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Top 5 Reasons to attend ACEC Sierra Chapter Meetings

By Marco Palilla, Sierra Chapter Director/Grassroots Chair



I have been attending ACEC Sierra Chapter meetings and events for many years (since the mid 1990's to be more specific). I have served the Chapter in many roles: President, Board Member, State Director, and Grassroots Chair. I have represented small firms (Capitol Utility Specialists) big firms (Brown and Caldwell and Carollo) and really big firms (HDR). Most of you know I am a water/wastewater guy, so many times

there have been meetings that I was not particularly interested in attending, but I went anyway. I truly believe that 80 percent of success is just showing up (famous quote), so I try and always show up. I want to be known as that guy who always shows up. I want folks to know that they will more than likely see me at these meetings if they want to talk, just say hi, or buy me a drink. In almost every situation, I was always glad I went. Why? Because there are many good reasons to attend Sierra Chapter Meetings that go far beyond the Dinner or Lunch topic. So, whether you want to know or not, I have compiled my Top 5 Reasons for Attending Sierra Chapter Meetings:

Networking, networking, networking. Connecting with my peers is critical to me on many levels. This is how I stay in touch with my clients, teaming partners, competitors and friends (some are more than one of these). The importance of this cannot be understated. So many positive things come out of networking that it is hard to cover all of them here. Suffice to say that we are in a people business and the best way to meet and get to know people is through networking. But you gotta show up to do it! When it comes to teaming on projects (and we do a lot of that!) I always prefer talking to people I know. The better I know someone, the better chance I will team with them. It is that simple.

Giving back to the industry. Attending meetings and events is also a way to give something back to the industry that has served me well (in both sickness and health). I get a lot out of feeling like I helped somebody no matter how small the assistance. I suspect many of you feel the same way. We all share some



Kevin Gustorf
Sierra Chapter President
2019-2020

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responsibility for keeping the consulting industry strong and relevant, and when you support others, you make a difference. And you can even call yourself a Mentor!

Learning new things. Okay, even water guys can learn new things about other types of infrastructure or management techniques or politics. Even transportation projects can be fun (or so I have heard). On the political front there is no end to the things you can learn through ACEC. An informed membership is good for all of us.

Socializing with my friends. Yes, I consider many of you my friends. It would be hard to belong to a “club” like ACEC for so many years and not make a few friends. Engineers and surveyors are great people, just ask us. And who needs an excuse to get out of the office? We all do better when we get away from the office for a bit, and I don’t just mean going home. Next time you attend a Sierra Chapter meeting, pretend you’re just hanging out with friends for a meal and some cocktails. You might just enjoy the meeting!

Networking, networking, networking. Yes, I am listing this one twice! That is how important it is. I can’t overemphasize this benefit. And the younger you are, the more critical it is. If you really want to be a rock star, try and meet at least one new person at every meeting. It is easier than you think.

So, what do you say? Will you attend the next ACEC Sierra Chapter meeting for some networking, socializing, learning and mentoring? If not, will you send others from your firm? Either way you benefit, your firm benefits and we all benefit. See you at ACEC!

Calendar of Events

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

Please Note Cost Increase

Member Cost: \$50 - Non-Member \$60

September 7

PAC Fundraiser - Nor CA Wine Event
Sonoma, CA
(Flyer attached)

“Tuesday” September 17

Sierra Chapter General Membership
Dinner Meeting

Speaker:

Michael Green, Mind Spring

Topic:

**Informative and Interactive
Presentation on Leadership**

[Register Here](#)

September 27

DEADLINE for Sierra Chapter & ACEC-CA
Engineering Excellence Award Submittals

October 2-4

ACEC-CA Strategic Summit,
Newport Beach, CA

October 16

Sierra Chapter Membership Meeting &
Engineering Excellence Awards

Details coming soon!

Please visit www.acec.org for a complete list of
upcoming webinars and on-line classes.

Engineering Excellence Awards Event - October 16, 2019

By Kevin Gustorf, President

It's that time of year... time to recognize all of the great projects and clients in our region! The Sierra Chapter will be holding the 5th Annual Engineering Excellence Awards dinner on October 16th. There will be award categories recognizing project excellence and client/owner contributions in both the

public and private sector. Award nominations will be due September 27th. A separate email will be distributed in August with more details about the award categories and nomination requirements. In the meantime, start thinking about the great projects you would like to nominate.

Summer Social Recap

By Kevin Gustorf, President

On June 22nd, we closed out another successful year at the Sierra Chapter with our Summer Social, and had a chance to send off our outgoing President, Debanik Chaudhuri, in style. Members from the Sierra Chapter spent a wonderful summer evening with their colleagues, spouses, partners and friends at the Sutter Street Steakhouse in Folsom. It was an evening filled with delicious food, lot of laughs, great wine and even better company.

Debanik capped off an impressive term as our President, where we saw eight new member firms join the Chapter, and continued to develop many of the great traditions of our Chapter: relevant speakers, local project updates, scholarships awarded, STEM industry support, Engineering Excellence Awards, Past-

Presidents Dinner, and the Young Professional forum... to name a few. We were even graced with the presence of ACEC-CA Executive Director Brad Diede, and his wife Liz, at our Summer Social to recognize Debanik and his contributions.

Debanik happily passed the gavel to myself, Kevin Gustorf, as the incoming President. I look forward to building upon the great accomplishments of past Presidents and continuing the mission of the Sierra Chapter.

For those of you who have not been to the Sutter Street Steakhouse in Folsom, I recommend you go. It is located in a beautiful building in downtown Folsom, with great views, excellent food and wonderful service. We will surely be back.



2019-2020 Board of Directors

Officers

Kevin Gustorf, President
 (Wood Rodgers)
 916.341.7760
 kgustorf@woodrodgers.com

Jerry Jones, Vice President
 (Morton & Pitalo)
 916.984.7621
 jjones@mpengr.com

**Scott Lillibridge, Secretary/
 Treasurer**
 (Rick Engineering)
 916.638.8200
 slillibridge@rickengineering.com

Directors

JD Christiansen
 (Kimley-Horn)
 916.859.3632
 JD.Christiansen@kimley-horn.com

Chad Coleman
 (Coleman Engineering)
 916.791.1188
 chad@coleman-eng.com

Rosa Griggs
 (Dokken Engineering)
 916.858.0642
 rgriggs@dokkenengineering.com

Marshall Moore
 (Mark Thomas)
 916.403.5719
 mmoore@markthomas.com

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

Tom Sell
 (SAGE Engineers, A Business Group
 of Gannett Fleming)
 916.677.4775
 tsell@sgfnet.com

State Directors

Kevin Gustorf (2023)
 (Wood Rodgers)
 916.341.7760
 kgustorf@woodrodgers.com

Debanik Chaudhuri (2022)
 (Shannon & Wilson)
 916.438.2300
 dxc@shanwil.com

Landon Blake (2021)
 (BKF)
 209.403.0348
 lblake@bkf.com

Dana Remington (2020)
 (Psomas)
 530.885.7072
 dana.remington@psomas.com

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 Jerry Jones, Vice President, for submission details.

Point of Contact:

Jerry Jones
 (Morton & Pitalo)
 jjones@mpengr.com



Debbie LoCicero
Recording Secretary
Newsletter Editor

ACEC California Strategic Summit

By Kevin Gustorf, President

If you want to be at the leading edge of what's happening in the engineering and surveying consulting industry, then you should attend ACEC-CA Strategic Summit. This summit builds upon the original ACEC California Strategic Summit format, with multiple benefits including incredible networking opportunities, cultivating relationships with project owners, and learning new methods to address complex project delivery goals. There will be something for those at any career level, whether you are firm principals/owners, managers, mid-level technical or business development, young professionals and emerging engineers or land surveyors.

The Strategic Summit includes a packed agenda of great speakers and events, including:

Thursday's Keynote Speaker - Ben Nemtin is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *What Do You Want to Do Before You Die?* And a star of the MTV show *The Buried Life*. As the co-founder of *The Buried Life* movement, Ben's message of radical possibility has been featured on *The Today*

Show, CNN, ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC News, and Oprah, who called Ben and his friends "truly inspiring." An acclaimed speaker, Ben has keynoted business conferences and corporate leadership teams around the world, garnering standing ovations from Amazon, FedEx, Harvard, Levi's, Microsoft, Verizon, and more. In 2019 Ben was named in the World's Top 30 Organizational Culture Professionals by Global Gurus.

It all stems from a battle Ben had with depression over a decade ago. In an attempt to feel more alive, he created the world's greatest bucket list with his three best friends. They borrowed a rickety old RV and crisscrossed North America, achieving the unthinkable. And most importantly, every time they accomplished a dream, they helped a complete stranger cross something off their bucket list. From playing basketball with President Obama to having a beer with Prince Harry, from reuniting a father and son after seventeen years to surprising a girl with a much-needed bionic arm—Ben's bucket list quest has inspired millions to realize their true potential.

Thursday Evening at Sea - Summit attendees will enjoy an evening cruising the bay on the Ambassador with beautiful views, excellent food, wine, dancing, and networking opportunities.

Friday's Keynote Speaker - Lt. Col. Robert J. Darling is our Friday morning keynote



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speaker. Lieutenant Colonel Darling retired from the United States Marine Corps having flown Cobra attack helicopters in Desert Shield and Desert Storm during the first Gulf War and in Somalia, Africa in support of Operation Restore Hope. In June 1998, he was selected to fly as a presidential pilot with Marine Helicopter Squadron One and in October 2000, he was selected to work for The White House Military Office, Airlift Operations Department. It was in that capacity that, then Major Darling supported the President, Vice President and National Security Advisor in the Presidential

Emergency Operations Center (PEOC) on September 11, 2001. At the urging of family, friends, and colleagues to share his witness to American history, Bob wrote his memoir, ***24 Hours Inside the President's Bunker, 9/11/01: The White House.***

This year's Annual Strategic Summit will take place *October 2-4, at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach, California.* The Balboa Bay Resort is located right on the water in Newport Bay, in one of the most picturesque locations in the world.

Don't miss out! Registration is now open for the Annual Strategic Summit. For more information and to registration, open the [ACEC California website at this link.](#)

State Board Meeting Recap—July 25-26

By Jerry Jones, Secretary/Treasurer

I had the pleasure of attending the July 25-26 Board of Directors meeting in Long Beach. Some of the key highlights coming out of the meeting, which may be of interest were:

- The Strategic Summit will be held October 2nd- 4th at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach. (Additional information can be found on the Events page of the ACEC website.)
- Positions are available on the state committees.
- Deadline to submit your entry for the Engineering Excellence Awards is September 27, 2019 with the awards ceremony being held February 13, 2020 at the L.A. Grand Hotel in Los Angeles.
- Financially, the organization is healthy touting a \$110,000 net income, with overall adjusted income up by 8.5%.
- President Antonucci indicated the board is in the middle of preparing an updated Strategic Plan.
- An Alternative Dues Structure is being reviewed. If it comes to fruition all chapters will need to adopt the new structure and updated by-laws.
- Tyler Munzing, the ACEC Government Affairs Director, gave a detailed recap of the legislative efforts.
- AB 626 (Continuity of Service) **Look for a “Call to Action”** e-mail from Tyler with templates and instructions on soliciting letters of support from public agency clients and individual firms.
- The Board of Directors approved a \$20k contribution to the Scholarship Fund.
- Several Chapters throughout the state are hosting events to raise money for the ACEC PAC, which contributed over \$130k to California candidates in 2018. State goal is to raise \$93k in support of the PAC.

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- Bay Bridge July Mixer Raffle
- NorCal Winery Event September 7th in Sonoma, “Wine-ding Down the Summer.”
- SoCal Winery Event (September 28th in Temecula)
- LA Chapter -Hotel Figueroa (September 19th in Los Angeles)
- Scholarship Foundation raffle tickets - contact state office or see your Directors. \$20 each or 6 for \$99. Grand prize is a trip to Maui.

Wine-ding Down the Summer

Seven of the northern California Chapters will be hosting an event to support the ACEC PAC. The event will be held Saturday, September 7th from 1:00 – 3:00 PM at the Jacuzzi Winery in Sonoma.

Everyone is invited to tour the grounds, enjoy the amazing surroundings and enjoy a glass of wine with old and new friends. Don't be the last to sign up.

(See the attached flyer and press [“Register Here”](#) for registration.)

Membership



The Sierra Chapter is proud to announce the Board of Directors approved and welcomed the following new firms in the past year:

Firm	Month/Yr. Joined	Member Type	City
RFE Engineering Inc.	08/2019	Civil Engineering	Roseville
GHD	04/2019	Civil Engineering	Roseville
Hydroscience	03/2019	Civil Engineering	Sacramento
Peterson Brustad Inc.	01/2019	Civil Engineering	Folsom
Valley Tech Systems	11/2018	Aerospace Engineering	Folsom
MWA, Inc.	11/2018	Architecture/Structural	Truckee
Knight CM Group	10/2018	Construction Management	El Dorado Hills
Modern Building Inc.	08/2019	Commercial Construction	Chico

Wine-ding Down the Summer



WHEN: Saturday, September 7, 2019
TIME: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
LOCATION: JACUZZI FAMILY VINEYARD
24724 Arnold Drive
Sonoma, CA 95476

TICKETS

- \$75-Young Professionals (35 years & younger)
 - \$150-Young Professionals + Spouse
- \$150-Members
 - \$200-Members + Spouse

[Click here to register](#)



**ENJOY A TASTING OF FIVE
JACUZZI FAMILY WINES,
GOURMET CHEESE &
CHARCUTERIE
BOARDS, PLUS
A WINERY TOUR.**

All proceeds go directly to ACEC/PAC. We can only accept personal checks or personal credit cards for this event. Partnership and sole proprietorship checks are permitted; however, federal law prohibits corporate checks and corporate credit cards. Contributions or gifts to ACEC/PAC are not

deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions will be screened and those from outside the restricted class (non-members) and those from individuals who have not given prior approval may be returned. Contributions are voluntary, and amounts included herein are merely suggestions. An individual is free to contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest but may not contribute more than \$5,000 per calendar year. Federal law requires that our committee report the full name, address, occupation and company name of each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.



You are cordially invited to attend:

General Membership and BOD “Dinner” Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Guest Speaker:

Michael Green, Mind Spring

Topic of Discussion:

“A dynamic and interactive presentation on Leadership”

On-line Registration/ RSVP:

[Register Here](#)

Cost: \$50 ACEC Members—Non-Members: \$60

5:00pm - 6:00pm: BOD Meeting

6:00pm - 6:30pm: Networking

6:30pm - 8:00pm: Dinner Meeting



Meetings are held at the Hilton unless otherwise noted.

Hilton Sacramento Arden West

220 Harvard Street

Sacramento, CA