**Public Outreach**

**8.10 Life Member Memoirs – San Diego Section**

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| **1. Section, Branch** | San Diego Section |  |
| **2. Section/Branch Size** | Very Large |  |
| **3. Project Contact** |  | |
| Name | Tim Murphy | |
| Phone Number | (619) 688-1483 | |
| Email | tmurphy@rickengineering.com | |
| **4. Project Category** | Public Outreach | |
| **5. Project Description** | Compile and publish a collection of Life Member Memoirs | |
| **6. The Process**  (What you did, When and How) | This was a special undertaking as part of the San Diego Section Centennial in 2015. The idea came from David Akers, a Section Life Member. We developed a questionnaire for the Life Members to give them ideas on how to approach writing their memoir. The questionnaire was sent out in the fall of 2013 to all Life Members, giving them 2-3 months to respond. We have about 300 Life Members in the San Diego Section.  Not many had responded to our initial request (maybe 5 responded). Being a little disappointed, we sent out another request in the winter of 2014. Again, there was very little response and we were up to about 8 participants.  We decided to reach out personally to the Life Members we knew. Dave and I took about 20 members each and started to call them. One suggestion we offered to the Life Members was to have someone meet them and record their interview. We would then transcribe the interview and submit it to them for editing. There were three women from The Younger Member Forum that offered to interview the Life Members. We started this in the spring of 2014.  Interviewing and transcribing was convenient for the Life Members, but took much longer to accomplish. Everyone was fitting this in while maintaining their regular work duties.  The last half of 2014 was spent interviewing, transcribing, and collecting the last of the memoirs. The original schedule was to have the memoirs published and released in early 2015 for the start of our Centennial Year celebration. We ended up publishing the final document in May of 2015 and distributing/selling copies at our June membership meeting. The total cost to publish the Memoirs was about $2000 for 100 copies. We gave free copies to the Life Members that were included in the Memoirs and to Members who helped publish the document. We are selling the remaining copies for $25 each to help defray some of the costs. To date, we have given out about 40 copies to those that are in the document or helped prepare it, we have sold about 30 copies, and we are selling the rest at the monthly meetings. | |
| **7. Those in Charge** (Committee, Task Committee, Etc.) | Dave Akers and Tim Murphy- Life Member Memoirs Committee Co-Chairs  Karibia Baillargeon, Elizabeth Schroth-Nichols, and Jennifer Scott- YMF members | |
| **8. Time Frame**  (When Started, When Completed) | Started: fall 2013. Completed: summer 2015 | |
| **9. Success Factors**  (The Parts that Worked Really Well) | Having the Younger Members help out with the interviewing and transcribing the memoirs. | |
| **10. Setback Factors**  (The Parts that did Not Work Well) | Getting a good response from the Life Members, in general. Engineers, especially if they are retired, do not seem to want to write about themselves. We ended up with 35 memoirs out of about 300 Life Members. About a third of the memoirs were the result of an interview and transcribing the notes/recordings. Three were written after the members had passed away. | |
| **11. Creativity**  (This is something off the wall that we did) |  | |
| **12. Administration**  (What was most Important?) |  | |
| **13. Follow-Up**  (What was most important?) |  | |
| **14. Recommendations**  (What you should ALWAYS do with this project?) | Have someone that is proficient with a publishing software that can make the document appealing. I happened to have someone in our office that could do this. We gave her credit in the introduction. | |
| **15. Cautions**  (What you should NEVER do with this project?) |  | |
| **16. The Outcome** |  | |
| **17. Ongoing Activity**  (Would you do it again?) | Yes, there is a thought to update on a periodic basis to include new Life Members and the ones that we missed on the first publication.  It may be easier for Life Members to participate since we now have an example to show them. I believe initially most Life Members didn’t participate because they didn’t have any notion of what the contents should be about. They didn’t know how long it should be, the types of topics, whether or not their personal life should be included, etc. Now that we have something to show them as an example it should help with participation. | |
| **18. Speaker Contact Information**  (person from your Region who would be willing to speak about the Best Practice) |  | |
| Name | Tim Murphy, Rick Engineering Company | |
| Address | 5620 Friars Road, San Diego, CA 92110 | |
| Phone Number | 619-688-1483 | |
| Email | tmurphy@rickengineering.com | |
| **19. Additional Comments** | This Best Practice includes the following attachments:   * Invitation to members to participate in the Life Member Memoirs * Memoir information request form * Excerpt from 2015 Life Member Memoirs | |



December 3, 2013

Name

Address

City, State

**Subject: ASCE San Diego Centennial Memoir Project**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

As part of the San Diego Section’s 100th anniversary in 2015, the Centennial Committee wants to compile a book of memoirs of our Life Members. We are asking your support in this endeavor. The attached form includes some basic topics that you can address, but feel free to add items and be as short or as long as you wish. The objective is to showcase the human, not the “pi-r-squared” side of civil engineers. Funny stories, learning experiences, sad stories, engineering life stories that illustrate the training and practice of civil engineering are the goal.

Please write down your thoughts and either email to me or mail them to me. My contact information is below.

If you do not have a computer, we can make arrangements for someone to visit with you and transcribe your thoughts. We especially want the Greatest Generation’s input on this project.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you wish to participate, please respond by February 28, 2014.

If you have any questions, please call.

Respectfully,

David J. Akers, P.E., F. ASCE

Centennial Committee Historian

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**ASCE Member Memoirs**

Name:

Membership Grade:

Education:

Professional Registration:

Joined ASCE in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative of your engineering career**: (Why you chose civil engineering, areas of practice, where you have practiced, significant projects, memorable experiences, the human side of engineering, short summary of your career)

**Why should a young person want to become a civil engineer?**

If you were mentoring a college student majoring in civil engineering or one who has recently graduated, what advice would you give them?

**Professional activities**: (Association memberships, leadership positions, significant presentations made or papers written)

**Photos**: project photos, photos of yourself as a young engineer, photo of yourself today, etc.

**Funny stories:**

**Noteworthy mentors in your career:**

**Copy of interesting Blueprints:**

**Hobbies:**









