

CELSOC *Update*

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

JUNE 2007



CONSULTING
ENGINEERS and
LAND SURVEYORS
of CALIFORNIA

Orange County Chapter

Upcoming Meetings & Events

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2007

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Speaker: Brew Clarke, Project Manager

California High Speed Rail Authority: LA to OC Corridor

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Wyndham O.C. Airport Hotel
3350 Avenue of the Arts • Costa Mesa

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2007

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

ANGELS VS TEXAS RANGERS

7:05 pm • Anaheim Stadium

For further information about this or any other CELSOC events call (949) 672-9030

President
JEFF WALKER

And the Winner Is... Three Projects Recognized for Excellence; Lifetime Achievement, Client of the Year Honored

By LYNN GILBERT, Editor, CELSOC Update

Spring was awards season for the CELSOC Orange County Chapter, as it bestowed its 2007 Awards of Excellence on three local projects and client owners in March, and awarded Lifetime Achievement and Client of the Year awards at the second annual Awards Dinner in May.

The three projects and respective client owners receiving recognition with Awards of Excellence were the State Route 22 Design/Build HOV Widening project (OCTA); the Arbor on El Toro Road (City of Lake Forest); and the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall (Orange County Performing Arts Center). On hand to accept the awards at the March awards luncheon were Carolyn Cavecche, OCTA Board Member, Ellery Brown from the Orange County Performing Arts Center, and Bob Woodings, Director of Public Works for the City of Lake Forest.



CELSOC President Jeff Walker presents the 2007 Awards of Excellence to (from left) Carolyn Cavecche, OCTA; Ellery Brown, OC Performing Arts Center; and Bob Woodings, City of Lake Forest.

Second Annual Awards Dinner

The second annual Awards Dinner took place May 24 in Costa Mesa; Orange County Business Council CEO Lucy Dunn served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening. The Client of the Year award went to the City of Anaheim in recognition of its commitment to public-private partnerships, consideration

of the qualifications of consulting engineers and land surveyors in its procurement selections, and its significant contributions to the engineering and surveying community. Curt Pringle, Mayor of the City of Anaheim, accepted the award.

An Assembly resolution was also presented to Mayor Pringle by a representative from Assemblyman Jose Solorio's office.

CELSOC OC's Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed on Tim Psomas, Chairman of the Board of Psomas. The award is intended to honor members of the Orange County engineering and surveying community who have made a significant and long-lasting contribution to the engineering and

surveying professions. Recipients are recognized for professional ethics, leadership, innovation, resourcefulness, and investment in the local community.

Besides receiving the award from CELSOC OC, Mr. Psomas received a proclamation from Orange County Supervisor Bill Campbell on behalf of the County of Orange. ☞



Curt Pringle, Mayor of Anaheim, poses for a picture with Mary Erchul, incoming CELSOC OC president (left), and Lucy Dunn, CEO of the OC Business Council.



Tim Psomas (center) is joined by Bill Campbell, Orange County Supervisor (left), and Curt Pringle, Mayor of Anaheim.



Tim Psomas enjoys the festivities with Bob Bein, winner of CELSOC OC's inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award last year.

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39 Argonaut
Suite 100
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
(949) 672-9030
Fax (949) 855-6678

www.celsoc.org
email:
celsoc@seabreezengmt.com

Editor

Lynn Gilbert
(714) 751-7373

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President's Letter

Attracting and Retaining Staff

By JEFF WALKER

A month or so ago, I spent the evening on the Queen Mary for the 30th Spring Seminar, 10th Geo-Expo of the ASCE, Los Angeles Section, Geotechnical Engineering Technical Group. The seminar lived up to its billing as an opportunity to learn some of the latest developments in geotechnical engineering, meet with vendors from the geotechnical industry, and catch up with friends working for the competition. For some of us, however, the seminar was much more.

Whether appropriate or not, this annual seminar serves as a geotechnical engineering job fair; a prime recruiting ground for all levels of staff. Students know it, project managers know it, and hiring managers know it. In the past, recruiting at this event has generally been discrete, but given the shortage of engineers, the atmosphere was noticeably more 'active' this year. The fact is, recruiting (or poaching, if you prefer to be cynical) of mid- to senior-level talent from each other will always occur.

My perception is that the geotechnical industry is not appreciably different from the rest of the engineering and land surveying community. As firms try to position themselves to win their share (or more) of available and upcoming work, staffing invariably rises to the top of the challenges facing them. The inability to find and recruit talented staff obviously limits our ability to pursue challenging work and achieve the growth goals in each of our strategic plans.

Recruiting of talented staff is essential for growth, but what good does it do to bring 10 new staff in the front door, if nearly as many are being lured out the back door? Though we can't always match the salaries that other firms may be willing to pay, we do have the ability to create a work environment that will make our employees think twice (and hopefully three times) before considering another opportunity. We can provide our staff with a pleasant and rewarding work environment, free from harassment; we can provide the training and mentoring they need to perform well; we can provide

a fair wage, challenging assignments and recognition for a job well done; and we can be proactive in their career development. Through these and numerous things that are in our control, we can make a difference in the lives and careers of our staff.

But let's not forget; the shortage of qualified engineers is a big problem that cannot be solved overnight. We have heard that enrollment in engineering programs in the United States is declining. We have heard that we need to promote our profession so that the public (and especially students) know the value of what we do. CELSOC has always been active in the promotion of our profession through its legislative advocacy. Lately, CELSOC has been promoting the profession and our name to the public through radio spots, articles and letters to the editor in leading newspapers, and press releases regarding numerous timely issues. This year, your state organization is taking it one step further. Following the lead of CLSA, who published a DVD promoting the land surveying profession, CELSOC is producing a video to promote engineering and land surveying as a career choice. The video will be contemporary, striving to break many common stereotypes regarding our profession. The video should be ready for release by late July.

The state-level Student Outreach Committee will be leading a campaign to roll this video out to high schools and junior high schools throughout the state starting in September 2007. To support this effort, the Orange County chapter will be asked to name a student outreach coordinator who will help to organize visits to local schools to present the video and discuss the benefits of a career in engineering. Many of you already speak to various school districts; we applaud you. Hopefully this video and appurtenant information from CELSOC



Jeff Walker

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Spring Luncheon Wrap-Ups

February Luncheon Wrap-Up

The February membership luncheon featured a presentation by one of CELSOC Orange County's own Directors, Don Archer. As Principal with PQM, Inc., Don co-presented with Calvin Jin of LACSD a program entitled "Quality Management in a Design Organization – A Case Study."



CELSOC OC President Jeff Walker poses for a photograph with guest speaker and CELSOC OC Board Member Don Archer.

April Luncheon Wrap-Up

Tony Rahimian, president of RMC, Inc., served as project manager for the MIS initiated by OCTA, RCTC, and the Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency to study mobility improvements between Riverside and Orange Counties. In April, Mr. Rahimian made a presentation to the CELSOC OC membership of the approved Locally Preferred Strategy (LPS) and provided an update on the status of each of the elements of the LPS. ☐



CELSOC OC President Jeff Walker is joined by Tony Rahimian of RMC, Inc., following his presentation.

Angels vs Texas Rangers

Friday, July 13, 2007

Time: 7:05 • Price: \$15

What a Deal! CELSOC Members, get the kids together, invite some friends, and let's have an enjoyable summer evening at the ball park. Those who participated in the past had a great time. In order to ensure availability (we've run out in prior years), please order your tickets now! We certainly want to accommodate all who wish to join in the fun.

Please call or e-mail us soon as we have a limited number of seats available.

Phone:
(949) 672-9030

Email:
celsoc@seabreezemgmt.com



A Special Thanks to Everyone Who Helped

Continued from Page 2

will help in your promotion of the engineering profession to the youth of the county. For the rest of us, this is an outstanding opportunity to get involved in our community and help to solve a growing staffing problem. Although the fruits of this campaign may not be reaped for a half dozen years or more, we need to start now. Most of us will still be working when today's high school students graduate from a university. I sure hope that many of them will choose to pursue an engineering degree. Our companies' growth and our quality of life depend on it. Additional information regarding the video can be obtained by calling Rebecca Nicholas at the CELSOC office at (916) 441-7991. CELSOC members interested in visiting Orange County schools can e-mail their contact information to celsococ@seabreezemgmt.com.

As this is my final President's Message, I would like to thank each of you for your participation in CELSOC this year. I appreciate the dedication of the Board of Directors, especially in light of the many competing demands for their time. We have accomplished many things

during this past year, including successfully increasing membership, revitalizing our Legislative Visit Day, and continuing our new tradition of honoring a client (City of Anaheim) and a local professional (Tim Psomas) at our Awards Banquet and Installation of Officers.

Many of our Board Members have also served on committees at the state level supporting issues that improve the profession and activities that benefit our membership. Some of the highlights of the year include the passage of AB 573 to improve indemnification clauses, passage of the infrastructure and water bonds, defeat of PECG (again), development of the student outreach video, and the annual conference in Kona, Hawaii.

The presidential reins have officially been passed to the capable hands of Mary Erchul, who will lead us through the upcoming year. She has already conducted a strategizing session for the Executive Committee, and outlined many of the exciting things she plans to accomplish this year. I wish her well and pledge my commitment to the Board in my new role as Past-President. ☐

While this newsletter is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information on the subjects covered, the association is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting or other professional or technical services. Accordingly, the association cannot warrant the accuracy of the information contained in the newsletter and disclaims any and all liability which may result from publication or reliance on the information provided herein. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the service of a competent professional person should be sought.

People on the Move...

Compiled by Dina Rochford

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently re-appointed **Fred Ameri**, of **RBF**, to the Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region. This will be Fred's third term as a board member. His main goal for the upcoming four-year term is to create a balance between the economic growth of the region and the protection of surface and ground water. Congratulations, Fred.

Psomas named six of its Orange County employees as new Associates of the firm. They are **Brad Blood, PhD** (Natural Resources), **Lynn Gilbert** (Marketing), **Robert Gould** (Survey), **Victor Padilla** (Survey), **Theo Smith** (Administration), and **Greg Watanabe** (Water).

Gary Cohoe has joined **Carter & Burgess** as Vice President, Associate and Unit Manager. Gary will be working in the firm's new Ontario office and will be responsible for transportation project development, program management, and business development in the region.

Our very own **Don Archer** recently founded **PQM, Inc.** The name PQM is an acronym for Project Quality Management and the firm provides three services: business systems improvement, project level QA/QC, and quality training. Don recently gave a standing-room only presentation at the CELSOC annual conference, which was very well received.

Hall & Foreman has announced the appointment of **Ralph M. Scott**, a senior partner of **Scott, Bankhead & Co.**, to its board of directors. Scott is the first outside executive ever to serve on Hall & Foreman's board.

Also announced by **Hall & Foreman** is that **Andrew Willrodt**, project director, earned the Leadership in Energy & Environment Design – New Construction (LEED – NC) accreditation.

And finally, **Tim Maurier** has joined **Parsons**, **Tom Bogard** has returned to **OCTA**, and **Krishnial Murthy** has left PB to work for MTA. Stay tuned for more information about these industry moguls...

CELSOC

Orange County Chapter

c/o Seabreeze Management
39 Argonaut ♦ Suite 100
Aliso Viejo, California 92656

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