

Region 9 Younger Member Council Leadership Transitions

By Melissa Hilsabeck, EIT
Chair, ASCE Region 9 Younger Member Council



Happy Lunar New Year to all from the ASCE Region 9 Younger Member Council!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Guy Hopes for his dedication as the R9 YMC Chair over the past five years. Under his leadership, the YMC was officially established as a council under the Region 9 Board of Governors and the R9 YMC Best Management Guide was revised from its previous 2018 version. Some highlights include additional sections covering K-12 outreach and hosting virtual events. You can find the published copy [HERE](#) along with other best practices from across ASCE. Guy will continue contributing to the R9 YMC in addition to serving as President of the Feather River Branch. Recently, he started a new position in Sacramento as a Water Resources Engineer with the California Department of Water Resources. Congratulations on your new role and thank you again for your commitment to advancing younger members!

As I step into my new role, I am challenged with progressing the impact of this council. Guy and Gidti Ludesirishoti, the inaugural R9 YMC Chair, have done a wonderful job of implementing the council, gathering the YMF Presidents, creating Best Practices, providing opportunities for professional development, and growing the YMFs. My goals as Chair are to continue supporting the YMFs by showcasing the abundance of ASCE resources, to serve as an extension of the Committee on Younger Members (CYM) and to create avenues that spotlight and recognize our outstanding younger members. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve as the R9 YMC Chair, however there is always room for another seat at the table. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to join the council, provide insights on how we can provide better value to our ASCE members, or if you just need a sounding board from time to time. My inbox is always open at melissah.asce@gmail.com.

I believe a few other introductions are in order as well. This council would not exist without our amazing, diverse younger member groups. Below you will be introduced to each Region 9 Younger Member Forum (YMF) and their respective President, starting from northern California and working our way south.

Sacramento YMF

Meet [Sacramento YMF](#) President:

Taylor Kanaan, PE

California Department of Water Resources



What is Sacramento YMF most proud of in 2021?

The pandemic hit the Sacramento YMF Chapter hard, but we are proud that we were still able to support the universities and maintain leadership.

What is Sacramento YMF looking forward to in 2022?

Sacramento YMF is looking forward to getting back to in person events and revitalizing the chapter.

Redwood Empire YMF

Meet [Redwood Empire YMF](#) President:

Erin Dupree

MKM & Associates



What is RWE YMF proud of in 2021?

In 2021, we worked with the City of Santa Rosa to host a creek clean-up. It was a great opportunity to get outdoors and give back to the community.

What is RWE YMF looking forward to in 2022?

In 2022, we are excited to launch our K-12 educational outreach program and work more closely with our parent ASCE branch.

San Francisco YMF

Meet [San Francisco YMF](#) President:

Ho-Shing Chau, PE
Brown and Caldwell



What is SF YMF most proud of in 2021?

San Francisco YMF is most proud of being able to operate efficiently, even in a remote virtual environment. We hosted fun Zoom socials where we baked and mixed drinks together. We collaborated with more YMF groups to expand our YMF network. With San Diego YMF's help, we started a comprehensive Engineers Week program from the ground up. Overall, we are proud to have had an eventful year, thanks to our awesome officer board and general members!

What is SF YMF looking forward to in 2022?

For 2022, San Francisco YMF is looking forward to having more YMF synergy by having a variety of events to attract and retain more YMF members. Also, more Bachelor(ette) Fantasy Leagues, where the winner gets half the accrued cash, and an organization per league vote gets the other half as donation.

San Jose YMF

Meet [San Jose YMF](#) President:

Monica Tanner, PE
Kimley-Horn



What is SJ YMF most proud of in 2021?

San Jose YMF is proud of being adaptable and providing a variety of events and opportunities for members during the uncertain year. The virtual and in-person events allowed current and new members to meet and connect.

What is SJ YMF looking forward to in 2022?

San Jose YMF is looking forward to seeing each other in person, whether it be for board meetings, happy hours, community service activities, or professional development events. We are also hoping to engage more frequently with the student chapters in our region.

Fresno YMF

Meet [Fresno YMF](#) President:

Kiana Negoro, PE
TRC



What is Fresno YMF most proud of in 2021?

We are most proud of how we were able to adapt in 2021. From learning how to hold virtual events to modifying events as the COVID restrictions changed, we tried our best to maintain active members. Some of the new virtual events we hosted were Books & Brews – a month-long leadership based book club with weekly discussions; Pancakes with Principals – interactive interviews with leaders from local engineering firms; Virtual Tour of Ireland – Irish tour guides showed us around the country and provided historic and local insights; and Virtual Escape Room – a fun team building and problem solving event. We also continued our participation in local community service activities while maintaining compliance with the local COVID guidelines. These activities include River Tree cleanup, Toys for Tots donations, and Evangel Home family sponsorship.

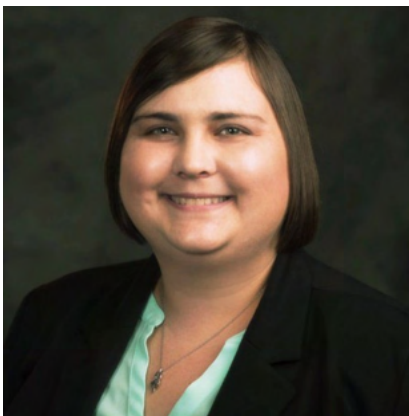
What is Fresno YMF looking forward to in 2022?

We are most looking forward to being able to (hopefully) have more in-person events and regularly meet with our members in 2022. Although the virtual setting was very accommodating, there's nothing quite like meeting in person. In addition, we look forward to getting to host some of our most popular annual events that have had to be canceled the last couple years due to COVID restrictions. These events include the annual Golf Tournament, Grizzlies Game outing, E-lympics, Crossroads Conference, and more!

Southern San Joaquin YMF

Meet [Southern San Joaquin YMF](#) President:

Tonia Holmes, EIT, CQIA
Provost & Prichard Consulting Group



What is SSJ YMF most proud of in 2021?

We held several social and networking events during 2021 including Tips for Navigating Your Career presented by Kristina Swallow.

What is SSJ YMF looking forward to in 2022?

We are looking forward to bringing back in person social and volunteer opportunities in 2022.

San Luis Obispo YMF

Meet [San Luis Obispo YMF](#) President:

Wyatt Banker-Hix, PE
City of San Luis Obispo



What is SLO YMF most proud of in 2021?
[Virtual Bridge Tour held during quarantine!](#)

What is SLO YMF looking forward to in 2022?
[In person events - hikes, social hours and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day!](#)

Santa Barbara/Ventura YMF

Meet [Santa Barbara/Ventura YMF](#) President:

Vidhi Sachdeva, EIT
Stantec



What is SB/V YMF most proud of in 2021?

[I'm most proud of the way our board managed this unpredictable year and kept throwing well-attended events – which is not only a reflection on us, but on the surrounding civil engineering community that kept showing up and getting involved with the organization. Event-wise, we hosted a technical tour of the Santa Barbara mission, followed by a chartered bus tour of a couple wineries in the Santa Ynez Valley. Being able to follow covid protocols and arrange these types of gatherings has definitely been a challenge, but our group has done an excellent job yielding the line of safe entertainment.](#)

What is SB/V YMF looking forward to in 2022?

[Looking ahead to 2022, I am optimistic that we will continue to build upon our successes and continue to host numerous technical tours across the central coast. We've got a couple events lined up for January already, and we're hopeful that as covid improves, we'll be able to participate in more community engagement events such as Earth Day.](#)

Los Angeles YMF

Meet [Los Angeles YMF](#) President:

Chloe Gharios, PE

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power



What is LA YMF most proud of in 2021?

LA YMF is most proud of being able to continue our support of our K-12 and University students through a very difficult year. Being able to continue large events like Engineers Week and Student Night and Job Fair virtually, while still creating a positive impact was not easy and it is the accomplishment we are most proud of.

What is LA YMF looking forward to in 2022?

LA YMF is most looking forward to reconnecting, not only with our members but with our community and students in a safe and impactful way.

Orange County YMF

Meet [Orange County YMF](#) President:

Ashlyn Alexander, EIT

Parsons



What is OC YMF most proud of in 2021?

We are proud of all the innovative ways we hosted over 60 events either virtually or hybrid/in-person, including WRYMC 2021! We remained connected and strong through the pandemic by supporting each other and our communities. We accomplished many goals and are proud to be the most Outstanding Large Younger Member Group!

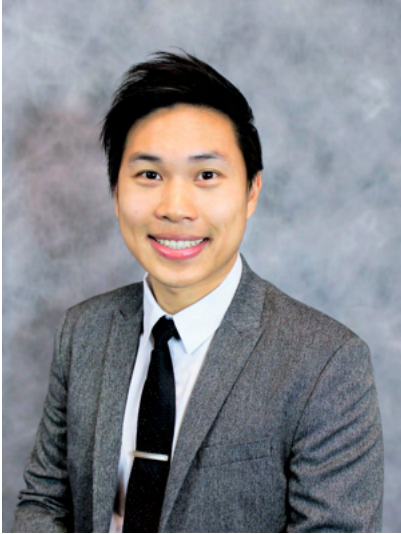
What is OC YMF looking forward to in 2022?

We want to promote a work-ASCE-life balance and focus on quality events for our members and community! We are looking forward to providing a warm welcoming community with an opportunity for everyone to join and be a part of whether you want to focus on professional, personal growth or giving back to our community!

San Bernardino/Riverside YMF

Meet [San Bernardino/Riverside YMF](#)
President:

Alexander Liu, ENV SP
Onward Engineering



What is SB/R YMF most proud of in 2021?

In 2021, we were still able to bring many of our members and professionals together through virtual events. We held virtual technical presentations on the I-10 Express Lane and Redlands Passenger Rail Projects with a high attendance of approximately 100 professionals and students at each event. We also held Trivia Night and had more than 50 YMFs' officers and members attend. The last couple of years were really challenging but I'm proud to say that even through hard times, we stayed strong and bonded with each other.

What is SB/R YMF looking forward to in 2022?

SBR YMF is in the process of planning a few events in 2022 in collaboration with RSBITE and WTS. We are very excited about these events and hope to bring back the social connection everyone missed out on in the last couple of years due to the pandemic. The collaborations will bring together students and industry professionals and form long-lasting networking relationships.

San Diego YMF

Meet [San Diego YMF](#) President:

Vanessa Eslava, EIT
TY Lin International



What is SD YMF most proud of in 2021?

Our chapter is most proud of the events we have been able to host as we slowly get back to meeting in person.

- Technical Tours
- Giving back to students through the Resume/Mock Interview Workshops
- Back to hosting our Annual Golf Tournament

See newsletter for more!

<http://www.sandiego-ymf.org/newsletter.html>

What is SD YMF looking forward to in 2022?

Our chapter is looking forward to the Engineering Day at the Mall event that is hosted during E-Week in February!



REGION 9 YMFs