



American Lebanese Engineering Society

Annual Dinner

February 10, 2007 – Byblos Restaurant, Norwood, MA

Rebuild-Lebanon Initiative Abstract

The American Lebanese Engineering Society, concerned about the extensive damage and devastation of the July 2006 war in Lebanon, and about the impact of such a disaster on the Lebanese people, has been looking into creative ways to help the reconstruction of what was destroyed.

On December 12, 2006 ALES sponsored a presentation by two of its member engineers Nabil Hourani, P.E. and Charles Sacre, P.E. who discussed the “Challenges and Opportunities of Rebuilding the Roads and Bridges of Lebanon after the July 2006 War”. The ALES members and the guests very well received the presentation.

Nabil and Charles who are experienced in the field of bridges and highways, presented a 3-Phase Plan to tackle the challenges of rebuilding the destroyed roads and bridges in Lebanon.

The 1st Phase consists in “Getting the Facts”. This means performing a comprehensive field survey of the damage backed by photos, data collection and record drawings of each bridge directly from the site of these structures in Lebanon, because the surveys available up to this date still remain incomplete. The ALES survey results organized in a data base will serve to estimate the cost of reconstruction of each bridge or roadway in particular, and the total costs and financial needs.

The 1st Phase is crucial to the next two phases: (2) the Planning for Reconstruction and Financing, and (3) the Implementation of the Plan.

Nabil and Charles are committed to volunteer and travel to Lebanon to implement the 1st Phase of the Reconstruction Plan, which is to assess the field conditions and quantify the remaining damage, knowing that few bridges have been repaired and are operational. Simultaneously, they will meet representatives of different governmental, educational and professional institutions to present the 3-Phase Plan, discuss it and get the feedback.

ALES, to support the efforts of its volunteers, is starting a fund-raising effort to raise the funds necessary to cover the travel, hotel and transportation expenses in Lebanon. It is roughly estimated that for a 2-week period, the costs per person are \$4,000.

For more information or to contribute to this fund-raising effort, please feel free to contact Mr. Charles Sacre at 781-956-3655 or Mr. Nabil Hourani at 617-973-8832 or email ALES at ales@alesonline.org.