

ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Chapter Region!
"Connecting Professionals, Practice, and the Public."

NEWSLETTER – 4th Quarter 2023

NEW! **Inland Empire Chapter Officers**

Chair – Lisa Battiato, Geocon West
Co-Vice Chair (North) – Mike Cook, Kleinfelder
Co-Vice Chair (South) – Ernie Roumelis, Cal Poly Pomona
Treasurer – Mark Doerschlag, Aragon Geotechnical
Secretary – Doug Johnston, Petra Geosciences

Southern California Chapter Officers

Chair – Daniel Schneidereit, City of Los Angeles
Vice Chair – Jason Moore, Fugro
Treasurer – Robert Woodford, Woodford GEO
Secretary – Solishia Andico, City of Malibu

Visit the **Southern California Region Website:** www.aegsc.org

Although this web site has been managed by the Southern California Chapter, it has an Inland Empire Chapter page that doesn't look like it has had content added since about 2017, I think it is time to change that! Please submit content suggestions to your chapter secretary.

For this quarter we are taking a different direction with our newsletter, we are producing a newsletter that addresses the activities within the entire region, not just an individual chapter. This has been a year of accomplishments, and the whole region needs to hear about those accomplishments and share in the pride and the enthusiasm as we move into the new year and look forward to many new opportunities.

I don't anticipate that this will be the normal format, but it might be nice to do a semi-annual regional newsletter. There is nothing in the bylaws that says chapters need to operate in individual silos. Your feedback is requested.

Regional Director's Column

By Darrin Hasham

December 2, 2023

Wow, where do I start? Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic the Southern California Region had two active chapters, the Inland Empire Chapter and the Southern California Chapter. Both of these chapters went idle during the pandemic and required some "coaxing" to get activities jumpstarted. The situation in the Southern California Region was not unique, there were, and are, a number of chapters across the nation that faced the same circumstances. I am happy to report that not only have the Inland Empire and Southern California Chapters resumed in-person activities, we also have a revitalized student chapter in the region, thanks to a faculty sponsor at California State University, Los Angeles. Next year promises to be an exciting one for the Southern California Region, but as we look forward we should also take a minute to look back, the Southern California Region has a rich legacy and we should build upon that legacy to honor those that came before us and build upon it to insure that those that have chosen the career path of applied geology are aware of our history and how, as a region, we have helped to shape the industry.

In May of this year a new slate of officers were elected by the Southern California Chapter members to lead that chapter; in November the Inland Empire Chapter members elected new leadership. I have great confidence that these volunteers will inject energy and enthusiasm into each of their respective chapters and lead us forward in a way that we will all be proud and willing to participate in AEG. We have rediscovered a sense of purpose and direction and are better equipped to fulfill our roles in supporting our members; connecting professionals, practice, and the public; and bridging academia to practice and developing the geoscience workforce of the future!

The Southern California Chapter has already been introduced to the new leadership team: Daniel Schneiderei as Chairperson, Jason Morre as Vice-Chairperson, Robert Woodford as Treasurer, and Solishia Andico as Secretary. It is new news that Lisa Battiato has been elected as Chairperson, Michael Cook and Ernie Roumelis as co-Vice Chairpersons, and Doug Johnston as Secretary of the Inland Empire Chapter. Mark Doerschlag has been re-elected as treasurer; a position he appears to have held since about 2014. I'm sure that everyone will share in the comfort of having the consistency and experience in the treasurer position. Please join me in thanking these folks for their willingness to volunteer their time and energy to our mission.

The underlying reason for the sluggishness of the chapters across the country that are having difficulty emerging from the post-covid doldrums is burn-out. AEG is an organization of volunteers and the conditions imposed by the pandemic created stresses

on the organization that there were no guidelines to review to help us navigate, but we made it through. I have frequently said that this is OUR organization, and it is what WE make of it. If many volunteers each contribute a small spark of energy, before we know it, we will have a fire that can sustain itself, and provide comfort and illumination. To maintain the fire and prevent the volunteer burn-out that affected many chapters across the country during the pandemic we need to start thinking about a succession plan. Yes, I know we just held elections and the new officers are fresh and full of enthusiasm, but isn't there is a saying about thinking about backfilling your position on the first day of a new job?

AEG's operating policies recommend that elections be held annually, or at least biannually but the frequency is only a recommendation. I think we have all been involved with AEG for long enough that we see individuals get parked into a role until they are burned out. We are all volunteers, and we should be mindful that an individual shouldn't be trapped in a role forever.

An exception to the "recommended" election schedule is the regional director (RD). The RD is elected for a 3-year term to serve on the board of directors, with a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. I am a year into my second term and will be ineligible to serve after September 2025. A replacement will need to be identified before that time. If you think you might be interested and would like to know more about the role, please reach out to me directly.

I attended the annual meeting in Portland Oregon this past September. The meeting was a great success and meeting attendance has returned to pre-pandemic participation levels. The Southern California Region was well represented with members attending, moderating, and presenting. Although the Pacific northwest has a reputation for rain, we had excellent weather for the field courses held at the front end of the conference and during the week; unfortunately, the rain did arrive for the trailing Saturday field course to Mount Saint Helens, although I heard from attendees that it was still an awesome experience. I found it interesting to learn that the Cascade Ranges are named after the Columbia Cascade, a series of rapids in the Columbia River that created challenges to river navigation before the construction of a lock to allow bypassing the rapids. The rapids were the result of the Bonneville landslide, part of a mega-slide complex that slid into the Columbia River gorge. So, in an indirect way, the mountain range is named after a landslide.

The annual meeting was followed by the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, which I attended as the representative from southern California. At the BOD meeting business such as approving budgets and a review of the committee and affiliated associations is conducted. The most important thing that will reshape AEG at the national level is the adjustment of regional boundaries, which is something that is reviewed every five years in accordance with our bylaws. The review is intended to attempt to level the number of members in each region. There are no changes proposed to any of the California

Regions. Our bylaws state that no State can be added to another State that has more than one region, and California has two regions, the only state that has more than one. As your representative on the board please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Additional Thoughts:

With the “reset” we are going through we have the opportunity to change things around a bit. If you have any ideas how you would like to see your chapter operate, please reach out to me or your chapter chair. These ideas could include location and frequency of meetings, meeting formats (is an occasional Saturday meeting a good idea?).

As geologists we all love field trips. If you have an idea for a field trip or would be interested in helping to organize a field trip, please reach out to your chapter chair. I think field trips, especially those with more complex logistics and durations are an excellent opportunity to get regional participation.

To continue to have informative, entertaining, and rewarding meetings we need to have great presentations. If you have been working on a cool project and it has technical aspects or lessons learned that could benefit the Association, please consider presenting at a meeting. If you know of a great speaker but they have limited availability, or maybe would require travel and lodging expenses covered, please consider a joint meeting to respect the speaker’s time and availability or share some of the expenses, it will benefit the region as a whole.

Membership renewal time is upon us. The Southern California Region is large, stretching from Monterey County in the north, south to our border with Mexico, and from Arizona to the Pacific Ocean. There are many members that do not attend meetings because of the logistics involved. If you are one of these members, consider the chapter you select when you renew. The inland Empire Chapter will be holding meetings in the Temecula area and that may serve members in the San Diego area better, for example.

While I am discussing chapters, back in the old days, you know, like pre-Holocene, AEG had chapters in the San Diego and the California central coast areas. And the Inland Empire Chapter was only established in 2005 by members that wanted something more convenient than meetings in the Los Angeles Basin. Prior to the pandemic I floated the idea of re-establishing the Central Coast Chapter, figuring it could serve those that lived or worked north of the Santa Clara River. The idea was received with some interest but like so many other things the pandemic sort of squashed the momentum. It only takes 8 members to form a chapter. If a more local chapter is something you might be interested in, reach out to me.

Well, I think I've written enough for this newsletter. As I wrote in the beginning, the region has a lot to share and be proud of as we finish 2023 and look forward to the opportunities of 2024. I look forward to your comments, ideas, or feedback to anything presented in this newsletter; please reach out to me or a representative from your local chapter. Remember, this is OUR Association, and it is what WE make of it.

Inland Empire Chair's Column

By Lisa Battiato

December 15, 2023

Hello all, I am thrilled to be a part of AEG-IE once again. My Name is Lisa Battiato, PG, CEG I am a Regional Manager and Senior Geologist at Geocon West, Inc. managing staff and projects in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. My geologic experience began as a student at UC Riverside in the mid-nineties when I also interned for the Riverside County Geologist. I began attending AEG and Inland Geological Society meetings when I realized if I was going to work in geology, I should know what working Geologists actually do. Being a part of these groups has been a great experience and I have been fortunate to meet so many great people! I began my geotechnical career at Petra and moved to Geocon in 2003. I did short stints at Kleinfelder and then Leighton during the great recession before returning to Geocon in 2010.

As Chairperson of AEG-IE in 2024 my goals are to form a cohesive and productive board to work together to re-establish professional connections, reinvigorate monthly meetings, and effectively serve our membership. I would also like to establish student chapters at UCR, Cal Poly Pomona, and CSUSB and regularly see students and faculty at our monthly meetings. I want to connect professional geologist and students and help the students learn about the various jobs available to them and provide those connections to move them from students to professional geologists.

As Chair, I am here for you so do not hesitate to reach out with any suggestions you may have.

Chapter News

NEW! Cal-State Los Angeles Student Chapter –

The legacy of the engineering geology discipline began in southern California and the southern California Chapter, or Section as it was called back in the old days, has had more than its share of engineering geology heavy weights. It was the failure of the Saint Francis Dam in southern California that brought the need to understand geology

to the forefront of civil infrastructure engineering. The AEG/GSA Jahns Distinguished Lecturer is named after Richard Jahns, who taught at Cal Tech here in southern California. Cal Tech was not the only local school to produce professionals in the applied geology field. Drs. Perry Elig and Martin Stout, hailing from California State University, Los Angeles, were early pioneers in the engineering geology discipline and the University had a vibrant student chapter. That chapter had gone dormant over the years, and it is with great pleasure that I announce that the CSULA student chapter has been revitalized thanks to Dr. Barry Hibbs, who will serve as the faculty advisor, and a number of enthusiastic students who wish to continue the pride and heritage of practicing geologists in southern California. Dr Hibbs has been a great advocate for the local chapter regularly delivering talks and encouraging students to attend the chapter meetings.



Pictured in the photo, from left to right, are student member Tania Mejia, director of AEG region 2, southern California, Darrin Hasham, faculty advisor, Dr. Barry Hibbs, and student members Maria Peralta, Jerusalem Miramontes, and Andrew Sunda, who have volunteered to be a core student members of the newly revived Environmental and Engineering Geoscience Union at California State University, Los Angeles.

Inland Empire Chapter –

After several years of Covid-related hiatus, AEG's Inland Empire Chapter is awakening from our slumber! During November, direction from the regional leadership re-started the IE board's election process. After an exhausting and competitive election process was completed, your 2024 board of officer was formally installed on December 6. Of special note is Mr. Mark Doerschlag, who is now serving in his 10th year on the committee.

The IE board settled on monthly meetings to be held on the third Wednesday day of the month. Meetings will alternate between north and south locations to make them accessible to a larger geographic area. Odd months will have meetings in the Temecula area, even months will have meetings in the Ontario area. There will be no monthly meeting in September due to the annual meeting or in December due to the holidays.

We welcome speaker/topic/filed trip suggestions, please reach out to any of the board members with your input.

Our first official Chapter meeting since February of 2020 was held on December 6, 2023, at Escape Brewery in downtown Redlands. We welcomed guest speaker, Mr. Darrin Hasham, PG, CEG, who works as an Associate Geologist at Earth Systems Pacific in San Luis Obispo, California. Mr. Hasham presented a history on how wine and caves became associated with each other, why wine caves are currently attractive to wineries, and used a case study to present construction methods, testing and observation performed before and during construction, and discuss challenges associated with these mined structures. Wine cave projects are technically diverse, involve application of several engineering geological principles and practices, and provide excellent exposures of freshly exposed bedrock to sample, measure, and basically just enjoy.

Our upcoming Chapter meeting will be held on January 17 in the Temecula area. Stay tuned for details following the holidays. Have a joyful Holiday season and New Year's celebration!

Decemeber 6, Escape Brewery, Redlands CA



Speaker Darrin Hasham.



The first AEG-IE meeting was well attended with by local professors, students and geologists.

Southern California Chapter –

Since our last newsletter, AEG Southern California Chapter has been happy to host two meetings.

On October 11th at Victorio's Ristorante in North Hollywood, the AEG Southern California welcomed speaker Dr. Barry Hibbs of California State University, Los Angeles, where he instructs courses in groundwater hydrology, water quality, watershed analysis, field methods in hydrology, and groundwater management. Dr. Hibbs presented on “Identifying Terrestrial Groundwater Inputs to New Wetlands on the Shores of the Retreating Salton Sea, CA,” focused on the evolution of wetlands along the shores of Salton Sea, Bombay Beach area and Niland Area, California atop semi-perching confining units formed from deposits of “Ancient Lake Cahuilla.” At the Salton Sea, wetlands are appearing at retreating locations where there is a significant source of terrestrial water. On the north shore in the Bombay Beach area, lining of the Coachella Canal in 2006 is responsible for ending a significant input of canal seepage of Colorado River project water. Local artesian wells tapping the thermal aquifer are completed from 110 to 300 m deep, with temperatures reaching 55 to 80 degrees C at the wellheads and higher temperatures found at deeper wells. The provenance of the thermal, pluvial groundwater is probably to the north of Salton Sea.



On November 8th at Victorio's Ristorante, our chapter welcomed Shant Minas (PG, CEG, PMP, former AEG Chair of the Southern California Chapter) of Applied Earth Sciences to present on "Everything but the Kitchen Sink": A Multidimensional Geotechnical, Geologic and Environmental Investigation for a Proposed Manufacturing and Office Facility on a Complicated Brownfield Site, Los Angeles, California. This talk highlighted a local Brownfield property that Applied Earth Sciences conducted a series of geotechnical, geologic and environmental studies on from 2015 through 2019. The site location was complicated by numerous factors: situated at the toe of an ascending slope near two mapped landslides; within the wider Newport-Inglewood Fault Zone; adjacent to Ballona Creek (a major watershed draining the northern Los Angeles Basin); in a liquefaction zone, near existing oil wells/fields, a methane zone; previously used as a petroleum product transfer terminal by Chevron, with 10 (leaking) underground tanks and 3 aboveground tanks; partially remediated gasoline and diesel contamination; and adjacent to a dry cleaner with a history of PCE and TCE contaminant discharges. After conducting extensive studies and site investigation, Mitigation recommendations included an impact wall and debris basin for debris storage as form of mitigation for landslide and mudflow hazard; mat foundation supported on piles to support the proposed buildings to mitigate the high groundwater and liquefaction potential; a portion of site set aside for dewatering and contaminated groundwater treatment prior to discharge into the creek; site grading to provide toe of slope setback; and a soil vapor mitigation system for the habitable buildings. AES reports were eventually approved by the LADBS for the construction of the proposed buildings, but the environmental remediation challenges remain, and the site remains vacant.



Pictured in the photo, from left to right, are director of AEG region 2, southern California, Darrin Hasham, and recipient of the 2023 Presidential Citation, Daniel Schneidereit.

Upcoming Meeting Dates –

The southern California (Los Angeles Basin) Chapter will be hosting Nolan Seles of Geokon, a manufacturer of geotechnical and structural monitoring instrumentation. He will be presenting an informational seminar on their products at Victorio's Ristorante in North Hollywood on Tuesday January 9th.

The Inland Empire Chapter will be hosting Gerry Kasman of Geocon West, presenting on the anniversary of the Northridge earthquake at the Aftershock Brewery on Wednesday, January 17th.

Sarah Kalika, the current President of AEG, will be visiting the southern California Region in February. She will visit the Southern California chapter on Tuesday, February 20th, and the Inland Empire chapter on Wednesday February 21st. During her visit she will also meet with students at the newly rejuvenated CSULA Student Chapter and students at CSUSB. Mark your calendars and look for meeting announcements soon!

In Other News . . .

National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Exam Deadlines

Good luck to everyone taking the upcoming Geologist-in-Training, Fundamentals of Geology, Practice of Geology, California Specific, Certified Engineering Geologist, Certified Hydrogeology, and Professional Geophysicist exams during March!

Upcoming Exam Dates

A complete application must be submitted 100 days prior to the scheduled exam date. Applicants are encouraged to submit their application well in advance of the 100 days in order to allow sufficient time for each professional reference to complete their response.



- March 12 and 15, 2024: Geologist-In-Training Certification, Fundamentals of Geology, Practice of Geology
- March 5, 2024: Professional Geologist California Specific Exam
- October 1, 2024: Professional Geologist California Specific Exam
- October 2, 2024: Certified Engineering Geologist, Certified Hydrogeologist, Professional Geophysicist
- October 4, 2024: Geologist-In-Training Certification, Fundamentals of Geology, Practice of Geology

Additional information can be found on the BPELSG website at

https://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/applicants/exam_schedule_final_filing_dates.pdf

AEG Awards and Scholarships – Apply Now!

AEG has several awards that recognize the contributions our members make to the Association and to the profession. It is our members that make the effort each day to provide public safety and protect property. The following awards are just some of the ways AEG acknowledges these efforts. Apply and find out more information at

<https://www.aegweb.org/awards-scholarships>

- Nominations due **January 31** – Jahns Distinguished Lecturer
- Nominations due 90 days before the BOD Meeting, **approximately March 1** – Outstanding Environmental and Engineering Geology Project Award
- Nominations due **March 15** – Advocacy Award, Claire P. Holdredge Award, Douglas R. Piteau Outstanding Young Member Award, Floyd T. Johnston Service Award, Honorary Members, Karl and Ruth Terzaghi Mentor Award
- Paper Submittal due **May 1** – Student Professional Paper Award
- Application Packet due **June 15** – Outstanding Student Chapter Award
- Annual Report and Application Packet due **August 15** – Outstanding Chapter Award





67TH ANNUAL MEETING

Philadelphia

September 10-14, 2024

POTENTIAL TECHNICAL TOPICS

- KARST
- NJ STATE SUPERFUND SITES
- PFAS AS ANTHROPOGENIC BACKGROUND
- GEOLOGY IN SITE REMEDIATION
- COASTAL RESILIENCY
- SEA LEVEL RISE & CLIMATE CHANGE INDUCED STORM SURGE PROTECTION
- UAV & LIDAR MAPPING
- DAMS AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
- SITE CHARACTERIZATION TECHNOLOGY
- GROUNDWATER MONITORING
- HAZARDOUS MINERALS ASSESSMENT
- MINERAL AND AGGREGATE MINING & RECLAMATION

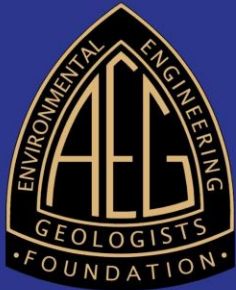


Host Hotel :

**Hilton Philadelphia
at Penn's Landing**



AEGANNUALMEETING.ORG



FUND YOUR EDUCATION WITH THE AEG FOUNDATION

SUPPORT FOR UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS:

- PHYLLIS STECKEL DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND
- SUSAN STEELE WEIR ("WOMEN OF "STEELE")

FUNDS BY GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION:

- CAROLINAS SCHOLARSHIP FUND: STUDENTS ENROLLED IN NORTH OR SOUTH CAROLINA.
- MATHEWSON FUND: STUDENTS STUDYING IN TEXAS
- ROBERT J. WATTERS GREAT BASIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND: STUDYING IN RENO / NORTHERN NEVADA
- WEST-GRAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND: STUDENTS IN THE EASTERN HALF OF THE UNITED STATES

FUNDS FOR UNDERGRADS & GRADUATE STUDENTS:

- MARLIAVE FUND: SUPPORTS ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AND GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING
- SHLEMON QUATERNARY ENGINEERING GEOLOGY FUND: SUPPORTS STUDENTS AT THE GRADUATE LEVEL
- STOUT FUND: SUPPORTS ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGY

FUNDS FOR GEOLOGY FIELD CAMP:

- BEARDSLEY-KUPER FUND
- TILFORD FUND



AEG STUDENT CHAPTER SUPPORT:
SUPPORTS AEG STUDENT CHAPTERS FOR FIELD TRIPS, VISITING PROFESSIONALS, AND OTHER PROGRAM NEEDS

AEG MEETING PRESENTER SUPPORT:
LEMKE FUND: PROVIDES SUPPORTING FUNDS TO AEG STUDENT MEMBERS PRESENTING AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS AT WHICH AEG PLAYS A SUBSTANTIAL ROLE



FIELD TRIP GRANTS



**Applications due
January 15, 2024**



For more information and to apply, visit aegfoundation.org

YEAR 2024 CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

Contributions from corporations and individual members are greatly appreciated. Contributors will be listed in our newsletters throughout the year and can post their logo or business card in the newsletter, if so desired. Please contact your chapter Secretary for information.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For those of you who have not yet renewed, are unsure about your membership status or did not receive your membership dues statement, please contact AEG Headquarters at www.aegweb.org. You can renew your membership online. Please update your membership if you wish to continue to receive future issues of the newsletter.

If you would like to submit content to the newsletter (i.e., job posting, news, updates), please contact Solishia at soandico@gmail.com (Southern California Chapter) or Doug at djohnston@petra-inc.com (Inland Empire Chapter).

If you would like to be featured in our newsletter, please consider sponsoring an AEG meeting by contacting your local chapter chairperson or Darrin Hasham at dhasham@earthsystems.com