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2012 Legislative Orientation Program California Contract Cities Association

By Jack A. Simpson, Trackdown Management

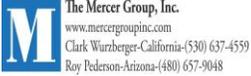
Two days prior to my wife Susan's birthday, Monday, January 9, 2012, I headed the family car north on Interstate 5 toward the State Capitol in Sacramento. I actually did not begin the trip until 8:20 a.m. after I had time to enjoy making a nice "before-school" breakfast for my 8-year old grandson Tyler, who is in the third grade at Joe A. Gonsalves Elementary School in Cerritos. (continued on page 2)

Norwalk City Manager **Mike Egan** poses with Bellflower Mayor Pro Tem **Dan Koops**, Council Member **Ray Dunton** and City Manager **Jeff Stewart**. Mike is the former Bellflower City Manager who was selected to take the Norwalk post following the retirement of veteran City Manager **Ernie Garcia**. Jeff is the former Los Alamitos City Manager, who previously served as City Manager in El Segundo and held top executive positions in Rosemead previous to that. Bellflower Mayor **Scott A. Larsen** and Council Member **Sonny Santa Ines**, and Norwalk Council Member and CCCA Past President **Cheri Kelley** also attended the CCCA 2012 Legislative Orientation Program, January 9 and 10 in Sacramento.



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2012 CCCA Legislative Orientation Program in Sacramento

It was a peaceful and uneventful drive with light to moderate traffic. Of course, the worse traffic conditions were on the south end of the trip prior to escaping the freeways of Los Angeles County. With the radio tuned to the XM sports stations, there was plenty of **Tim Tebow** talk since the previous day, he led the Denver Broncos over the Pittsburgh Steelers in an NFL Wildcard Play-off game. Finally I took refuge on the 50s and 60s music channels to listen to **Little Richard**, **Chuck Berry**, **Buddy Holly** & the Crickets, **Elvis Presley**, **Carl Perkins**, and many more. Have to admit to singing out loud when pulling into the Sacramento Hyatt Regency parking structure. Hey! I was alone.

After parking on the roof of the structure in order to give the car some safe side-door clearance, I made my way to the hotel registration desk. Our old Bellman friend **Rusty Webster**, greeted me as I stepped from the elevator into the lobby. Wow! The lobby has been refurbished and remodeled and, as **Billy Crystal** would say, it looks "marvelous."



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2012 CCCA Legislative Orientation Program in Sacramento

Past CCCA President **Frank Zerunyan**, a member of the Rolling Hills Estates City Council and a Professor at **USC** was talking to La Cañada Flintridge City Manager **Mark Alexander**, a **USC** alumnus, as I looked over the nice looking remake of the hotel lobby. **Sharon Olivito** of the CCCA staff was also there setting up the event registration table.

The check-in process by the courteous and efficient Hyatt Regency hotel staff took very little time and I was on my way to my room on the 8th floor overlooking the Capitol Park. The rooms also have been refurbished/remodeled and look wonderful with their new faces. Looking out the window, I could see the California Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in the distance.



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After changing out of my driving clothes and into more appropriate garb, I ventured down to Dawson's to grab a snack; after all, I did not stop for lunch on my "one-stop-for-fuel" drive up from Southern California. While relaxing there, Past CCCA President and member of the Norwalk City Council **Cheri Kelley** stopped by to chat as did former City Manager **Wes Wolf** of Wolf & Company.

Prior to and during the evening Welcome Reception at the Capitol View Room on the 15th floor of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, **Tony Olivito** assisted me to identify city management folks attending the program. Most were registered for the orientation, but some merely stopped by for some of the events. Those we identified include: City Manager **Paul Arevalo**, West Hollywood; Lakewood City Manager **Howard Chambers**; Bellflower City Manager **Jeff Stewart**; Diamond Bar City Manager **Jim DeStefano**; **Mark Alexander**, La Cañada Flintridge City Manager; Norwalk City Manager **Mike Egan**; City Manager **Carolyn Lehr** of Rancho Palos Verdes; Cudahy City Manager **Hector Rodriguez**; Vernon City Administrator **Mark Whitworth**; Walnut City Manager **Rob Wishner**; Santa Fe Springs City Manager **Thaddeus McCormack**; Artesia City Manager **Maria Dadian**; Commerce City Administrator **Jorge Rifa**; **Linda Benedetti-Leal**, Paramount City Manager; Signal Hill City Manager **Ken Farsing**; Downey Assistant City Manager **Shannon Delong**; La Mirada Assistant City Manager **Kevin Pregovisk**; **Lisa Novotny**, Lakewood Assistant City Manager; Paramount Assistant City Manager **John Moreno**; and Deputy City Manager **Carol Flynn** of Lakewood.

2012 CCCA Legislative Orientation Program in Sacramento

League of California Cities Executive Director **Chris McKenzie** addressed the group during the reception program. The current President of the California Contract Cities Association is **James R. Bozajian** of Calabasas, who also serves as a Deputy District Attorney in Los Angeles County. Looking around the room we spotted the following CCCA Past-Presidents: **Laura Olhasso**, La Cañada Flintridge; **Frank V. Zerunyan**, Rolling Hills Estates; **Jeffrey Prang**, West Hollywood; **David A. Spence**, La Cañada Flintridge; **Margaret E. Finlay**, Duarte; **Cheri Kelley**, Norwalk; and **Harold E. Hofmann**, Lawndale.



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Following the Welcome Reception, I was honored to have been invited to a dinner co-hosted by Consolidated Disposal Service, A Republic Services Company; and Willdan, a broad-based public agency consultant firm headquartered in Anaheim. The dinner was held at the Firehouse Restaurant in Old Sacramento, the site of many get-togethers and dinners I was lucky enough to attend over the past 40-plus years.

'If we do not change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed.'
--Chinese Proverb



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Scanning the room we noted the following cities with representatives in attendance (we apologize to those we may have missed): Camarillo, Bellflower, Rosemead, Norwalk, Artesia, Lawndale, Paramount, Downey, La Puente, Rolling Hills Estates, Walnut, and Fairfield. Others in attendance included: **Linda Heil**, the widow of Willdan Founder **Dan W. Heil**; **Anthony Gonsalves**, **Jason Gonsalves** and **Paul Gonsalves** of Joe A. Gonsalves & Son; **Ryder Smith** of Smith, Tripepi & Associates; **Mark Risco**, Interim President & CEO for Willdan Financial Services; **Wes Wolf** of Wolf & Company; and **Sam Olivito**, Executive Director of the California Contract Cities Association. **Sam Peña** and **Richard Fierro** led a group of executives from CDS and Republic, and **Frank G. Tripepi** and **Bill Pagett**, along with **Mark Risco** and **Linda Heil**, led the Willdan representatives.

Action on Smoking and Health

ASH is a national nonprofit legal action and educational organization fighting for the rights of nonsmokers against the many problems of smoking. For more than 40-years, ASH has been one of the most effective antismoking and nonsmokers' rights organizations in the world. ASH was founded in 1967 by John F. Banzhaff III, and a distinguished body of physicians, attorneys and other prominent citizens who saw the need for an effective organization to represent nonsmokers' rights. www.ash.org

ASH was the first major organization to publicize how as little as 30 minutes of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke can cause a fatal heart attack in nonsmokers, the dangers of Polonium 210 in tobacco smoke, and the dangers of thirdhand tobacco smoke.



THE FIREHOUSE RESTAURANT

The Firehouse Restaurant is fine dining in Sacramento. Named to Zagat "America's Top Restaurants," The Firehouse is the most award-winning restaurant in the Sacramento region. The Firehouse Restaurant provides a wonderful culinary experience in historic surroundings. Some of the folks we have had a pleasure to spend time with at the Firehouse Restaurant, include: **George Deukmejian, Joe A. Gonsalves, Jess Unruh, Waddie Deddeh, Frank Vicencia, Dominic Cortese, Dan W. Heil, George Voigt, Paul Zeltner, Frank Tripepi, Richard Alatorre, Ruben Ayala, Art Torres,** and many others.

2012 CCCA Legislative Orientation Program in Sacramento

On Tuesday morning (January 10) I walked to the State Capitol with **Sam Olivito** and **Tony Olivito** of the CCCA staff, who had planned an impressive line-up on legislators to address the Legislative Orientation Program participants. We met in Room 2040 and listened to opening remarks by CCCA Legislative Committee Chair **Sam Pedroza** of the Claremont City Council. Those who addressed the group included: Senator **Bill Emmerson**; Assembly Member **Chuck Calderon**; Senator **Mark Leno**; Senator **Carol Liu**; Assembly Members **Tony Mendoza** and **Bonnie Lowenthal**; Senator **Bob Dutton**; State Controller **John Chiang**; and the delightfully entertaining with his common sense stories, Senator **Roderick D. Wright**.



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Comments from the speakers included, "I am glad you people give of your time to come to Sacramento to dialogue." "I am supportive of the Governor's proposal." "Now I am beginning to think the redevelopment vote was the wrong way to go." Assembly Member Lowenthal said that in these days the 3 R's refer to: "Revenue, Redevelopment and Realignment."



Retired City Manager **Frank G. Tripepi**, currently a Senior Vice President with Willdan, at the CCCA Legislative Orientation Program in Sacramento. Here he is seated with Past-President **Jeff Prang** of West Hollywood and Trackdown's **Jack Simpson**.

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'It's not the biggest, the brightest, or the best that will survive, but those who adapt the quickest.'

--Charles Darwin

2012 CCCA Legislative Orientation Program in Sacramento

After a long morning of listening to Controller **John Chiang** and the many Legislator presentations, the California Contract Cities Association group walked back across the street to reconvene at the Hyatt Regency for a luncheon session. At the luncheon in the Capitol View room on the 15th floor California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) Director **Mike Dayton** addressed the group. Regardless of cash flow and budget problems, the State must be prepared to address the consequences of natural disasters from the high-wind damage in Pasadena, mudslides in La Cañada Flintridge to earthquake, high surf, wildfire and flooding disasters throughout the Golden State.

California's Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) coordinates overall State Agency responses to major disasters in support of local government. Cal EMA is responsible for assuring California's readiness to respond to and recover from natural, manmade and war-caused emergencies, and for assisting local governments with their emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts. Cal EMA assists local governments and state agencies to develop their own emergency preparedness and response plans, in accordance with the Standardized Emergency Management System, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the State Emergency Plan, for all incidents including earthquakes, floods, fires, hazardous material incidents, nuclear power plant emergencies, and dam breaks. *Willdan Homeland Solutions* is prepared to assist cities with these matters.



Cal EMA Director **Mike Dayton** chats with **Anthony Gonsalves** of Joe A. Gonsalves & Son



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Smoking is the single most preventable cause of death and disease.

2012 CCCA Legislative Orientation Program in Sacramento

It was my honor to share a luncheon table with Santa Fe Spring City Manager **Thad McCormack** and his Mayor Pro Tem **Richard J. Moore** and Council Member **Joseph D. Serrano**. Also at the table was former Pico Rivera Mayor **Ron Beilke** of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California, **Paul Gonsalves** of the Joe A. Gonsalves & Son professional legislative representation firm, La Mirada Assistant City Manager **Kevin Pregovisk** and a few others.

At the conclusion of the luncheon program I retired to my room to use the facilities and to change my jacket in preparation to walk over to the California Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in the Capitol Park. The California Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located in the northeast corner of the State Capitol grounds at 15th Street and Capitol Avenue. It is near the Rose Garden. The circular designed Memorial has full relief bronze sculptures depicting scenes from the daily lives of our military personnel during the war. The \$2.5 million Memorial was built entirely through contributions. AB 650, authored by Assembly Member **Richard E. Floyd** established the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission. **Brien Thomas "B.T."**

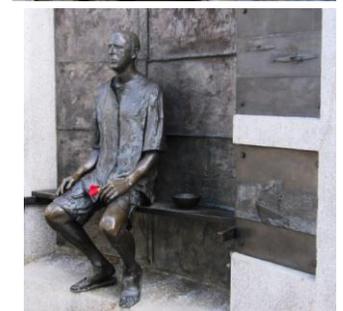


Collins, a former Special Forces "Green Beret" Captain, who lost a leg and an arm in Vietnam, was an energetic driving force to see that the Memorial was built. It is a quiet and classy memorial to our U. S. Vietnam fighting forces; a good place to sit and "reflect."



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California Contract Cities Association

Sam Olivito, Executive Director

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The Foundation For A Smokefree America

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Smoking is the single most preventable cause of death and disease. Cigarettes cause more deaths than cocaine, auto accidents, AIDS, alcohol, heroin, fire, suicide and homicide combined. More than 400,000 lives are lost each year in the U.S. That means, more than 1,200 deaths every day. Of the world's 1.2 billion smokers, the world Health Organization estimates that 500 million will die because of smoking. Former Surgeon General **C. Everett Koop** alerted the Nation that nicotine is as addictive as heroin or cocaine.

2012 CCCA Legislative Orientation Program in Sacramento

When I returned to the hotel I looked out the window in my 8th floor room to see the memorial that I had just visited. I happened to glance down and there was **Frank Tripepi, Bill Pagett, Mark Risco** and a few others sitting and chatting in the hotel patio area. I changed my tie and jacket and joined them prior to walking back to the Capitol for the Legislative Reception in the Rotunda. **Wes Wolf** and President **Jim Bozajian** joined the group seeking warmth in front of the patio fireplaces.

It was a pleasure to chat with Assembly Member **Martin Garrick** of the 74th Assembly District, one of the early arrivals at the reception. He mentioned that he authored a special resolution upon the retirement of Vista City Manager **Rita Geldert**. Rita is a past President of CCMF. Cities in Assemblyman Garrick's district include: Del Mar, Solana Beach, Encinitas, Carlsbad, Vista, San Marcos, Escondido and parts of Oceanside.

Dan Olney of Public CEO attended the reception, giving me a chance to sit and talk to him. He is an interesting young man and doing a fine job of giving California local government some needed and well-deserved media coverage. He was joined by **Ryder Smith** of Tripepi Smith & Associates. Tripepi Smith provides marketing, technology and accounting services. The Tripepi Smith information technology and accounting team helps client outreach campaigns, messaging, graphic work, technology infrastructure and necessary accounting services. Ryder and his team provide a full range of services aimed to serve clients cost-effectively.

Executive Director **Sam Olivito** did his usual good job of providing an important educational program with the able assistance of **Sharon Olivito** and **Tony Olivito**. Trackdown sincerely appreciates being included. Thank you California Contract Cities Association.



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Interwest Consulting Group has highly skilled, experienced, and dedicated professionals. **Interwest Consulting Group** leadership executives are critical thinkers who can work independently or seamlessly integrate into any public agency team. The company staff has held positions within agencies and jurisdictions at all public agency levels. This broad and extensive experience means **Interwest Consulting Group** understand the complexities of public agencies and will deliver needed services of outstanding quality.

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- Transportation Design
- Transportation Programming



The Interwest Consulting Group Philosophy

This may look like a list of random ideas, but to us it is a way of life. These philosophies are the fibers of who **Interwest Consulting Group** is. That's why working at **Interwest** is challenging, unique, and fun.

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- We believe competition is fun and winning is better
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- We love our family time

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Picking Up The Pieces: Former Assistant City Manager in [Paramount](#) and [Norwalk](#) and other places, **Sandy Groves** and his wife, the former [Fremont](#) City Manager **Jan Perkins**, spend their time between Santa Fe, New Mexico and their home in [Laguna Beach](#). Sandy says that he has moved his "clay studio" to [Laguna Beach](#), where they are spending more time these days. The ceramic cup to the left was hand made by Sandy "The Potter." [Red Bluff](#) City Manager **Martin Nichols** will soon be leaving the city to assume the post of Chief Administrative Officer in Lassen County. Former State Senator **Ruben Ayala**, 89, passed away January 4, 2012 in Ontario. He served in the State Senate from 1974 until 1998, and was the long-time Chair of the Agriculture and Water Committee. His district included the cities of [Ontario](#), [Fontana](#), [Rialto](#), [Colton](#), [Chino](#) and [Pomona](#). He was a member of the Legislative Marine Brigade with **Pete Wilson**, **Bill Craven** and **Don Rogers**. Ruben was first elected to the Chino School Board and then the Chino City Council and he was the first elected Mayor of [Chino](#) in 1964. He later served on the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors prior to being elected to the Senate. Sacramento Bee writer **Dan Walters** says that [Sacramento](#) should be reorganized to a "strong-mayor" government. He says that professional city Managers make sense for small and medium-size cities, but he contends there is a "tipping point, both of size and cultural complexity" when a popularly elected official is needed to run the city government. Dan has been a journalist for more than a half-century. If you have not yet read it, please take a look at the "Encore! Encore!" article in the January/February, 2012 issue of [PM Magazine](#) authored by retired City Managers **Kevin O'Rourke**, **Michael Garvey**, **Rod Wood** and **Frank Benest**. [Riverbank](#) Interim City Manager **Pam Carder**, who has serve the city since former City Manager **Rich Holmer** was relieve of duty in April, 2010, will soon be relieve when the City Council makes a permanent replacement decision. [Gustine](#) City Manager **Greg Greeson**, echoing the words of City Managers throughout California, agrees that the disappointing State Supreme Court ruling that allows the State to abolish redevelopment agencies is a significant setback to local project funding. Interim City Manager **Lamont Ewell** has submitted his resignation to the [Compton](#) City Council noting that he feels it inappropriate to remain on the city payroll knowing that the city is struggling to meet its financial obligations. [Menlo Park](#) Assistant City Manager **Starla Jerome Robinson** has served as Interim City Manager since the retirement of City Manager **Glen Rojas** last year. [Concord](#) City Manager **Dan Keen**

has been selected to take the [Vallejo](#) City Manager post following the normal background check. Dan has served as the [Concord](#) City Manager since 2008. Prior to joining the [Concord](#) staff Dan served as City Manager in [Novato](#). [Woodlake](#) City Manager **Bill Lewis** has announced that he will retired effective June 21, 2012. Prior to joining the [Woodlake](#) staff in 1996, Bill had been the Assistant Finance Director in [Lancaster](#). He began his career in [Culver City](#) and worked as an Accounting Manager in [Redondo Beach](#) prior to his [Lancaster](#) assignment. **Sara Russo**, a graduate student in public administration at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), has been awarded the inaugural *Wes McClure Scholarship*, which is presented by the California City Management Foundation (CCMF). [Atascadero](#) City Manager **Wade McKinney** is the current CCMF President. Sara is currently an Administrative Intern in [Redondo Beach](#). [Rohnert Park](#) Director of Administrative Services **Sandy Lipitz** has confirmed that she advised City Manager **Gabe Gonzalez** that she is retiring immediately. Sandy worked for the City more than 21-years. City Manager **Scott Ochoa** sat through his first [Glendale](#) City Council meeting as City Manager on January 10. The former [Monrovia](#) City Manager began his city service experiences when he work in the [Azusa](#) Parks and Recreation Department as a teenager. Past MMASC President **John Keisler** is the new [Long Beach](#) Business Operations Bureau Manager. Mammoth Community Water District officials have adopted a creek fishery management plan calling for a taking of Mammoth Creek water to supply a 50 percent increase in Mammoth Lakes water use by 2030. The City of [Los Angeles](#) has sued the district asserting that it owns the water in Mammoth Creek, and has since 1905, and that [Mammoth Lakes](#) residents do not have the legal right to drink it. Mammoths Lakes Water Manager **Greg Norby** has said that the [Los Angeles](#) claim is based on an erroneous reading of the State law. Recently retired veteran City Manager **Richard Ramirez** has been appointed to serve as the new Interim General Manager of the El Dorado Hills Community Services District. Rich retired last November as City Manager in [American Canyon](#). He has a BA from Humboldt State University and an MPA from **USC**. Retired [Burlingame](#) City Manager **Jim Nantell**, who retired effective December 31, has been appointed to serve as "Interim City Manager" during the recruitment for his replacement.



More Pieces Picked Up: Former Concord City Manager **Farrel A. "Bud" Stewart** died December 31, 2011 near Sacramento at the age of 89. Bud first went to work in Concord in 1953 as City Engineer and was appointed City Manager in 1960, where he served until his retirement in 1986. He returned to the Concord City Manager post in an "interim" capacity from 1992 to 1994. He was born in Fresno and grew up in Coalinga. He earned his civil engineering degree at the University of California, Berkeley. Bud enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and was deployed to Europe during World War II. He returned to California and was awarded a Purple Heart and World War II Victory Medal, and retired as a Major in 1964. Our apologies to Arvin City Manager **Tim Chapa**, who earned a BA in Quantitative Economics from Stanford University. Tim also has an MBA from Santa Clara. Tim says that he attend Stanford while Santa Cruz City Manager **Martin Bernal** was a student there. Tim has served as the Arvin City Manager since June, 2011. After 33-years with the City, Rancho Mirage City Manager **Patrick Pratt**, 60, announced his retirement, and Community Development Director **Randal Bynder** has been offered the post. Dixon has appointed an 11-member Citizens Committee, with two alternates, to aid in the hiring of the next Dixon City Manager. One of **John W. Simpson's** favorite country songs was "Blanket On The Ground" by singer **Billie Jo Spears**. Billie Jo passed away at the age of 74 on December 14, 2010. **John Simpson** is Trackdown's **Jack Simpson's** late father. Patterson City Manager **Rod Butler** said that he expects an official announcement in a week or two about Amazon.com establishing a local distribution center and bringing some 1,500-jobs to the city. Patterson is located just east of Interstate-5 west of Modesto. The two-column picture below was run in our last issue too. It was taken at a special luncheon Honoring retiring Downey City Manager **Jerry Caton**.



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