



ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS
Southern California Chapter
"Connecting Professionals, Practice, and the Public."

NEWSLETTER – 4th Quarter 2015

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We'll be holding a joint meeting with ASCE on December 2, 2015 at Stevens Steak House in the City of Commerce. Dr. Marshall Lew, P.E., G.E., will be presenting his talk on Mitigation of Liquefaction Potential for a New California Hospital.

Hello everyone and Happy Holidays in advance!! We'll be talking about our next field trip in this newsletter and present a summary of AEG's annual meeting in Pittsburgh, and more! Don't forget about our next meeting on December 2, 2015.

Chair's Column

By Shant Minas

November 23, 2015

Greetings, AEG members!

It has been a very busy 2nd half of the year for many of us in the environmental, geological and geotechnical consulting profession! Demand for our services seems to have increased significantly since the tough times of 2008-2010. I hear similar feedback from colleagues around the geological and engineering community, which is generally a positive sign. Please read the sections below for an update on recent AEG matters and a look ahead at 2016.

Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh: AEG's annual meeting in Pittsburgh was a financial and overall success. There were several interesting talks about the unique environmental and engineering geology conditions of the Pittsburgh area. For those of us whose first trip it was to Pittsburgh, we were pleasantly surprised at the aesthetic beauty of the city, especially around the confluence of the three major rivers and surrounding bluffs.

The meeting had almost 500 attendees, and several southern California members were present and gave talks, among them David Perry, Jeff Keaton, Kerry Cato (moderator), outgoing Jahns Lecturer Eldon Gath, and of course, Roy Shlemon, among several others. The wildly successful Landslide Symposium that took place earlier this year in Seattle was continued. Several of the excellent Pittsburgh area field trips were sold out. Finally, from our Board of Directors meeting it was reported that the meeting brought in a tidy profit for the national organization, on the order of \$10k.

The change in organization structure from sections to Chapters is now a reality. We at the southern California sections will not experience much change. The main difference is we are expected to nominate a Chapter Chairperson for the southern California chapter, and this person need not be, in fact it is preferred he/she not be, the subchapter Chair (myself at the current time). This is set up this way so that local section leaders can focus on organizing and leading local meetings and events, whereas the Chapter Chair will represent the southern California chapter at the national level, attending the annual and semi-annual meeting as our representative.

October local chapter meeting: Our October meeting was held at Victorio's in North Hollywood and featured geologist Tanya Leffler and Mike Elliot of Jensen Precast, who gave an excellent presentation about onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), followed by a lively discussion, and specifically geological and engineering considerations. It was a very informative talk, and I was glad to hear from a number of members afterwards that it was one of the best talks of the year. We had about 25 attendees.

December 2015 upcoming meeting: For our last meeting of the year 2015 we are pleased to announce that we are cohosting a meeting on Wednesday, December 2 with ASCE Geotechnical Group, Los Angeles section, featuring Marshall Lew, PhD, PE, GE, regarding Liquefaction Potential for a new Hospital; see flyer attached and following this Chair's message.

New Field Trip Chair: I am pleased to announce that I recently hired a young AEG member, Michael Thompson, who is working on his Master's degree from CSULB. Mike has agreed to volunteer as AEG Field Trip chair. In addition to helping plan our next AEG Field Trip along the Santa Monica fault, Mike will compile the reports and maps prepared by our speakers for our June Field Trip along the Hollywood fault zone, to be put into an upcoming and highly anticipated AEG publication.

At the current time, we are calling for experts and speakers for our next field trip, to be held in June 2016, along the Santa Monica fault zone. Moving westward from the LDS Temple (site of our final stop in the June 2015 field trip), suggested field trip locations include the Veteran's Administration in Westwood, University High School in Brentwood, selected locations in Santa Monica, Potrero Canyon Park in Pacific Palisades, and several possible locations off PCH in the Malibu area. Those of you with background and experience with fault studies in these and nearby areas are kindly asked to reach out to our AEG Field Trip Chair Michael Thompson at michael@essoil.com.

We are in the process of lining up our speakers for the new year. In January we will be presenting Todd Roberts, PG, of RocTest, Ltd., who specialize in geotechnical instrumentation and testing equipment. For February we have tentatively scheduled Altamira Information, an Earth observation/imagery company. And we hope to have incoming Jahn's Lecturer Mr. Jerry De Graff for sometime early in the year. Stay tuned for a busy and active 2016!

Howard A. "Buzz" Spellman, P.G., C.E.G. (1927-2015)

It is with utmost sadness that we report that "Buzz" Spellman, a pioneering, distinguished southern California engineering geologist, has passed away.

Howard "Buzz" Alden Spellman Jr., 88, born on September 17, 1927 in Springfield, Massachusetts, passed away October 28, 2015, in Arcadia, California. Buzz graduated from Northfield Mount Hermon High School in Gil, Massachusetts in May 1945, just as the Second World War was coming to a close. He promptly enlisted in the United States Navy for a three-year hitch. Upon his Honorable Discharge in 1948, he attended the University of Cincinnati on the GI Bill, and received his BA in geology in 1953. Later that year, he moved to the Los Angeles area with his wife, Mollie Miller Spellman and they eventually made their home in Arcadia, just east of Pasadena, California.

Buzz found employment as an engineering geologist in the Los Angeles Basin and was one of the first geologists hired by the Los Angeles County Engineer's Office, in 1962. In 1964 accepted a position with Converse Foundation Engineers in Pasadena, which became Converse-Davis (1966-78), the Converse-Ward-Davis-Dixon (1978-83), and then Converse Consultants (1983-2001). In 1981 Buzz succeeded George Curtin, CEG to become Converse's principal engineering geologist, which he retained until retiring in 1996.

Buzz joined the California Association of Engineering Geologists in 1962, which became the Association of Engineering Geologists (AEG) in January 1963. In the mid-1970s he served as the national treasurer, secretary, and vice president of AEG. In 1978 he served as President of AEG. In November 1985 he was appointed to the California State Board of Geology by then Governor George Deukmejian. Buzz enjoyed a lifelong love of sailing, golf, tennis, and the USA. He was an ardent fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers and the UCLA Bruins. He was laid to rest at the Riverside National Cemetery.

**GEOTECHNICAL GROUP
LOS ANGELES SECTION – ASCE
AND ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS**



MEETING NOTICE
Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015

**MITIGATION of LIQUEFACTION POTENTIAL FOR A
NEW CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL**

Marshall Lew, Ph.D., P.E., G.E.

Principal Engineer and Vice President
Amec Foster Wheeler

SOCIAL HOUR: 5:30 p.m.
DINNER: 6:30 p.m.
PROGRAM: 7:30 p.m.
PLACE: Stevens Steak House
5332 Stevens Place, City of Commerce
Southwest Corner of I-5 & Atlantic Boulevard

PRICE:

\$35 with reservation in-advance (RSVP by email);

\$40 at the door;

Students: Free with valid Student ID

CONTACT: Sharid K. Amiri sharid_amiri@dot.ca.gov

**Please make reservations by e-mail prior to 12 noon, Wednesday,
November 25**

Abstract:

The Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura, CA is located near active faults and is in a California Liquefaction Hazard Zone. The potential for liquefaction is high at the site for a new hospital building and significant liquefaction-induced settlement is possible under the design earthquake conditions. Options to mitigate the potential for liquefaction and its consequences were considered and deep soil mixing was selected. This case history will be presented.



Bio:

Marshall Lew, Ph.D., P.E. G.E. is a graduate of UCLA and has over 40 years of professional experience in geotechnical and earthquake engineering with LeRoy Crandall and Associates, Law/Crandall, MACTEC, and Amec Foster Wheeler. He is a member of ASCE, EERI, SEAOSC and SSA and LA Tall Buildings Structural Design Council; he was Secretary-Treasurer of EERI for 6 years. He has published professional papers and presented in many technical conferences. He was recently named as Distinguished Alumnus of the UCLA Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.

AEGF Scholarship Application's DUE BY FEBRUARY 1, 2016

The AEG Foundation Scholarship Application closing date is fast approaching. All applications must be fully completed and submitted online by **February 1, 2016**. For California students, the AEG Foundation has six scholarship programs to support students, including scholarships for field camp, field research, scholarship and professional development at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Academic scholarships are briefly described below. For the AEG Foundation scholarship application and specific information about each of our scholarship programs, please visit our website at www.aegfoundation.org.

We encourage students to apply for Foundation scholarships. Applications are only accepted online at www.aegfoundation.org/applications. First-time users will need to set up an account, but you can then apply for multiple scholarships from that account. Please read the criteria for each scholarship to determine if you are eligible.

You must be a student member of AEG to apply for AEG Foundation scholarships, but student membership in AEG is free! Go to www.aegweb.org to become a student member.

Faculty members, as members of academic institutions supporting students in Environmental and Engineering Geology, the AEG Foundation hopes that you will encourage students to apply for one or more of the many scholarships we offer. In addition, we hope that you will assist the students by completing recommendations for applications when or if you are requested.

Funds for Students

These Funds assist students to attend field camps, professional meetings, and support student research, scholarship, and professional development.

- **BEARDSLEY-KUPER FUND:** This scholarship was established in 2009 by Cathryne Beardsley with her daughter Dorian Kuper and son-in-law Tom Kuper. The fund provides financial support for field camp tuition and expenses.
- **CAROLINAS SCHOLARSHIP FUND:** This scholarship fund was established in 2015 by the AEG Foundation to support direct costs associated with the Carolinas Scholarships.
- **LEMKE FUND:** This scholarship was established in 2007 in memory of June and Richard Lemke and provides supporting funds to AEG Student Members presenting at professional meetings at which AEG plays a substantial role.
- **MARLIAVE FUND:** The Marliave Fund was established by AEG in 1968 and is in memory of Burton, Chester, and Elmer Marliave. This fund supports graduate and undergraduate Scholarships in Engineering Geology and Geological Engineering.
- **TILFORD FUND:** Established in 1998 in memory of Norman Tilford, a Past President and Executive Director of AEG, and professor at Texas A&M. This fund is distributed as grants awarded to graduate and undergraduate students in support of field studies.
- **STOUT FUND:** Established in 1994 by the Southern California Section in honor of Professor Martin Stout. This fund supports graduate and undergraduate students in environmental and engineering geology.

Latest Update from GMED, Los Angeles County

The Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division (GMED) of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works is now accepting Building and Grading permit application document submittals through a web application at the following URL:

<https://dpw.lacounty.gov/apps/esubmissions/gme/default.aspx>

Permit applications must be filed with Building and Safety before documents can be submitted to GMED because a plan check application number must be provided on the upload screen. First-time users are required to create a site login, which facilitates future submittals and provides contact information should it be determined that additional information is needed to process the submittal.

Documents submitted through the web portal include consultant's reports, building/grading plans, permit applications, fee receipts, etc., and must be in Adobe PDF format. Submittal of hard copy (paper) documents to GMED is no longer required.

Our web application will not accept plan check application numbers for applications filed through Land Development Division and some Contract Cities. For information on submitting these projects, or for any other questions, please contact GMED at GMEDSubmittals@dpw.lacounty.gov, or (626) 458-4923.



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Greetings AEG Southern California Section Member

We hope you will join us for joint meeting with ASCE next meeting at Stevens Steak House in the City of Commerce on Wednesday, December 2, 2015. We are fortunate to have Dr. Marshall Lew, P.E., G.E., as our featured speaker.

Please see below for meeting information including whom to RSVP

Presentation topic: Mitigation of Liquefaction Potential for a New California Hospital

Speaker: Marshall Lew, Ph.D., P.E., G.E.

Meeting date: Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Location: 5332 Stevens Place, City of Commerce
Southwest Corner of I-5 & Atlantic Boulevard

Time: 5:30 pm Social Hour, 6:30 pm Dinner, 7:30 pm Program

Cost: \$35 per person with reservations in advance for AEG members, \$40 without reservations (at the door) and non-members, Free for students with a valid student ID.

Reservations: Since this meeting is being cohosted with ASCE, we ask that you direct your RSVPs to Mr. Sharid K. Amiri at sharid_amiri@dot.ca.gov.

It is requested to please make reservations by e-mail prior to 12 noon Monday November 30.

Chapter Meetings

Inland Empire:

For the latest information and updates, please visit <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/inlandempire/>

Central Coast:

For the latest information and updates, please visit <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/centralcoast/>

San Diego:

For the latest information and updates, please visit <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/extremesocal/>

YEAR 2016 CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

Contributions from corporations and individual members are greatly appreciated. Contributors will be listed in our newsletter throughout the year and can post their logo or business card in the newsletter if so desired. Please mail contributions made out to **AEG** to our section treasurer, Edmond Lee.

2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For those of you who have not yet renewed **(the deadline was November 1)**, 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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES & ADVERTISING

If you would like to post an ad in the newsletter, please contact Pedram Rahimikian at pedram@geoconceptsinc.com. Advertisement rates are shown in the box below.

**Company & Employment Advertising
Newsletter (includes SoCal website posting)**

Quarterly Newsletter

- **Business Card** **\$50**
- **¼ Page** **\$75**
- **½ Page** **\$100**
- **Full Page** **\$200**

SoCal website posting only

\$20/month

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