President’s Message
By Alex Ford, President

Like all organizations, ASCE YMF San Diego has had to adapt to a new reality this year. Though many of the in-person events we love were cancelled, our chapter worked hard to come up with creative ways to engage our members virtually. Since March we have held virtual presentations on technical topics, reviewed resumes for graduating college students, and even tore our houses apart during a virtual scavenger hunt. We also launched STEM Saturdays this summer: each Saturday one of our officers hosts a live STEM activity for K-6 students via Zoom. Though our events look quite a bit different these days, the importance of staying connected has never been more apparent. We will continue to keep our events virtual until it is safe to resume in-person activities.

Our chapter formed a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) committee this summer in response to the outrage and heartbreak shared by our board over the death of George Floyd and the racial injustices inflicted on communities of color in this country. As a chapter, we have committed to increasing programming around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion topics and will use the DE&I committee to raise awareness, facilitate difficult conversations, and encourage our members to get involved in their communities.

This has been a year unlike anything we ever expected, but I’m proud of what this organization was able to accomplish both before and during the pandemic. As we prepare to install our next slate of officers in October, I’d like to thank each of our outgoing officers for their hard work during an extremely challenging year. It has been a pleasure serving as YMF President and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for this organization.
Monthly Meetings

ASCE YMF San Diego continued hosting general body meetings online in lieu of our traditional in-person meetings. The Spring and Summer GBMs featured technical presentations conducted by various professional San Diego civil engineers! Below you will find a recap of what we learned about these past few months.

**May – Infiltration**

Speaker Jeremy Faker of Group Delta gave a presentation discussing important geotechnical aspects of infiltration field testing and BMP design. Specifically, the presentation discussed the current City and County of San Diego geotechnical design and reporting requirements, NRCS soil types, types of infiltration field testing (test procedures, applications, advantages, disadvantages) and geotechnical constraints, among other aspects. Jeremy Faker has eight years of experience working on infrastructure, industrial, commercial, military, and higher education projects. He has coordinated, conducted, and managed geotechnical site investigations and reports, and has experience performing and managing geotechnical related construction activities for large- and small-scale grading and construction projects.

**June – Pavement Rehab**

From the surface, streets may not look like much; however, there is a great deal of engineering and science happening behind the scenes. Each type of pavement crack tells a story and there are many factors that impacts pavement performance and cost. Roger Schlierkamp, Director of Pavement Engineering at GMU, presented an overview of what different types of pavement cracking means, some of the factors that are considered when evaluating and designing roadway repairs, and various pavement repair strategies, from maintenance to reconstruction. As the Director of Pavement Engineering, he oversees all things pavement related at GMU, including pavement evaluation/design projects, pavement management plan projects, and pavement construction observation & testing projects. Additionally, as a participant of the Greenbook Committee, Roger has helped to shape pavement construction specifications and requirements utilized by numerous agencies and projects throughout Southern California.

**August – Current Market Workshop**

The San Diego YMF chapter hosted a Q&A session via Zoom featuring a variety of San Diego’s professional engineers. The featured engineers were Elizabeth Schroth-Nichols of the City of San Diego, Galit Ryan of Peterson Structural Engineers, Bethany Dawa of T.Y. Lin International, and Sharon Humphreys of SANDAG. Questions regarding career paths, COVID-19’s impact on civil engineering, telecommuting, resumes, personal backgrounds, and others were asked and answered. This event served as the perfect opportunity to pick at the minds of experienced civil engineers and get their opinions on a variety of topics.
Outreach

STEM Saturdays

By Valeria Ceron, Treasurer

ASCE YMF San Diego hosted their first virtual K-12th Outreach series STEM Saturdays to continue inspiring children and advocating for STEM careers during COVID-19.

Every Saturday morning the K-12 Outreach Committee led by Valeria Ceron and Pedro Cardenas hosted a short 30-minute activity via Zoom using everyday household items. Activities included making slime and ice cream, testing jellybean structures, learning about earthquakes, water treatment, making a volcano, among many more.

Children that participated were automatically enrolled into a raffle to win a Kiwico Box (STEM Activity DIY Kit). This pilot series lasted over fifteen weeks, with more than forty kids signed up. The last STEM Saturday’s class was held on August 29th with guest speaker Katya Echazarreta, an Electrical Engineer from the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab while making and testing paper rockets.

A big thank you to our committee Valeria Ceron, Pedro Cardenas, Vanessa Eslava, Jose Castro, Julia Shockley, Stephanie Catubig and Emerson Revolorio!

If you are interested in becoming more involved with YMF San Diego and would like to participate in a STEM Saturdays activity, please contact Valeria Ceron or Pedro Cardenas at eday.ymfsd@gmail.com.
Donations

By Vanessa (Tarronas) Eslava, Vice-President of Community Service

San Diego YMF over the past months have made multiple donations to various organizations. Some of those donations include face shields through Shields for Nurses to Grossmont Hospital, a virtual food drive through the San Diego Food Bank, and monetary donations to Father Joe’s Village. San Diego wishes to continue pursuing donation opportunities for local organizations in the upcoming year.

Social Events

Virtual Scavenger Hunt and Happy Hour

By Kailene Gini, Social Co-Chair

On Thursday, April 9, 2020, YMF San Diego hosted one of its first online socials: a Virtual Scavenger Hunt! YMF Members were invited to join via Zoom and participate from the comfort of their own cozy homes. The scavenger hunt consisted of not-so-common household items which were displayed on the screen in groups of fifteen items at a time. Each member had a five-minute time limit to find as many of those items in their homes and bring them back to show on camera to receive points for the items they had collected. The goal of the game was to find a way to have an interactive event even while participating virtually because of the COVID-19 quarantine. Members had a blast racing around their homes, throwing items out of closets, cabinets, and boxes trying to find the most items of the group! Some items could be interpreted in a few different ways, such as “scale” which some members grabbed their handy engineering scales while others gathered a bathroom scale or food scale. It was entertaining to see what everyone had to present, and we all had a good laugh about the messes we each created in our homes in the process.

Virtual Trivia Night

By Chase Lawson, Social Co-Chair

Due to the unfortunate fact that most summer travel plans were canceled, we decided to take our members on a virtual trip around the world via a travel themed trivia night on Zoom. On June 8th, two teams battled against each other in their own respective breakout rooms for the chance to win gift cards. We were successful in transforming one of our most attended social events into a virtual event that still buzzed with excitement.