



# CEAC Newsletter

February 2013

## Presidential Message

By

**Tom Mattson, Humboldt County**

Greetings from Northern California.

CALIFORNIA  
*Counties*

This year we have an opportunity to increase our focus on safety as our top priority on roads through many avenues. These include having substantial input on the future of federal funding through the current transportation bill, MAP-21; active participation in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP); active participation in the Federal Highways Every Day Counts (EDC) Initiative; and our own City-County-State-Federal Cooperative Committee (CCSFCC).

The current year allocation strategy for MAP-21 funding in California has been “status quo” with the past federal funding allocations under SAFETEA-LU. However, MAP-21 calls for developing performance measures and another round of discussion on which pots of money may see changes due to the flexibility added to the disbursement of federal funding at the State level. At the Fall Conference, CEAC decided the most important performance measures for our members is safety, followed by Pavement Condition Index (PCI), and Bridge Structural Rating. With these driving principles we can now look at any funding allocation changes and ask the questions: 1) Will moving the funds from one program to another increase or decrease the safety of our road systems; 2) Will moving the funds from one program to another increase or reduce the overall PCI for our road systems; and 3) Will moving the funds from one program to another increase or reduce Bridge Structural Ratings?



All Materials Submitted Subject to the “3 Rs” - Review, Revision, Rejection

## Presidential Message (Cont.)

If the answer to any of these questions results in a decrease to these proposed performance measures, I feel strongly that we clearly have shown under these performance standards that the funds should not be moved.

MAP-21 clearly is about maintaining our existing systems and increasing safety above all; however, many recipients of federal funding have other priorities that will need to be considered. Funding is extremely limited, so it is my priority to see that CEAC focuses on the needs of the road system and prioritize those needs in order to do what we do well.

This year I challenge each one of you to work beyond what you already do and take that additional step to move your county and our state towards zero fatalities on our roadway systems. There are many ways that we can do this including through the SHSP, the EDC Initiative and our own CCSFCC.

The SHSP is where all of us can participate in brainstorming and enacting changes to improve safety on our road system. There are 16 challenge areas begging for local involvement and ideas for improving safety on our road system. By getting the information out and developing and improving low cost but high benefit safety improvements, we can make major changes and have a direct effect in the amount of fatal accidents on our roads. This effort involves at least the basic four e's—engineering, education, enforcement and emergency medical services.

While current road standards and best management practices developed over the last few decades have drastically improved safety on our nation's roads, we are at a systemic flat line on the amount of people dying each year. None of us, as leaders in transportation, should accept that 30-40,000 people a year continue to die while traveling our nation's road systems and say we have done our job. We must constantly focus on how to improve safety each and every opportunity that arises. Staff from Federal Highways, CalTrans, and local agencies will be making a presentation during the Transportation Committee meeting at the spring conference, I ask that each one of you find a way to be involved and

provide the local input necessary on the SHSP efforts. This cannot happen without your help.

FHWA's EDC Initiative is another way to get involved in increasing the safety on our road systems. This Federal Highways led initiative is a focus of the National Association of County Engineers (NACE), our national partner in improving safety on local roads. You can get involved in the EDC initiative at any time, keep track of what is happening and on top of continual improvement by visiting their web site at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts>.

The CCSFCC is a committee that has a strong focus on looking into the details of the federal process and making suggestions/changes to refine the process. The goal is to both reduce the cost of performing a federal-aid project and the time it takes from initial funding allocation to construction of improvements. Reducing the cost of the overhead and administration of the Federal-Aid process will allow more funds to go directly to construction of improvements, while reducing the timeline of initial allocation to construction will provide safer roads sooner rather than later. If only one life can be saved by eliminating a redundant or non-necessary process step, we have made a material effect on many people that we serve. There will be a session at the upcoming spring conference discussing the functions of CCSFCC, please attend and bring concerns and offer solutions to the many hurdles of the Federal Process.

In closing, it is an honor to serve you as your president this year. You are the individuals who are on the front lines of improving our infrastructure and ensuring that our traveling public has the safest possible trips every time they use our road system, whether in a vehicle, on foot, on a bicycle, or other preferred transportation mode.



# Engineer of the Year



President Daniel Woldesenbet Presents  
“2012 Engineer of the Award”  
To  
Mike Crump, Director of Public Works, Butte County and Honorable CLOD

# Surveyor of the Year



**Dave Ryan of Humboldt County Receives  
“2012 Surveyor of the Year Award”  
from President Daniel Woldesenbet**

## Member Spotlight



**Mike Penrose**, Director of Transportation for Sacramento County and **Howard Dashiell**,  
Director of Transportation and County Engineer for Mendocino County  
Were Honored by CSAC

with

**“2012 CSAC Circle of Service Awards”**

at

the Fall Conference’s Opening General Session for their  
Service and Dedication in Public Works.

## Member Spotlight

### NEW DIRECTOR

#### Modoc County

Mitch Crosby

Director of Transportation, Roads, and Engineering  
202 West Fourth Street  
Alturas, CA 96101

Mitch is a Professional Engineer and a graduate of California State University, Chico. He has been an employee of the Road Department for 16 years, serving the last year as Interim Director.

### NEW AFFILIATE

**PRECISION PIPE AND PRODUCTS, INC.** provides both standard and custom made steel pipe in 2" to 72" diameters to meet your project specifications and needs. They supply pipe material to many industries including: boring and jacking; tunneling; underground utilities; culvert rehabilitation; water wells; foundations; marine; and towers and sign posts.

**PRECISION**  
**PIPE & PRODUCTS, INC.**  
*A cut above the rest.*

Dan (Dano) Dammann  
Precision Pipe and Products, Inc.  
5865 Old Leeds Road, Ste. E  
Birmingham, AL 35210  
Phone: (205) 327-8171  
Fax: (205) 327-8173  
E-mail: [ddammann@precisionpipe.com](mailto:ddammann@precisionpipe.com)  
Web: [www.precisionpipe.com](http://www.precisionpipe.com)  
Additional Contact: Cullom Walker  
(205) 613-0072

### CUCCAC

Will Clemons, San Luis Obispo County, has been nominated for CEAC's position on the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission with Howard Dashiell of Mendocino County and Panos Kokkas of Yolo County as alternates.

### PRESIDENT MATTSON



*"I'm your new leader.  
Which way did they go?"*



Tom sports the historic CEAC "hardhat."  
He indicates he may replace the existing hat  
lighting with the wall sconce to the left.

## Member Spotlight

**Your CEAC Secretary for 2013, Mike Penrose,** is the Director of the Sacramento County Department of Transportation.

Mike has been practicing Civil Engineering since 1985 and has both private and public sector experience. He has been working as an engineer for Sacramento County since 1991. From 1991 to 2006, Mike has worked in several areas of the Department, acting as the Chief of Engineering and Planning Division for the last six of those years. From 2006 to 2008, Mike served as the Director of County Engineering and became the Department Director in 2008.

Mike holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from California State University Sacramento. He earned a Bachelors of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from San Jose State University in 1985.

As the Director, Mike is always working to advance the Department's mission to continuously improve, operate, and maintain a safe and efficient transportation system that serves the citizens and industries of Sacramento County.



**John Presleigh,** Director of Public Works for Santa Cruz County, currently serves as the **Chair of CEAC's Scholarship Committee.**

John joined The County of Santa Cruz in 1991 as the County Traffic Engineer. He was later promoted to the position of Assistant Director and assumed responsibility for surveying, development review, road design, operations, road engineering, redevelopment, and related functions.

He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, a second Bachelor's Degree in Water and Soil Science at the University of California at Davis, and a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering at San Jose State.

John has 26 years of management and engineering experience. He previously worked for a private engineering company, the State Department of Water Resources, the Water Resources Control Board, and the City of Sacramento.



# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



**CEAC Board of Directors Meeting**  
 CSAC 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
 Friday, November 30, 2012 ~ 10:00am – 12:00pm  
 Regency Ballroom F, 3<sup>rd</sup> Level  
 Hyatt Regency Long Beach  
 Long Beach, CA 90802

**Call to Order** (McGolpin) Meeting was called to order at 10:00 am on Friday, November 30, 2012

## Meeting Roster:

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>County</b>
Tom Mattson	President	Humboldt
Scott McGolpin	President Elect	Santa Barbara
Michael Penrose	Secretary	Sacramento
Mehdi Madjd-Sadjadi	Treasurer	Marin (Retired)
Doug Wilson	Parliamentarian	Tulare (Retired)
Ken Miller	Newsletter Editor	San Bernardino (Retired)
Daniel Woldesenbet	Past President	Alameda
Patrick DeChellis	NACE Representative	Los Angeles
Dave Gravenkamp	Historian	Siskiyou (Retired)
<b>Regional Directors</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>County</b>
Steven Kowalewski	Bay Area	Contra Costa
Rick Tippett	Northern California	Trinity
Mike Penrose	Sacramento Mother Lode	Sacramento
Dana Hertfelder	San Joaquin Valley	Merced
Paavo Ogren	Central Coast	San Luis Obispo (new)
Jeff Pratt	Southern California	Ventura
<b>Committee Chairs</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>County</b>
Mike Penrose	Transportation	Sacramento
Pattie McNamee	Fellowship	Contra Costa (Retired)
Chris Stone	Flood Control/Water Resources	Los Angeles
Rick Marshall	Land Use	Napa
Jim Porter	Oversight	San Mateo
John Presliegh	Scholarship	Santa Cruz
Susan Klassen	Solid Waste	Sonoma
Steve Steinhoff	Survey	Los Angeles
<b>CSAC/CEAC Staff</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agency/County</b>
DeAnn Baker	Senior Legislative Representative	CSAC
Karen Keene	Senior Legislative Representative	CSAC
Kiana Buss	Legislative Analyst	CSAC
Cara Martinson	Legislative Analyst	CSAC
Merrin Gerety	CEAC Program Manager	CSAC/CEAC
<b>Other Attendees</b>		
Julie Bueren		Contra Costa
Max Bridges		

**All Officers, Regional Directors, Committee Chairs and Staff are listed. Those shown shaded were not in attendance.**

# Board of Directors (Cont.)

CEAC Board of Directors Meeting  
CSAC 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
November 30, 2012  
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2. **Approval of Minutes – Attachment One**
  - September 14, 2012 minutes - Upon motion by Daniel Woldesenbet and second by Pat DeChellis, were **unanimously approved**.
3. **Correspondence** (Tom Mattson)
  - No correspondence for discussion
4. **CLODS Report** (Mehdi Madjd-Sadjadi)
  - CLODS BBQ went well in Long Beach
  - Presidents Banquet in Spring
    - Need 20 minutes for ceremony after dinner
    - If the President wants any help on the entertainment they will be there to help
5. **NACE Report** (Pat DeChellis)
  - Pat attended the Western Regional NACE meeting end of October first of November in Laughlin Arizona, Scott McGlopin, Patty Romo, and Bill Burnett were also in attendance. Very good conference and inexpensive to attend.
  - NACE annual conference will be held in Des Moines, Iowa this year April 21-25, 2013
  - Pat will be sending out notifications of the conference to encourage attendance
6. **CSAC Report** (DeAnn Baker/Merrin Gerety)
  - CSAC new Executive Director – Matt Cate
  - CEAC officers met with Matt and expect that he will be supportive of CEAC and its relationship with CSAC
  - Supervisor, David Finigan, of Del Norte County is the new CSAC president
  - Everything is fine on the CEAC contract for CSAC services no additional funding is required.
  - DeAnn will provide next year's contract services amount to Mehdi for inclusion in the CEAC budget
  - DeAnn will provide Mehdi with detail of the services provided under the second part of the services contract (estimated \$26,000).
7. **Regional Directors Reports**
  - Northern California** (Rick Tippet)
    - Regional meetings have been held at the various conferences throughout the year
    - Meeting on November 24, 2012 discussed:
      1. Attainment Counties and difficulty with equipment replacement due to CARB regulations and possibility of diverting funds into public works to help with equipment replacement
      2. Suggested a survey be sent to all counties and cities to assess the equipment replacement needs throughout all the state (sort of like the needs assessment work done) to see how big the need is. Then use that information to pursue additional funding to help offset the replacement costs.
      3. Paul Smith from RCRC joined the group and talked about forest reserves
      4. Scott Waite is the new Public Works Director for Siskiyou County (Scott Sumner

# Board of Directors (Cont.)

CEAC Board of Directors Meeting  
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- Retired)
- Rick will be reaching out to other Counties in his region to increase participation in CEAC

## **Southern California** (Jeff Pratt)

- Pat DeChellis reported that there was a regional meeting but had no report of the meeting details

## **Bay Area** (Steven Kowalewski)

- Have not had a meeting – next meeting scheduled for February 2013

## **Central Coast** (Scott McGolpin/Paavo Ogren – new)

- Met on November 16, 2012 – San Benito is the host
- Elected new Regional Director – Paavo Ogren, San Luis Obispo
- Have been getting great attendance – attended by all Counties
- Taking turns hosting the meeting in the northern and southern parts of the region
- Paavo plans to help initiate additional coordination with Fish and Game and the regions counties over the next year

## **Sacramento Mother Lode** (Mike Penrose)

- No meeting since May 2012, next meeting January 2012
- Will be looking to elect a new Regional Director

## **San Joaquin Valley** (Dana Hertfelder)

- No Report

## **8. Treasurers Report** (Sadjadi) – Attachment Two

- Mehdi presented the proposed budget and requested action to allow expenditure authority until the final budget is adopted in February, 2013
- Discussion of including \$25,000 in next year's budget for consultant services to develop and implement a CEAC Communication and Outreach Plan, and to update the CEAC website.
- Paavo Ogren made the motion with Scott McGolpin second to add \$25,000 to the budget for the CEAC plan and adopt the revised 2013 budget – **motion approved**
- Discussion regarding the budget item to do a road report study.
- Pat DeChellis made a motion with Daniel Woldesenbet to remove the \$10,000 budget item for the Road Report Study and re-adopt the budget with that change – **motion approved**

## **9. Committee Reports**

### **a) Flood Control and Water Resources**

- Two subcommittees were formed:
  1. 218 Issues
  2. Fish and Game

# Board of Directors (Cont.)

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## **b) Solid Waste**

- Have a subcommittee on conversion technology
- Promoting viability of conversion technology with the state and Cal-Recycle
- Presentation on a couple of bills that have gone through related to carpet and paint. Implementation is problematic

## **c) Surveyor**

- Discussed the proposed change to land surveyors act section 8772
- Discussed filing record of surveys on monumented easements. The committee will want to get CEAC and CSAC to support legislation that would require record of survey for these monumented easements, probably in 2014

## **d) Land Use**

- Presentation from Christine Stiletto from the State Water Resources Board regarding phase II of the MS4 permits
- Juan Perez from Riverside County made a presentation on Solar Energy projects in Riverside County
- Howard Dashiell from Mendocino County provided and update on Rule 20 specifications and agreements from PG&E

## **e) Transportation**

- No report everyone was there

## **f) Oversight and Special Tasks Committee**

- No report already covered in budget discussion to include CEAC communication plan budget item

## **10. Other Committee Reports**

### **a) Fellowship (Pattie McNamee)**

- Good participation at this conference
- Affiliates would like to discuss how to restructure dues and sponsorship fees paid throughout the year by affiliates. It was recommended to have that addressed in the oversight committee.

### **b) Scholarship (John Presleigh)**

- 25 Applications submitted
- 6 of the applicants were outstanding
- Awarded 3 \$2,000 scholarships (Mathew M. McCleod, California State University Fresno - Civil Engineering; Mary Katherine Danielson, University of California, Irvine - Civil Engineering; Jacob Coby Heinrich, California State University, Long Beach - Civil Engineering)
- No surveying students
- Assign scholarship review to oversight committee to look into additional ways to bring more funds to the scholarship program as well as look into expanding the engineering fields qualified to receive scholarships.

## **Engineer of the Year & Surveyor of the Year**

# Board of Directors (Cont.)

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- No report  
Note: 2012 EOY – Mike Crump, Butte County; 2012 SOY – Dave Ryan, Humboldt County; 2012 CHICS Golden Egg Award recipient – DeAnn Baker, CSAC; Buddy Award recipient – Ralph Chappell.
  - c) Outside Committees Reports**  
(HBP, CUCCAC, CCSFCC, SHSIP, TRCC, Traffic Control Devices (CTCDC), TDAWG)
    - No Report
- 11. Life Membership** (Julie Bueren)
- Question on procedure – where/when is the award made? Mostly at the retirement party
- 12. Unfinished Business**
- a) Life Membership** (Pat DeChellis)
- No more to discuss about this remove from future agendas
- b) Guest Program** (Ken Miller)
- No need to put together a formal guest program but keep on future agendas to keep the idea in the forefront
  - Guests should be invited to the CLODS BBQ at no cost
- c) 2014 CEAC 100<sup>th</sup>** (Julie Bueren)
- Julie to set up a committee made up of 2014 President – Scott McGolpin, all officers, all Regional Directors, affiliates participation, and CLODS participation
- 13. New Business**
- a) Consideration** – Make request to California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists of a dedicated position on the Civil Engineering and Survey Technical Advisory Committees for CEAC appointees.
- It was approved for Tom Mattson to write a letter requesting a seat on the committees
- b) Consideration** – Recommendation that CEAC be the appointer of a position for local entities on the Federal Lands Access Program, Programming Decisions Committee
- On a motion by Paavo Ogren and a second by Daniel Woldesenbet, Pat DeChellis was selected as the primary representative on the committee and Rick Tippett and Bob Perreault as alternate representatives – **motion approved**
- 14. Scheduled Conferences - 2013**
- a)** CEAC Spring Conference, Joint with League of CA Cities Public Works Officers Institute, Pasadena, California, February 27-March 1, 2013
  - b)** NACo Legislative Conference, Washington D.C., March 2-6, 2013
  - c)** NACE Annual Conference, Des Moines, Iowa, April 21-25, 2013
  - d)** CSAC Legislative Conference, Sacramento Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento, CA, May 29-30, 2013
  - e)** NACo Annual Meeting, Tarrant County, Ft. Worth, Texas, July 19-23, 2013

## Board of Directors (Cont.)

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- f) CEAC Policy Conference SCSAC Conference Center/CSAC Offices, September 11-12, 2013
- g) CSAC 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, San Jose, Santa Clara County, November 19-22, 2013
- h) NACE Annual Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 13-17, 2014
- i) CSAC Annual Conference, Orange County, November 18-21, 2014

### 15. CEAC Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

- a) March 1, 2013, Time 10:15 (Spring Conference)
- b) September 12, 2013, Time TBD (Policy Conference)
- c) November 22, 2013, Time TBD (Annual Meeting)

Tom Mattson adjourned the meeting at 11:55am

Minutes prepared by Michael Penrose, CEAC Secretary



Early Bird Registration is open until February 28th.  
Join with your CEAC peers,  
several hundred county engineers from across the country  
and over 100 exhibitors for the  
Largest Event of County Infrastructure Professionals.

Register online at [www.countyengineers.org](http://www.countyengineers.org)



# Droppings



## Droppings

*from out of the past*

By

**Dave ‘Road Runner’ Gravenkamp**

CEAC Historian

**“Early Newsletters”**

*In the September 2012 Newsletter, I again told of happenings in our organization ending with Newsletter Issue No. 13 of January 1965. With this issue I continue with reports on the contents of a couple more of Bob Glenn’s early Newsletters.*

Issue No. 14, May 1965:

Included in this issue were reports not only from President Dave Pierson, Imperial County, but also from Vice President Bruce McClain, Monterey County, Secretary Newt Templin, Los Angeles County and Treasurer Bob Glenn of the ITTE. Newt’s report was of the minutes of the CEAC General Membership meeting held on January 28, 1965 at the ITTE meeting held in Los Angeles.

I found it interesting that in that issue and many others, Bob Glenn always reported on his attendance at several Regional Meetings. It seems that the Regions were much more active back then as compared to the present day.

Roster changes reported in the issue included the resignation of Robert Perricli as Deputy Road Commissioner for Alameda County to accept the position of Assistant Director of Public Works in Santa Clara

County, under Jim Pott. It was also noted that Harry Hamilton would be replacing Harry Wills as Deputy County Engineer for Napa County.

Issue No. 15, July 1965

A special Board of Directors Meeting was held in Sacramento on May 5, 1965 for the purpose of discussing with Ted McConville, Chairman of CEAC’s Legislative Committee, several important bills which were of interest to County Engineers. Three weeks later, on May 26 & 27 the Board met again in San Francisco.

It was reported that the Annual Meeting would be held in Eureka October 20 through 22, 1965. Apparently Vice President Bruce was working on a scheme to have a 150 passenger boat available for an overnight trip from San Francisco to Eureka. We will have to wait for a couple more Newsletters to see if that actually happened.

Bob Glenn included in this Newsletter a memorandum from NACO Executive Director Bernie Hillenbrand expressing concern over President Lyndon Johnson’s proposal that one-third of all Federal Highway money be used for scenic highways. A suggestion was made that individual CEAC members should share their opinions on this proposal with their Congressmen and Senators. As an aside, Bill McIntosh and Bernie Hillenbrand were good friends. Bernie’s daughter, Laura, is the author of bestselling books, “Seabiscuit” and more recently “Unbroken”.

Issue No. 16, Date Unknown

I don’t have a copy. If anyone has a copy of this issue in a file of old Newsletters I’d sure like a copy. By the way, in glancing at Issue No. 17 it appears that Bruce McClain was unable to pull off the boat trip to Eureka.

Will close for now and hope to see you all in Pasadena for the Spring Conference, February 27–March 1.



## Fall Conference Achievements



**Julie Bueren** received the “**2012 Buddy Award**” on behalf of spouse, Ralph, for showing his dedication, support and love for Julie.



**DeAnn Baker** was presented the “**2012 Golden Egg Award**” from the CHICS, California’s Honorable Intrepid County Sisters, for promoting diversity and making outstanding efforts in fostering professional growth and opportunities for participation by women and minorities in the public works field.



Daniel Woldesenbet  
The Newest CLOD a.k.a. Jr. CLOD

# 2012 Fall Conference Photos



IF LA COUNTY  
WERE A STATE,  
IT WOULD BE THE  
**8TH** LARGEST  
IN POPULATION



WELCOME  
TO THE  
CLODS BBQ !!



## 2012 Fall Conference - CLODS Barbeque

The 2012 CLODS Barbeque was hosted by Los Angeles County at the beautiful South Coast Botanic Garden, a facility operated by the County's Parks and Recreation Department.

*The CLODS wish to thank the Department of Public Works, Director Gail Farber, CLOD Pat DeChellis, and department staff for providing the use of a spectacular park facility and for all the coordination and arrangements that made for a very successful barbeque event!*

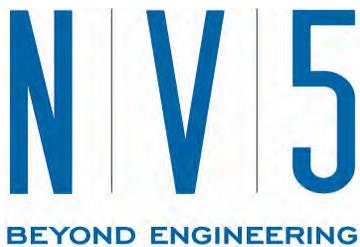


### *The CLODS*

(LtoR) Doug Wilson, Don LaBelle, Maurice Shiu, Mehdi Sadjadi, Dave Gravenkamp, Julie Bueren, Tim Hackworth, Max Bridges, Pat DeChellis, Pete Rei, Win Westfall, Ken Miller, Mike Walford, Phil Demery, and Mike Crump

## Fall Conference Sponsors

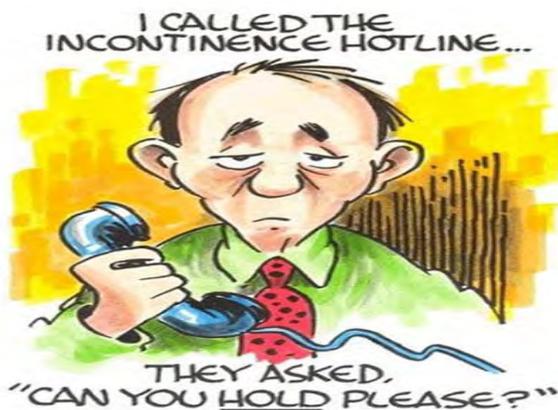
*Thank you to our Sponsors  
who, as always, greatly assist in  
making our conferences special!*



## “Jest a Minute”



**Sometimes** even the best advice goes awry...  
Guy goes to the doctor.  
Doctor: “How are you doing?”  
Patient: “Things could be better.”  
Doctor: “Have you been taking my advice and slept with the windows open?”  
Patient: “Yes.”  
Doctor: “And has your asthma disappeared completely?”  
Patient: “No, but my watch, my wallet, my TV and my computer have.”



**A lady** was at the beauty parlor getting her hair styled for a European vacation.  
“Where are you going?” the hairdresser asked.  
“Rome,” the lady replied.  
“Where are you staying?”  
“Oh, this cute little place called La Duchessa.”  
“It’s a dump. I have friends who stayed there and said it was awful. What are you doing in Rome?”  
“The Vatican, for sure. I hope to see the Pope.”  
“Don’t bother, you’ll never get close.”  
A month later, the lady was back in the beauty shop. The hairdresser asked, “How was your trip?”  
“Fantastic. Rome was wonderful. The place we stayed was adorable. And when we visited the Vatican, we were among a small group invited inside for a personal audience with the pope.”  
“Holy cow! What did the pope say to you?”  
“He laid his hand on my shoulder, and said, ‘Who did your hair? Its awful.’”

**My grandmother** is so practical. Let me tell you a story to illustrate my point.  
One day she was sitting on the beach, wearing a proper hat, of course, and she was engrossed in a good novel.  
Suddenly, she was interrupted by a beggar.  
“Please, ma’am,” the stranger said, extending his hand. “I haven’t eaten all day.”  
She sized him up, then said, “Good. Now you won’t have to worry about cramps when you go in for a swim!”

**A pastor** is strolling down the sidewalk. He sees a boy across the street, jumping up and down on a porch, trying to reach the doorbell. The pastor crosses the street to help the lad. He says, “Allow me,” and pushes the doorbell. He smiles at the boy and says, “Now what?”  
The little prankster cries, “RUN” and takes off.

**A man** was checking into a hotel when he saw a golden retriever sitting on a rug near the hotel elevator.  
Talking to the man behind the desk, he asked, “Does your dog bite?” But as the man let his hand down to pat the dog, it bit his hand and held on so tightly that the man had to throw him across the room.  
Returning to the desk, the man said, “I thought you said that your dog didn’t bite.”  
He directed the attendant’s attention to the dog, who now had returned to the rug. The attendant simply answered, “My friend, that is not my dog.”

**A man** calls 911. His voice is frantic. “We’re about to have a baby here! She’s not due for another week, but she’s having contractions!”  
The operator says, “OK, remain calm. How far apart are the contractions?”  
The man shouts, “About every two minutes.”  
The operator says, “Is this her first child?”  
The man cries out indignantly, “No, this is her husband!”

