

ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Region

"Connecting Professionals, Practice, and the Public."

NEWSLETTER – 4th Quarter 2024

Inland Empire Chapter Officers

Chair – Lisa Battiato, Geocon West
Co-Vice Chair (North) – Mike Cook, Kleinfelder
Co-Vice Chair (South) – Kerry Cato, CSUSB
Treasurer – Mark Doerschlag, Aragon Geotechnical
Secretary – Doug Johnston, Petra Geosciences

Southern California Chapter Officers

Chair – Daniel Schneidereit, City of Los Angeles
Vice Chair – Jason Moore, Fugro
Treasurer – Robert Woodford, Woodford GEO
Secretary – Solishia Andico, City of Malibu

Visit the Southern California Region Website: www.aegsc.org.

Regional Director's Column

By Darrin Hasham

October 20, 2024

This isn't really a full newsletter but a communication from me regarding the goings on in general for the southern California region, which includes the Inland Empire and southern California chapters. The main reasons for this communication are several organizational issues that need to be addressed by the members, you guys:

- Leadership opportunities in the Southern California Chapter
- Regional Director term limits
- Membership renewal

Southern California Chapter leadership opportunities - In May 2023 the southern California chapter elected a new slate of officers and resumed in-person meetings. As we approach 18 months since the new officers were elected, it is time to revisit electing officers for the southern California chapter. Our organizations bylaws stipulate that a chapter, at a minimum, must have an elected Chairperson and Treasurer. Unfortunately, the southern California Chapter treasurer, Robert Woodford, has moved out of the area. Although he has been able to perform some of the responsibilities remotely, we will need to fill that position with someone local.

The southern California Chapter Chairperson, Daniel Schneidereit, will not be continuing in his current position and the Vice Chairperson, Jason Moore, has indicated that he is willing to run as a candidate for the Chair position. This will open an opportunity for someone to assume the Vice Chair role.

The southern California Chapter Secretary, Solishia Andico, will also be stepping down and opening an opportunity for a new secretary.

I am thankful for the service that these individuals have provided over the past year and a half. Without their willingness to participate, the southern California chapter may still be in post pandemic hibernation, as some chapters in other parts of the Country.

The southern California chapter needs a candidate for treasurer, and candidates for the vice chair and secretary positions would be welcome. Please send me an email if you are willing to run as a candidate for any of the positions indicated. I will prepare a ballot and initiate the election. The Chair and Treasurer need to be full members in good standing, a student or associate member may run for the secretary position. As the vice chair is likely to move into chair at some point it makes sense that a candidate for vice chair is also a full member.

Regional Director term limits – I am currently serving the 3rd year of my second term, and effective next September, I will no longer be eligible. A candidate to replace me will have to be identified before the next mid-year board meeting in April, 2025. The regional director (RD) term is for 3 years and the RD is expected to attend 2 board meetings each year and may also participate in committees. In person attendance at the meetings is preferred but an RD may attend virtually. From experience I can say that technology does have limitations and virtual connections sometimes get dropped, so I recommend in-person attendance if possible. A modest travel stipend is provided to encourage in-person attendance. Each meeting consists of a day and a half, full day Saturday and ½ day the following Sunday. One meeting follows the annual meeting, which next year will be in Chicago, and the mid-year meeting is at a location selected by the executive counsel at a location to provide reasonable travel and lodging accommodations. If you are interested in learning more about the role of RD please reach out to me directly.

Membership renewal – It is that time of year again. The chapter leaders and I are doing what we can to provide you with value for your membership. The southern California region is a large region that extends from a line formed by the northern limits of San Luis Obispo, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties south to Mexico and from the Pacific Ocean to Arizona and Nevada. In order to reach you we hold meetings at various locations to give more people an opportunity to attend meetings in person, because networking and comradery is one of the main benefits of membership. We are open to suggestions; the hospitality industry has changed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and suitable venues for our meetings are more difficult to find. If you know of a place in southern California, maybe where your kids' little league meets, or your bowling league, let us know.

There is a great disparity between the number of members in our chapters. I think part of the reason is that the IE chapter is relatively new, having only been established in 2005, and the southern California chapter has essentially existed since the inception of AEG in 1957. The Los Angeles Section was established in 1958. I've mentioned this before, if you live/work in the San Diego or south Orange County area maybe being a member of the IE chapter would be a better fit for you. The IE chapter alternates monthly meetings between a north location to serve the Riverside, Redlands, San Bernardino area, and a south location to serve the Temecula, Escondido and San Diego areas. The November meeting will be a joint meeting with the San Diego Association of Geologists in Fallbrook. They will be hosting the 2023/2024 Jahns Lecturer at the Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society on November 6th.

Last but not Least! A special shout out to Dr. Kerry Cato of the Inland Empire Chapter

At the last national meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, this past September Dr. Cato was awarded AEG's presigeous Floyd T. Johnston Service Award. The Floyd T. Johnston Service Award is awarded to a member with over 9 years of service to AEG, Dr. Cato smashed that metric by providing outstanding and faithful service to the association for 42 years. Dr. Cato's membership and participation in the Association began in 1982 when he was a student at Texas A&M University. Mr. Cato was a founding member of the student chapter and served as chapter president for a time. Mr. Cato was active in the Texas A&M student chapter until he received his doctorate and moved to North Carolina in 1990. While in North Carolina Dr. Cato was active in the Carolina's section from 1990 to 1995, serving as section chair from 1993 to 1994. While participating in the Carolina's section Dr. Cato organized and co-moderated 2 short courses in association with AIPG Carolina section.

In 1995 Dr. Cato relocated to southern California and became active in the southern California section. His contributions to the southern California section, actually the whole southern California region, included serving as webmaster for the 3 sections that were active in the region at the time, southern California, San Diego, and Central Coast

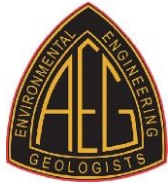
Chapters. In 2005 Dr. Cato was one of 5 AEG members that were instrumental in forming the new Inland Empire Chapter. While active in the southern California chapter Dr. Cato coordinated a short course on Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis and served as co-leader of a field trip and co-author of the field trip guidebook. It was during the time that Dr. Cato was active in the southern California Chapter that he became instrumental in scheduling and coordinating visits by the AEG/GSA Jahns Distinguished Lecturer

Dr. Cato's contribution to AEG has not been limited to local chapter activities. Dr. Cato served as co-editor of the Environmental & Engineering Geoscience journal (E&EG), jointly published by AEG and GSA, from 1997 to 2001. Dr. Cato has served as an E&EG editorial review board member from 2002 to 2005, was guest editor for two dedicated issues of E&EG and has had five articles or book reviews published in E&EG. Dr Cato was also the co-editor, with Dr. Abdul Shakoor of the Special Publication: Proceedings from the 2018 International Association of Engineering Geology (IAEG) Congress and the 61st AEG Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. In addition to the contributions to E&EG journal listed Dr. Cato has reviewed about 25 manuscripts for the regular publication of E&EG.

Dr. Cato freely shares his expertise with other AEG members by participating in technical working groups. Dr. Cato has been a member of the Dams and Levees technical work group since 1997 and more recently became active with the AEG landslides technical work group.

And there is more, in addition to Dr. Cato's participation in the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists he has been involved with the AEG Foundation. Dr. Cato was on the board of directors from 2013 to 2019, served as the foundation's treasurer in 2016 and 2017, and served as president of the foundation in 2018.

And the list goes on, but I will not inundate you with more details. Congratulations Kerry, you really deserve this recognition. I'm sure everyone agrees.



68TH ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2025



- 3 days of Technical Sessions & Symposia
- Field Courses
- Chicago River Cruise Special Event
- Student Networking Events
- Poster Sessions
- Sponsor & Exhibitor Opportunities

Westin Chicago River North

Mark your calendar : September 22-26, 2025

www.aegannualmeeting.org