

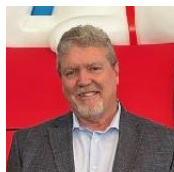


February 26, 2024

"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.

"Girls Can Do Whatever the Hell They Want to Do!"

From the video interviews we saw Saturday night at the 46th Annual ECA Installation and Awards Dinner, came the "Daddy to Daughter" comment from Tom Swegle to daughter Kristi and her sister when he passed a gas station project site when they were very young. Tom said to them "when you get older, you can get on one of those pieces of equipment and build one of these projects", to which her sister answered in her young voice "Girls can't work in construction, girls can't operate tractors".

Tom responded with the title statement of this Soapbox, and lo and behold, times are a changing. More and more we are seeing young women like Kristi enter and enjoy this industry and excel at their career in general engineering contracting.

After we heard this Tom Swegle gender emancipation proclamation, it led to some interesting discussions around port and cigars following the event. It was suggested that some ECA effort should be expended to offer a workshop/seminar for "Women in Construction" to be presented with the intent of offering examples, tips, advice, and answers to questions that young women might have about exploring the general engineering contracting industry for a career. Lord knows we need more young people wanting to enter our industry and stick with it for a career, so I say why not?

The "seed has been planted" and I thank Tom and Kristi for the statement that just might be the tag line for our first "Women in Construction" seminar- "Girls Can Do Whatever the Hell They Want to Do!"

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Continued from page 1

If you have any thoughts about how we can best present this, and who we reach out to (high school students, college students, others?) please let me know so I can put together a meaningful, and hopefully annual, seminar that gives girls some information and examples of how to make it in what has been primarily a male dominated industry.

Do you like the idea? Please give me feedback and let me know if you like this idea, or not. Thank You!

That's All Folks,
John

ECA Installation Dinner on 2-24-24 is "in the books" and it was memorable. I want to thank our attendees, and our Premiere Sponsor Ghilotti Construction Company. We need sponsors to make our costs each year so not only are all of your sponsorships appreciated, but they are also crucial!

People may balk at some of the event prices, but I just want to share some reality with you all-at \$175/person (which is what we just charged for the Installation and Awards Dinner), we lose a little bit of money for each seat that gets the drinks and dinner. I am not joking. While we try to keep our costs down, so we do not have to charge ridiculous fees to our members, sponsorships are absolutely crucial for us to host these events.

Much thanks to all that sponsored us and if you did not, we hope you choose to participate in our future upcoming events. Here is the sponsorship form for PO Night, click [HERE](#). PO is our next ECA event to be held on April 10, 2024, at Herzog Hall in Petaluma and has Team Ghilotti as our Premiere Sponsor!



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. Main issue to be discussed will be a new policy on dues renewals and ECA membership. Your Officers are on it!!

ECA Board of Director Meeting-next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 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 was going to meet and present one possible project at our February Board meeting (Feb 27, 2024, from 12:00 to 1:30pm but we are not “ready” to bring this project to the Board yet. The possible project is the Children’s Museum in Santa Rosa to help them with some minor landscaping work that they need/want. Dan Fowler, Lacey and I are asking some questions of the Children’s Museum that need to be understood before we bring the project to the ECA. This one will probably come to the full Board in April 2024 to be considered. More to come---

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.

ECA Government Affairs Committee-chaired by Art Deicke of Environmental Pollution Solutions does not have a scheduled meeting upcoming. We have endorsed Chris Rogers for Jim Woods’ State Assembly seat and hope Chris is successful.



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, Windsor Golf Club—July 12, 2024 *NEW DATE*
Wine & Dozers Dinner and Auction—September 28, 2024, Graton Resort & Casino



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Public Officials Night!

Wednesday, April 10

5:30pm - 9:00pm

No Host Cocktails 5:30 p.m. - Dinner 7 p.m.

Location

Herzog Hall—**Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds**
175 Fairgrounds Dr., Petaluma, CA



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Click [HERE](#) for the Registration flyer

Click [HERE](#) for the Sponsor flyer

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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

Battery Handling Safety

We use batteries to power our cars, trucks, tractors, forklifts, construction equipment, and power tools.

There are different types of batteries.

For example, a lead-acid battery usually uses sulfuric acid to create the intended reaction. Zinc-air batteries rely on oxidizing zinc with oxygen for the reaction. Potassium hydroxide is the electrolyte in common household alkaline batteries. The most common electrolyte in lithium batteries is a lithium salt solution.



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

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.



ECA MEMBER NEWS & INFORMATION



Ghilotti Bros., Inc. -- Press Release

Frank Palagi Sr. Obituary 67-year employee from Ghilotti Bros., Inc.

It is with extreme sadness that we share the news that Frank Palagi Sr. passed from this earth after having a heart attack on February 13, 2024. Frank was one of the most loyal and dedicated employees Ghilotti Bros., Inc. has ever had. He was 100% GBI, 100% of the time. Frank started as an apprentice in 1956 and worked long hours, nights, and weekends for over 65 years until COVID finally kept him home for good. Frank was an apprentice, a journeyman mason, a foreman, a superintendent, a general superintendent, a dispatcher of laborers, masons, and carpenters and manager of the backyard (once Dino Ghilotti finally retired from that role after the third attempt) and ultimately VP of Operations. Frank was a mentor to so many in the industry and always took time no matter how busy to help, tutor, support, instruct, educate, or just share his unique and beautiful perspective on life. I credit Frank for embracing every day with a smile on his face, a song in his heart, and a hop in his step. And when it comes to songs, the man could belt one out. Always the leader of God Bless America at GBI functions, Frank was truly a Renaissance man. Which speaks to why he and Mario Ghilotti shared such a unique and enjoyable friendship with so many fond memories along the way. Endless Saturdays for brunch at San Rafael Joes, name that tune at Denny's after industry functions, Marin Joe's swordfish and a glass of Pinot Grigio with ice in it, or the toughest assignment of all, driving Mario to the Forty-Niners game without getting a ticket. Frank loved the Forty-Niners. Frank will be sorely missed by everyone that has known him but especially his co-workers over the years. A consummate gentleman with the ladies, we will miss his Valentine's Day chocolate hearts and hugs. We ask that those that were fortunate enough to know Frank take a moment to reflect on all the special and enjoyable moments you shared with him along the way. And if you didn't know him, please reflect kindly on someone that did nothing but give life (and GBI) everything he had... and then some! God Bless You Frank and Godspeed.





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NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. CARB recently had a deadline, and it has passed. The “cleantruck check” reporting (and extended) deadline **WAS** 1-31-24. More info here-- [California Air Resources Board extends deadline for initial reporting for Clean Truck Check | California Air Resources Board](#)
2. Eel River Water is Pulled Away- [PG&E decision jeopardizes Eel River diversions that keep the Russian River flowing year-round \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
3. Just a reminder that Sonoma County Supervisors will be discussing whether to include local trucking under their new and revised Project Labor Agreement on May 21, 2024, at their regular Supervisor meeting. If you want to be heard, you can ask me for the contact information of the person who is writing the PLA with the unions. This is the 2nd or 3rd time I have asked if anybody is interested in contacting this person, and I have heard total silence. I will take that as my feedback that the local truckers have this under control themselves.
4. New Solano City Getting Debated- [Pros and cons of proposed new Solano City detailed at annual economic meeting \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
5. SMART picks the location of the new Healdsburg station-[Healdsburg decides future SMART station location \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
6. One of my favorite and iconic bridges to get renovated-Wohler Bridge-[Wohler Road Bridge to undergo history-making \\$18 million seismic retrofit \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)
7. With all due respect, I do not think widening 37 is “dumb”, but here is some news on Hwy 37 you might find of interest-[Highway 37 to close on April weekends for repairs ahead of major improvements \(northbaybusinessjournal.com\)](#)





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