

Advocating for Union-Affiliated Building Contractors

By **Bob Alten**, President, Alten Construction Inc., and President, Construction Employers' Association

The 100-plus union-affiliated building contractor members of the Construction Employers' Association (CEA) are busy constructing billions of dollars in prominent public works and privately financed projects in the Greater Bay Area and northern California region. The broad spectrum of building project types worked includes K-12 schools, community colleges and universities, commercial, government, health care, multifamily housing, energy and power, laboratory and technology, sports stadiums, water infrastructure, parking structures and more.

CEA is proud to provide its member firms with quality labor relations services, labor compliance assistance, legislative advocacy, and safety-related education and advocacy. The association

negotiates and administers several key collective bargaining agreements affecting building contractors in northern California, including Carpenters Master Agreement, Laborers Master Builders Agreement and, on behalf of signatory members, Cement Masons and Operating Engineers Master Agreements.

Industry leadership is demonstrated through CEA's Construction Management University Grant Program, which was recognized by the California State Senate in 2013 for its support of construction management education. Over the past 19 years CEA has bestowed nearly \$2.5 million in grants to universities throughout California, such as Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UC Berkeley, Chico State, Sacramento State,



The 2017 CEA officers include (from left): Secretary Michael Walton; President Robert Alten, Alten Construction Inc.; Past President/Treasurer Ben Kerr, Peck & Hiller Co.; First Vice President David Lee, Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Co.; and Vice President Mark Bley, Dome Construction Corp.

Fresno State, Stanford University and Cal State East Bay. In 2016 alone, CEA awarded \$180,000 in grants to deserving higher-education institutions.

CEA's effectiveness as an organization is due to the active participation of prominent building contractor principals who are leaders in the industry as well as an experienced professional staff. CEA maintains offices in Walnut Creek and Sacramento. For more information, visit www.cea-ca.org. ♦