

# LOS ANGELES SECTION

**PE** PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS  
**CG** IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

**SECTION QUARTERLY REPORT**

**December 2023**

## Section Officers

Jalil Khan, CT  
*President*

Ed Jackson, DGS Fire  
*Director*

MD Bhuiyan, CT  
*President-Elect*

Nguyen Hua, CT  
*VP Rank & File*

Refugio Dominguez, CT  
*VP Supervisory*

Deborah Kennedy  
*VP At-Large*

John Vassiliades, CT  
*Treasurer*

Sam Luk  
*Secretary*

## Section Events Overview

Los Angeles Section Officers, delegates and members would like to welcome all Corporate, Section leaders, Committee Chairs, and members to the December 2023 Board of Directors Meeting.

Approaching the new year, and as the largest Section of this great organization we are constantly challenging and striving to better ourselves in how we can be more effective in conducting our affairs and serve the vast and diverse Caltrans and At-large PECG membership. The LA Section Executive Committee (EC) which is 40 strong, represent a total of 1740 members. Among numerous awards, most notable was being awarded for the highest percentage of Rank-and-File members compared to other Sections. Over the years LA Section has been actively involved in recruiting and retaining its members, being actively involved with political outreach and fund-raising events, various outreach events both with multiple State Departments and external entities, Science and Engineering Fairs, Goodwill efforts, etc. To serve our membership holistically, the officers and delegates must uphold higher ethical standards and as a team and continue to be more accountable and transparent on how our Section conducts its business. We are also trying to actively recruit new EC members who will represent a diverse cross-section of our membership. We want encourage participation from a new to bring forth issues that are important to them as we move into the future, while mentoring them to be our next generation of Section and Corporate leaders.

### **Installation of LA Section Executive Committee Members & Officers:**

The newly elected Section Officers and Delegates were administered the Oath of Office in person by our esteemed guest, the Honorable Assembly Member Quirk Sharon-Silva, during the LA Section Quarterly Luncheon Event held on October 11, 2023. This year like all other years, the Los Angeles Section is working hard to sign up new employees for PEGC Membership. The Executive Committee comprises eight elected Section Officers including the President, President-Elect, three Vice Presidents, Director, Treasurer, Secretary, as well as 26 Section Delegates who oversee and vote on all section matters.



### **Upcoming Section Meetings (Annual, Monthly EC, At-Large, Supervisory & Fed-PAC):**

The LA Section Officers held a monthly Executive Committee (EC) meeting on October 26 via Zoom and on November 15, 2023 in person. Newly elected delegates were taken the Oath of Office. The Section decided to hold the Annual Meeting / Quarterly Luncheon on December 27, 2023. The section will hold the three more Quarterly Section Luncheons with all its members. As the largest Fed-PAC members by far of this organization, the officers also plan to hold a special luncheon for all its Fed-PAC members on December 5, 2023. Our section is very diversified with multiple At-Large Departments and to be inclusive, we will continue to promote the involvement of its At-large membership through Section-wide meetings and other Department-specific meetings. We are planning to hold few in-person meetings in near future through New Membership Appreciation events in various departments. We also plan to hold Supervisory specific meetings over the year. Stay tuned to all the exciting Section Activities planned this year!

### **Approval of Annual Budget:**

With a changing of the guard, the new Section Treasurer John Vassiliades performed an excellent job by presenting the Annual Budget for the fiscal year 23-24 at the October 26, 2023 EC meeting. The Section officers have already conferred over the course of the past month or so to discuss Section activities and budget matters. The officers recognize that the Section budget is for the benefit of the members and supports activities that benefit and provide well-deserved exposure of this organization. We will make contributions for Section activities that effectively highlight the mission and vision of PEGC. The officers may also consider giving back to the membership to encourage their participation in the form of gift-cards and/or Section merchandise to display their PEGC pride.

### **PEGC Corporate Annual Board meeting:**

PEGC Annual Board meeting held on September 22-23 at the Hyatt Indian Wells at Palm Springs. Mr. Jalil Khan, President LA Section and Ed Jackson, Director LA Section with other Committee members from LA Section attended.



## LA Section Quarterly Luncheon:

Los Angeles Section Quarterly Luncheon and meeting event was held on October 11, 2023, at Stevens Steakhouse. About 300 members participated in person. State Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva attended as Chief Guest and delivered a valuable speech highlighting her contributions to the Transportation Agency.



## District 7 Diversity Day Celebration:

This year, Diversity Day was celebrated in person on October 16. The PECG Los Angeles Section sponsored the Event and donated \$500 to the cost of the celebration. The diverse employees of Caltrans District 7, representing countries, participated in various activities during the event, including a booth. There were about 400 members present and LA Section PECG President Jalil Khan delivered valuable remarks.



### **PECG LA Section attended Fundraising Event for Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva:**

PECG LA Section sponsored a fundraising event on October 16 for Assembly Member Sharon Quirk-Silva. LA section President Jalil Khan and Treasurer John Vassiliades and other PECG Delegates attended.



### **LA County 2024 Science & Engineering Fair (74th Annual LACSF Planning Ahead!!):**

Our LA Section is continuing its decade-long tradition of involvement with the annual planning of the LA County Science and Engineering Fair (LACSF), with a seat on the executive Board and providing volunteers to judge and select projects for the PECG (James Roberts & Marilyn Reece) Annual Special Awards. The 74th Annual LACSF is March 2024. The PECG Award Winners will be invited to the Caltrans District 7 Office Building to receive their \$1000 awards, glass trophies, medals, and certificates. At the end of the ceremony the students will be photographed, and their names will be added to the two perpetual plaques honoring engineering pioneers James Roberts and Marilyn Reece.

### **New Employee Orientation (NEO) and Save Opportunity:**

Section officers have actively been involved with Caltrans New Employee Orientation (NEO) meetings and Save opportunities, which reaches out to Unit 9 employees who may be inclined to drop their PECG membership. Since the LA section is the largest, it has been an incredible effort by our team. Kudos to all the volunteering officers (Jalil, John, Refugio, Ed, Sam, MD & Varoujan) who have stepped up to this challenging task!

## **Section Committee Appointments and Active Delegate Participation:**

Being a Section Officer or a Delegate without active participation does not adequately serve our membership. A namesake title may sound impressive, but it does not hold any value unless it's put into action. This year we will continue to make strides in getting the EC more actively involved in Section Committees and activities. As the year progresses, we may add more Ad-Hoc committees. Here are some of the committees proposed this year and the Chairs assigned to them.

- Policy and Bylaws – Vairoujan Jinbachian
- Outreach, Awards, Events coordinator – John Vassiliades / Saed Batarseh.
- Information Technology (website, quarterly reports, etc.) coordinator – Ed Jackson
- Nominating and Elections – MD Bhuiyan
- Membership Committee –
  - i. Rank & File (Caltrans) – MD Bhuyian
  - ii. Rank & File (At-Large) – Samuel Luk
  - iii. Supervisors (Caltrans) – Refugio Dominguez
  - iv. Supervisors (At-Large) – Deborah Kennedy
- Corporate PECG PAC Trustee/ Science and Engineering Fair – Jalil Khan / John Vassiliades
- Benefits – Ed Jackson

## **Informational Technology:**

Recently we had several members contacted by an outside vendor, who was looking for information on our retirement plans. The vendor gained our contact information from our website. We are planning to implement a higher level of security without compromising the ability of our members to reach out to us. Teleworking and conducting meetings online, to some degree, have become a new way to conduct business for all our represented agencies. We embrace change and welcome new ideas to make things easier for our members. We will also be updating our section website, so be on the lookout for that!

*From our families to yours – The LA Section wishes you all a very safe and Happy Holiday Season!!*

