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Richmond Branch - ASCE
<http://www.ascevirginia.org>

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James River Engineers Without Borders President Vic Palmeri

Date: November 18, 2008
Place: Westwood Club
Time: 12:00 Lunch, 12:30 Program
Costs: \$20.00
Menu: Option 1 - Salad, Grilled Pork Loin, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, & Dessert
Option 2 - Salad, Grilled Chicken, Sundried Tomatoes Rice, Spinach & Dessert
Option 3 - Salad, Pasta Primavera, and Dessert

Contact Rebecca Nordan at Koontz Bryant to RSVP @ 740-9200 or email her at rnordan@koontzbryant.com by 5pm on November 14, 2008



Engineers Without Borders - USA (EWB-USA) is a non-profit humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life. This partnership involves the implementation of sustainable engineering projects, while involving and training internationally responsible engineers and engineering students. ¹ Vic Palmeri is the President of the James River Engineers Without Borders, the local extension of EWB-USA. Formed in early 2008, the local chapter is currently working to provide clean water to a village in Tanzania (some information about this project is located on the chapter's Facebook page.) Mr. Palmeri will speaking to us about EWB, the local chapter and projects typical of the organization.

Mr. Palmeri is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and obtained his masters from Arizona State University. Mr. Palmeri has also served in the Peace Corp working on water resource issues in Honduras.

ASCE formed an affiliation agreement with EWB in November 2007. In addition to advancing the technical side of engineering, ASCE intends to encourage and promote EWB and the social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts of engineering. ASCE members can join EWB at a reduced rate of \$60/ year for a professional membership and \$40/ Year for a supporting membership.

A Message from the President

By Bryan Stevenson



"We tend to take water for granted in this country. You can go anywhere in America and drink water right out of the tap with enormous confidence that you won't get sick. You can't assume that in many other places in the world."

- Tom Curtis, American Water Works Association Deputy Executive Director for Government Affairs

Engineers Without Borders (EWB) tries to reach those areas of the world where the resources are not as readily available. Beyond drinking water, projects range throughout the spectrum of civil engineering: construction, sanitation, health and safety, the environment, energy, education, etc.; all projects with the intention of improving the quality of life for people.

We are excited to be hosting Vic Palmeri of James River Engineers Without Borders. ASCE formed a partnership with EWB last year. We feel that this is a great opportunity to find out more about the National organization, the local organization and the projects that define Engineers Without Borders.

We are continuing our efforts for a meeting(s) relative to portions of the Draft Stormwater Regulations. Look for something relative to this in the upcoming months.

I just returned from Pittsburgh where I attended the Governors and President's Forum, part of the ASCE Annual Conference. Among the topics discussed was achieving success with generational differences, national public policy challenges, transitioning students to associate members, the upcoming 2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure, addressing the media and Policy 465 (additional post graduate education for future licensees.) If anybody feels strongly about these topics and would like to discuss them, please contact me at 804-330-8040 or bryan.stevenson@aesva.com.

As always, we would like to provide programs that serve our membership so let us know what you would like to see in our meetings. Contact me at 804-330-8040 or bryan.stevenson@aesva.com or Paul Hinson at 804-200-1914 or phinson@koontzbryant.com

National Gears up for the 2009 Report Card for America's Infrastructure, Section will follow suit

ASCE will release the 2009 Report Card for America's infrastructure in Washington, D.C. on March 25, 2008. This is the fourth national report card released by ASCE since its inception in 1998. ASCE estimates that \$1.6 trillion investment is required to bring the infrastructure to a "good" condition. Much of the \$1.6 trillion required is already allocated in existing budgets but often get raided to pay for other programs. ASCE is proposing more action steps (than was proposed in previous report cards) that can be taken by lawmakers to improve infrastructure funding/improvements. For more information, check out: www.asce.org/reportcard or the "Save America's Infrastructure" Facebook Page.

The Virginia Section has secured funding to do a Report Card for Virginia's infrastructure. Committees for this program are being set up currently. The format will be similar to that of the National level except focused for the infrastructure needs of the Commonwealth. If you would like to be involved in this program, contact Don Rissmeyer at (804)276-6231 or drissmeyer@amtengineering.com.

VDOT Access Management (Minor Arterials, Collectors and Local Streets) currently at Public Comment stage

Three of the four public hearings have been held in relative to the proposed revisions to VDOT Site Access Management regulations for Minor Arterials, Collectors and local roads. The draft regulations are posted at <http://www.virginiadot.org/PROJECTS/accessmgt/default.asp> under the "Public Comment Period and Public Hearings" section.

VDOT will accept public comment until December 15, 2008. Public comment can be made via the internet at http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/accessmgt/access_management_comment_form.asp

Schedule of Upcoming Richmond Branch and other Events

Date	Speaker	Topic	Location
November 18	Vic Palmeri	Engineers Without Borders	Westwood Club
December 16	TBA	TBA	Westwood Club

Support your branch! Would you like to advertise your company's logo in next month's issue? The cost is \$10 (checks only, made payable to ASCE Richmond Branch). Contact any board member for details.

Did you know there are over 200 active members of the Richmond Branch! Do you have something to say? Would you like to contribute an article? Let's hear from you, and maybe your thoughts will be in the next newsletter. Contact Bryan Stevenson at 330-8040.