Registration information will be mailed out in early February.



ASCE Birmingham
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Upcoming Events & Activities

- Trenchless Technology Seminar: Trenchless Technology, SSES and Buried Asset Management; to be held in Mobile February 17 & 18, 2007
- The ECOB Banquet will be held February 22, 2007 at the McWane Center.
- The SWE Regional Conference will be in Tuscaloosa March 2 - 4, 2007.
- 2007 SEI Structures Conference is to be held in long Beach, California on May 16th - 19th.

ASCE National and Section News

The latest ASCE National News can be viewed at www.asce.org.
The Alabama Section web site can be found at <http://www.alabama-asce.org>

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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