

Tuesday, March 22, 2005

Dear District 16 Section and Branch Presidents:

I apologize for not being in touch with you more often. If Stein Sture or I can ever be of assistance to your section or branch, please let us know.

### **ASCE BUDGET**

The ASCE Board of Direction is working hard to prepare a budget for the coming year. After a few very difficult years, the ASCE financial situation turned around last year and we were able to make a significant contribution back to the Society's reserve fund that had been severally depleted. There is still a need to grow the reserves, but the situation is much better than it was.

The proposed budget prepared by the Finance Committee that will be discussed at the Board of Direction meeting on April 14/15 will propose a \$5 dues increase for next year. As currently envisioned, this budget will add substantially to member value by:

- 1) enhancing our K-12 Outreach - one of the member's biggest priorities;
- 2) increasing our funding of local initiatives through
  - a) **increased allotments to Sections (from \$400k to \$600k)**
  - b) increased funding for the State Public Affairs Grants program and
  - c) funding for the five newly formed Regions as well as funding for the Regions still in the formation process
- 3) increased funding for diversity initiatives including the Summer Institutes and a diversity scorecard
- 4) continued focus on the big success of our Infrastructure Report Card through enhanced media relations and outreach.

These new member-focused initiatives are in addition to funding the increased per diem the Board authorized last year as well as accommodating inflation-related expenses of the Society's operations. The proposed budget also maintains, at the full current funding levels, popular programs such as ExCEEEd, the Congressional Fellows program, and the West Point Bridge Contest. Further, the \$5 dues increase allows us to continue with the sound financial management that has helped us return to a position of financial strength by contributing a modest but necessary amount to our reserves.

Stein and I are available to discuss any concerns you may have with the proposed \$5 dues increase or the budget in general. Let us hear from you prior to April 12<sup>th</sup> so we can carry any concerns you have to the full board.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

I've also attached for your information all of the resolutions that were included with my Board of Direction meeting agenda. They provide you with a sampling of the types of issues that Sections, Branches, District Councils, and Younger Member Groups bring to our attention through resolutions. I hope you will take a look at these, and if you have issues that you would like to see addressed by the Board through a resolution, bring them forward. I would also ask that each of your section and branch boards discuss whether there are issues for which you would like to see the District 16 Council pass a resolution. The District Council meeting will be in early June in Kansas City.

### **SECTION AND BRANCH VISITS**

As District Directors, Stein and I are tasked with visiting the sections, branches and student chapters in District 16. I'm looking forward to attending the Mid-Continent Student Conference next week, and have upcoming visits planned to Nebraska in April, Kansas City in May, and Iowa in September. If you

would like for one of us to visit your section, give us a call and we'll see what we can arrange. Remember that Director visits are a good time to conduct an Order of the Engineers ceremony in your section if you haven't done one in awhile.

Thank you for all your hard work as a Section or Branch President.

Randy Perkinson  
District Director



**Randall M. Perkinson, P.E., F. ASCE**  
**District 16 Director**