



August 2012 Newsletter

Presented by the 2012-2013 San Diego Section Officers

Section Director Section President President Elect VP Supervisory VP Rank & File VP At Large Secretary Treasurer	Naser Ghaderi Robert Lumahan Mehrdad “Mo” Maher Abu-Bakr Al-Jafri Ben Guerrero Jr. Lilia Bowman Lawrence Emerson Azar Habibafshar	(619) 623-9035 (619) 688-5124 (858) 674-5437 (619) 491-3077 (619) 688-3199 (619) 767-2280 (858) 467-3073 (619) 688-3192	Caltrans Caltrans Div of State Arch Caltrans Caltrans Cal/OSHA Caltrans Caltrans
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Volume II Number I

Section Annual Meeting Reflects on Challenges Ahead



The Section Annual Meeting was held on August 13 to swear in the new Section Officers and to kick off the new Section Year.

Held at the picturesque Marina Village on Mission Bay

in the spacious Captain’s Room the Annual Meeting was well attended by over 200 San Diego Section members and guests.

Corporate Treasurer and Corporate President Elect Candidate **Roy Flores** opened the meeting by welcoming



everyone in attendance before speaking about long time PECG member **Jay Gittin**.

Jay was dedicated to helping develop the next generation of engineers and showed this dedication by working with local college engineering students to help them gain practical real world experience in the structural engineering field. Jay volunteered many long hours meeting with students and coordinating activities that ranged from planning, designing to constructing actual structures.

Jay also gave back to his community through his involvement in various humanitarian efforts and through a nonprofit organization that he founded.



Jay (pictured with his sons, Taylor and Jason) unexpectedly passed away on July 25 and is sorely missed by his family and many friends.

To honor Jay and his commitment to helping others, especially college students, the Section Officers have decided to name one of the Section's Scholarship Awards after Jay. The Jay Gittin Memorial Scholarship Award will be awarded for the first time when the next Section Scholarship awards are given.



Roy, as the senior most PEGG Officer in the Section, also swore in the following incoming Section Officers:

Incoming Director: **Naser Ghaderi**
 President: **Robert Lumahan**
 President Elect: **Mo Maher**
 VP Supervisory: **Abu-Bakr H Al-Jafri**
 VP Rank & File: **Ben Guerrero Jr.**
 VP At Large: **Lilia Bowman**
 Secretary: **Lawrence Emerson**
 Treasurer: **Azar Habibafshar**



Robert's first official act as Section President, and the Section Scholarship Committee Chairman, was to present the Section Scholarship Awards to this year's winners (pictured with Devangi Dave, accepting for her son – Achal Dave, Karla Medina, Jennifer Gutierrez and Montana Knapp).

Due to the exceptional quality of all of the applicants, the Section decided to increase the total number of scholarships awarded this year from two \$500 scholarships to three \$500 scholarships and five \$150 scholarships.

Congratulations to the following Scholarship Award Winners:

Jennifer Gutierrez
Montana Knapp
Arthur Reyes
Mohsen Baghchechi
Achal Dave
Karla Medina
Aliyah C. Moradi-Bidhendi
Omid Rhezaii

The Section Officers and Scholarship Committee members wish all of the winners the best of luck!

These scholarships are intended to recognize, encourage and assist high school and college students in reaching their career goals and aspirations through the pursuit of a college degree. Children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of

PECG San Diego Section members in good standing are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Please look for the 2013 Section Scholarship Program Description and Application materials again next year.



Guest Speaker **Jesse Rodriguez**, PECG Labor Relations Counsel, spoke about issues facing PECG members and gave advice on what members should be on the lookout for in the upcoming elections later this year.



Incoming Corporate President, **Steve Lee**, spoke next about PECG's continued commitment to and successes in fighting for the membership. Steve also spoke about the need for PECG to remain a strong, united organization ever vigilant

and engaged on the many different fronts where challenges have arisen to the membership in the current economic conditions.



Section President, **Robert Lumahan**, followed by stressing that in the face of all of the current challenges, PECG members must continue to be the best in our respective fields and the best option available for the State in delivering the work that we are involved in. Robert mentioned that if PECG members are not the best option for the State, there are many others out there who are willing to step in and take that work.



Section VP Supervisory, **Abu-Bakr H Al-Jafri**

and Section President Elect, **Mo Maher** also addressed the members regarding the on-going Senior Pay Parity issue and challenges facing PECG members in the Division of the State Architect.



The Section Annual Meeting wrapped up with a generous raffle conducted by Incoming Section Director, **Naser Ghaderi**, and Past Section Officer, **Vito Tarantino**.

At the risk of missing someone, the Section would like to give special thanks and recognize the following members who were instrumental in making the Section Annual Meeting a great success:

Naser Ghaderi
Pedro Aguilar
Roy Flores
Azar Habibafshar
Mo Maher
Ben Guerrero Jr.
Lawrence Emerson
Vito Tarantino
Shahin Adibi
Fred Abdipour
Josan Feathers



Special thanks, as well, to our guest speakers, Incoming Corporate President, **Steve Lee** and PECG Labor Relations Counsel, Jesse **Rodriguez** for taking the time to travel to San Diego and spend the afternoon with the Section!

New Transportation Bill – Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) Signed into Law

MAP-21 will provide \$106 billion in funding for surface transportation programs for fiscal years (FY) 2013 and 2014.

MAP-21 extends the current SAFETEA-LU programs and all related provisions through the end of FY 2012 which includes the 100% federal share for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, which was scheduled to expire at the end of FY 2012.

To read up more on MAP-21 visit the FHWA website at:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/factsheets.cfm>

Caltrans District 11 Health and Wellness Board Officially Formed for Final Push to Open On Campus Gym in November

PECG continues to be heavily involved in helping to establish a gym on the campus of the Caltrans District Office in San Diego.

The Caltrans Health and Wellness Committee recently named Board members who will oversee the creation of the gym and its eventual management. Section VP Rank & File, **Ben Guerrero Jr.** and Corporate Treasurer, **Roy Flores** have volunteered to serve on the Board to see this effort become a reality.

A location on the first floor of Building 2 has been identified and a layout has been drawn up for the gym. In addition, vendors have submitted cost estimates for the equipment and schedules are being proposed for the work involved with physically setting up the gym with the Grand Opening currently scheduled for November this year.

The Board has discussed donating a full one year membership to be given away as a prize for the upcoming Diversity Disability Day and/or Employee Appreciation Day. Stay tuned and be on the lookout for an official announcement.

They have also decided to give discounts to those who sign up for memberships early.

For more information or to sign up for membership please contact Ben at (619) 688-3199.

Highest Ranking PECG Member in Caltrans District 11 Moves on to the City of Chula Vista



Bill Valle, the highest ranking PECG member in Caltrans District 11, has moved on to the City of Chula Vista.

Bill served 29 plus years with the State all of which were with Caltrans.

Bill maintained his PEEG membership through his promotions into upper management and was a member in good standing until deciding to leave State Service.

On Bill's final day with Caltrans he shared the following message:

"Looking back there are so many accomplishments we achieved together. I am not going to attempt to mention (all of) them. Instead I want to tip my hat to each and every one of you for your contribution in making Caltrans one of the greatest organizations ever."

Happy Trails Bill and Good Luck in Chula Vista!

Congratulations to the New Corporate Officers

The Section would like to congratulate the following new incoming Corporate Officers:

President:	Steven Lee
President Elect:	Cathrina Barros
Past President:	John Roberts
VP Collective Bargaining:	Matt Hanson
VP Supervisory:	Alan Escarda
VP At Large:	Terry Escarda
Secretary:	Cameron Knudson
Treasurer:	Mark Sheahan

The Section also congratulates Current Corporate Treasurer and President Elect Candidate, **Roy Flores**, for his willingness to run and volunteer his time to

serve the membership and represent the San Diego Section as a Corporate Officer!

PEEG Celebrates its Golden Anniversary – 50 Years and Still Going Strong



Born in 1962 to represent the best interests of its members, PEEG continues today to be the strongest advocate for State Bargaining Unit 9 and its affiliated members.

PEEG serves and fights for all of its members and there are no other groups championing our issues in Sacramento or Washington D.C.

At such a critical time as the one we now find ourselves in, we as members need to continue to support PEEG!



Recruiting a New Member

Do you know of someone who is not yet a PEGC member? Would you like to receive \$25 from PEGC?

Well, all you have to do is sign up that person as a new PEGC member and you'll receive \$25 from PEGC!

Membership applications can be downloaded from the PEGC website at

<http://www.pecg.org/Members/Application.pdf>

and can be submitted to PEGC either by faxing them to **(916) 446-0489** or mailing them to:

PEGC
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 501
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sign up a new member on or before September 14th, 2012 and receive \$50!!!

PEGC Fed PAC Helping PEGC Have a Voice in Washington, D.C.

The PEGC **Fed PAC** (Federal Political Action Committee) was created three years ago to help PEGC protect your interests in Washington, D.C.

By joining the PEGC Fed PAC you will be helping PEGC have a voice in securing federal funding for state transportation, water, energy, school, environmental and hospital programs; protecting your job from wasteful, overpriced outsourcing and providing competitive wages and benefits for public employees.

You can download the PEGC Fed PAC application at:

<http://www.pecg.org/Benefits/FED-PAC.htm>

Join today!

PEGC ISSUES

If you have any questions or comments about bargaining, job related issues, benefits, etc please contact one of the officers listed on the first page or you can also browse through the PEGC website at:

<http://www.pecg.org/default.htm>

or the Section's website at:

<http://www.sandiegopecg.org/>

Comments and Suggestions

If you have any comments/suggestions regarding this newsletter, please contact

Section President, Robert Lumahan at:

Phone: (619) 688-5124

Email: robert_lumahan@dot.ca.gov

or **Incoming Section Director, Naser Ghaderi at:**

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Email: naser_ghaderi@dot.ca.gov

