



November 20, 2023

“CONSTRUCTING A WAY FOR A BETTER FUTURE”

ECA NEWSLETTER

JOHNS SOAPBOX



Remember-this is an op-ed piece and I do not speak for the ECA or any of its members in this “Soapbox”. These are just my rambblings that hopefully you find thought provoking. Remember-these are my opinions, not those of the ECA or any of its member firms.

How to Be a Better Person?

So how do we wade through the garbage and keep our moral compass in alignment? Every day it seems as if more hate, more violence, more insanity hits us on every front. How to stay grounded and grateful?

Every so often, we have a Holiday that allows us a chance to take stock of our lives and reinvest in the values that keep us grounded-Family, Country, Faith.

This week, a truly American holiday is here-Thanksgiving.

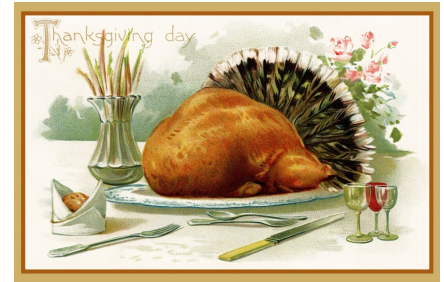
Other than a day off on Thursday, what is it about this Holiday that gives us another chance to “ground” ourselves?

I thought it would be interesting to see what the mews source Al Jazeera has offered as to the meaning of Thanksgiving: [When is Thanksgiving Day and why is it celebrated? | Arts and Culture | Al Jazeera](#)

For me, and many of you, Thanksgiving Day provides a look inwards as to what I am thankful for in my life. Corny as that sounds, it is like plugging in to my spiritual receptacle and getting an annual “charge” on what and who I want to be.

*I give thanks to all my family and friends for being there for me when I need a helping hand, or a swift and sharp kick in the butt. Nobody keeps you on the right path more than your family and close friends. They accept me without conditions (mostly-lol), and I know who I can count on to tell it to me straight. I am very thankful for my friends and family, and I will do better to be a better family man and friend in the next year!

*And a special thank you to Mary who puts up with me!



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Continued from page 2

*Although I am not a regular church going guy on every Sunday, I do believe in Christianity Thanksgiving gives me an opportunity to privately consider how I believe and practice my beliefs. I will endeavor to let God play a larger part in my life because of this Thanksgiving consideration.

*With all the conflict going on in the world, I am thankful for our men and women who defend this country every day. Whether they are in the military, or in public safety, I am grateful for all those that make my family and friends safer in their everyday lives.

*Finally-it is all about the children. I will consider the children in my life and how thankful I am for their unconditional love, excitement of all things to be discovered and experienced, and I am grateful for all those that help those children along the way.

Now that I have made all these virtuous promises to myself and to you, I am prepared to hate on the Seahawks on Thursday Night and watch the San Francisco 49ers kick that pompous ass Pete Carroll into retirement!

Hey-I am only human---

Eat Turkey, Go 9ers. Kick Seattle's ass!

I feel like I am a better person now--

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

That's All Folks

John



COMMITTEE NEWS

ECA Government Affairs Committee- led by Art Deicke, meets when there are issues or candidates to consider. There is currently no scheduled meeting upcoming. On Thursday night, at the ECA Annual GMM, those in attendance got to meet Chris Coulombe, who is running against Jared Huffman for his United States Congressman seat in 2024. If you want to know more about Chris, click on this link for his campaign page-[Chris to Congress | Chris Coulombe to U.S. Congress](#). The ECA Government Affairs Committee will soon meet to interview Chris to see if we want to recommend endorsement of his campaign.

On another note-The GAC had recommended to endorse and give some financial money to Rebecca Hermosillo who is running for Sonoma County Supervisor Gorin's seat in 2024. Unfortunately, the ECA has a policy that we do not endorse or financially support candidates who sign pledges to support any special interest groups in their future voting or committee appointments. Although Ms. Hermosillo explained to the GAC that she had not signed a pledge, nor did she intend to, and the GAC recommended to the Board to endorse and support based on that interview, it has come to light that there is indeed a written "pledge" for a future vote that was agreed to by Ms. Hermosillo. Upon reviewing the subject with both Art Deicke and ECA President Antonio Mencarini, we all agreed to rescind our endorsement and financial donation. Bravo to the ECA for holding the moral high ground and "sticking by our guns". Continue page 10

The Miracle League—North Bay ~ It's Soccer Time!

We are hosting our first ever soccer event on Saturday November 25th from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Come ready to smile, laugh, and of course learn new soccer skills!

Our soccer registration is open and we are thrilled to add another sport to our lineup. Don't miss out on the fun, sign up now and secure your spot! Hurry, spots are filling up fast and the event is right around the corner.

Buddies, you are an integral part of this event, show up loud and proud to support our athletes in a new sport! Register [HERE!](#)

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Installation & Awards Dinner

Saturday, February 24th

**Hyatt Regency
170 Railroad Square
Santa Rosa, CA 95401**

Welcome incoming President:
Mike Gulley, Northwest General Engineering &
The 2024 ECA Board of Directors

We will be also honoring
Volunteers of the Year
Mary, Meghan & Robin Turner
Contractor of the Year
Tom Swegle, RCX, Inc.
Affiliate of the Year
James Trappe, Canyon Rock Co.
The Hermsmeyer Hall of Fame Award
will be awarded to Dick Ghilotti, Ghilotti Construction
Posthumous – John Ramatici, Don Ramatici Insurance

To Sponsor Click [HERE!](#)

Save the Dates for 2024!!!

Public Officials Night— Thursday, April 10, Sonoma Marin Fairgrounds
Father's Day "Show & Shine" Car Show—Sunday, June 16th, Juilliard Park
ECA's Golf Tournament—Friday, July 19th, Windsor Golf Club
Wine & Dozers Dinner and Auction—September 28, 2024

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Worker's Compensation Endorsement By ECA-

HELLO!!! HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR HUMAN RESOURCES PERSON TO CHECK OUT THE WORKERS COMP PROGRAM ECA HAS ENDORSED? Everybody likes to save money, don't they? Doesn't cost you a thing to consider this as an option! Jeff Okrepkie at 707-360-4338.



George Petersen Insurance Agency

FIRE CLEAN UP LIST:

The Sonoma County Environmental Health Department, Transportation and Public Works, and James Gore's office are utilizing the ECA as a resource for debris testing, and debris cleanup for fire victims from the Kincade Fire. Please review the list that has been provided to the fire victims and the County, of ECA Firms that are interested and listed in various categories as being helpful in the fire aftermath. This is another benefit for ECA members and if you want to be included on the list, and are not, please contact mary@nceda.org. There is no charge for this. You can access the list by clicking [HERE](#)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE MANUAL

The updated 2023-2024 Emergency Response Manual is now available online!

In the event of an emergency, we have put together this manual to help our community receive quick service from our members.

Thank you to our sponsors for helping to get this manual completed. It is sent to city and county agencies in case of an emergency so they will know who to call for services, equipment and materials.

Click [HERE](#) for the manual.

Get Prepared Now! Here are some very useful tips from CalFire to get your own house/property "in shape" for fire season. [link](#)

Pocket Guide for CALOSHA For Contractors: Click [here](#) for the pocket guide you all need!

Roadwork in Sonoma County - Check out the County website for road info [here](#)



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From the Desk of Jim Persons

Shift Work Dangers

Shift work is becoming more common in the construction and trade fields. Industries have included shift work for decades as a means of increasing production.

Construction fields are also benefiting from shift work schedules and night shift work for reasons like:

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



Expert COVID-19 Safety info Available at a Discount

The Shelter in Place Orders issued by County Health Officers in Sonoma, Napa, and Mendocino - as well as the Governor, have highlighted for the building industry the need for all contractors to have an up-to-date written COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan.

This should be an addendum to your IIPP and safety meetings for COVID-19

Jim Persons, SafetyPride, an ECA member who serves as a consultant and safety instructor for ECA, is offering his services to our members and they will receive a 40% discount on his regular rates if you are a current member of ECA.

Contact Jim if you are interested in getting his help on COVID-19 related issues or other health and safety programs. email: jimpersons@safetypride.com or phone: 707-889-0881



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SAFETY TRAINING

CPR / First Aid

Thursday, January 4, 2024
9—11 am

Training includes bleeding control, strokes, seizures, broken bones and other life-threatening emergencies. Adult/child/infant CPR & airway obstruction management covered. This course is designed as both a course for first-timers and as a refresher.

click [HERE](#) for flyer

Traffic Control / Flagger Training

Thursday, January 4, 2024
1– 3 pm

This certified course will instruct on the fundamentals of keeping workers safe on California Highways and roads, how to erect traffic control zones, handling emergency situations, and more!

Click [HERE](#) for flyer!



NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Water “Rights and Water Wrongs”-last week the GMM attendees heard all about removing Lake Pillsbury and two dams that have delivered water to Sonoma and Marin County for years. Here is the Eureka Times article that came out on Saturday on the same topic:
[PG&E releases potential plan for removal of Eel River dams \(msn.com\)](#)
2. Here are some “shoutouts” for excellence in construction projects-hope your firm was involved in some or all of these: [Here are the North Bay’s Excellence in Construction Awards winners for 2023 \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
3. Downtown Santa Rosa to get some new housing-[New housing projects expected to bring life, more foot traffic back to downtown Santa Rosa \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
4. Regardless of your politics, what has the Infrastructure Bill done for us so far? [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Celebrates Historic Progress in Rebuilding America Ahead of Two-Year Anniversary of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law | The White House](#)
5. Do we really need to expand Davis Bacon regulations? [Construction association sues to block major changes to US construction labor regulations - International Construction \(international-construction.com\)](#)
6. Eight new tech tools to find workers in construction-[8 tech tools to find, hire construction workers | Construction Dive](#)



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COMMITTEE NEWS CONTINUED

ECA Specification Committee-the ECA Spec Committee, led by Dale Smith and Casey Wood, met on November 15, 2023. The ECA Spec Committee meets every other month on the 4th Wednesday of the month-next meeting is January 24 from 4-5:30pm at NCBE Board room.

Our meeting was sparsely attended by ECA members despite having very pertinent issues to discuss:

1. Conditions of Approval that the County of Sonoma must consider before issuing grading and building permits. John Mack from SOCO was on hand to explain the process of developers having to do Environmental Impact Reports due to CEQA requirements and what that means to contractors bidding on those projects. Engineers must be transparent and disclose meaningful conditions to contractors bidding on both private and public projects. Thanks to John Mack for clarifying this issue for us!
2. We also had Gabe Osborn and several City of Santa Rosa staffers (Flannery Banks and Cleve Gurney) present revisions to the City of Santa Rosa Stormwater Standards. Gabe and his team asked that the ECA discuss the changes, go back and review them in detail, and provide comments back to Gabe before the end of 2023 so the city can modify the standards before presenting them to the BPUC and then to the City Council to be adopted. Gabe already asked ACEC for their engineering and design comments and is looking to the ECA for comments that have to do with: a) constructability, b) costs, and c) the impact to bidders on whether the City of SR projects are made less desirable to bid on due to the Stormwater Standard changes. I will be sending out 4-5 requests to several contractors, one supplier, and an engineer for their review and comments.
3. I want to note that the “desirability of bidding” to the City of SR continues to be a common theme both for Santa Rosa, and for Petaluma and Sonoma County as well. All these municipalities have managed their contracts in a way that the ECA would like to see changed. Specifically, the ECA wants less retention dollars to be withheld, as well as faster and more efficient closeout of projects, and faster field decisions made when differing site conditions arise. I will be meeting with the Mayor of Petaluma soon to discuss these very issues. ECA is working to improve our project delivery to benefit our own contractors, the municipalities, and ultimately-the rate payers so their dollars go farther and are not spent on unnecessary delays and obstacles to completing the projects.

ECA Executive Committee Meeting-next meeting is on Tuesday January 23, 2024, at 11:00 am. The Exec Committee meets every 4th Tuesday of the month in 2024 at 11:00-12:00 in the small NCBE conference room.

ECA Board of Director Meeting-next meeting will be held January 23, 2024, from 12-2:00pm. The Board of Directors meets every 4th Tuesday of the month from 12-1:30 pm in the NCBE main board room.

ECA Community Relations Committee-Chaired by Lacey Torkelson Smith, meets when there is a specific project to consider. The CR Committee will next meet and present two projects at our February Board meeting (Feb 27, 2024, from 12:00 to 1:30pm). Potential projects include the Children’s Museum and the Boys and Girls Club of Healdsburg.



November 29th, 2023, 8AM – 12PM

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

This free, virtual webinar will feature presentations and a live panel discussion that covers the requirements for designing, installing, and maintaining low impact development. Join us by RSVPing to our Eventbrite via the link or QR code provided.



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<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-low-impact-development-training-form-follows-function-tickets-745611262357?aff=oddttrcreator>



Northern California Engineering Contractors Association

The ECA, and its Board of Directors, has been the voice of the engineering construction industry for over 40 years.

The foundation of the ECA has been to address local needs and issues.

The purpose and goal of ECA and its staff are to provide services to the members that help them run their businesses safely, efficiently, and in compliance with the many rules and regulations and mandates of government.

The working committees are the heart and soul of the ECA. The committees are comprised of ECA members.

The committees promote events that enable the ECA to fund community projects that include: Fathers Day "Show & Shine" Car Show, Public Officials Night, the Golf Tournament, and, the "Days of Wine & Dozers" Auction Dinner.

If you would like to join a committee, please email mary@nceca.org ~ We would love to have you!



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