

CEA Advocates for Union Building Contractors

By Eric Foster, Executive Vice President, Region Manager of Swinerton Builders, and President of the Construction Employers' Association (CEA)

The Construction Employers' Association (CEA) is comprised of over 100 of the premier unionized contractors (primarily commercial and industrial general contractors) who perform building construction work in Northern California. CEA members collectively perform over \$15 billion in public and private building construction volume and employ in excess of 15,000 employees annually in California.

Although CEA as an organization is specifically focused on the Northern California building construction market, many of its members perform work in Southern California and throughout the United States. CEA's general contractors build educational facilities, commercial buildings, government buildings, healthcare facilities, energy and power projects, laboratory and technology projects, sports stadiums, multifamily housing projects, water infrastructure projects, parking structures, etc.

CEA represents its members in collective bargaining, labor relations and legislative advocacy; CEA is the only organization whose sole purpose is to protect and promote the interests of the unionized building construction industry in Northern California. CEA negotiates the collective bargaining agreements affecting the building contractor performing work in Northern California, including the Carpenters Master Agreement and the Laborers Master Builders Agreement.

CEA also negotiates the Cement Masons and Operating Engineers Agreements on behalf of its members signatory to such agreements.

In addition to focusing on the direct needs of its members, CEA has been an industry leader in creating and maintaining a Construction Management University Grant Program which has donated \$1.92 million to date to Northern California Universities (Cal Poly, Berkeley, Chico



2014 CEA Officers

Left to right: CEA Secretary Michael Walton; CEA First Vice President Robert Nibbi, Nibbi Bros. Associates, Inc.; CEA President Eric Foster, Swinerton Builders; CEA Vice President Ben Kerr, Peck & Hiller Company; and CEA Past President/Treasurer Robert Dumesnil, Jr., Dolan Concrete Construction.

State, Sacramento State, Fresno State and Stanford). By awarding annual grants, CEA supports and promotes quality construction management education.

CEA's effectiveness is due in large part to its active, committed Board of Directors, comprised of prominent building contractor principals who are leaders in the industry. CEA maintains offices in Walnut Creek and Sacramento. For more information about CEA, visit www.cea-ca.org. ■