

# Rudolph Chosen to Lead Northern California Contractor Association

**C**ONCORD – The Construction Employers' Association introduced its newly-elected officers to a crowd of about 200 at its annual general membership meeting held here earlier this month. Karen Rudolph, chief administrative officer and a principal of Rudolph and Sletten Inc. in Foster City will serve as the association's 2005 president and will be the first woman to ever hold this post.

Rudolph has been involved with Rudolph and Sletten since 1985. As CAO, she oversees the training, archives, information services, legal, and human resources departments. She holds a law degree from the University of Santa Clara as well as a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from Antioch University. Rudolph also devotes time to community organizations and activities, including the American Indian Film Festival, Habitat for Humanity, National Hispanic University where she serves as a Board member, Hate Crimes Coalition, and pro bona legal work. She and her husband, James Simmons, have two school-age sons.

Other new officers include: CEA First Vice President John Bowles, senior vice president of Webcor Builders, San Mateo; CEA Vice President William Stronck, president, Gonsalves & Stronck Construction Co. Inc.; and CEA Past President/Treasurer Kip Trexel, project executive/SPG operations manager, Howard S. Wright Construction Co. Michael Walton of Employers' Advocate Inc. will continue to serve as the association's secretary.

Meanwhile, as has been tradition, along with its over 100 prominent Northern California building contractor members, CEA invited the leadership of the Northern California Carpenters



*Pictured from left are CEA Secretary, Michael Walton; CEA President, Karen Rudolph, Rudolph and Sletten Inc.; CEA Past President/Treasurer, Kip Trexel, Howard S. Wright Construction Co.; CEA First Vice President John Bowles, Webcor Builders; and CEA Vice President, Bill Stronck, Gonsalves & Stronck Construction Co. Inc.*

Union to attend the event.

"We are fortunate to have such a positive working relationship with the Carpenters union – our key labor partners," said Rudolph. "I would venture to say that CEA and the Carpenters union could serve as models for the rest of the country in how cooperative construction industry labor-management relations can benefit everyone involved and promote a greater market share for the unionized industry."

Robert Alvarado, executive officer for the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council representing 32,000 carpenters from Fresno and Monterey Counties north to the Oregon border, informed the various employers present of a new Workers' Compensation Insurance program recently implemented by labor and management and available to signatory employers.

"We've found a way to save you money on workers' compensation premiums through a new alternative dispute prevention and resolution program," said Alvarado. "It should serve to greatly reduce disputes and litigation and provide a quicker resolution of workers' comp claims."

Alvarado added that so far more than 62 employers have signed up for the new Workers' Compensation/ADR Program for a combined annual premium of over \$14.2 million.

"The aggregate annual employer savings is now over \$1.6 million, an average of \$25,000 per employer," said Alvarado, "and we've just started."

Twenty-five CEA member firms were recognized at the event for their outstanding commitments to safety. In order to receive an award for safety excellence, firms had to satisfy three out of the five following criteria: a total incident rate 25 percent below the industry average, a lost workday incident rate 25 percent below the industry average, an

experience modification rate below 1.0, a flat or negative experience modification trend over the past five years and demonstration of maintaining an active safety training program.

Gary Kalian, executive vice president of Lathrop Construction Associates and chairman of the CEA Safety Forum Pro-



*Gary Kalian of Benicia-based Lathrop Construction Associates receives special award at CEA's annual meeting for a leading CEA's popular Safety Forum Program.*

gram, presented safety excellence awards to the following firms: BN Builders Inc., C. M. Peletz Co., C. Overaa & Co., Clark Construction Group-California LP, Clark Pacific, Dolan Concrete Construction, Dome Construction Corporation, DPR Construction Inc., Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Co., Hunt Construction Group Inc., Interstate Scaffolding Inc., J. W. & Sons Inc., Lathrop Construction Associates Inc., McCarthy Building Cos. Inc., McClone Construction Co., Nibbi Bros.

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Inc., Oliver & Co. Inc., Performance Mechanical Inc., Roebbelen Contracting Inc., Rudolph and Sletten Inc., San Jose Construction Co. Inc., S. J. Amoroso Construction Co. Inc., Swinerton Builders, Walsh Pacific Construction, and Webcor Builders.

Kalian himself received a special award from CEA for his outstanding service in developing and implementing CEA's Safety Forum Program that has provided 23 different safety training forums over a seven year period to the safety representatives and key field personnel of CEA member firms. Kalian added that he is stepping down as chair of the Safety Forum Program; Dana Lahargoue, safety director for Roebbelen Contracting, will take over.