



San Diego Section Member's Newsletter December 2010



Presented by **San Diego Section Officers 2010-2011**

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Executive Staff Holiday Open House, Food & Clothing Drive

The Section assisted and participated in the Holiday Open House on **December 8th**,



at the Caltrans District Office. The District's **Employee Committee** and the **Disability Advisory Committee** helped organize the event. Over eight (8) barrels of food and dozens of clothing items were collected.



The Caltrans Choir also performed at the event. PECCG members in the Choir include:

Raymond Alcafaras, Ted Evans, Emi Ito, Ed Kennedy, Tom Larson, Heidi Martin, Steven Threlkeld, Jorge Perez-Valdes and Julie Volby.

Chad Lau Retirement

Right after graduating from SDSU in 1979,



Chad Lau went to work with Caltrans District 11 where he stayed for over 31 years. In 1983 he became an Associate

Transportation Engineer. He has worked in thirteen different units including his last stop in Travel Forecasting/Modeling under the Planning division.

Chad's most memorable assignment was working in the Seismic Retrofit Program. His favorite assignment was widening and retrofitting the Peutz Valley Road Undercrossing on Interstate 8.

Chad plans to volunteer at some of the local high schools as a tutor. He will help out his church with audio/video duties and ushering.

The Section Officers wish him and his family the best.

A-DA Internship

In October of this year, Caltrans's **Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)** brought in two volunteer workers from the **Able-Disabled Advocacy (A-DA)** group. One worked in the Administration division and the other, **Monica Slovatsky**, worked in **Program Project Management** with **Roy Flores** (current DAC Chair). They were paid by A-DA with a grant from the Federal Government. A-DA trains disabled people for career enhancement and helps them gain valuable work experience.



Benefits Website

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

Citizenship Dem Registration

Jösan Feathers represented PECG at the **San Diego Naturalization Ceremony** held on **December 16, 2010**. She helped the latest batch of US citizens register to vote.



Even though she has retired from state service, Jösan has maintained her PECG membership and continues to be one of the Sections most active members.

Social Security Changes 2011

The **Social Security (FICA) Tax Rate** has been reduced from **6.2%** of gross pay down to **4.2%**. This applies to 2011 only. Since our pay checks were issued on January 1st, this applies to our December warrant and will expire with our November paycheck which we will receive in December. After that the Rate goes back to 6.2%. This does not apply to the **Medicare Rate** which remains at **1.45%** of gross pay.

The FICA tax applies to income earned up to **\$106,800**. Anything above that is not taxed by Social Security. The Medicare tax does not have a limit.

Membership Numbers

As of December 15th, 2010 the PEGC San Diego Section has **680** members out of **793** represented employees. This gives us a membership rate of 86% and puts our Section in third place (in terms of membership percentage) out of the 17 PEGC Sections. This includes all state employees working as Engineer, Surveyors, Architects, Engineering Geologist, Landscape Architects and other related categories.

PEGC Member Retirements

We would like to recognize our members for their years of service and their support of PEGC. If you are planning to retire soon or know of any member that is planning to retire, please let us know by contacting **Robert Lumahan (VP Rank & File – Retirement Committee Chair)** at robert_lumahan@dot.ca.gov.

San Diego PEGC FED-PAC

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

San Diego Section's FED-PAC force is growing, members are encouraged to sign up. FED-PAC is supporting our friends in the state legislature who are considering a run for congress. This will also make us more active on the national level and improve our involvement with NASHTU. The following members have already signed up, please call any of the FED-PAC members below for more information:

Fred Abdipour
Pedro Aguilar
Josan Feathers
Roy Flores
Naser Ghaderi
Heidi Martin
Wayne Strong

Member Involvement

We are always in need of volunteers to expand our activities and involvement. If interested, or if you have any comments/suggestions regarding this newsletter, please contact our President, **Pedro Aguilar** at:

Phone: (858) 688-1372

Email: pedro_aguilar@dot.ca.gov

You can also contact our Director, **Naser Ghaderi** at:

Phone: (619) 220-5468

Email: naser_ghaderi@dot.ca.gov

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: pecg.org or the Section's website at: sandiegopecg.org