



SHREVEPORT BRANCH

MAY 2007 ISSUE

President's Message

By Elba Hamilton, EI,

It has been nine months since we published the first newsletter of this administrative year. I cannot believe that we were able to publish ten of them. It was one of my goals to change the format of this newsletter and to make it more accessible to our membership. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our secretary, Cody Goodwin, who took this idea and made it his own. This newsletter would have never been possible without his dedication, initiative and attention to detail. It has been a great pleasure to work with him. For those of you that do not know, Cody will be leaving Shreveport and moving to Houston, Texas this summer. We wish Cody the best and hope that he continues to be involved in ASCE while in Houston.

Since Cody will be moving, Daniel Thompson has been nominated by one of our members and recommended by the Shreveport Branch Board of Directors to serve in the position of Branch Treasurer. The Board is also recommending that Eric McClanahan serve the Branch in the position of Secretary. If you would like to know more about these two members that will serve our Branch as officers for the next administrative year, refer to page 4.

On another note, the traditional Golf Tournament took place last Monday, May 14th and was held at Southern Trace Country Club. ASCE members and guests enjoyed the buffet with an afternoon of Golf. I would like to thank Rusty Cooper, our President-Elect, for once again doing an outstanding job in organizing this event. I would also like to thank all the companies that sponsor our Tournament. For a list of the companies and the different levels of sponsorships refer to pages 4. Thanks to your support we continue to award Louisiana Tech students with scholarships every year. If you have any suggestions

or comments on how to improve this event for future years email Jarred Corbell at jcorbell@afjmc.com. Jarred, who did a great job as Treasurer, will be moving to President-Elect next administrative year and organizing next year's Golf Tournament.

On behalf of the Board and membership of the Shreveport Branch, I would like to congratulate Dr. Bobby Price on his most recent accomplishment. The ASCE Board of Direction has elected Dr. Price to the grade of Honorary Member. He was among only ten other individuals that were elected as Honorary Members in April 2007. This is a distinguished grade of membership and only 565 individuals have been elected to this grade since 1853. Congratulations Dr. Price, we are honored to have you as one of our members. For a list of Honorary Members, information about the selection process, and a link to the nomination form and worksheet to guide you through the nomination process, visit http://www.asce.org/pressroom/honors/honors_details.cfm?hdid=2.

In honor of Dr. Price and to celebrate this milestone, the Shreveport Branch of ASCE, is planning to host a reception in his honor. We will keep you informed during the summer as to the details of when and where we will be hosting the reception. We encourage all of you to attend and celebrate with us as we honor Dr. Price.

Published in this newsletter is a letter sent electronically to all members of the ASCE Louisiana Section. The letter encouraged all of our members in supporting House Bill 722 and Senate Bill 258, scheduled to be heard in Legislative committees at the State Capitol on Monday, May 21, 2007. I would like to express my appreciation to all of our Branch members that took time to read the email and contact their State Representative and State Senator. Thanks for taking action for better roads in Louisiana! Please take

time to read it and get familiar with this simple and powerful idea that many of you heard about by Dr. Kam Movassaghi, a past president of the Section and immediate past DOTD Secretary, at our Spring Conference.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all of you that helped me throughout this administrative year. It has been truly a pleasure and honor to lead the Branch during the year. There is no doubt that at a professional level; leading the Shreveport Branch has been the highlight of this past year for me. I would have never thought that my extended maternity leave would have the double effect of allowing me time to be at home with my firstborn baby girl, but also additional time to truly dedicate to the Branch. I am really humbled that I was given this opportunity.

I would have never been able to lead the Branch this year without the help of our other Branch officers to whom I am truly indebted. They excelled in their positions and made my job easier. I have no doubt that the Shreveport Branch will continue its success as a Branch next year under the leadership of Rusty Cooper. I am also grateful for the help and leadership that I received from our ASCE Regional Director, Dr. Steve McCutcheon, and the Louisiana Section Board of Directors under the leadership of Tim Ruppert.

In closing, I would like to encourage each of you to consider volunteering your time in ASCE. I know that many of you have already been officers at our Branch and Section levels or are already serving in other professional organizations, but I also know that there are a few of you out there that would be a great asset to the Branch. We are in need of committed volunteers that would be willing to keep the legacy of the Branch and leading our members in the years to come.



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ON THE WEB

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2007 ASCE Spring Golf Tournament at Southern Trace



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2007 ASCE Golf Tournament Winners



First Place (above): Raley and Associates Team. Score: 59:
Bill Mayfield, Dean Mayfield, Jeff Raley, and Reggie Lewis



Second Place (above): Tetra Tech Team. Score: 61:
Eric McClannahan, Logan Hoover, Gerald Adams, and Lloyd Hoover

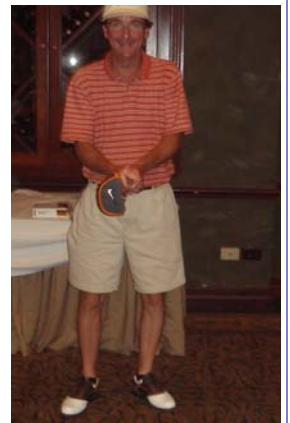


Second Place (above): AFJMc Team. Score: 63:
Keith Bennett, Daniel Thompson, and Jarred Corbell



Closest to the pin (left)
Gerald Adams

Longest Drive (right)
Dean Mayfield



Officer Nominations and Elections



Eric McClannahan with Tetra Tech (left) has been nominated to the position of Branch Secretary and Daniel Thompson with AFJMc (right) has been nominated to the position of Branch Treasurer. If you would like to nominate anyone else for these positions, please contact one of the Branch officers before the next monthly meeting. I encourage you to nominate yourself or someone you know for these positions. It would be an experience you will enjoy and give you a chance to give back to this great profession of Civil Engineering.

Outreach at Loyola College Prep



**Jarred Corbell, EI,
Spoke at Loyola
College Prep on
Civil Engineering at
Career Day, March
23, 2007.**

May 23, 2007

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Dear ASCE Colleague,

Over the past 18 months, ASCE leaders at the national, regional and local levels have engaged in discussions about the role of the Society in public policy. It seems clear that our members strongly support ASCE's efforts to advocate on behalf of the profession on public policy issues including Qualifications Based Selection, licensure, infrastructure and education. Our members also support ASCE's efforts to encourage civil engineers to engage in public policy decision-making at all levels of government.

In 2005, the Board appointed a Task Committee on Political Involvement to explore ways to expand our public policy activities. The Task Committee proposed the establishment of a 501(c) 6 organization that would eliminate current restrictions on our lobbying activity due to our current non-profit tax status. Such an organization would also permit future consideration of other political activities including endorsing candidates and establishing a political action committee (PAC). This proposal was considered by the Board at its April meeting, but failed to pass with the required vote.

Although this proposal was not approved, the debate it inspired within the ASCE membership heightened awareness of the importance of public policy to the civil engineering profession, and to the desired role of the Society in those activities. We will continue to examine ways to serve the interests of our members, and I welcome and appreciate your input.

An issue of more immediate concern for the Board is how we will address the cap on our current lobbying expenses. Under IRS rules, ASCE can select one of two options for determining the limit on its lobbying activities. Under one option ASCE is permitted to spend up to \$1 million annually on lobbying expenses. ASCE has selected this option since 2005; however, based on a review prepared for the recent Board meeting, our proposed budget estimates lobbying expenses for FY2008 that exceed the \$1 million cap. Under the second option, ASCE lobbying activities may not constitute a "substantial part" of our total activities. Unfortunately, neither the IRS nor the courts have offered a reliable definition of "substantial" lobbying activities, making this option a riskier choice. Some have assumed that if you spend less than 5% of your operating budget on lobbying activities, it can not be substantial. We are conducting a more detailed audit of our lobbying expenses and exploring possible alternatives regarding the two options. After further investigation the Board will make a prudent decision regarding the option of choice and your Society Director will keep you informed.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank all of you who took the time to share your views on this subject with us.



Louisiana Highway Improvements

It will come as no surprise to anyone who lives and drives in Louisiana that our highways are among the worst in the country. This January, The Road Improvement Program (TRIP) rated almost half of Louisiana roads in "poor" or "mediocre" condition. They also found 17 percent of our bridges to be "functionally obsolete" and inadequate for the volume of traffic they currently carry.

The culprit: inadequate funding. Current state transportation funding is insufficient for the task at hand. DOTD currently has a backlog of nearly \$14 billion, a backlog that grows each year. And each year, the state legislature haggles over how much money will be used to improve the roads and which projects will get built. To be sure, it's neither a rational nor efficient way to manage infrastructure.

The good news is that we can do something about it. I ask you to join with me in supporting House Bill 722 and Senate Bill 258, scheduled to be heard in Legislative committees at the Capitol on Monday.

These two bills would shift transportation-related taxes and user fees from the state's general fund into the Transportation Trust Fund. It's a simple but powerful concept: money collected by the state from people who use the roads would be used to build and maintain the

roads. Isn't that the way it should be?

House Bill 722 and Senate Bill 258 would dedicate highway taxes and user fees to a fund that can be only be used for transportation projects. Please contact your state legislators and ask them to support these two bills.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Go to the Louisiana State Legislature web page at <http://www.legis.state.la.us/> and click "Contact Us" on the left side of the page. There you will find quick links to help you identify and email your State Representative and State Senator.

TALKING POINTS:

- * Please support HB 722 and SB 258.
- * Money collected from highway users should be used to build and maintain highways.
- * Highway user fees must be dedicated to the Transportation Trust Fund to assure a stable source of funding.
- * A safe, reliable infrastructure is the basis of a strong economy.
- * If we fail to act, the roads will continue to degrade and all citizens will suffer.

You may identify yourself as an engineer or as a member of the ASCE Louisiana Section as you see fit.

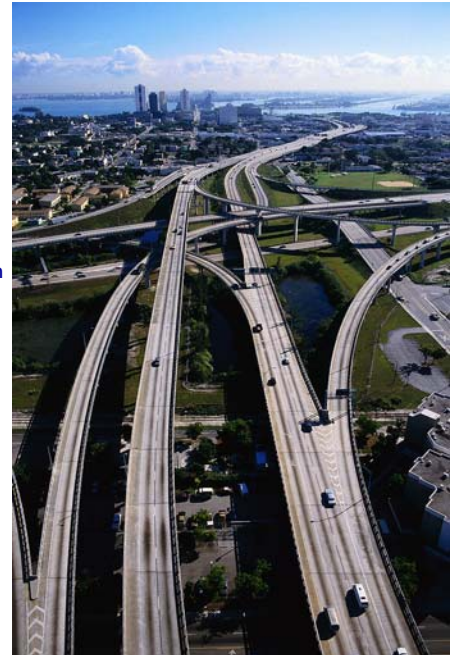
This effort is being spearheaded by a coalition of business leaders from across the state. Much of the information provided here comes from that coalition which includes the following organizations:

- Ascension Chamber of Commerce
- Baton Rouge Area Chamber
- Breaux Bridge Area Chamber of Commerce
- Chamber Southwest Louisiana
- East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Abbeville-Vermillion Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce
- Lafayette Economic Development Authority
- Monroe Chamber of Commerce
- Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce
- Opelousas-St. Landry Chamber of Commerce
- St. Landry Parish Economic Industrial Development District
- St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce

Thank you for taking the time to participate, as I remain,

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Ruppert, P.E.,
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President, ASCE Louisiana Section



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Thanks to all the sponsors listed in this newsletter for their continued support of the Shreveport Branch Newsletter. This will be the last publication for the 2006-2007 administrative year. The next publication should be sent via email to you August 2007. Your continued support is requested for the upcoming administrative year.

Thanks again for all the support!



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Shreveport Branch



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“ASCE Shreveport News” is the official publication of the ASCE Shreveport Branch, which is the professional society for civil engineers in northern Louisiana. It is affiliated with the ASCE Louisiana Section and ASCE which are the state and national professional civil engineering societies.

“ASCE Shreveport News” is published ten times a year (August—May). Any suggestions or comments on the format or content are welcome. News on members, the Branch or the profession should be submitted to the Branch Secretary.

(2007-2008) SHREVEPORT BRANCH OFFICERS

Officer Elections and Inductions will be at the next administrative year meeting



Project Spotlight Award

Kurt Nixon, PE, with Coyle Engineering Co. Inc, shows off his \$40.00 gift certificate to Ralph and Kacoos. Kurt was awarded this gift certificate for the previous publication for Project Spotlight. The project he spotlighted was the Stirling Bossier Retail Center at I-220 and Airline Drive. The publication was shown in the March 2007 Issue of the Shreveport Branch Newsletter.

Thanks, Kurt for taking time out of your busy schedule to explain this project to the ASCE Shreveport Branch.

