

ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers

San Antonio Branch Texas Section

N E W S N O T E S

May 2008

Volume XI, Issue 7

May Meeting

When:

Monday, May 12, 2008

Where:

Luby's Downtown
911 North Main

Time:

Technical Session
11:30 - 1:00 p.m.
Lunch/Speaker
11:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Cost:

\$15.00 with reservation,
\$20.00 at the door,
\$5.00 for students

Reservations:

Reserve by 12:00 p.m. on
Friday, May 9, 2008 by
contacting Andrea Segall by
e-mail saascersvp@pape-sawson.com (preferred method)
by fax at (210) 375-9090 or by
phone at (210) 375-9000.
Cancellations after 5:00 p.m. on
May 9, 2008 will be billed.

Speakers:

Nancy Cline P.E., Director
of Public Works for
the Town of Addison.

Program:

Technical Session Topic:
A Cost-Plus-Time
Bidding Procedure

Lunch Presentation:

Installation of Officers and
Presentation of ASCE doings
at the Texas Section and
National Level

(See page 3 for more information)

Letter from the President of the San Antonio Branch of ASCE

As I look back over the past 12 months that I have served as your San Antonio Branch President, I see that much was started and much has been accomplished. Before your board met for the first time, I was asked by some of the members what their responsibilities were and we discovered the lack of any rules of operations, which describe those responsibilities. So your board's year started with reviewing our existing Branch By-Laws and developing rules of operations. I'll bet that most of you did not even know that this process was occurring, as all of the work was done during our "summer time off" from ASCE activities.

A mentoring or partnering program began in September as your Branch was assigned the Corpus Christi and Rio Grande Branches to help support and mentor. So far the only report I have is that we have made contact with these Branches, however our plan is to grow our support of our neighboring Branches and help them with new ideas for programs and ideas to help them increase membership. In the process, your board approved the purchase of a branch laptop so that future meetings can be broadcasted or recorded and shared with our partnering branches.

We continued our support of the UTSA students with a couple of meetings held on their campuses - the first was last fall at the main campus where we saw a presentation on Civil 3D and the second in January at the downtown campus where the ASCE Geo-Institute held their 2nd Annual Geo-Conference. Our yearly ethics requirement was offered at the kick-off dinner on January 24th. One side note is that our Branch has had a hard time this past year keeping student and practitioner liaisons on board and we will be looking for at least 2 volunteers to step up and lead these efforts this next year. I feel very comfortable saying that we have another strong UTSA student board and all they need from us is support!

Your board has had various last minute changes to meeting locations and last minute cancellations of our meetings (that was our March meeting, which was out of our hands) and your board has come through! I also just received the list of nominations for your board in 2008-2009 and the list is packed full of leaders! I am very optimistic about your branch's future.

One last item I would ask from each of you is for your participation in the branch. We made a request at the April general meeting for more volunteers on the various committees especially, as I have stated earlier, in the area of UTSA and our support of them. Your branch needs a liaison and practitioner for UTSA and assistance in pretty much all of the committees - newsletter, webmaster, public outreach, etc. Please take the time to look at ways you can become involved in various committee activities in your ASCE Branch.

As my time of service as your President ends, all I see are positive growth

continued on pg. 2

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ASCE, The Texas Section and the San Antonio Branch are not responsible for the opinions or statements printed in this newsletter.

The deadline for publishing in the next newsletter is the Friday following the Membership Meeting.

For mailing address changes or to send items for inclusion in the newsletter, please contact June Potter, E.I.T. at 655-9516 or FAX to 655-8189 or jpotter@fugro.com

For questions or problems concerning the ASCE, call National Headquarters staff in Virginia at 1-800-548-ASCE.

Questions about your membership?

**ASCE, Member Svcs.
 1801 Alexander Bell Dr.
 Reston, VA 20191-4400**

New ASCE Younger Members Group Officers for 2008-2009

President - Andrew Barboza

Vice President - Edgar Munoz

Secretary - Yasmin Gutierrez

Treasurer - Jason Link

Congratulations to each of you!

**American Society of Civil Engineers
 Texas Section ASCE Government Civil Engineer of the Year 2007 Award**

George L. Williams, P.E., civil engineer with the San Antonio Joint Program Management Office, Contract Administration Branch CESWF-SA-CMC, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, was recognized by the Texas Section American Society of Civil Engineers as Government Civil Engineer for 2007 at the ASCE Spring 2008 Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas on April 25, 2008.

Mr. Williams is a registered professional civil engineer in Texas and graduate of A. & M. College in Prairie View, Texas and the Army Basic Engineer Officer School. He served as a construction materials officer in South Viet Nam while on active military duty with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1970 and 1971.

While working in private practice with engineering and architectural firms from 1971 thru 1986, Mr. Williams held the position of field surveyor party chief and structural/ civil engineering designer of over 250 projects. Mr. Williams started his civil servant career with the Corps of Engineers in San Antonio, Texas in 1986 as civil engineer and has served as quality assurance representative, project engineer and office engineer during the past 21 years. He has been assigned to work on various projects which are located at Lackland Air Force Base, Kelly Air Force Base, Laughlin Air Force Base and Fort Sam Houston Army Base.

Mr. Williams assisted with the establishment of the San Antonio Branch American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Younger Members Group in 1995 and participated on the National ASCE Diversity Committee from 1997 to 1998. He previously participated as member of the University of Texas at San Antonio College of Engineering Advisory Committee. He has enjoyed over 35 years of speaking engagements at middle and high schools with the purpose of encouraging grade school students to pursue a degree in engineering. He is an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and has served on the Diversity and Professional Development Committee and other committees with the San Antonio Branch ASCE.

Letter from the President

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and a sense of excitement within the branch and the board. I would like to thank each of your board and committee members for their cooperation and enthusiasm and thank each you for entrusting me as your President. I look forward to my time as the new "Past-President" of your San Antonio Branch of ASCE. May God bless you and protect you this summer.

Frank M. Jaster, P.E.

President, San Antonio Branch ASCE

Pedestrian-friendly Development on the Minds of Urban Planners

By DAVID PENDERED

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Published on: 04/29/08

The effort in North Fulton to shape future developments into places that are easier to walk around is in line with trends urban planners are discussing at a national convention in Las Vegas.

Suburbs across the country are trying to shake off development patterns that required a car trip to get to work, school or a store, said Dena Belzer, an urban economist, after speaking Monday at the American Planning Association's convention.

The old patterns worked when most people who lived in the suburbs were concerned mainly with good public schools for their kids and easy access to the amenities of the central city, without the perceived downsides of urban living, Belzer said.

But demographic patterns are changing, she said. And a rising proportion of suburban residents want to be able to easily walk to their destinations or get there on a bus, Belzer said.

"Everybody agrees that households with children have particular things they're looking for — proximity to cultural amenities and good schools," Belzer said.

"But studies of the coming demographics, the baby boomers, show they want to live in more compact neighborhoods with access to transit," Belzer said. "Most of the opportunities, over time, to create those kinds of communities will be in the suburbs, not the central city."

Belzer specializes in connecting growth trends with real estate development and local development regulations. She's a principal with Strategic Economics, in Berkeley, CA.

Local leaders from Sandy Springs to Milton and Johns Creek are crafting plans to encourage future developments to be places where people can live, work and play without having to drive from one destination to the next. North Fulton today is filled with separate clusters of homes, shops and offices that are designed to be accessed mainly by a car.

ASCE May Meeting Technical Session Topic

Technical Speaker: Nancy Cline, P.E., Director of
Public Works for the Town of Addison

Topic: A Cost-Plus-Time Bidding Procedure

Time: 11:00 a.m.

The Town of Addison has used an innovative alternative bidding procedure for the past five years. Several other municipalities in the Dallas area have also adopted this approach. A+B Bidding is a cost-plus-time bidding procedure that selects the lowest bidder based on a monetary combination of the contract bid items (A) and the time (B) needed to complete the project.

ASCE Calendar

May 8 ASCE Board Meeting
May 12 ASCE General Meeting

Board Meeting Notice

The ASCE Board will meet at Civil Engineering Consultants, Inc., located at 11550 IH 10 West, Suite 395, San Antonio, TX 78230 on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.

Conferences and Continuing Education

May 1-2 2008

Strategic Planning, Valuation and Ownership Transitions for Engineering Firms, Austin, TX

May 8-9 2008

Risk Assessment in Geotechnical Engineering, San Antonio, TX

May 13-16 2008

World Environmental & Water Resources Congress 2008, Honolulu, Hawaii

May 18-21 2008

Engineering Mechanics Conference 2008, Minneapolis, MN

May 18-22 2008

Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering & Soil Dynamics IV (GEESD IV), Sacramento, CA

May 29-30 2008

Effective Project Risk Management, San Antonio, TX

May 29-30 2008

Design of Buildings in Coastal Regions, Corpus Christi, TX

June 19-20 2008

Financial Management for the Professional Engineer, Dallas, TX

For more classes, visit the ASCE Continuing Education Homepage at <http://www.asce.org/conted/>

For ASCE-sponsored Conferences, Conventions, and Calls for Papers visit their homepage at <http://www.asce.org/conferences/>

What's Next? CPS Energy Completes Mission Road Study

4/17/08

What will be the next chapter in the life of a 100-year-old red brick building housing a power plant that helped meet Greater San Antonio's electrical needs up until 2003?

That's the question CPS Energy has been attempting to answer over the past two years via the Mission Road Power Plant Feasibility Study. Data and preliminary conclusions have been compiled into a final study report that's now available to the public. Copies of the report can be reviewed at the San Antonio Public Library, 600 Soledad, or at CPS Energy's Main Office, 145 Navarro.

The 82-page feasibility study includes input from community leaders as well as residents who live near the decommissioned power plant on the east bank of the San Antonio River at 207 Mission Road, said Scott Smith, CPS Energy's director of environmental planning and compliance, who served as project manager for the study.

"After sifting through all the information and ideas, a picture of the plant as a mixed-used facility came into focus," Smith said. "It is pictured as a place where people will live, work, learn, relax and enjoy a unique environment that takes advantage of the planned San Antonio River hike-and-bike trail, the Mission Road hike-and-bike trail, Roosevelt Park and nearby downtown San Antonio."

CPS Energy soon will begin removing the old electrical-generation equipment from the plant in preparation for future development. This "shelling" process will take approximately two years, Smith estimated.

"We plan to hold a public meeting at the site prior to the shelling process to explain what's going to happen and address any concerns," he said. "Every effort will be made to accomplish this work in a way that will minimally impact the neighborhood."

Meanwhile, CPS Energy will continue to evaluate options for future development of the Mission Road property and use the Feasibility Study as a guide.

"We will be happy to meet with organizations and individuals interested in developing the site," Smith said. "Ultimately, we hope an agreement will be reached so development can begin."

For more information about the Final Mission Road Power Plant Feasibility Study, contact Smith at 353-2779, or e-mail sasmith@cpsenergy.com.

CPS Energy is the nation's largest municipally

owned energy company providing both natural gas and electric service. Acquired by the City of San Antonio in 1942, CPS Energy serves approximately 680,000 electric customers and almost 320,000 natural gas customers in and around the seventh-largest city in the U. S. CPS Energy bills rank the lowest of the nation's 10 largest cities, and the company has earned the highest financial ratings of any electric system in the nation. CPS Energy recorded the highest score nationally in the J. D. Power and Associates 2007 Gas Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study as well as the second-highest score nationwide in the 2008 Electric Utility Business Survey. For more CPS Energy information, visit www.cpsenergy.com.

UTSA Student Chapter

The student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) is one of the most active organizations in the College of Engineering. For more information on upcoming meetings and events contact Sally Bittick, ASCE UTSA Student Chapter Corresponding Secretary.

**Department of Civil and
Environmental Engineering**

Attn: ASCE Student Chapter

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E-mail: ASCE@utsaengineering.org

Call For Papers

for more information check

www.asce.org

- ◆ [Structures Congress 2009](#) Abstracts due by June 10, 2008. Conference to be held April 30, - May 2, 2009, Austin, TX
- ◆ [The 18th International Symposium on Transportation and Traffic Theory](#) Abstracts due December 15, 2008. Conference to be held July 16 - 18, 2009, Hong Kong

ASCE Public Outreach Committee participates in the Girls Inc. Science Festival

The ASCE Public Outreach Committee recently participated in the Girls Inc. Science Festival at Sunken Gardens Theater. The annual event is designed to introduce young girls to science and technology, and allow them to ask questions and solve problems at various activity booths. Between 1,000 and 1,500 girls and parents attended the event with ages ranging from 8 to 18. ASCE Outreach hosted an informational booth in addition to a workshop activity. Alisa Gruber discussed different aspects of civil engineering and answered questions at the informational booth. Deepa Thankavel led a truss building activity at the workshop where the girls made truss members consisting of toothpicks and gum, to support a weight. Each toothpick and gumball was assigned a value. The value was then totaled to determine the overall cost of each truss system. This was a great opportunity to teach cost-benefit relationships and give the girls the opportunity to explore different designs. A group winner from each workshop was given a pair of movie tickets.

John Tyler would like to thank Rick Ibarra, Ray Medrano, Alisa Gruber, and Deepa Thankavel for volunteering with Outreach events this year. If you are interested in participating in ASCE Public Outreach, please contact James Lutz or John Tyler at (210) 375-9000.

INTERESTING WEBSITES

National - ASCE Home Page

<http://www.asce.org>

Texas Section - ASCE Home Page

<http://www.texasce.org>

San Antonio Branch - ASCE Home Page

<http://www.sasce.org>

Texas Board of Professional Engineers

<http://www.tbpe.state.tx.us>

State and Local Governments on the Net (Texas)

<http://www.statelocalgov.net/state-tx.cfm>

Texas Department of Transportation

<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/>



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