



American Society of Civil Engineers

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

Columbia Section

Since October 10, 1950

Newsletter

March, 2004

Columbia Section Board

Bernard (Ben) W. Volk, President
(509)-783-2144 (B)
bvolk@jub.com

Aaron Meilleur President-Elect
(509)-540-2040 (B)
aaron.meilleur@hdrinc.com

Byron Perry, Vice President
(509)-546-2040(B)
bperry@hdrinc.com

Paul Harmsen, Secretary/Treasurer
(509)-374-4248 (B)
pharmsen@mackaysposito.com

Eric Schmieman, Past-President
(509)-375-6484 (B)
eric.schmieman@pnl.gov

Donald P. Kurkjian, Webmaster
(509)-371-2218 (B)
Dkurkjian@yahoo.com

Theodore W. Pooler,
Yakima Branch President
(509)-966-7000(B)
tpooler@hlacivil.com

Lawrence (Larry) A. Gaddis,
Tri-Cities Director
(509)-627-4362 (H)
lgaddis@bechtel.com

Walla Walla Director - Open

Pendleton/LaGrande Director - Open

Yakima Director - Open

Delbert (Del) L. Ballard, Historian
(509)-946-6401 (H)
delballard@sbcglobal.net

Indrajit (Indra) Ghosh, Newsletter Editor
(509)-371-9507 (H)
ighosh2000@msn.com

Simeon Francis, Student Contact
(509)-527-7575 (B)
simeon.a.francis@nww01.usace.army.mil

Donald P. Kurkjian, PNC Director
Dkurkjian@yahoo.com
(509)-371-2218 (B)

Columbia Section March 2004 Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2004 at 11:30 am

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: *QA/QC of Construction Sites with Reference to Iraq Re-Building Operation*

Speaker: David A. Weeks

About the Speaker: An Attorney with the USACE Mr. Weeks spent from September 18, 2003 to January 2, 2004 in the Sunni Triangle as the liaison officer to the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized). His responsibilities included hiring, organizing, and administering as many as eight Iraqi engineers doing site assessments, QA/QC of construction sites, and preparation of designs.

As an attorney, Mr. Weeks had an inherent grasp of the unique challenges facing the local civilian Coalition Provisional Authority staff charged with rebuilding the local Iraqi governments. He used his unique knowledge of federal contract and fiscal law to identify procurement policies that were restricting the greater effectiveness of the US and the Provisional Authority.

RSVP to: Ben Volk, bvolk@jub.com or (509) 783-2144 by March 16, 2004.

From President's Desk

Dear Members:

Hopefully some of you participated in the February 27, 2004 Engineers Week Banquet. We nominated Cherri Defigh-Price for Engineer of the Year as well as presented her with a plaque recognizing her as a Fellow of ASCE.

While you were enjoying Engineers Week, Don Kurkjian, Cherri Defigh-Price and I attended the Pacific Northwest Council Meeting of the ASCE in Portland, OR. Some of the hot topics were changing the dues structure of the ASCE and changing some of the geographic zones. As you know, your ASCE Section dues show up on your statement as voluntary. Some sections would like to see these dues made mandatory. We have about 75% of our members paying the Section dues so we are quite pleased with that. Paying your section dues helps pay for items such as scholarships, monthly meetings, special seminars, and travel expenses for ASCE officers.

The re-zoning issue was discussed quite a bit at the PNC Meeting. It looks like we will stay paired with Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, Hawaii and Montana in this zone. We will probably be combined with the Pacific Southwest Council (PSC) which includes Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada. Right now it looks like the re-zoning will not have a huge impact on our operations.

Plan to attend the ASCE Meeting at the Shilo Inn on March 17, 2004. Your Vice-President, Byron Perry, has arranged an excellent speaker. Let's pack the room with 40-50 people! We had a great presentation in January from Shannon and Wilson with over 30 people attending.

God Bless You All.

Sincerely,

Ben

**Have you renewed your membership? If not visit:
www.asce.org/renewal**

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING: PIONEERING THE TRAIL OF SUCCESS

sponsored by the **Eastern Washington Section, Society of Women Engineers**, April 23-25, 2004

Royal Hotel and Conference Center, Richland, Washington Find Information at: <http://www.eastwashingtonswe.org/regconf04.htm>
Click on "Registration Form", Print out forms, Fill out and Mail in. For Early Registration rates, must be postmarked by Mar 26th

What to Expect:

- Friday afternoon Registration and Technical Tours: Columbia Generating Station (Nuclear Power Plant) and Nine Mile Canyon Wind Project (Public Wind Power Project)
- Friday evening Opening and Networking Reception at the Columbia River Exhibit of History Science and Technology
- Saturday morning workshops including: Professional Development after College, Conflict Resolution Workshop, Mock Interviews, Common Sense in the Workplace, Project Management, Work Place Communication Skills, Hanford and Beyond, Power - Innovations and our Future, Hanford: Frontier of Opportunity - Hanford Vitrification Plant, National Security
- Saturday Lunch with Guest Speaker Cathy Nelson PE, Technical Services Manager/Chief Engineer Oregon Dept of Transportation
- Saturday afternoon Region J Student and Professional meetings
- Saturday Evening: SWE Region J Conference Dinner & Member's 50th Year Celebration, including remarks from Lura Powell, Chief Executive Officer of Advanced Imaging Technologies and former director of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory;
- Sunday morning Hanford Reach Boat Tour

Hotel Accommodations: Information about the hotel may be obtained at www.towerinn.net and reservations can be made by calling (800) 635-3980 and mentioning you are with SWE.

Conference Questions Contact: Julie Dewberry SWE-EWS President, jadewberry@duratekinc.com

Indra Ghosh, F. ASCE, PE
ASCE Columbia Section
Newsletter Editor
305 Seaside Court
Richland, WA 99352

