

LOS ANGELES SECTION

PE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
CG IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

SECTION QUARTERLY REPORT

December 2020

Officers

Jalil Khan
President

John Vassiliades
Director

Shabbir Ahmed
President-Elect

MD Bhuiyan
VP Rank & File

Refugio Dominguez
VP Supervisory

David Koo
VP At-Large

Fouad Dagher
Treasurer

Siam Sadman
Secretary

Section Events Overview

Quarterly Meeting / Monthly Meeting

The Quarterly Meeting of the LA Section couldn't be held in person because of the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19. The Monthly Executive Committee (EC) Meetings however are still being conducted through virtual video conferencing via Zoom (together at a distance). In the October Monthly EC meeting the LA Section decided to work out a gift certificate with help from our corporate office to provide each LA Section member a gift card in lieu of the Members Quarterly Luncheon. Then in the November 2020 Monthly Virtual Meeting, we have invited Mr. Ted Toppin from HQ to be a special guest speaker as we also had the honor of Senator Elect, Josh Newman as Keynote speaker who won the SD 29 race after Carl DeMaio's recall effort due to SB.

Diversity Day

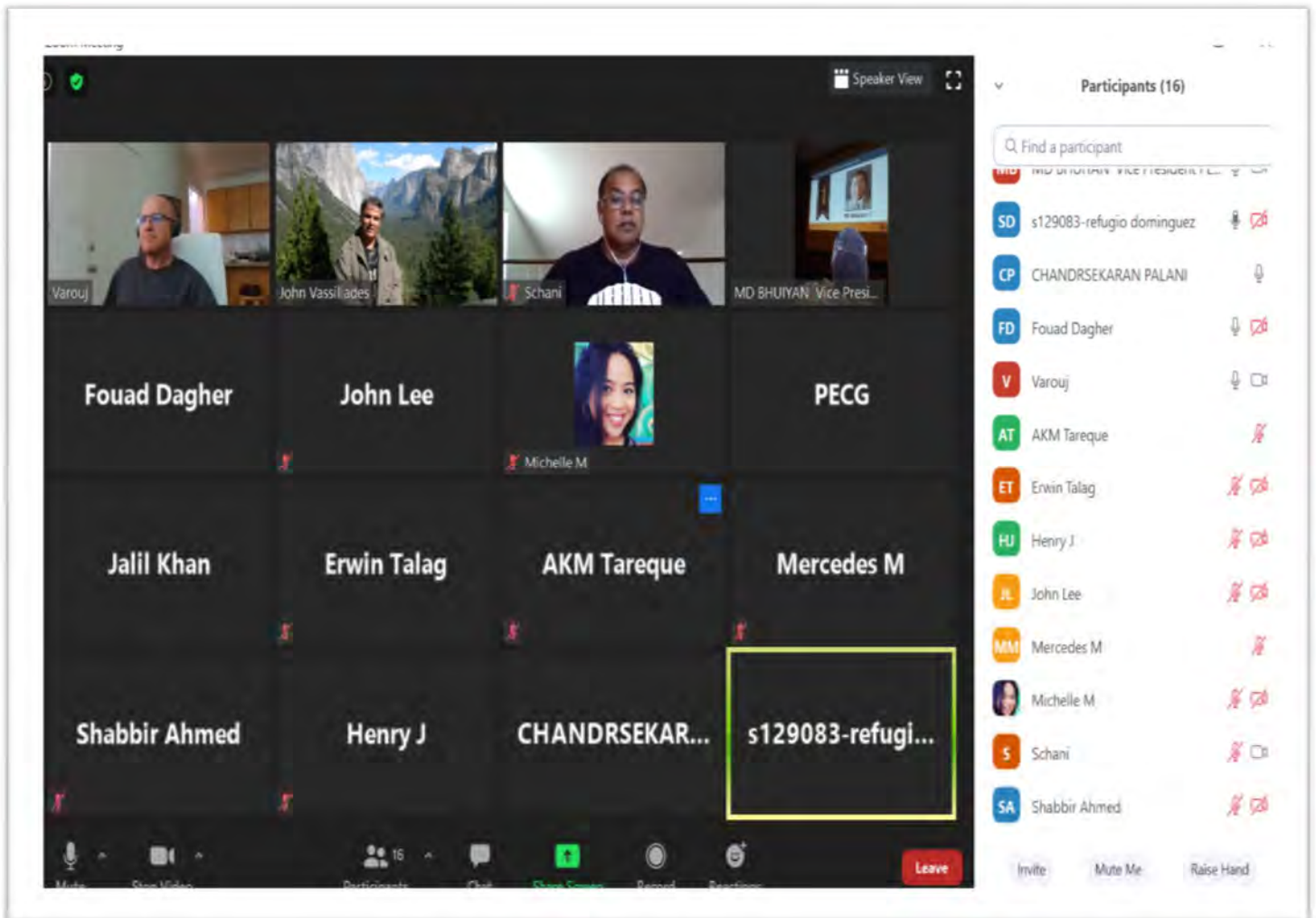
This year Diversity Day was celebrated virtually on October 20, 2020 through Webex. The diverse employees of Caltrans, District 7 representing different countries participated in various activities at the event. There were numerous performances of different cultures and they were live streamed through Webex.

Installation of LA Section Executive Committee Members & Officers

The newly elected Section Officers and Delegates were administered the Oath of Office by our Section Director John Vassiliades in the September 2020 Monthly EC Zoom meeting. This year like all other years, the Los Angeles Section is continuing its efforts of getting the new employees signed up for PCEG Membership. The Executive Committee comprises of 8 Officers that includes President, President-Elect, 3 VP's, Director, Treasurer, Secretary, as well as 40 Delegates who oversee and vote for all section matters.

Election of New President-Elect

The LA Section conducted a special election to fill up the President-Elect position that became vacant due to promotion of President-Elect Sujaya Kalainesan to outside District 7 location. The Executive committee unanimously elected Mr. Shabbir Ahmed as President-Elect for LA Section for the year of 2020-21.



September 25, 2020 PHOTO - PEGG LA SECTION EC INSTALLATION AND OATH OF OFFICE

Approval of Annual Budget

Upon starting their new term of office, the LA Section EC as required by the Section's Bylaws at their September 2020 Monthly Meeting, the EC approved the Annual Budget affirming the Section's ability to operate without hinderance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Executive Committee also approved \$400.00 donation for the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) Scholarships as part of Budgeted Line Item for Sponsoring Miscellaneous State Events. The DAC Committee meets regularly in District 7 to promote awareness and resolve accessibility issues for people, employees, or public in general, who deal with disabilities at the workspace.

Award Ceremony of the LA County 2020 Science & Engineering Fair

Following the successful completion of the 70th Los Angeles County Annual Science & Engineering Fair held in March this year which was conducted virtually and hosted over 600 students with their exhibits, the LA Section made an online announcement of the winners and invited the students who won the James Roberts and Marilyn Reece PEGG Annual awards to the District 7 office to receive their awards. The LA Section arranged the Award Ceremony near the end of October 2020 at the District Office with the presence of District Director John Buliniski.

Online Announcement of the 2020 PEGC Los Angeles County Science Fair Student Awards

[Home](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Officers & Delegates](#) | [Non-Caltrans Issues](#) | [Email Webmaster](#) | [Section Documents](#)

[James E. Roberts Biography](#) | [Marilyn Jorgensen Reece Biography](#) | [Award Winners](#)

2020 Science & Engineering Fair Award Winners Announced

About the Awards:

In April of 2009, the Los Angeles Section of PEGC established two new awards, in recognition of two former Caltrans Engineers, the James E. Roberts Award and the Marilyn Jorgensen Reece Award, to be presented annually at the Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair as follows:

The **James E. Roberts Award** (\$1,000 cash), presented to the top male engineering student either in the senior or junior division. James Roberts spearheaded the worldwide highly recognizable Caltrans Highway Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program that made highway bridges throughout the state seismically safer. He has demonstrated the California seismic retrofit concepts at many conferences throughout the world.

The **Marilyn Jorgensen Reece Award** (\$1,000 cash), presented to the top female engineering student either in the senior or junior division. Reece, an award-winning engineer, literally paved the way for women in the field of engineering as the first licensed female professional civil engineer (PE) in the State of California. Senate Resolution 72, authored by Senator Debra Bowen, has renamed the Santa Monica Freeway and San Diego Freeway Interchange to the "Marilyn Jorgensen Reece Memorial Interchange," after the pioneer Caltrans engineer.

Featured photos of the 2020 Science Fair can be viewed [here](#).

2020 Science & Engineering Fair Winners

PEGC "2020 Marilyn Jorgensen Reece Award" (\$1,000) **Both projects received the same final score by judges and each student received \$500**

Student: Leila Nafarrete, Grade 7
School: Blair High School
Project Title: "Suspension vs Cable Stayed"
[Thank You Letter from Leila](#)

Student: Kawthar Hemdan, Grade 6
School: New Horizon School
Project Title: "Testing Different Barriers to Prevent Soil Erosion"
[Thank You Letter from Kawthar](#)

PEGC "2020 James E. Roberts Award" (\$1,000) **Both projects received the same final score by judges and each student received \$500**

Student: Alan Yoon, Grade 8
School: Portola Highly Gifted Magnet
Project Title: "Comparing Different Seawalls to Find Out Which is Most Efficient"
[Thank You Letter from Alan](#)

Student: Yaroslav Kutepov, Grade 7
School: Beverly Vista Middle School
Project Title: "Which Bridge is Stronger?"
[Thank You Letter from Yaroslav](#)

HONORABLE MENTION WINNERS

1. **Lauren Smith**, Grade 8, Incarnation Parish School
2. **Kyla Mohnani**, Grade 8, Incarnation Parish School
3. **Sasha Kutner**, Grade 8, Pressman Academy
4. **Lila Shimansky**, Grade 8, Pressman Academy
5. **Eli Stoff**, Grade 8, Pressman Academy

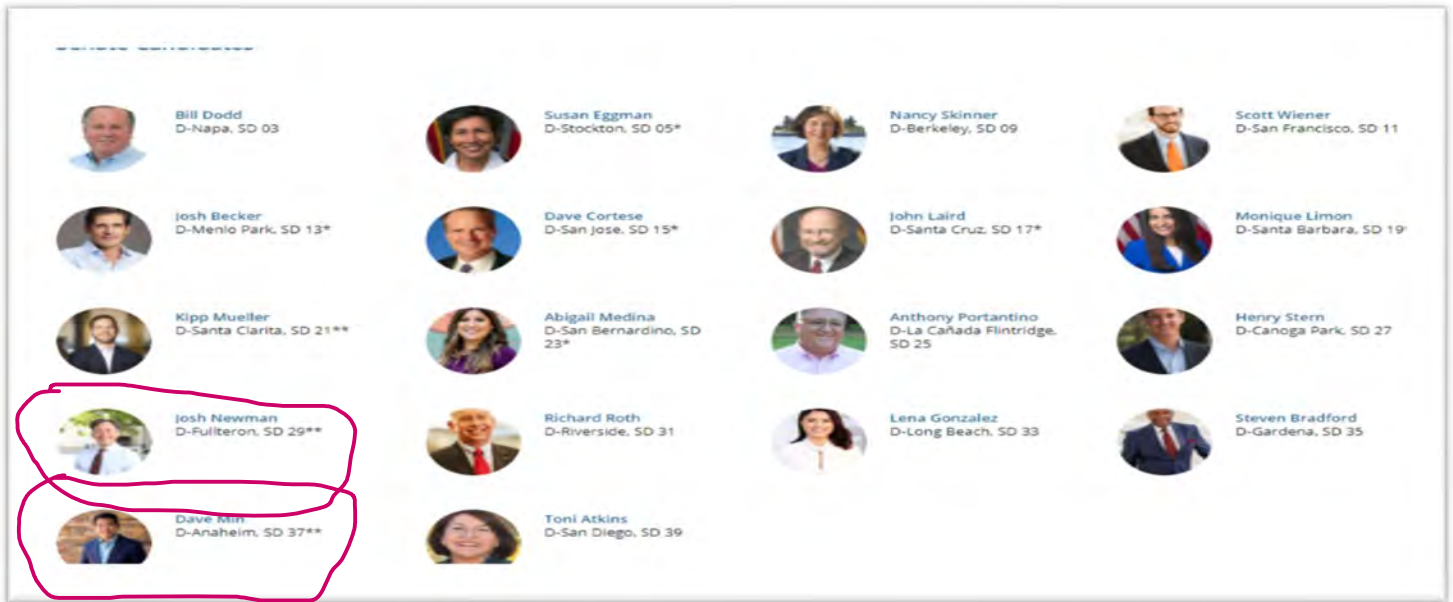
Following are the pictures taken during the Award Ceremony:



Photo Above with Students: Kawthar Hemdan , Leila Nafarrete, Yaroslav Kutepov and Alan Yoon

LA Section PECG Members Volunteer for the November 2020 General Election

As is every local or general election there are many opportunities to enlist volunteers in order to help this very important aspect of our democracy. There are also issues that candidates who seek an elected public office, occasionally express views that have the interest of our union members involved. In this general election there were multiple state assembly and senate seats contested by pro or anti-union candidates. The volunteers from the LA Section participated in canvassing, phone banking and GOTV efforts for the PECG endorsed candidates. The Candidates (circled in red below) are from the PECG endorsed list and they flipped two Senate Districts: (1) Dave Min, SD 37 and (2) Josh Newman, SD 29. Min is a newly elected state senator, while Newman won back SD29 senate seat after Ling Ling Chang won the seat in 2018 during a special vote to replace Newman in a controversial recall election.



October 30, 2020 Farewell event to Retiring Caltrans District 7 Director John Bulinski

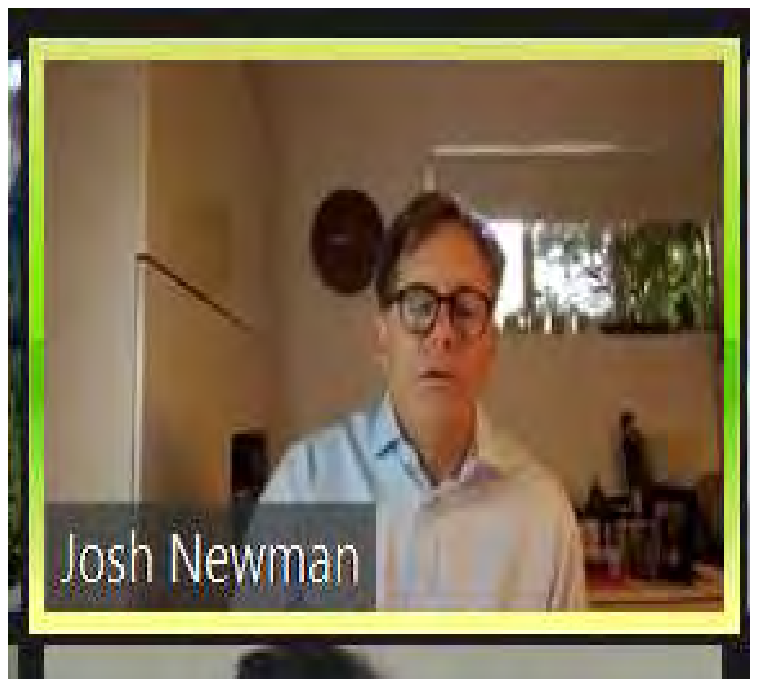
President Jalil Khan and Director John Vassiliades presented District 7 Director John Bulinski on his last day at work an Acrylic Stand in appreciation for his many years of exemplary public service. Director Bulinski has attended multiple PECG sponsored events including our members Annual Luncheon.



November 25, 2020 LA Section Monthly EC Meeting with Honored Speaker the State Senator Elect Josh Newman, SD 29 and PECG Executive Director Ted Toppin as a Special Guest Speaker



Pictured above is snip copy from the Virtual EC Meeting and the list of participants in real time



Left Photo above is Ted Toppin addressing the LA Section EC and next Right Photo is our State Senator Elect Josh Newman who spoke on his plans in the State Legislature to address the state's mounting issues on the economy and labor related issues.