



INFORMER

#7, September 2016

Professional Engineers in California Government

PECG'S PROVEN PATH

Nearly 40 years ago, then (and now again) Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a bill which

authorized collective bargaining for State employees. For the Professional Engineer Unit, Unit 9, employees overwhelmingly elected PECG as their exclusive representative for collective bargaining and representation purposes.

PECG's slogan at that time was "The Proven Path" – representation of a group of professional public employees is best provided by their own independent organization. The members control their own representation destiny by either making decisions directly (such as ratifying or rejecting the Memorandum of Understanding or MOU), or by electing their own volunteer member-leaders to make those decisions on their behalf. That has been the most effective model throughout the country and has proven to be successful in California.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure for me to serve as PECG Corporation President during the past year. As I look back, it has been the kind of year that we always seek. Many good things happened and many bad things didn't happen.

PECG has become increasingly active politically at the State and Federal levels in recent years. Helping to elect Governors and Legislators who support needed State

programs, and the public servants who work on and deliver them, enables our representation efforts to be more successful. Supporting legislation and ballot measures which adequately fund government operations can prevent State budget deficits, program cutbacks, furloughs, salary and benefit reductions, and other undesirable and unproductive consequences.

So what has happened, and not happened, during the past year? Your PECG Bargaining Team negotiated an MOU with the Brown Administration which included salary increases and other benefits and was approved by 97% of the PECG membership. Only one of the other 20 State Bargaining Units received a 5% salary increase last July.

Our expanded involvement in Washington D.C., along with a coalition of similar organizations from other States, helped generate additional Federal transportation funding while blocking efforts to mandate outsourcing more of our work. We've reached agreements in contract negotiations to increase the employees' share of funding retirement benefit and health plan programs. Those costs have been offset by compensation increases while we continue to protect our defined benefit pension plan and defeat efforts to weaken or destroy it through ballot measures or in the Legislature.

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VISIT PECG ON THE WEB

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PECG'S PROVEN PATH *continued from page 1*

Meanwhile you, the members, continue to perform outstanding service for the people of California. Our members at the Air Resources Board played a significant role in uncovering the manipulation by Volkswagen of its emissions testing which resulted in a \$14.7 billion settlement nationally. This is just one of many examples of the outstanding work we all perform to serve and protect the needs and interests of all California on a daily basis.

Like all of the elected PECG leaders, I am an unpaid volunteer for PECG while maintaining my "day job" as a Senior Transportation Surveyor with Caltrans. PECG retains the services of a wide variety of experienced, skilled professionals – attorneys, lobbyists, negotiators, representation specialists, media experts, office staff – but all of PECG's decisions are made by you or those you elect.

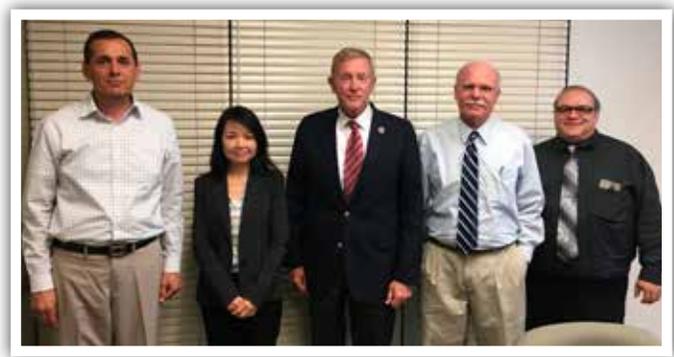
That is PECG's "Proven Path". Thank you for allowing me to serve you this past year. Please join me in welcoming Robert Lumahan as your incoming President for the next year. I am fully confident that PECG's "Proven Path" will continue for years to come.

Mark C. Sheahan

Mark Sheahan
Outgoing PECG President



Stockton Section leaders greet **Congressman Jerry McNerney** (second from left) at a recent event in Lodi.



Inland Empire Section leaders meet with **Senator Connie Leyva** (left, in center) at their Section luncheon and with **Congressman Paul Cook** (right, in center) in his District office.



MEETING YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS



One of the many benefits of PEGC membership is a package of excellent low cost insurance plans. PEGC's **life insurance** benefits experienced a 20% to 40% reduction in premiums last year (due to an excellent experience rating for engineers), making it even more attractive as an economical way to provide added security for your dependents. The life insurance package includes optional coverage of up to more than \$500,000, dependent insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, and long-term disability through convenient monthly payroll deduction.

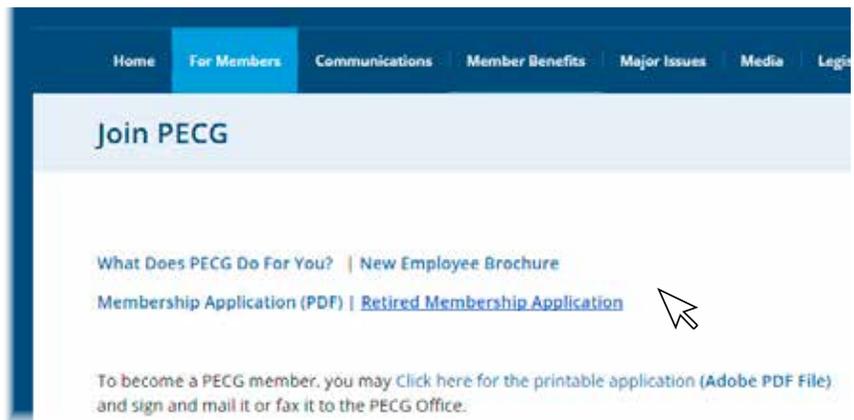
If you have questions, need more information, or want to sign up, call PEGC's Insurance Administrator, Jargal Yadam at the PEGC San Francisco Office at (415) 956-1344 or email her at insurance@pecg.org. You can also go to the PEGC website at www.pecg.org and click on "Member Benefits" on the home page.

Interested in **Auto or Home Insurance**? Want a quote? PEGC sponsors an excellent program through Liberty Mutual. Contact Mike Segur at 1-866-467-4841 extension 55885 or michael.segur@libertymutual.com.

PEGC also offers members a wide variety of **discounts** for theme parks, travel, rental cars, other attractions, and various goods and services, as described in more detail under the Member Benefits tab on the PEGC website.

RETIRED PEGC MEMBER?

When PEGC members retire, they can apply to be Retired Members for only \$4 per month through payroll deduction. Simply go to PEGC's website, print out the Retirement Membership Application form, and mail it in, or call the PEGC Office at (916) 446-0400 and we will mail you an application. In addition to receiving \$1,500 life insurance coverage (depending on age) at no cost, retired members also receive the PEGC *Informer* in the mail. However, a Retired Member will not receive the Weekly Update and other emailed information unless we have your email address. If you are a Retired PEGC Member and would like to receive information through email, please call or email the PEGC Office with the email address you would like us to use and we will add you to our list!



2016 Outstanding Management and Engineering in Transportation Award Winners



David Wells (left) receives his award from Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty



Scott McGowen

PECG members **David J. Wells**, **Scott McGowen** and **Mark Yashinsky** were all recognized as winners of Caltrans' **2016 Outstanding Management and Engineering in Transportation Award**.

David J. Wells, a Senior Transportation Electrical Engineer (Specialist) with Division of Traffic Operations, received the **Karl Moskowitz Award** for his innovative advancements made to the design of over 800 changeable message signs and 2,800 ramp meters.

Scott McGowen, Chief Environmental Engineer with Caltrans' Stormwater Management Program with the Division of Environmental Analysis, received the **Charles H. Purcell Award**. McGowen initiated the development of an innovative tracking and database tool for stormwater management.

Mark Yashinsky, Senior Bridge Engineer with Caltrans' Division of Engineering Services, was the recipient of the **James E. Roberts Award**. He played a major role in developing and implementing seismic policies and procedures, and is also highly regarded for his sustained and outstanding contributions to bridge earthquake engineering.



Mark Yashinsky

