

Stan R. Caldwell, P.E., F.AEI, F.ASCE
Director, Technical Region

Halff Associates, Inc.
1201 North Bowser Road • Richardson, TX 75081
Phone: (214) 346-6280 • Fax: (214) 739-0095
E-mail: scaldwell@halff.com

Thomas M. Rachford, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE
Director, Technical Region

Gannett Fleming, Inc.
207 Senate Avenue • Camp Hill, PA 17011
Phone: (717) 763-7211 • Fax: (717) 763-7323
E-mail: trachford@gfnet.com

Technical Region Directors' Report **August 15, 2008**

All members of the ASCE Board of Direction are expected to communicate effectively with the constituents in their respective regions. The Technical Region is comprised of the more than 100,000 members of ASCE's eight Institutes. This report is the thirteenth in a series of brief summaries intended to keep you informed of news from the ASCE Board of Direction and the Technical Region Board of Governors. Directors Caldwell and Rachford jointly produce this report and ask that the Institutes promptly distribute it to all of their members. Please do not hesitate to contact either Director at any time with your questions and concerns. They would especially appreciate receiving any thoughts that you might have on how ASCE and its Technical Region can better serve you.

July 2008 ASCE Board of Direction Special Meeting in Kansas City

On July 21, 2008 the ASCE Board of Direction conducted a wide range of discussions and reached a number of decisions of interest to the Technical Region. The following summary is not intended to be all-inclusive. Additional information is available on the ASCE website (www.asce.org). The ASCE BOD took the following actions of particular relevance to the Institutes:

- Approved revisions to the Society's Rules of Policy and Procedure to add the Engineering Mechanics Institute charge and update the other Institute charges to correspond to their Bylaws.
- Approved revisions to Society's Rules of Policy and Procedure to clarify the Codes and Standards Committee membership to require representation from only those Institutes having codes and standards activities.
- Accepted on 1st reading proposed procedural changes to the nomination processes for ASCE President-elect, Society Regional Directors and the Society at-large Director. If approved upon 2nd reading at the November 4 & 5, 2008 ASCE BOD meeting in Pittsburgh these changes will be incorporated into the Society Bylaws.
- Approved on 2nd reading proposed changes to Article 6.2.2 of the Society Bylaws on the composition and term of office of the Technical Region Board of Governors (TRBG) to allow more flexibility to the Institutes. Previously, the Institute Presidents and Presidents-elect automatically populate the Technical Region Board of Governors. Now, each Institute is able to designate any two voting Institute governors to represent it on the TRBG, so long as at least one is an officer of the Institute. Also, each Institute is now able to designate the term of office for its representatives within the terms of the TRBG Bylaws.
- Agreed to build out additional space at ASCE HQ, particularly previously rented space on the 6th floor, to accommodate additional staff to support projected increases in various activities, including those being undertaken by the Institutes.
- Concurred with the proposed 2009 budgets for the Institutes, the Building Security Council (BST) and the Civil Engineering Certification (CEC).



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- Took the following additional actions relevant to CEC:
 - Approved an ASCE/CEC Cost Sharing Agreement
 - Approved an ASCE/CEC Line of Credit/Promissory Note in an amount up to \$700,000
 - Concurred with the CEC 2008 Business Plan, including an Expense Containment Program
- Authorized \$130,000 to engage the services of a consultant to undertake a Society-wide sponsorship study to help the ASCE Foundation find ways to raise funds for Society activities more efficiently and more effectively. Because the Institutes have begun to rely on the Foundation staff to assist in fund-raising activities, the Institutes will also benefit from the results of the study.
- Discussed the importance of all Society entities (including Institutes) meeting in least-cost locations, substituting conference calls for face-to-face meetings, and making all appropriate efforts to reduce travel costs. Air fares cost the Society \$1,400,000 in 2007 and are expected to increase considerably in the foreseeable future.
- Approved the proposed 2009 Society Operating Budget and Capital Budget without a membership dues increase.
- Received an update on the activities of the Task Committee on the 2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure. Appropriately, the Institutes are well-represented on this task committee.
- Received a presentation from Larry W. Frevert, the President of the American Public Works Association, regarding the January 2008 *Civil Engineering* article "The Infrastructure Crisis" and his recommendations for addressing the crisis.

The next meeting of the Technical Region Board of Governors is scheduled for November 6, 2008, also in Pittsburgh, the day after the November 4 & 5, 2008 ASCE BOD meeting. Each Institute is expected to send two participants. This meeting will include the first-ever presentation of an Institute self-evaluation. The Geo-Institute will present its self-evaluation for TRBG review. It is anticipated that this process will then continue with two Institutes presenting annually.

We are pleased to announce that the Institute membership has elected Ronald E. Smith, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE to replace Director Caldwell when his term of office expires. Director-elect Smith, a past-President and founding member of the GEO-Institute, will be sworn into office in Pittsburgh on Saturday, November 8, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted:

Stan R. Caldwell

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Thomas M. Rachford

