

To: Section/Branch Presidents:

Subject: Life Member Participation

ASCE recently completed a study of Life Members in ASCE and has found this group to be a significant resource of experienced, motivated members. Life Member status is conferred by ASCE when a member reaches age 65 and fulfills a number of years of ASCE membership. ASCE has about 20,000 Life Members, which is about 15% of membership. There are various reasons many Life Members are not involved in local organization activities, but recent survey responses have shown that modest outreach efforts can produce tangible results. Life Members have the energy, experience and enthusiasm to be involved in many activities that serve their desire to contribute to the profession, but also will be of service to the local organization membership.

ASCE recently formed a Task Committee on Life Member Involvement to get more Life Members involved in local organization activities. One of our activities was conducting Life Member workshops at the recent Multi-Region Leadership Conferences. The most significant outcome from those meetings was a very simple, straight forward approach to engage Life Members in local organization activities. *Invite Life Members to a meeting and ask them to become involved.* The discussion could take place before or after a regular scheduled meeting or a specific discussion meeting could be scheduled to focus on Life Members. A Life Member should be selected to organize the meeting and to facilitate the discussion. Local organization members then determine their level of interest and the areas in which they would like to proceed.

ASCE has prepared background materials to support the process. There is the attached one page brochure which gives a brief overview of critical success factors and potential activities for Life Member involvement. The brochure would be useful as part of a meeting discussion or may be sent in advance of a meeting to stimulate ideas. Also attached is the more detailed "*Guidelines for Life Member Involvement in ASCE*" which supports more specific initiatives as they are developed at the initial meeting. The following members of the Task Committee on Life Member Involvement are also available to give one-on-one advice and support for local organization Life member initiatives:

Region 1 & 2: Debra Brand debreb@jlab.org
Region 3 & 4 Vic Wenning vhwengr@sbcglobal.net
Region 5, 7 & 9 Norm Buehring normbuehring@msn.com
Region 6 & 8 Bob Wortman rhwortman@yahoo.com
ASCE: Nancy Berson nberson@asce.org

Life Members are the most experienced and knowledgeable membership segment of our Society and there are many activities that they could successfully undertake. The initial steps are for the local organization to support the opportunity for Life Member involvement and then to bring Life Members together to identify specific activities. The results are significant. Life Members will enjoy contributing again to their chosen professional society and members will enjoy the products of their efforts.

s/Norm Buehring and Nancy Berson