

CELSOC *Update*

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

DECEMBER 2006



CONSULTING
ENGINEERS and
LAND SURVEYORS
of CALIFORNIA

Orange County Chapter

Upcoming Meetings & Events

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2007

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Speaker: T.B.A.

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2007

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Speaker: T.B.A.

11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Wyndham O.C. Airport Hotel
3350 Avenue of the Arts • Costa Mesa

For further information about this
or any other CELSOC events
call (949) 672-9030

President
JEFF WALKER

Industry Profile

Lucy Dunn

President and CEO, Orange County Business Council

A Professional Alliance for Orange County Businesses

By LYNN GILBERT, Editor, CELSOC Update

The Orange County Business Council is the leading business organization in Orange County. It comprises an alliance of private-sector companies and public-sector partners that represents hundreds of local enterprises from small businesses to multi-national companies. The Council's core initiatives include improving infrastructure, enhancing workforce development, and increasing the supply of workforce housing.

No Stranger to Business

At the helm of this important organization is Lucetta "Lucy" Dunn, President and Chief Executive Officer. Appointed to those positions in November 2005, Ms. Dunn previously served as California's Director of Housing and Community Development, working directly under Governor Schwarzenegger. Her professional resume includes serving as Vice President of Hearthside Homes, President of the Building Industry Association of Southern California, and working as a real estate attorney. She has also been involved in non-profit organizations and public policy task forces, and has won several awards for her civic involvement.

Key Initiatives

Since joining the OCBC, Ms. Dunn has been instrumental in furthering the Council's three primary initiatives. First among these is infrastructure, which includes issues related to roads and transportation, as well energy and water. Ms. Dunn says the OCBC is always in need of infrastructure expertise and, to that end, she is making a push for membership and active participation on the Council's Infrastructure Committee from the "big dogs" in the consulting community. She noted that

the Council is also currently searching for a committee chair.

OCBC's second core initiative is work force housing, and the Council is focused on increasing the amount of affordable housing in the County to enable those who work in the County to reside here as well. As an example of the current affordable housing shortage, Ms. Dunn noted the fact that 25% of the workforce at Mission Hospital can not afford to live in Orange County. She also noted that, generally speaking, 15% of 24-35 year olds can not start families in Orange County due to high housing costs. The OCBC is currently preparing a housing report card for all cities within the County, as well as the County itself, which will illustrate the types of housing that are available and the associated costs. That report card is due to be released in Spring 2007.

The Council's third core initiative is work force development. With the STEM initiative in place (STEM is an acronym for Science, Tech, Engineering, and Math), the OCBC is looking for ways to encourage Orange County students to pursue educations and careers in these fields. To that end, the OCBC is helping to facilitate the development of High School, Inc., a magnet school that is the result of a joint partnership between the City of Santa Ana and the Orange County Board of Education. Ms. Dunn noted that High School, Inc. has its own Board of Directors, a



Lucy Dunn

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39 Argonaut
Suite 100
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
(949) 672-9030
Fax (949) 855-6678

www.celsoc.org
email:
celsoc@seabreezengmt.com

Editor

Lynn Gilbert
(714) 751-7373

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President's Letter

Time for Reflection and Thanks

By JEFF WALKER

This President's message was written a little later in the year than anticipated, but the delay helped me clarify this topic. In my recent management meetings we were reminded to keep an eye on our utilization during the holidays, that is, to make sure that those who chose to be at the office were working on billable work. We were reminded, as we always are, to encourage our staff to take their accrued vacation hours in order to spend time with their families and friends, recharge their batteries, and maintain that ever-elusive work/life balance. In my experience, taking time off around the holidays may be difficult for some, but a manager/leader should try to encourage it among all staff.

My wife and I just hosted our office holiday party at our home in Foothill Ranch. The evening stretched the capacity of our house and yard, as 50+ employees, spouses, and significant others gathered to spend a light-hearted evening away from the office. I noticed very little "shop talk" throughout the evening, which was refreshing. It's nice to see my staff disengage from work, where many spend more than half of their waking hours, either physically or mentally. I heard parts of many conversations about family, friends, vacation plans, and the like. I even heard about unfortunate events — friends who were sick or had been in accidents, ill parents, etc. Each story was an opportunity for me to learn a little more about my second family, the work family with whom I spend so much of my life. Each conversation was a chance to strengthen a personal relationship or friendship.

The holiday season is a time for reflection and thanksgiving. Take a moment or two during the rush of the season to remember many of the blessings that we have. There are many things to be thankful for, both personally and professionally.

I am thankful for my parents and family, who have shaped the person I am today; for my wife, who reminds me that work is work, and family is most important; for my children

who help me stay young, but in the process remind me that I am getting older; and for my dog, who exhibits unconditional love every day.

I am thankful to live in a country where most have clothes on their back, a roof over their head, and food on their table; where there are people who make it their mission to help those unfortunate enough not to have those basic necessities; where the citizens have the ability to peacefully effect change; and where freedom of speech is a basic right.

I am thankful to work for a company with so many talented, focused, and dedicated employees; to work in an industry dedicated to the improvement of the infrastructure that many take for granted; and to work in a position where I have the ability to set the vision, lead change, and help shape the careers of my staff.

I am thankful that the citizens of California support the Governor and the State bond measures to revitalize California; that the same citizens overwhelmingly supported AB573, which affords us protection from uninsurable indemnification clauses; and that the citizens of Orange County have chosen to renew Measure M to fund infrastructure improvements in Orange County for the next 30 years.

It is clear in this time of unprecedented transportation funding that work in the Civil Engineering industry will not be scarce. This, coupled with the scarcity of engineering graduates and the drop in enrollment in engineering programs, is going to make executing our work more difficult. Knowing these constraints, consciously make an effort this holiday season to give yourselves a breather. Thank those who are important to you, recharge the batteries, and be ready for the wave that's already starting to form.

Happy Holidays.



Jeff Walker

Fall Luncheon Wrap-Ups

September Luncheon Wrap-Up

The September membership luncheon featured a presentation by motivational speaker Scott Hunter. Speaking on the topic of “Creating an Outrageously Successful Organization,” Mr. Hunter challenged his audience to think beyond the traditionally accepted keys to, and measures of, success.



CELSOC OC President Jeff Walker poses for a photograph with guest speaker Scott Hunter.

October Luncheon Wrap-Up

Anticipating the November mid-term elections, CELSOC OC presented a program in October focused on local and regional politics. Guest speakers included CELSOC Executive Director, Paul Meyer, *Orange County Register* political columnist Martin Wisckol, and John Stratman, Faubel Public Affairs.



CELSOC OC President Jeff Walker is joined by (left to right) John Stratman of Faubel Public Affairs, CELSOC Executive Director Paul Meyer, and OC Register columnist Martin Wisckol.

November Luncheon Wrap-Up

Lucy Dunn, Orange County Business Council CEO, was the featured speaker at CELSOC OC's monthly membership lunch in November. The luncheon was co-presented by WTS Orange County. ☰



Lucy Dunn, OC Business Council CEO (center), poses for a photograph with Rachel Shepherd, WTS-OC Programs Chair (left), and CELSOC OC President Jeff Walker following Ms. Dunn's presentation.

INDUSTRY PROFILE: *Guiding the County Business Council*

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majority of whom are members of the business community. The school, which will be housed in the former Santa Ana Valley High School facility, will focus on offering curriculum in areas such as health care and the digital arts, and prospective students will be required to apply. Ms. Dunn also said the OCBC is a “big supporter” of a similarly themed educational center, the proposed Lifelong Learning Center at Heritage Fields, the former MCAS El Toro site.

Getting the Job Done

When queried about her typical day at the Council, Ms. Dunn said there was no such thing, which is something she especially

enjoys about her position as President and CEO. With a staff of 12 people, she oversees several initiatives and committees and the production of reports such as the Annual Community Index Report and the Workforce Indicator Report, which projects workforce needs within the County for 20+ years. Ms. Dunn noted that the OCBC is getting ready to finish up on initiatives related to the old Measure M and to get started under the new Measure, which was recently approved by Orange County voters. She also emphasized that the Council needs to “stay close to Sacramento” to be sure Orange County gets its fair share in the competition for state funding for regional initiatives and projects. ☰

While this newsletter is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information on the subjects covered, the association is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting or other professional or technical services. Accordingly, the association cannot warrant the accuracy of the information contained in the newsletter and disclaims any and all liability which may result from publication or reliance on the information provided herein. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the service of a competent professional person should be sought.

People on the Move...

Compiled by Dina Rochford

Gerry Seelman has joined **Psomas** as the firm's Group Leader for Transportation and Public Works. In that position, he will be responsible for helping to expand Psomas' transportation engineering practice throughout the Western United States.

Mark Wilf joined **Tetra Tech** as Director of Membrane Technology. He will provide his expertise to help expand the company's current market in advanced water and wastewater treatment technologies.

KFM Engineering recently announced two new hires: **Matt Stepien** and **Eric Wiebke**. Matt has nearly 25 years of Southern California engineering experience. He has been named

Manager of Municipal Engineering. Eric, who most recently was with the City of Anaheim, has been named Senior Project Engineer in the transportation department of KFM.

Rogier Goedecke has just been appointed Vice President of Operations for **RK Engineering Group**. Mr. Goedecke has over 10 years of professional experience in the areas of IT and business development. He will be responsible for the marketing program in Southern California and involved in managing the transportation planning division.

Hall & Foreman received the **Pinnacle Award**. This award honors engineering

firms that balance corporate growth with employee satisfaction. They were one of only ten firms nationwide to receive this award.

Also, recently announced, **Hall and Foreman** appointed three Associates: **Robert Kilpatrick**, **Kelly Teenor** and **Mike Partenheimer**. As an Associate, each will assist the firm's principals in the areas of management, strategic planning and development of company policy and procedures.

Please send your *People on the Move* announcements to:

Dina Rochford,
Manager of Business Development,
Leighton and Associates
17781 Cowan ♦ Irvine, CA 92614

CELSOC

Orange County Chapter

c/o Seabreeze Management
39 Argonaut ♦ Suite 100
Aliso Viejo, California 92656

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