



NOVEMBER 2007

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**SHREVEPORT BRANCH**



**NEWSLETTER**



# SHREVEPORT BRANCH

## President's Message

Last month's meeting was a joint meeting with the Shreveport Chapter of the Louisiana Engineering Society. I would like to thank Ben Humphries with Delta Process Equipment, Inc. on behalf of the Shreveport Branch ASCE. I would also like to thank Dave Rambaran with LES for organizing and running this meeting. It was a very interesting presentation on applications for Variable Frequency Drives for pumps.

The Shreveport Branch held its honorary reception for Dr. Price this past October. It was a great success that could not have come together without the help of my fellow officers. I want to thank Daniel Thompson, E.I. for taking charge of this event in my absence. I would also like to thank Section Past-President Tim Ruppert, P.E. and Jim Nelson, PhD., P.E. for their parts in that night's events. I am sure it meant a lot to Dr. Price to have those gentlemen conduct the ceremony that honored his contributions to our profession. Please see the following newsletter article for a more detailed description of the reception along with photos.

We are pleased to once again be participating in the canned food collection to be donated to the Providence House. The Providence House is a residential development center for homeless families with children. Their goal is to stop the cycle of homelessness by helping families

get the resources needed to establish independent living. They rely on the community to provide the necessities that help make the transition possible. We will be passing out boxes for each company to take back to their office to collect canned foods. We will come by on a specified date and pick up the boxes and make the delivery to the Providence House. We would appreciate your support.

We are pleased to announce that Mayor Lo Walker will be speaking at our November monthly meeting. Mayor Walker will be talking about the new Cyber Command Center in Bossier City, La. This should be very interesting to hear the potential impacts this large scale development will have on our area.

Coming up in December, we are planning to have our Shreveport Branch ASCE Christmas Lunch. This will be a good time to unwind and eat a nice lunch while socializing with your fellow engineers. This Lunch will be free to all members, and there will be door prizes given away. So, come join us.

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## Next Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 15, 2007  
 Time: 11:45 a.m.  
 Location: University Club of Shreveport  
 American Tower  
 401 Market St., Suite 1500  
 Speaker: Lo Walker, Mayor Bossier City  
 Cyber Command  
 Cost: Members: \$15.00      Students: \$5.00

## Know your officers

### President:

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### President-Elect: Currently Vacant

Todd Henry, P.E. with Alliance, Inc. has recently volunteered to fill this position. If there are any other volunteers, please submit your request to Rusty Cooper. If there are no other volunteers, Mr. Henry will be nominated.

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### Secretary

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318.636.3673



## Legislation on the Horizon

By: Eric McClanahan, E.I.

In the near future, our Louisiana State Government will be administered by a new Governor and some new legislators. Because many legislators are term limited, and despite their best efforts to stay in office, they are to be replaced by senators and representatives. For many of the legitimate business owners in Louisiana, this is a welcome change. Some changes in the Civil Engineering profession will undoubtedly be evident all over the state. As we all know, Hurricane Katrina showed what can happen when infrastructure and state and local government officials fail. But, both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita showed us that our eroding coastlines are leaving us unprotected from storm surges and massive flooding. Due to these two storms, billions of Federal Aid Dollars have worked their way into Louisiana. Consequently, a surplus of approximately One Billion Dollars is projected for the next year, and candidates are lined up to let us know what they would do with this money.

Louisiana has had a problem with roads since roads started being built. Most of our road problems can be attributed to these roads being built on poor quality soils, poor quality standards, inadequate quality control practices, and political cronyism assuring the most qualified personnel are not always chosen for road projects. During Governor Elect Bobby Jindal's campaign, he stated he would implement new ways of doing business to improve the quality of Louisiana's roads and infrastructure. Louisiana currently has a \$14 billion dollar backlog of transportation jobs to be completed. Bobby Jindal's action plan states, "We must permanently dedicate to transportation projects existing transportation fees, such as truck and trailer registration fees, along with vehicle sales and parts taxes." Jindal states that we can no longer afford to have this tax revenue directed to the general fund. Further statements are, "By taking these collective steps, we can commit roughly \$450 million annually to the existing revenues in the transportation budget." As a result, much of this funding would spill out into the private sector and create long lasting jobs for engineers and surveyors, not to mention contractors.

Currently, Companies such as Louisiana Timed Managers have taken projects for U.S. Highway 171 and U.S. Highway 165. These operations are examples of how the state is expediting road construction by the use of design/build projects. By using the private sector to design and build new highway systems, transportation projects are being completed in shorter amounts of time than would normally be taken if the state were to design and oversee the construction of these new highways. For the U.S. Highway 171 and U.S. Highway 165, Louisiana Timed Managers is taking existing two lane highways and expanding them into four lane highways. By giving the project to one company instead of subcon-



tracting every part of the project and using state employees for quality control and quality assurance, the state has been able to streamline the project and subsequently create a much faster turn around. LTM has taken these jobs from the design stages to the construction stages. Jindal states in his Action Plan that he would consider expanding the use of design/build to increase the efficiency of state road construction.

Although many people see the approximate half billion dollar investment by the state as just an extra half billion put into the Louisiana economy, they don't realize the long term economic benefits of added infrastructure. In 1999 a study by David Canning of Harvard University and Peter Pedroni of Indiana University concluded that infrastructure must be paid for by governments in order to ensure economic growth. We know that Louisiana is at the back when being rated for a business friendly climate. In fact, Louisiana ranked 33rd in being friendly to small businesses. Louisiana is also attracting the lowest amount of college educated workers in the union; only 9.9%. A \$500 million dollar growth in infrastructure being it: roads, electrical systems, water systems, and other commerce transportations systems will not just impact the Civil Engineering community, but has the potential to ultimately add billions of dollars into the Louisiana economy if implemented correctly.



## Dr. Price Honored at Reception

By: Daniel Thompson, E.I.

As many of you know the Shreveport Branch ASCE hosted an Honorary Member induction for Dr. Bobby Price last month at Louisiana Tech University. The purpose of this reception was to celebrate Dr. Price's recent election as the newest Honorary Member of ASCE. Honorary Membership is the highest award the society may confer, second only to the ASCE President. Honorary members on this prestigious and highly selective list have attained acknowledged eminence in a branch of engineering or its related arts and sciences. There are now 565 individuals who have been elected to this distinguished grade of membership since 1853.

Dr. James D. Nelson, P.E., Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and Science at Louisiana Tech University, spoke of Dr. Price's accomplishments and contributions to the Civil Engineering profession and the community, all of which exemplify the reasons Dr. Price was chosen to receive such an honorary distinction. Being a close friend and colleague, I know Dr. Price was flattered to have Dr. Nelson speak at this event.

Tim Ruppert, P.E., ASCE Louisiana Section Past President, spoke about the importance of Honorary Membership in ASCE and how a person is chosen to receive this honor. In addition to speaking about Honorary Membership, Mr. Ruppert presented Dr. Price with the Wall of Fame award given by the Louisiana Section.

At the conclusion of this event, Dr. Price was presented with a medallion to represent his Honorary Membership status in the American Society of Civil Engineers.

We would again like to thank the speakers for graciously accepting our invitations to speak at this event. Dr. Steve McCutcheon, P.E., ASCE Region 5 Director, presented Dr. Price with his medallion.

Dr. Price was very honored by the attendance of so many friends and colleagues, and he was extremely appreciative of the Branch for hosting the event. Louisiana Tech University and the Louisiana Section of ASCE are fortunate to have such an influential professional in our organizations. Dr. Price will be officially accepting his Honorary Member status at the National ASCE



Bobby Price, Ph.D., P.E. (left) was presented with his Honorary Member medallion by the Region 5 ASCE Director Steve McCutcheon, Ph.D., P.E. (right).



In addition to his Honorary Member medallion, Bobby Price, Ph.D., P.E. (left) was presented with the Louisiana Section ASCE Wall of Fame Award by the Section Past President Tim Ruppert, P.E. (right).



From Left to Right: James D. Nelson, Ph.D., P.E. (Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and Science at Louisiana Tech University), Steve McCutcheon, Ph.D., P.E. (ASCE Region 5 Director), Daniel Thompson, E.I. (ASCE Shreveport Treasurer), Bobby E. Price, Ph.D., P.E. (Honorary Member), Elba Hamilton, E.I. (ASCE Shreveport Past President), Tim

Conference in Orlando this month.

The Shreveport Branch ASCE has donated \$1,000 to the Dr. Price Distinguished Professorship at Louisiana Tech University in honor of his accomplishment.

Congratulations Dr. Price!



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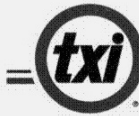
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