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**ASCE****American Society of Civil Engineers***The North Jersey Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers**Requests the pleasure of your company at the***2007 Annual Awards Dinner***To be held on***Thursday, May 17 2007***Social Hour begins at 5:30 PM*

*Civil Engineer of the Year: L. Morgan, P.E.—Matrix New World Engineering,  
Government Engineer of the Year: R. Sandiford, P.E.—Port Authority of NY & NJ  
Young Engineer of the Year: Stephan Butler, P.E.—Congressional Fellow to Senator  
Landrieu*

*Service to the People: Robert R. Ceberio—Executive Director of NJMC  
Educator of the Year: Dr. Leslie Brunell—Stevens Institute of Technology  
Journalism Award: Matthew Phair—Editor of the Constructioneer  
President's Award: William Rutherford, P.E.—HNTB  
Student Scholarships and Merit Awards  
Induction of ASCE Life Members*

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RSVP by May 14, 2006

On-line at <http://branches.asce.org/northjersey>

or contact

Thomas N. Ott, P.E.

Email: [Ott\\_Thomas@bah.com](mailto:Ott_Thomas@bah.com)

Tel: 973.456.5051

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



It's May 2007 already and, while there are a few more activities planned for the present activity year, this will be the final Newsletter until the next activity year begins in September. When I was installed as president last May I was told by someone who had been president of another organization that at about the time the year was over, I would feel like I had a handle on how things should work and there was a lot of truth to that.

Overall, however, I think that we have had a successful year through the efforts of our Technical Groups and the Younger Members Group. All of our regular meetings and our two recent seminars have been successful in terms of value received and in the number participating. A substantial number of PDH's were available to members.

Our Construction Technical Group was resurgent in providing topical meetings almost every month and, once again, our Younger Member Group was creative and very active.

A few questions always arise concerning whether we are doing things the best and most efficient ways for our members. For instance, is a hard-copy, mailed newsletter the most efficient way of communicating with our membership? I have found that many Sections and Branches of ASCE, as well as other organizations, have converted to electronic newsletters. The cost of printing and mailing our newsletter is the Branch's biggest expense and the process of printing and mailing adds about a week of time to the delivery.. An all-electronic newsletter could be setup for easier navigation than the six-page pdf file that is currently available on our newsletter web-page. Still, there are a few people who are not connected to email. To get a sense of your feelings on this and other questions a survey is being prepared. Watch for an email announcement of the survey. There will be a drawing among those answering the survey for a prize to be announced.

You might have noticed an unusual occurrence with respect to our election of officers for next year's Board. A write-in candidate beat out one of the official nominees! This is the first time I have seen that happen. It can happen because when there is only one candidate for each office, few people consider that their vote has significance and therefore they don't take the time to submit their ballot. Thus it takes only a relatively modest write-in campaign to elect an alternative candidate.

Finally, I would like to encourage all of you to attend our Annual Awards Dinner on May 17 at the Newark Club. We have a truly deserving group of honorees to be recognized. Come out to congratulate the award winners, the new officers to be installed and a few of our new Life Members. If you haven't already joined the Order of the Engineer, there will be an opportunity to do that also.

I thank you all for the opportunity to serve as the Branch President this year and wish Thomas Ott, our incoming President, and the other officers all the best in the coming year.

- Ken Clausen, P.E.

### Clean Up with YMG!

On Saturday, May 19th, the YMG will be participating in a Park and River Cleanup at Kenneth **B. George Park in Rivers Edge, NJ**. The YMG will be teaming up with Hackensack Riverkeepers to make this happen and a call to all ASCE members is being broadcasted! We'd love to see you there! Please contact Edgardo Perez: [eperez@louisberger.com](mailto:eperez@louisberger.com) for more information!



## North Jersey Branch Technical Groups

Join one of these groups and get involved with others in your field of interest. For more information, contact **Lamis Malak, P.E.** at [malak@turnpike.state.nj.us](mailto:malak@turnpike.state.nj.us) or any of the individuals listed below:

### STRUCTURAL GROUP

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### WATER RESOURCES GROUP

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### ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

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### PROFESSIONAL ISSUES GROUP

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m and  
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## Update by ASCE Congressional Fellow Stephan Butler!

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, I questioned whether there was something more that I could do as a civil engineer. I decided that in order to contribute to the rebuilding in a meaningful way, I needed to reach those who have influence over the process. Figuring that there could be no better way to ensure that my voice, opinion and views – and those of the profession at large – were heard by law-makers and decision makers, I accepted the invitation of

*Continued on page 4*

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## Update by ASCE Congressional Fellow Stephan Butler!

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the ASCE to be its 2006-2007 Congressional Fellow. Pursuant to my appointment, I began working in January as a legislative fellow for Senator Mary L. Landrieu (LA).

My first order of business was to visit New Orleans and meet with some of the citizens and professional groups involved in the rebuilding. I was especially touched by my meetings with representatives from the grass roots groups Levees.org, the Episcopal Relief and Development Office of Disaster Response, Jericho Road (Episcopal Housing Initiative) and All Congregations Together. These groups represent the residents of New Orleans who, acknowledging a present leadership vacuum, have banded together to reconstruct their own neighborhoods and communities. Jericho Road, for instance, aims to be the catalyst that will bring displaced families home by providing quality housing opportunities for low income families. They hope their efforts will lead to long term housing collaborations throughout the city and in that way empower individuals, rehabilitate neighborhoods and transform communities.

Also, I was fortunate to get a personalized tour of the Port of New Orleans with Deborah Ducote Keller, P.E., Director of the Port Development Division, past president of the ASCE's New Orleans Branch and resident of St. Bernard Parish. During the tour of the facilities and the adjacent neighborhoods, I found myself overwhelmed and in shock. As a World Trade Center first responder after 9/11, I thought I understood devastation, but the impact on New Orleans stretches for mile after square mile. Vast regions of the city and surrounding parishes are obliterated, as can be seen in the attached photo, which was taken approximately 5 miles west of the 17th Street Canal levee breach but is representative of the majority of the city. The houses continue to be safety and health hazards, as they still need to be gutted and demolished; the roadways have lost their top courses, are buckled, and have sink holes; other crucial infrastructure is similarly destroyed.



Seeing the scope of the problem confirmed my opinion that the best way to make a difference was to go work on Capitol Hill. Serving as a staff member of the legislative branch has allowed me to see first hand the relationship between proximity and access and the need for experts to participate in the political process in order to get the best policy results. As part of my job, I have looked at and analyzed the reformation of the levee boards in New Orleans and the Pontchartrain Barrier - East Orleans Outer Barrier Plan and have ongoing assignments looking at urban and rural smart growth and public-private partnerships. I have also taken the initiative in raising some policy ideas that I think are worthwhile, such as retainage reform and providing incentives to help out private levee and dam owners.

I firmly believe that engineers must get involved in the political process in order to effect change. Individual engineers should seek public office and placements on lawmaker and committee staffs. In order to see the best results, however, we need a cultural shift in the engineering profession. Talented engineers will not readily pursue alternative but important career paths if they think that their work will be dismissed or devalued by the profession, including its societies and licensing boards. Likewise, lawmakers and committees are unlikely to understand the benefits of having engineers on their staffs and deferring to their judgment on important social issues without a significant public relations campaign by the profession. The stakes are high enough, however, that extreme measures are necessary.

Every engineer who reads this article should consider competing for an appointment to the Congressional Fellowship or supporting an employee who would like to do so. The fellowship provides one of the best ways to share your expertise and experiences with our country's top decision-makers. Also, it allows you to learn new approaches to communication, managing, problem-solving and advocating for vital public works projects.

# 2007-2008

## ASCE North Jersey Branch

### Executive Board



Please join us in welcoming our new Board of Directors for the coming year. They will be putting forth another slate of interesting programs and exciting events and will continue to keep our Branch at the forefront of our region.

- **President:** Thomas Ott, P.E. of Booz Allen Hamilton
- **President-Elect:** Teresa Peterson, P.E. of Gannett Fleming, Inc
- **Vice-President:** Stephan Butler, Congressional Fellow to Senator Landrieu
- **Secretary:** Katy Ubinger, P.E. of CSR Group
- **Treasurer:** Scott Lubarsky, P.E. of HNTB
- **Branch Director:** Michael Murno, P.E. of Edwards & Kelcey
- **Branch Director:** Gareth Middleton, P.E., of Tishman Corp.

Good luck to our dedicated members and also our past officers for their continued support to the Board and Branch. We had an exciting and successful year. Special thanks go to **Ken Clausen, PE**, the outgoing President, who will continue serving the ASCE North Jersey Branch in his new role as the North Jersey Branch First Past President in the coming year. Ken did a wonderful job this year and all us on the board want to say **Thank You!**


### WHAT IS THE ORDER OF THE ENGINEER?

The Order of the Engineer is the group of engineers who have publicly and privately recognized their duty to the public and to their profession. Order members understand the significance of the public trust bestowed upon them to perform their roles to the highest morale, ethical, and technical standards. The Order was initiated in the United States to foster a spirit of pride, individual integrity, and responsibility in the engineering profession. It bridges the gap between training and practice and presents to the public a visible symbol of our dedication. The first induction ceremony was held in 1970 at Cleveland State University, though the origins of the organization may be traced to the Canadian "Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer" dating back to 1926.



The Obligation is the formal statement of an engineer's responsibilities to the public and to the profession, publicly accepted by the engineer during the induction ceremony. Upon acceptance of the Obligation, new members receive a stainless steel ring to wear on the fifth finger of the working hand. This ring identifies them to other members of the Order and to the public at large.

Nationally, ASCE is encouraging membership in the Order for all of its members. The North Jersey Branch is planning to hold another induction at our Annual Awards Dinner on May 17th. The induction is scheduled for 5:00 p.m., before the dinner, so come early and bring \$15 for the ring. ALL ENGINEERS are invited to attend. For more information, contact Helen Shyu at [hshyu@hntb.com](mailto:hshyu@hntb.com).



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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

May 17, 2007: North Jersey Branch Awards Dinner  
 May 19, 2007: YMG River Cleanup  
 June 14, 2007: High Steel Trip