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President's Message

This will be my last president's message for the ACEC Sierra Chapter. Before I get to the main part of my message, I wanted to thank a few people for their help during my past year as president of the chapter. My biggest thanks goes to Kathy Wickam, who has been a stellar vice president this past year! She deserves huge credit for everything that went smoothly during my term as president. Kathy really made my job so much easier. I hope I can repay some of that help during her next term as chapter president. Of course, Debbie LoCicero (our chapter administrator) has been working very hard behind the scenes to make sure all the mechanics of our chapter continue to function without breakdown, as she always does. I also appreciate the help from Dana Remington, our past president, and Marco Palilla, who answered many questions about how I was supposed to do my job as president. My fellow chapter officer Debanik Chaudhuri has also done a great job as our chapter secretary-treasurer, with a keen eye on the books.

In the rest of my president's message for this newsletter, I'd like to reflect on what I believe our state and local chapters do well, and areas where I would like to see us improve.

What ACEC Does Well

My involvement in ACEC has been provided tremendous value to me as a land surveyor and manager. I've been impressed with what the organization is able to accomplish

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Calendar of Events

Meetings are at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West unless otherwise noted.

Please note price increase:

Member Cost: \$40 - Non-Member \$55

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Legislative Visit Day

Citizens Hotel, State Capitol

[Register Here](#)

Wednesday, May 9th, 2018

State Board of Directors Meeting

Citizen Hotel, Metropolitan Terrace

(Breakfast available at 7:30 AM, with the meeting ending at 12:00 Noon)

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

General Membership and BOD "Dinner" Meeting

Hilton Sacramento Arden West

Young Professionals Career Advice Panel

[Register Here](#)

Annual Summer Social

(Date to be announced soon)

Introduction of the 2018-2019 Board of Directors and Passing of the Gavel Ceremony

Monday, July 23rd 2018

Sierra Chapter EEA Applications Due



Landon Blake

Sierra Chapter President
2017-2018

Presidents Message Continued.

Continued from page 1

for land surveyors and civil engineers in private practice. In my mind, there is no other organization working to represent our needs like ACEC does.

What are things our state organization does particularly well?

The state organization does a great job of watching proposed legislation to make sure that our interests are protected. This includes the work of our legislative committee and of our lobbyist, Kelly Garman.

The state organization has also taken great strides over the last year to improve our outreach on qualifications-based-selection. Jennifer Teasdale has given this issue the attention it has needed for a long time. She regularly reaches out to public agencies on my behalf and often is successful in obtaining modifications to RFPs to make them more compliant with QBS.

What things is the local chapter doing particularly well?

Our annual Chapter Engineering Excellence Awards have been a great success. The award dinner is well attended, the application process is simple, and we are able to give a bit of attention to member firms and local agencies that are designing and constructing exemplary public works projects.

Our chapter also continues to do a great job booking monthly speakers that inform us of plans for public works projects in our area, as well as strengthening ties with groups like APWA and CalMentor.

Where ACEC Can Improve

How can we improve how ACEC operates at the state level?

I'd like to see the state-level committees more active, and more regularly reporting their activities to the broader membership. This includes the committee that I chair, the land use committee. I'd also like to make sure that each of our committees is getting participation and involvement from each member, instead of being dominated by just one or two active committee

members.

Kelly Garman seems to do a great job of reaching out to other design professional organizations on legislative issues. I'd like to see this type of outreach expanded to cover other areas where our organizations can work together.

How can we improve the way our local chapter operates?

I'll touch on 2 ways I believe we can improve.

I'd like to see more diversity in our speaker pool. We'd draw a larger audience to our meetings if we occasionally covered topics related to business management or technology. If our speakers only appeal to employees of member firms that are involved in business development or ownership, we lose an opportunity to reach out to future leaders of members firms. These future leaders are the people that will decide to keep their firms involved in ACEC in the years to come.

I'd like to see us continue our efforts to involve younger professionals in our meetings. As I mentioned, a more diverse speaker pool is one way to do that. There are other things we can do. A direct invitation to attend a meeting is a first step. Our Career Advice Panel for Young Professionals is another first step. I think it would be great to see our chapter host workshops to teach the next generation of leaders at our firms about the business issues ACEC is working on.

Conclusion

I've deeply appreciated the opportunity to serve as your chapter president. I'm looking forward to seeing what Kathy, Debanik, and Kevin accomplish next year. I'll finish with a reminder to treat next year's chapter officers with kindness and respect. They volunteer their time, and most are already very busy with family's and careers. They need words of encouragement and support, not sarcastic comments and unhelpful criticism.

Landon Blake

Register for ACEC Legislative Visit Day: May 8, 2018

By Marco Palilla, State Director



Our annual Legislative Visit Day is Tuesday, May 8th. This is our annual opportunity to meet with state legislators (Assembly and Senate) and promote our consulting engineer and land surveying agenda. An overview of the day's activities is below:

- 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM Opening Presentation & Issues Breakfast
The Citizen Hotel
Metropolitan Terrace
- 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM Capitol Appointments
State Capitol
- 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM 1-hour Legislative Training Session: 1st and 2nd time attendees
The Citizen Hotel – Metropolitan Terrace
- 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Legislative Luncheon
The Citizen Hotel
Metropolitan Terrace
- 1:30 PM - 4:45 PM Capitol Appointments
State Capitol
- 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM 1-hour Legislative Training Session: 1st and 2nd time attendees
The Citizen Hotel – Metropolitan Terrace
- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Legislative Reception
Brasserie Capitale

If you have not already registered for this important event, please do so at this link:

<https://acec-ca.site-ym.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=990883&group>

See you at the Capitol!



April 2018—Meeting Recap. Kelly Garman, Director of Government Affairs, ACEC-CA

By Landon Blake, President



At our April Meeting Kelly Garman from ACEC California gave a presentation on current legislative issues and talking points for Legislative Visit Day on May 8th. The 3 most important legislative issues ACEC California is currently watching or working on are:

1. The effort to repeal transportation funding enabled through SB 1.
2. Implementation of revised indemnification language in public agency contracts as a result of SB 496.
3. Exploration of positions on continuity-of-service prohibitions in contracts for design of public works projects.

May 16, 2018 Meeting- Young Professionals Career Advice Panel Discussion

By Landon Blake, President

We are hosting our first annual Career Advice For Young Professionals Panel Discussion at our May Meeting. Panel members are Chad Coleman (Coleman Engineering), Marco Palilla (HDR), Elba Mijango (City of Manteca), Tom Holdrege (Holdrege and Kull) and Aundrea Tirapelle (Guida Surveying). We are very pleased to have a diverse panel with members of both the public sector and private sector. This meeting is a great opportunity to expose a young professional in your organization to the benefits of ACEC at the local chapter level. We are encouraging all of our member firms to attend the panel with a young professional as their guest.

Members of the panel will answer these 3 questions (as well as questions from the audience):

- What is the most important career advice you would give a young engineer or land surveyor?
- What is the biggest challenge you faced in your career as an engineer or land surveyor, and what did you learn from it?
- What skills or characteristics are the most important for a young civil engineer or land surveyor to possess in today's employment market?

4th Annual Sierra Chapter Engineering Excellence Awards

By Kathy Wickam, Vice President

The Sierra Chapter Board is excited to announce our Fourth Annual Engineering Excellence Awards Program. This program is not to be confused with the statewide competition, but instead a Sierra chapter event. We aim to promote the great work that our member firms are doing in our region. Our goal is to recognize deserving accomplishments and highlight these successes to clients and other member firms. Projects must in-

clude a member firm to have been completed between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. Nomination forms will be available on the Chapter website May 16th, with applications due July 23rd. Winners will be announced August 10th and will be awarded at our Annual EEA Awards Dinner September 19th. This is a great way to showcase the great work your firm has done this past year, so submit your projects!

ACEC-CA Sierra Chapter Member Profile



For more than four decades, **Morton & Pitalo, Inc.** has been a leader in providing high-quality Civil Engineering, Land Planning and Land Surveying services. The firm has perfected a style of operation that emphasizes a team approach and close involvement by our Principals and Project Managers. Clients deal with the same principal and select team of in-house experts throughout the project.

Morton & Pitalo, Inc. specializes in providing professional civil engineering, land planning, and land surveying services throughout Northern California. Our firm has completed thousands of projects in the Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado tri-county area. Our multi-discipline services have been provided to the private sector for commercial, office, industrial, institutional and residential developments, and to the public sector for roads, public works, schools, parks and assessment districts. We have a diverse and expansive project base in the City and County of Sacramento because of our extensive experience with land development in the Greater Sacramento Region.

Our firm philosophy and principles have made **Morton & Pitalo, Inc.** a progressive company for the past 40 years. Our Civil Engineers work in teams with our in-house Land Surveyors and Land Planners equipped with the latest computer software and hardware including UAV/Drones, which enable us to tackle large scale, multi-discipline projects, while saving our Clients both time and money.

Certifications:

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
Caltrans CUCP No. 37754

Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)
CPUC VON: 15030132

Small Business Enterprise (SBE)
State of California (DGS), No. 1790922

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GOLDEN 1 CENTER (SACRAMENTO, CA)

Morton and Pitalo's initial scope of work included a boundary and topographic survey of the project site, which was expanded to include Land Use Entitlement, Subdivision Mapping, preparation of Plats and Legal Descriptions, and Civil/Utilities Engineering.



SMUD HQ RENOVATION (SACRAMENTO, CA)

Morton & Pitalo, Inc., a SMUD SEED firm assisted with the rehabilitation of the SMUD Headquarters with ADA modifications to the site. Our firm also provided Civil Engineering services for the redesign and reconstruction of the surrounding parking lot.



HP CAMPUS OAKS MASTER PLAN (ROSEVILLE, CA)

Morton & Pitalo provided Land Planning and Civil Engineering services for this Master Plan project, including Community Facilities District formation services, Design, and Construction Phase Services for the Backbone Infrastructure.

2017-18 Board of Directors

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GET NOTICED IN THE SIERRA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER!

Would you like to see YOUR FIRM listed in this Newsletter?

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 Kathy Wickam, Vice President.

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
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ACEC CALIFORNIA – SIERRA CHAPTER

CAREER ADVICE FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

A PANEL DISCUSSION

MAY 16, 2018
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

PANEL MEMBERS

Our panel members have over 100 years of combined experience in the engineering and surveying profession. The panel members include:

- Chad Coleman (Coleman Engineering)
- Marco Palilla (HDR)
- Elba Mijango (City of Manteca)
- Tom Holdrege (Holdrege and Kull)
- Aundrea Tirapelle (Guida Surveying)

PANEL QUESTIONS

Our panel will answer these questions during their discussion:

- #1: What is the most important career advice you would give a young engineer or land surveyor?
- #2: What is the biggest challenge you faced in your career as an engineer or land surveyor, and what did you learn from it?
- #3: What skills or characteristics are the most important for a young civil engineer or land surveyor to possess in today's world?

BRING YOUR OWN

We encourage young professionals that will be attending the lunch to submit their own questions for our panel. You can send questions to lblake@guidasurveying.com.