



February 19, 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.

Your Windshield Is Bigger Than Your Rear View Mirror

This Saturday the ECA will be honoring some real icons in our industry. John Ramatici and Richard Ghilotti will be inducted into the ECA Hall of Fame for a lifetime of achievement in our industry and community. Part of what we do at the ECA is to look back at successful people to understand their success. What we do with that understanding will shape our future.

It is my hope that in understanding those great men and their legacies, all of us will take a look at our own actions, preparedness, and opportunities and make our decisions accordingly. When we face adversity or opportunity in our own lives, maybe we make our decisions slightly differently. Maybe we reflect on "what would John or Richard do?" in our actions. If that is the case, these great men will continue to give to us their best practices which will enable us to make better decisions.

That is my hope.

Happy President's Day and I hope we see most of you on Saturday night to celebrate our Installation and Awards Dinner together.

Keep your powder dry and keep looking through your windshields people!

That's All Folks

John



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The ECA Installation Dinner on 2-24-24 is shaping up to be memorable. We have over 230 reservations for this event, which is a record for participation. Let's take an evening off of our hard work and enjoy celebrating together the great accomplishments of our peers. Sound Ideas is working hard on editing our video for the evening and it is not too late to join Smith Dollar and get your name on that video which will be watched and shared many times in the future. If you wish to sponsor the video along with Smith Dollar, please let Mary know ASAP so Sound Ideas can include your company at the front and end of this memorable video!



Thank you to:

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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 4th 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

Thanks to Antonio for leading us in 2023 to a very successful year! Thanks to all our Exec Committee for agreeing to lead us in 2024!

ECA Board of Director Meeting-next meeting will be held the 4th Tuesday of the month, Feb 27, 2024, from 12-1:30 pm. The Board of Directors meets 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 one possible project 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. 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.

For the notes from Geoff Coleman, BKF Engineers from the last Spec meeting. Click [HERE](#)

ECA Government Affairs Committee-chaired by Art Deicke of Environmental Pollution Solutions 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. Read the Press Democrat editorial on Chris Rogers right here--[PD Editorial Endorsement: Chris Rogers stands out for 2nd District Assembly \(pressdemocrat.com\)](#)



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—TBD—
Wine & Dozers Dinner and Auction—September 28, 2024, Graton Resort & Casino



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Installation & Awards Dinner

Saturday, February 24th



Premier Sponsor

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](#)

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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. 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

CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS THAT ALMOST HAPPENED

Those of us in the safety profession spend a lot of time letting people know what causes accidents and how to avoid them.

Sometimes this involves sharing stories of accidents that happened-or almost happened-to others. Here are a couple of "near miss" events that could have been much more serious, or even involved a fatality.

As you read about these cases, analyze what went wrong and decide what you should do to avoid a similar exposure.

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 or phone: 707-889-0881



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SAFETY TRAINING

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Thursday, February 22

1 pm—3 pm

NCBE, Training Room

1030 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa

Click [HERE](#) for the flyer.



Upcoming CPR/First Aid Classes

March 19, May 21, June 18 from 9 am—11 am

April 16 from 1 pm—3 pm

Contact mary@nceca.org for more information.

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 with your spotlight information and send in photos if you have them!





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NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. Where will Napa build over 3,800 new houses? [3,844 housing units to come online in Napa County, according to plans. Here's where \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
2. Sonoma County Project Labor Agreement is being negotiated right now and trucking is the major issue. On May 21, 2024, the Sonoma County Supervisors will have a public discussion on what to include or exclude from the project PLA that will govern all public works projects over \$1,000,000 in the future. If you want to be heard on this topic, you need to show up. The ECA will not be taking a public position on the PLA policy that is being shaped.
3. The Santa Rosa Project Labor Agreement is now in its final form and will be part of the solicitation for bids for all public works projects over \$500,000 in value. Here is the Santa Rosa Project Labor Agreement-[LINK](#)
4. I had two long conversations with Grant Davis (head of Sonoma County Water Agency) and Janet Pauli (member of the Eel-Russian Project Authority that is trying to solve the water diversion issue at Potter Valley) last week. The issue was addressed in the news about PG & E changing their minds and not wanting to “partner” with anybody to decommission two dams, the diversion tunnel, and the power plant at Potter Valley - [PG&E decision jeopardizes Eel River diversions that keep the Russian River flowing year-round \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#). The Eel River Project Authority (ERPA) is the JPA that is trying to convince PG & E to work collaboratively with them towards wet weather Eel River flows to be diverted in the future. There are lots of reasons this is a good idea for most of the 600,000 water customers in Sonoma, Marin, and Mendocino County that rely on Eel River water diversions for their supply of clean water. Here is the ERPA link so you can stay up on this complicated process [Eel-Russian Project Authority \(eelrussianauthority.org\)](#)
5. The Labor Department plans to hold seminars February, May and August to explain to federal contractors the new rules on prevailing wages and other laws as they pertain to infrastructure projects.
The sessions come after the department's recent moves to enforce such provisions under the Davis-Bacon Act and other statutes-[Punching In: DOL Launches Wage Seminars for Federal Contractors \(bloomberglaw.com\)](#)
6. Roller compacted concrete gains popularity. Asphalt remains the primary choice for most paving applications, but rolled compacted concrete is increasingly considered a viable alternative known for its versatility. Brandon Noel explores the potential benefits of RCC in certain applications, including in large industrial projects or slow-moving traffic areas, and details its properties and how to get started with RCC. Here is an article you might find of interest on Roller compacted concrete (which is being used on the City of Santa Rosa Fulton Road project near Piner High School)- [Advantages And Disadvantages Of Roller-Compacted Concrete | Bartleby](#)





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