ACEC Chapter Awards
2012 - 2013

California
Los Angeles County Chapter
September 27, 2013

Ms. Stephanie Frieders  
Programs & Events  
ACEC California  
1303 J Street, Suite 450  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter 2012-2013 Annual Report

Dear Ms. Frieders:

The ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter is recognized as one of California’s most effective chapters in promoting statewide and local issues. It is influential in the industry and has succeeded in uniting its members with local legislation, business opportunities, emerging technologies and industry trends.

This past remarkable year has been packed with challenges and substantial success. Our annual report will showcase the results of addressing these challenges and implementing our strategic plan. The Chapter is successful for a multitude of reasons: our board of directors’ experience and dedication, our increasingly recognized (by local legislators and infrastructure owners) role in supporting legislation that promotes our industry standing, our monthly programs that feature esteemed guest speakers, and political outreach through affiliated programs and the support of local candidates.

Additionally, we have ongoing successful liaison committees that provide a forum for open dialogue between members and entities including the City of Los Angeles, Caltrans District 7, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles. We have also been extremely successful in promoting the industry and enhancing public awareness of services through an extensive student outreach and mentoring program, legislative activities, special events, membership recruitment, recognition of deserving members of the industry and sponsorship opportunities.

The Chapter is dedicated to initiating programs and activities that will secure a new level of achievement in the industry. To do this, we are committed to and focused on the basic issues that are the foundation of success for our member firms. The Board’s focus is on attracting new members, and balancing leadership among small and large firms as we recognize that the Chapter’s leadership must reflect the firms we serve.

Consistent with our strategic plan, we have made significant progress in increasing board member activities with the ACEC state board and its committees. We believe our participation will enhance our ability to support our industry locally and promote important legislation.

Central to retaining a mission and vision that is consistent with the state and national organization, we continue to enjoy the benefit of engaging Kelly Asper, our executive director. Kelly works closely with the Board to ensure that we execute our plan and serve our member firms. We succeed as an organization
through the dedication of our volunteer board members combined with the guiding hand of our executive director.

The attached submission provides a detailed discussion of the Chapter’s accomplishments and activities. We very much appreciate your consideration of the ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter for the 2012-2013 Chapter Award. If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at 213.223.1512, or by e-mail at anickerson@psomas.com.

Sincerely,

Andrew Nickerson
President, 2013 - 2014
ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter
Chapter Awards
July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

Official Entry Form for All Chapters

SECTION 1

DEADLINE: September 27, 2013

CHAPTER NAME: Los Angeles County

CHAPTER PRESIDENT: 12/13 - Raymond Fares; 13/14 - Andrew Nickerson

NUMBER OF CHAPTER FIRMS: 86

(ACEC California provided the information below)

1. Chapter Firms net membership change: (10 pts) 1.16%

2. Number of Chapter Firms serving on ACEC California committees out of total number of Chapter Firms: (10 pts) \( \frac{20}{86} = 23\% \)

3. Number of committee calls attended by a Chapter representative out of total number of calls possible:
   a. Membership Development Committee: (5 pts) \( \frac{10}{11} = 91\% \)
   b. Grassroots Committee: (5 pts) \( \frac{4}{4} = 100\% \)
   c. Chapter Officers Calls: (5 pts) \( \frac{4}{4} = 100\% \)

4. Director attendance at State Board Meetings out of total Director representation possible: (15 pts) \( \frac{12}{16} = 75\% \)

5. Number of Chapter Firms attending the ACEC California Annual Conference out of total Chapter Firms members: (10 pts) \( \frac{5}{86} = 6\% \)

6. Number of Chapter Firms attending in the State Legislative Visit Day out of total number of Chapter Firms: (5 pts) \( \frac{8}{86} = 9\% \)

7. Number of Chapter Firms attending the ACEC Legislative Summit Day out of total number of Chapter Firms: (5 pts) \( \frac{3}{86} = 3\% \)
**Chapter Awards**  
**July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013**

**SECTION 2**

Please complete the section below.  
(Each section contains a maximum of 70 points possible.)

**Chapter Representative Completing Application:** Kelly Asper

**Phone Number:** (562) 439-3950  
**Email:** office@acec-la.org

8. Average attendance at Chapter meetings out of total number of members: **(15 pts)** The Chapter held 11 chapter meetings (including the annual banquet) that averaged 100 attendees per event.

9. How many times in the last program year has your Chapter, as a chapter, communicated with local officials?: **(10 pts)** We communicate regularly with local officials throughout the year, and estimate that number to exceed 25.

10. Number of local Chapter match fundraising events for legislative candidates: **(10 pts)**  
We held one fundraiser for Senator Roderick D. Wright of the 25th District that raised more than $3,600 for a match total of $7,200.

11. Does your Chapter have a scholarship program? If so, how much money was awarded to students in the last program year?: **(10 pts)**  
Yes, this year we awarded $30,000 in scholarships

12. Does the Chapter have an independent website or regularly maintain the chapter’s page on the ACEC California website? **(10 pts)**  
Yes, the Chapter’s website is: www.acec-la.org.

**ESSAY QUESTION**

On a separate sheet (2 pages max) please provide an essay that describes how your Chapter has successfully promoted the industry locally and enhanced public awareness of services provided by member firms through student outreach, PR, recruitment efforts and special events. In addition, please describe how your Chapter has participated in improving business practices, i.e. involvement in environmental enhancements such as Earth Day or LEED. **(60 pts)**
The ACEC CA Los Angeles County Chapter has been successful in promoting the industry and enhancing public awareness of services through a student outreach program, a mentoring program, legislative activities, special events, membership recruitment, recognition of the industry’s deserving members, and sponsorship opportunities.

**PROMOTING INDUSTRY LOCALLY**

**Monthly Luncheon.** The chapter has a thriving monthly luncheon program that brings owners together with the consulting engineering community. Owners present their upcoming capital improvement and expansion programs, and contracting opportunities. This past year we hosted eight events featuring speakers from owner organizations such as the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, California High-Speed Rail Authority, and the Port of Long Beach. We also sponsored a panel discussion on design-build, and two seminars — one on Measure J and the other on overhead rates.

**Legislative Fundraiser.** In October, we held a fundraiser for Senator Roderick D. Wright of the 25th District that raised more than $3,600 which qualified for the ACEC California PAC match for a total of $7,200. Senator Wright spoke frankly about State government challenges, and he shared his interest in building better infrastructure and promoting a business-friendly environment in Sacramento. As Chair of the Governmental Organization Committee, Senator Wright succeeded in authoring SB 827, legislation that the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce hailed as 2009’s “single largest job-creation bill.”

**Legislative Achievement Award.** Presented at the Chapter’s Annual Banquet, this award recognizes outstanding leadership in promoting public infrastructure and the consulting engineering community. This year’s award went to Los Angeles City Council Member Jose Huizar, elected in 2005 and representing District 14 Downtown Los Angeles and surrounding communities.

**ENHANCED PUBLIC AWARENESS**

**Student Outreach**
Committed to offering opportunities for the next generation of engineers and surveyors, Chapter engagement includes student education, scholarships, and internships.

**National Engineers Week (E-Week).** With the help of our member firms, 80 presenters made more than 115 presentations to 5,000 high school students from 46 participating schools as part of the “Become an Engineer” campaign. Rubina Chaudhary spearheaded the effort that included well-attended training sessions and presentations from 29 firms and 8 public agencies.

**Scholarships.** Established in 2005, the Chapter’s Scholarship Fund honors qualified engineering undergraduate and graduate students attending Los Angeles County colleges and universities. Each student demonstrates a high level of academic achievement from an accredited engineering program; participates in professional associations; outlines accomplishments and/or internships directly related to the practice of engineering; and provides commendations and endorsements from faculty. Six scholarships totaling $30,000 were awarded. These men and women surpassed the criteria, and the Chapter is excited to assist them in continuing their education and impact on society.

**High School Internships.** As a subcommittee of the ACEC-CA/Caltrans District 7 Professional Liaison Committee, ACEC-CalSOP’s mission is to attract 11th and 12th grade students towards careers in engineering and related fields. ACEC-CalSOP participated in the City of Los Angeles Public Works High School Internship Program (PWHiP) with Chapter members conducting interviews, and employing, hosting and mentoring interns. After going through satellite job skills workshops and interviews, 11 were selected for a five-week paid internship.

**Committee Participation.** Stephanie Wagner represents the LA County Chapter on the Professional Surveyors Committee and the Business Management and Insurance Committee and the Grassroots Committee. The Chapter, represented by Rubina Chaudhary, is an active participant on the Education Committee. Rubina is also a Trustee of the Scholarship Foundation.
Small Business Outreach

CalMentor. The CalMentor Award Banquet was held at the Pacific Palms Hotel and Conference Center in the City of Industry on February 21, 2013, to recognize large A&E firms that dedicate time to mentoring small A&E firms in conducting business with Caltrans and other agencies. Caltrans considers this to be a valuable program supporting small business growth within the engineering consultant community, and is committed to honoring mentors as their participation is vital to the program’s success. Some of the mentors and protégés shared their experiences including what they learn and how they benefit from the pairing relationships, and the possibility of future collaboration on projects. The event was quite successful with more than 100 attendees including Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty as one of the key speakers.

Public Relations

ACEC held a kick-off rally for the Measure J bond in October. Assemblymember Mike Feuer, Move LA CEO Denny Zane, LADOT General manager Jaime de la Vega, and other representatives discussed the bond measure and how it would impact transportation construction in Los Angeles County for the next 40 years. More than 100 ACEC members attended this event.

In May, Chapter member Art Hadnett attended (at the request of Assemblymember Mike Feuer and Move LA CEO Denny Zane) a special event for the signing of the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) $700 million Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan to fund the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Corridor project. The event was attended by FTA Deputy Administrator Peter Rogoff, FTA Region 9 Director Leslie Rodgers, Mayor Villaraigosa, all five Los Angeles County Supervisors and several members of Congress. ACEC was commended for its support in backing Measure R, America Fast Forward, and Measure J.

ACEC continues to support Move LA throughout the year and was recognized at the organization’s annual event in June 2013.

Recruitment Efforts

With outstanding membership growth and participation, the Chapter’s recruiting efforts include welcoming non-members at monthly luncheons and member retention through successful programming. Our success is evidenced by the Chapter winning the Large Chapter Membership Champion award for top recruiting in the 2012-2013 membership drive as well as event attendance growth from 30 program attendees in 2005, to an average of 100 attendees this year with a total year attendance of 1,005.

Special Events

Annual Banquet. The Chapter’s Annual Achievement Awards Banquet in May provided more than 200 members and guests the opportunity to enjoy an evening of networking and celebration. Awards presented include Legislative Achievement, Engineering Achievement, Client of the Year, Member of the Year and Scholarships.

Golf Tournament. In March the Chapter held its annual Charity Golf Tournament at Rolling Hills Country Club in Palos Verdes. It was attended by more than 108 members and non-members, and raised $8,666 for the scholarship fund.

Move LA. The Chapter sponsored several Move LA initiatives including events supporting Measure J for which we helped raise $10,000.

IMPROVING BUSINESS PRACTICES

Liaison Committees

The Chapter’s Liaison Committees provide a dialogue forum for members and owners including the City of Los Angeles, the Port of Long Beach, and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. Initiatives include discussing current and future owner design and construction programs as well as:

- City of Los Angeles - reorganization plans for Planning and the Department of Building and Safety as well as updates to the BuildLA portal
- Port of Long Beach - informing consultants of the new QMS procedures
- County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works - the opportunity to establish a liaison committee with the department (first liaison committee meeting is being scheduled)

Environmental Enhancements

With the creation of the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI), many Chapter members have been involved in the development of the new ISI rating system, and several members have become ISI-certified ENVISION Sustainability Professionals (ENV SP). Many Chapter members are also LEED and Qualified SWPPP/Qualified SWPPP Practitioner certified; participate on the State Land Use and Environment Committee; and support ACEC’s Land Development Coalition.