President’s Message

By: Marco Palilla, President

Greetings fellow consultants!

I have two words for you this month: “Get Engaged”. No, not to your high school sweetheart! I am talking about the political process. Get engaged in the political process. No matter whether you agree or disagree with the benefits and or disadvantages of our democratic system, do not let yourself be a casual bystander. Our organization can not afford it. Do your best to understand the issues, read between the lines of political campaign materials, and show up at the polling booth. We can (and are) making a difference in how things get done in California. So how do you get engaged? Glad you asked:

(Continued on page 4)
Celia McAdam, Placer County Transportation Planning Agency, October Speaker
Submitted By: Eli Aramouni, Director

Called “one of the most important transportation officials in Northern California” by the Sacramento Bee, Celia McAdam has served as Executive Director of the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) since 1998, and as Executive Director of the South Placer Regional Transportation Authority (SPRTA) since its formation in 2001. Ms. McAdam previously served as a Senior Planner for PCTPA in the early 1990s and also held management positions with the City of San Jose and the Butte County Association of Governments.

An expert in transportation funding, McAdam has been recognized by her peers for her creativity in moving projects forward in spite of bureaucratic and technical obstacles and sought out by the media for her ability to translate complex transportation issues into understandable terms. Under her leadership, PCTPA was named Organization of the Year by the California Transportation Foundation in 2003 and Agency of the Year by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments in 2007.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in Economics and master’s with distinction in Planning from California State University, Chico, and holds a professional designation from the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Fundraiser for Andy Pugno, State Assembly
By: Marco Palilla, President

The Sierra Chapter hosted an ACEC-PAC fundraising matching event for Assembly Candidate Andy Pugno on September 23rd. The event was held in HDR’s Folsom office. Pugno is running for Roger Niello’s seat in the Assembly (AD 5). He is a lawyer and past legislative staffer who has decided to return to the Capitol after many years in private practice. Assembly District 5 is an oddly shaped district that extends from the Natomas area all the way to Folsom. Historically, District 5 was a republican stronghold, but is now fairly even between Democrats and Republicans. Pugno’s key opponent, Dr. Richard Pan, is a physician and an educator at the UC Davis Children’s Hospital. Pugno’s focus will be to push for increased privatization of state government, get unions under control, and hold the line on new taxes. All issues that ACEC member firms can appreciate. Roger Niello has given his support to Andy Pugno and we need to do the same.

Thanks go to Mark Smith for his efforts to get this event on our radar and Jeff Patton, our Grassroots Chair, for his work in organizing Sierra Chapter firms.

ACEC Sierra Chapter Completes Explorit Science Center Donation Commitment
Submitted by: Steve Greenfield, Director

This year’s Sierra Chapter Board of Directors is proud to announce that this year we will make a $5,000 donation to the Explorit Science Center. This is the last of five annual donations that the 2006-07 Board approved for a total of $25,000. The generous donation has been used to help Explorit meet their mission to engage people in science experiences that touch all our lives. Explorit has been located in Davis since 1982 exposing hundreds of thousands of visitors to science and engineering with hand-on exploration.

We are currently working on a potential dinner program at the Explorit facility so Sierra Chapter members can see their generous donation in action. Or better yet, take a visit there with your family soon to inspire your own to pursue engineering!
“Our mission is to provide top service to clients, and to keep pace with our industry’s technology,” explains Michael Neils, president of M. Neils Engineering, Inc., a certified small business. This Sacramento-based electrical consulting engineering firm has built a strong public and commercial client base throughout California since 1990 with projects in the healthcare, education, transportation, public safety, recreation, and civic/commercial fields, as well as lighting energy research and industrial projects.

Technological advances and innovative designs have defined the electrical engineering industry for decades and, through standards rooted in the 1970s energy crisis, became necessities. M. Neils Engineering takes service beyond their grasp of cutting-edge technology and current codes with creative, cost-effective solutions to clients’ lighting and electrical needs. The firm designs lighting, power systems, controls, security and card access systems, fire alarm systems, telephone and data communication systems, nurse call systems and other low voltage systems.

“Clients expect technological expertise and knowledge of standards and codes,” notes Neils, “so we set ourselves apart with service – delivering jobs, complete and on time. Complex projects involve time, money, and commitment, so clients must be able to trust us to fulfill our part of the process.”

Neils, with more than 38 years experience, is backed by registered electrical engineers, electrical/lighting designers, assistant engineers and drafting technicians, as well as on-call and part-time personnel. With a record of providing coordinated, high quality, cost-effective design services, MNE sees 98 percent commissions from repeat clients.

MNE is committed to reduced energy consumption and the trend toward sustainable building design. “For the past 30 years, the industry's challenge is to provide effective lighting within the scope of power limitations,” says Neils. “As the future demands more energy efficiency, clients can look to MNE for solutions.”

CONTACT:
M. Neils Engineering, Inc., 10 Fullerton Court, Suite 201, Sacramento, California 95825—916.923.4400

Would you like to see YOUR FIRM listed on this page? ACEC-CA/Sierra Chapter firms in good standing are invited to submit a company profile for inclusion in this newsletter. Firms that have not been featured in the last two years are invited to participate again.
Contact Ed Henderson for submission details.

GET NOTICED IN THE SIERRA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER!
Bruce Burnworth, Lincoln City Engineer: “Doing More with Less” — September Meeting Recap
Submitted by: Ed Henderson, Vice President

Last month’s dinner meeting was jammed packed with great speakers, including Roger Niello and his race for State Senate, John Tillison and his corporate presentation tips, and the night’s key speak Bruce Burnworth. Mr. Burnworth was hired six months ago by the City of Lincoln as their new City Engineer. Mr. Burnworth’s presentation, titled “Doing More with Less,” resonated well with the ACEC-CA members in attendance. Mr. Burnworth’s philosophy of delivering more public infrastructure relies heavily on the use of private consultants. In his short tenure at Lincoln, Mr. Burnworth has already embarked on a qualification selection process to develop multiple short lists for various categories of consultant services.

Mr. Burnworth shared one of his early feats as Lincoln’s City Engineer which involved solving three problems at once. Mr. Burnworth orchestrated the decommissioning of Lincoln’s old wastewater treatment plant, fulfilled the City’s obligation to provide millions of cubic yards of fill material for the Highway 65 Lincoln Bypass and created a regional flood control detention basin. A great example of doing more with less.

President’s Message (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

• If you have an opportunity to meet or see a candidate up close, take it. We had Roger Niello at our September Dinner meeting, held a fundraiser for Andy Pugno a week later, and are planning to have Ted Gaines at our October Dinner meeting. These are fantastic opportunities to see and hear these guys up close and personal. They all have compelling stories and experiences to share with us. You might be surprised what you learn.

• Talk to other ACEC members. These people are very educated and informed. They tend to understand the multiple ramifications that political issues have on society. Particularly how they impact the consulting industry. There are plenty of propositions on the ballot this year so there is no shortage of conversation material.

• Read the stuff that is provided by ACEC’s State office. It is packed with useful information. I know we are all buried under e-mails, but you need to make time for the important things. Executive Director Paul Meyer, Legislative Advocate Mark Smith, and their superb team of experts work tirelessly to provide us with good information. Take the time to read it.

• Vote! This is a no brainer, but worth mentioning. We can not complain if we don’t put in the effort.

I know this is a crazy time for all of us. The State budget is a wreck, business is unpredictable, unions are out of control, and costs are skyrocketing. The good news is we can beat this thing by getting and staying engaged. It is that simple.

See you all soon……..Marco
2010/11 Board of Directors

Officers
Marco Palilla, President
(HDR Engineering, Inc)
916.817.4878
Marco.Palilla@hdrinc.com

Ed Henderson, Vice President
(TLA Engineering & Planning)
916.786.0685
ed@tla-inc.com

Jerry Jones, Secty/Treasurer
(Nolte Associates, Inc.)
916.641.9100
Jerry.Jones@Nolte.com

Directors
Steve Greenfield
(Cunningham Engineering)
530.758.2026
steve@cecwest.com

Zia Islam
(Kleinfelder, Inc.)
916.366.2377
zislam@kleinfelder.com

Eli Aramouni
(Drake Haglan & Associates)
916.363.4210
earamouni@drakehaglan.com

Kelly Birkes
(Rick Engineering)
916) 638-8200
kbirkes@rickengineering.com

Greg Bardini
(Morton & Pitalo)
916.927.2400
gbardini@mpengr.com

Ted Hopkins
(Shannon & Wilson)
(916) 438-2300
TWH@shanwil.com

State Directors
Christopher Curtis (2012)
(CBC Surveys)
916.921.9033
ccurtis@cbcsurveys.com

Bob LoRusso (2013)
(Salaber Associates, Inc.)
707.693.8800
rlorusso@saiservices.com

Jeff Patton (2011)
(Blackburn Consulting)
530.887.1494
jeffp@blackburnconsulting.com

Marco Palilla (2011)
(HDR Engineering, Inc)
916.817.4878
Marco.Palilla@hdrinc.com

Lisa Thut, CPSM
Newsletter Editor
916.773.2600, x114
lthut@fugro.com

Debbie LoCicero
Recording Secretary
916-203-2474
debbiolo5@hotmail.com

Kristen Kho
Webmaster
Kristen.kho@gmail.com.