



American Society of Civil Engineers

Our web site: <http://sections.asce.org/columbia/index.html>

# Columbia Section

Since October 10, 1950

## Newsletter

December, 2003

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2004 ASCE Bridge  
Calendar – A Great Gift  
to Friends and Families

Call 1-800-548-ASCE

### Columbia Section December Meeting

**Date:** December 10, 2003  
Wednesday, 11:30 am – 1:00 PM

**Place:** Shilo Inn, George Washington Way, Richland

**Meal:** Buffet (Chef's choice) ≈ \$10 per person.  
Please pay cash or check to treasurer at the meeting.

**Topic:** *No-Concrete Option Doubles Kennewick Water Filtration Plant's Capacity – The Submerged Membrane Retrofit Approach*

**Speaker:** **Michael Norton**, Drinking Water Program Manager,  
HDR, Bellevue Office

RSVP to: Ben Volk, bvolk@jub.com or (509) 783-2144 **by December 8, 2003.**

### A Report from District 12 Director, Greg DiLoreto

As I promised when I ran for election for your district director, I would provide you with periodic updates of the activities of the ASCE Board of Direction.

I attended the ASCE National Convention in Nashville during November, where I was sworn into office on the last day. However, I was there the week prior where I attended Board orientation for new members and then the fall Board meeting. It is the results of that meeting, where I sat as an observer, that I wanted to share with you.

The Board approved a Constitutional amendment to implement a new governance structure. Adoption of the amendment will require an affirmative vote of two thirds of the ballots cast by the Society membership. This vote will occur summer '04. In general, the Board size will be reduced from the current 28 members to 17 members. The office of Vice President is eliminated. Of the 17 members two will be from Institutes, two will be at large and one will be from the International Sections. In addition a Board of Governors is created to work with the local sections and branches. There have been articles on the structure in ASCE News and more will follow.

The Board endorsed the concept of an ASCE specialty certification program and approved the Articles of Incorporation together with the bylaws of the Civil Engineering Certification Board.

Given the low turnout at recent ASCE National conventions, the Board voted to redesign the convention format. Our convention has been described as a mile wide and an inch deep, referring to the number of sessions, but little depth. The concept is that we do away with the technical program, leaving that to the Institutes, and that if there is a program that it center on professional issues and management. In addition instead of a January Board week, where the Board and its committees meet, that week would occur at the annual meeting in the fall. Awards would be given at this meeting, the annual business meeting would occur and new officers would be inducted.

Last month ASCE compiled the results of a membership survey conducted among our members 45 and younger. 1,294 interviews were completed via a web survey. Some of the key findings are:

- Current ASCE programs and products members value most are:
  - Ethics and professionalism
  - Conferences
  - Insurance
  - Networking K-12 outreach
  - Section/Branch activities
- Programs and products ASCE may need to update to revise to increase value are:
  - *Civil Engineering* magazine
  - ASCE website
  - Institute membership
  - Salary survey
  - Key Contract Program
  - ASCE News
- In the future, ASCE may want to consider developing programs/products in the following areas:
  - Online job listings/career services
  - Online reference library
  - Online membership directory
  - Field-specific
  - Business-related

The survey provided a lot of additional information that we can use as ASCE begins work on its next strategic plan.

I hope you find this information useful. If you have questions or comments please contact me at either [greg@twwd.org](mailto:greg@twwd.org), or (503) 848-3032.

**It's time to renew your membership. Go online.**  
[www.asce.org/renewal](http://www.asce.org/renewal)

## A Letter from Outgoing District 12 Director, Don Phelps

Greetings Everyone.

I want to thank the members of the Pacific Northwest (District 12) for their support over the last two years and continuing as I enter the last year of my Director position. It has been an honor to travel throughout the PNW and meet with so many of you to discuss the issues facing the Society. One of these has of course been the governance issue that the Board of Direction will be asked to vote on next week to send it to the membership for their vote in July. This is the biggest single issue to face the Board during my term.

While there are still some unknowns about the issue it was encouraging to have the Pacific Northwest Council go on record as supporting the issue of sending the vote to the members. As a Board member I will work diligently, as I am sure will Greg (DiLoreto, our incoming Director), to assure that these outstanding issues are resolved to the satisfaction of all the members it so directly affects if it is approved by the Board and subsequently by the general membership.

It does require some faith to take a step into the unknown when as engineers we are trained to avoid risk. But this is a time for leadership that benefits the Society as a whole and I trust that the Board will approve the proposed constitutional amendment and send it to the general membership in July.

Whatever happens, please remember that you are the leaders and the rest of the membership looks to you for leadership on the difficult issues. It is a heavy load at times but fortunately you have all stepped forward to help keep improving the Society.

Thanks!

Don Phelps, PE

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*"Of those to whom much is given - much is expected."*

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### Report on Columbia Section McNary Dam Tour – October 17, 2003

Reported by: Jocelyne Gray

Six professional members, eight students from Walla Walla College and one spouse toured McNary Dam October 17, 2003. Our guide explained the history of the dam and renovations to take place during the next ten years; each of the turbines will be replaced. The dam will celebrate 50 years in 2004 and will become a National Historic Site. Due to this classification, the mechanics of the dam cannot be modified, just replaced, which means new parts must be custom machined from the original blueprints. Down in one of the levels of the dam there is a wall with original hand written notes chronicling when parts were replaced or modified. We toured the new fish bypass that was put in recently. The fish use this to get down stream. They travel through a channel at the bottom of the dam, through a piping system where they can be loaded on a truck or dumped down stream. While on the tour we saw a Coast Guard ship use the lock going upstream. Some of the students had not seen the locks in use before. We had a wonderful tour and hope to plan future events where the students can interact with the professionals.

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### Albert E. Engler – A Founder Member of Our Section Passes Away

*We proudly remember Al's great contributions to the Civil Engineering profession and exemplary dedication.*

*American Society of Civil Engineers Columbia Section will always remember him as one of our founding members, as the President of the Section in 1962, and as Section Director to the Pacific North-West Council for 13 long years.*

Al Engler first joined ASCE in 1937 while a student at Case School of Applied Science. He received his BS in Civil Engineering from that school in 1940, worked as a construction engineer until March 1941 when he enlisted with the Army Air Corps. The majority of his army service time was spent in England as an engineering officer in charge of a fleet of some one hundred B-17's with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. Following the war and a short time working in Cleveland, Ohio as a construction field engineer, he took a job in Richland, WA as a field engineer for the General Electric Company on the Hanford project. His many years of engineering at Hanford included 14 years in design work including such major projects as the Plutonium Recycle Test Reactor and the N Production Reactor, and 16 years managing construction and nuclear safety groups in support of the dual purpose N Reactor. He was a principal participant in the nomination of the N Reactor as a candidate for OCEA recognition. That project received a special award from ASCE National. Al retired in 1979 and later moved to

A founding member of the Section, Al was a very active member during his entire professional career. He was President of the Section in 1962, and a very effective representative to the Section as Director to the Pacific Northwest Council for 13 years (1965/66 – 1977/78).

SOURCE: *History of the Columbia Section – Bridging the Years, 1950-2000, Page 18.*



*Dorothy and Charles Henager (left), Al Engler and Eleanor at the Columbia Section's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic at Charbonneau Park. Pasco on June 11, 2000.*

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