



January 29, 2024

"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 ramblings that hopefully you find thought provoking. Remember-these are my opinions, not those of the ECA or any of its member firms.



### Parenting and Leadership

Sound Ideas and I have been busy last week and this week, doing video interviews for the Feb 24 ECA Installation and Awards Dinner and video. As you all know, we moved from live speeches by our honorees to a video presentation of speakers of the award winner's choice to honor our Contractor of the Year, Affiliate of the Year, and our Hermsmeyer Hall of Fame Inductees (living and posthumous).

The process of asking questions about these highly successful people is a rewarding one and I wanted to reflect on that in this Soapbox. It is my hope that the videos created by Sound Ideas that reside forever on YouTube (you can just go to our website and find all the videos we have done over the years), will be experienced by family members and co-workers now and into the future. The "reward" I spoke about, at least for me, is worth mentioning.

As I watch the responses of folks like Gail and Randy Cochran, John Barella, Matt White, Doug Hamilton, Ali Yazdi, Brain Ongaro, Dave Weller, Kristi Pruitt, Rod Stevenson, Brad Simpkins, Jeff Connor, Jake Behrens, and Ignacio Jacinto, I reflect on my own actions/attitudes/reactions and moral compass when I was in a leadership position. I also look inside as to my parenting actions over the years as many of these speakers also talk about our honorees from a "family perspective". What the reflections do for me, I hope they do for others. I watch and listen to what these highly successful people and companies have done (Aaction Rents, RCX, John Ramatici, and Dick Ghilotti) and the stories of how they handled their business makes me realize how I could have done better in handling my own affairs many years ago. These videos also make me realize how similar parenting and managing co-workers are so very similar.

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My hope is that companies will guide their young leaders to be the best they can be, and one of the tools to do that can be watching these videos that honor our ECA achievers. Present and future leaders and parents can learn how to help themselves and others by putting the time and effort into the relationships, doing the work to being competent and knowledgeable about the issues facing your children and co-workers, and providing support without being a micro-manager.

After all, we want our children and our company managers to make as many decisions as possible, without making life-changing mistakes with those decisions.

In simplest terms of being a leader or parent, isn't that what it is all about?

That's All Folks

John

**ECA Installation Dinner** on 2-24-24 is shaping up to be memorable. The Nominating Committee and 2023 Board of Directors did the ECA and industry proud by selecting the late John Ramatici and the icon Dick Ghilotti as our Hall of Fame inductees. Please get your sponsorships in and get your table attendees together for this wonderful occasion.

**Thank you to:**

[Ghilotti Construction](#)—Premier Sponsor  
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## COMMITTEE NEWS

**ECA Executive Committee Meeting**-next meeting is on Tuesday February 27, 2024, at 11:00 am. The Exec Committee meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month in 2024 at 11:00-12:00 in the small NCBE conference room. Our new Officers for 2024 are:

**President Mike Gulley of Northwest General Engineering**

**Vice President Dan Giordano of Argonaut Constructors**

**Treasurer Kimber Lenning Carpenter of Kadon Trucking**

**Secretary Matt Storm of Granite Construction**

**Past President Antonio Mencarini of Ghilotti Construction Company**

**ECA Board of Director Meeting**-next meeting will be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, Feb 27, 2024, from 12-1:30 pm. The Board of Directors meets in the NCBE main board room.

**ECA Car Show Committee**—Chaired by Walt Turner, North Bay Petroleum. First meeting will be held on Thursday, February 1 at 4pm in the small conference room at NCBE. Let us know if you would like to be a part of the committee.

**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). . The possible project is the Children's Museum in Santa Rosa to help them with some minor landscaping work that they need/want.

**ECA Specification Committee**-chaired by Casey Wood of GBI and Dale Smith of RCX, met on January 24 from 4-5:30 pm. Items discussed were the upcoming meeting with the City of Santa Rosa Planning/Contracts/Materials Lab folks to follow up on last year's meeting. We will next meet on Monday, March 25 from 1-3pm in the conference room in the City Manager's office on the corner of Sonoma Avenue and Mendocino Avenue. At the 1/24/24 meeting we also discussed finalizing the issue of bioswale materials to satisfy the North Coast Water Control Board specifications.

**ECA Government Affairs Committee**-chaired by Art Deicke of Environmental Pollution Solutions met on January 22, 2024, from 5:00pm to 6:00pm at the Union Hotel Restaurant on Mission Blvd in Santa Rosa. The GAC met with Chris Rogers and Ariel Kelley to interview those two local candidates for the State Assembly seat vacated by Jim Woods. who is running for the vacant Jim Woods seat in the California State Assembly. The GAC did a thorough vetting process and made a recommendation to our Board of Directors on Tuesday, 1-23-24 that was approved by our full Board of Director vote. Chris Rogers was endorsed, and a campaign contribution was made to his campaign. This election is very fast-tracked, and we urge ECA members to vote for Chris Rogers who will represent our interests in infrastructure work very well if he is elected.



### Save the Dates for 2024!!!

Public Officials Night— Wednesday, 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, Graton Resort & Casino



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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, Megan & Robin Turner  
**Contractor of the Year**  
Tom Swegle, RCX, Inc.  
**Affiliate of the Year**  
Aaction Rents

The **Hermesmeyer Hall of Fame Award**  
will be awarded to Dick Ghilotti, Ghilotti Construction  
Posthumous – John Ramatici, Don Ramatici Insurance

To Register, click [HERE](#)! To Sponsor, click [HERE](#)!

To make reservations for an overnight stay that evening click [HERE](#)

Thank you to:

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## 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](mailto: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](#)

## Labor Law Posters 2024

Click [HERE!](#)



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## From the Desk of Jim Persons

### **BARRICADES & WARNING DEVICES**

Two types of construction work, which usually require a great deal of public protection, are new residential developments and highway work.

Both should require modifying the existing traffic patterns and more importantly the existing driving habits of the public to avoid accidents.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



### **Workplace Violence Program**

Implementation "Target Date" – July 1, 2024

Senate Bill 553 requires employers to create, implement and maintain a Workplace Violence Program by July 1, 2024. Employers must also train their entire workforce.

The Workplace Violence Program must include a reporting mechanism (how is the employee going to report incidents), detailing who will be responsible for receiving complaints, and who will be responsible for identifying and mitigating workplace hazards.

Jim Persons has developed a Workplace Violence Program and Active Shooter Guidelines that meet the requirements of this new regulation. He can also provide training resources for your employees.

Contact Jim if you are interested in getting his help on a Workplace Violence Program, COVID-19 related issues or other health and safety programs.

email: [jimpersons@safetypride.com](mailto:jimpersons@safetypride.com) or phone: 707-889-0881



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## SAFETY TRAINING

### Confined Space

Tuesday, January 30  
1-3 pm

This course covers proper procedures for making entry into Permit Required Confined Spaces. Participants are prepared to operate in the capacity of Entrant, Attendant or Entry Supervisor during confined space operations. Participants are familiarized with CFR 1910.146 and how to properly employ the permit program. This course is a combination of classroom instruction and practical application in actual permit spaces utilizing the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, meters and ventilation. This course is required by OSHA before an employee can enter a Permit Required Confined Space. *Certification of completion is provided.*

Click [HERE](#) for the registration flyer.

### CPR / First Aid

Thursday, February 8  
1-3 pm

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 the flyer.

**On Demand Training** service provides relevant and targeted training, certification, or education when you **NEED IT NOW!**

Classes can be organized quickly so you can quickly get your employees back to work. In addition, business demands require flexibility. This service provides greater flexibility and added value. Classes can be set up at your facility or at the training room in Santa Rosa

Part of this **on-demand service** is a viable alternative to **in-house training** because it is designed for situations where only **one, two, three or four** people that need training. Importantly, this training can be very cost effective. We can combine the classes with other companies that need the training or you can have your own company class.

Whether you're in search of workplace safety training to meet OSHA compliance requirements, Competent Person, Trench Safety, Confined Space, CPR/First Aid initial or update training or implementing a Safety Program ECA can help!

*The best way to beat an OSHA citation is to never get one at all.*

Email [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org) to set up a class today If you don't see a class you need listed please contact me.

CPR / First Aid: 3 hrs - \$95 per person

Confined Space: 3 hrs - \$150 per person

Competent Person / Trench Safety: 3 hrs - \$125 per person

Flagger Safety Training: 2 hrs - \$125 per person

Sexual Harassment—1 hr for Employees—\$25 per person ~ 2 hrs for Supervisors \$35 per person





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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. The next State Route Highway 37 Policy meeting will be held Feb 1, 2024 at 9:30 am [State Route 37 Policy Committee - Sonoma County Transportation Authority \(ca.gov\)](#), the Agenda for this meeting can be found by clicking on this link [SR37 Policy Committee 02.01.2024 \(ca.gov\)](#)
2. A Celebration of Life for Roger Hermsmeyer was held Sunday night at Mauritsen Winery. Special thanks to Shelley and Roger Jr. for putting this on and inviting some old pals of Roger's to share thoughts on his very full life. A special shoutout to Jim Huppert who, despite his own health issues he and wife Candy have had to deal with over the last two years, has selflessly dedicated himself to supporting Roger in his last few months and helping Roger Jr. and Shelley deal with their loss of their dad. Roger is the main reason the ECA exists and thrives as the Voice of the General Engineering Industry in Northern California. Thanks Roger and R.I.P.
3. Two new ECA policies have been approved by the Board of Directors last week. The first policy deals with the Emergency Interim Executive Vice President Plan to ensure the continuance of the ECA leadership should the EVP suddenly become unable to fulfill his/her duties. This Plan provides our ECA Executive team a "blueprint" for transitioning with a temporary EVP and then onto a permanent EVP. The second Plan adopted Tuesday, 1-23-24 is the ECA Executive Vice President Succession Plan which deals with the planned transition from one EVP to another. Although there are no immediate plans by either the Board or myself to retire me, the Succession Plan is a vital tool when that transition becomes reality. This Plan will make it far easier for the Officers to search, then select, an EVP to replace the current EVP. Many thanks to Doug Hamilton, Kevin Ghilotti, and Dave Weller for several years of "prodding" to get this done. Thanks to Keith Woods for doing a great job of putting the finishing touches to both Plans that were accepted by the full Board of Directors on 1-23-24.

We want to highlight a member each week. What we need from you is a short paragraph on what is happening at your company. New employees, new logo, a new move, exciting new equipment! What ever you want to share about your company with our members.

Email [mary@nceca.org](mailto:mary@nceca.org) with your spotlight information and send in photos if you have them!

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### 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](mailto:mary@nceca.org) ~ We would love to have you!



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