



UNITED CONTRACTORS
2020 AWARDS OF
EXCELLENCE

awards



United Contractors Awards



This special 2020 Awards Edition recognizes the remarkable efforts these leaders make on behalf of UCON and the industry. These individuals give their time, talent, and commitment to elevate the industry and help the association succeed on behalf of everyone. These awards, for those external to UCON, are more about those pushing the boundaries. Innovation. Relationships. Risk-taking. All foundational elements that UCON stands for.

Please take the time to read about our awardees and their efforts and advocacy. The profiles of these leaders are meant to encourage and inspire many more to follow on their path.

For the industry, the association and their individual organizations, we thank them and express our respect for their professional efforts and ask you to join with us in doing so as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Breslin'.

Mark Breslin
CEO, United Contractors

THE FOUNDATION AWARD

Steve Clark
Granite Construction Company

WRITER:
Scott Clark,
PAC-12 Networks

What makes a leader? A term that may be subjective to some, the *outcome* is confidently objective.

A leader is someone able to see everything. What people want, what they need, and all the while keeping their eye on what the end result needs to be. This is Steve Clark. Someone that understands what people want, what they need, and also keeping his eye on what the end result needs to be.



A leader must also be someone you trust. Someone you know you can always “go into battle with.” In this regard, you’d be hard-pressed to find a better example, professionally or personally, than Steve Clark. For me, and so many others, Steve serves as a true example of a leader.

In our family, he unquestionably has our back, as we have his. Always leading by example, maybe even unknowingly at times. He’s a constant source of inspiration. Yet another characteristic of true leadership, the ability to inspire.

Personally, there aren’t many young men my age that can say their father is also one of their best friends. I can. We’ve been fortunate enough to have multiple layers to our relationship. From father & son to coaches on the baseball field, to travel buds, we’ve seen it all. More importantly, we’ve seen it all together.

That’s who he really is, someone that will be by your side. ■

Scott Clark, son of Steve, works at PAC-12 Networks.





THE FOUNDATION AWARD



This award is granted to those that serve at the highest level of our association and our industry. Their time and commitment and talent are put to work for the many.

More than almost anyone, the organization succeeds with leaders like Steve who uphold our foundational principles; that every member counts, that every voice matters, and that unity is the key to the success of our efforts.



UCON INVOLVEMENT

Steve has been actively involved with UCON labor relations and legislative efforts for over 13 years, and has been integral to the association's collaborative partnerships with the unions. He has served as Co-Chair of the Operating Engineers Local No. 3 (OE3) Craft Committee and a member of the Labor Executive Committee since 2012, and has also participated on the Legislative Committee. He currently represents UCON on three labor-management organization boards and one trust: the California Alliance for Jobs (NorCal), the Southern California Partnership for Jobs, LECET Southwest, and the OE3 Heavy & Highway Trust. Previously, he was a Trustee for the OE3 Health & Welfare and Pension Trusts. Steve served on the UCON Board of Directors from 2016 to 2020, including a term as UCON President in 2019.



foundation

THE IMPACT AWARD

Randy Iwasaki *Contra Costa County Transportation Authority*

WRITER:
Ross Chittenden,
Caltrans (Retired)

Randell (Randy) Iwasaki is an internationally recognized transportation leader and visionary. He is a mentor and partner who dreams big and uses innovation to solve complex problems.



From humble roots in California's Central Valley, Randy's close family and work developed early as a young employee in his father's garage. In time, his hard work earned Randy's most cherished possession: a 1957 Chevy Belair convertible passed down from his father. Randy brings feelings of the family for his employees and of true partnership for consultants, contractors, and others involved in delivering transportation services. Importantly, Randy understands that it takes a team to be successful.

His impact on transportation and mobility over his 38-year career is hard to overstate. Rising and demonstrating growth, accomplishments, and a cross-discipline understanding, he grew

from a design and construction junior engineer at Caltrans maintenance and system preservation.

He conducted mega-project program management on the Bay Bridge and received a gubernatorial appointment as the Caltrans Director. Randy capped off his public-sector career with a 10-plus year stint as the Executive Director at the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), the biggest little pea-shooter agency in America.

Inspiring his team with a mantra of "dreaming big, getting stuff done, and knowing how to have fun doing it," CCTA and Randy

won multiple partnering awards by focusing on contractors as trusted partners. Among his innovations: paperless, real-time bidding and construction management processes, a partnering program with zero claims, and a service model for approval of Change Orders in hours or days. CCTA paid contractors in 5 days or less.

I have had the privilege of working with and for Randy since 1990. Working for Randy is challenging and empowering, considering his hands-off management style and his aspiration for excellence.

Guiding research for better asphalt pavement, decades of leadership in the field of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), and the visionary and creator of Gomentum Station, the largest autonomous vehicle testbed in the United States, are just a few results from Randy's innovative spirit. Randy is honest and fair with his employees and quick to share



THE IMPACT AWARD

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The Impact Award recognizes leadership and courage in advancing the interests of our industry. Randy has spent his entire career dedicated to transportation policy and innovation. He has led by example when it comes to building an “Agency of Choice” through a dedication to relationships-first. Randy is a reminder of what Partnering can look like when an Agency leader is committed to meeting the mission, and creating efficiencies and opportunities for California’s transportation contractors. Randy’s commitment to fairness, creativity & risk-taking, problem-solving and industry advancement have made a lasting impact on our contractors, the communities he’s worked within, and the entire state of California. We are grateful for his service and his support. California’s future is brighter because of him!

praise and accolades when celebrating successes with the CCTA Board and constituents. Randy hired me into the two best jobs I’ve ever had, and I am eternally grateful for that.

Randy lives with his wife Rebecca in Walnut Creek and enjoys traveling, working on his 57 Chevy, and playing golf with his buddies. Check back soon to learn more about Randy’s exploits in his exciting new role as Leader, State, and Local Transportation at Amazon Web Services (AWS). ■



Ross Chittenden is retired after 33 years with Caltrans and CCTA and remains one of Randy’s close



RECOGNITIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Recipient of Golden Beaver Award
- Charles H. Purcell Award for managerial excellence at Caltrans
- Recipient of the “Doers, Dreamers, and Drivers” award, given by Government Technology Magazine
- Thomas H. MacDonald Memorial Award from AASHTO
- Named one of the top 10 public sector transportation innovators in the nation by Eno Transportation and Shared Mobility Strategies (2016)
- Chair, National Freight Committee (2007 – 2011)
- Board of Directors, ITS America and ITS World Congress (Chair 2008)
- Advisory Board for Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, College of Engineering



impact

HONORARY LIFETIME AWARD

Dave Bianchini

McGuire and Hester (Retired)

WRITER:
Mike Hester,
McGuire and Hester

Some people set the bar very high. Dave is one of those guys.

Working in construction or just as a neighbor, he elevated everyone who came in contact with him. He started his 35+ year long career with only five years in the industry before starting his own company, which he then lead for 21 years before coming to McGuire and Hester to finish his last 14 before retiring. Even when self-employed, he served our Industry and Association (EUCA / UCON) through committees, CIFAC, and other involvement and was chosen as Association President in 1999.



In 2004 Dave approached me to talk about possibly shutting down his business and coming to work for McGuire and Hester. It was an opportunity we could not pass up, and it is a decision I have never regretted. This launched a career at our company where Dave led many notable projects throughout Northern California. Even though he started his employment with us specializing in underground work, Dave finished his work at McGuire and Hester by being the Project Superintendent for our Transbay Center Rooftop Garden. This might have been the most interesting and challenging project Dave was ever involved with during his long career and certainly speaks for his versatile abilities.

Dave was always passionate about his work, no matter what the assignment. He was hard-working, always had a can-do attitude, remained optimistic (most of the time), and was fiercely loyal to his workers and company. There was nothing Dave wouldn't try, and he was always up for the next challenge.

Dave's decision to retire is probably the biggest testament to the person he is. While he loved his work, his family is, was, and remains his number one priority. This wasn't just obvious while he contemplated retirement but very evident throughout the years he worked for McGuire and Hester. Karen and his family mean everything to him, and he



HONORARY LIFETIME AWARD

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We honor another of the few in the association's history to receive the designation Honorary Lifetime Member. This Membership Status is granted to those very few, upon their conclusion of active industry service, who deserves the honor of Lifetime inclusion in the UCON family and legacy.

chose to end his career on a high note and move on to the next phase of life, knowing he had put everything on the table during his construction career.

I know Dave is humbled and proud to receive the Honorary Lifetime Member Award from UCON this year. This recognition from UCON is well deserved and certainly earned by Dave as an active member of our Industry. I am proud and appreciative of his efforts, accomplishments, and sacrifices. More importantly, I am proud to call him a member of the McGuire and Hester family that made his mark on where we are today. ■

Mike Hester is President of McGuire and Hester



honorary lifetime

ASSOCIATE LEADER AWARD

Patrick Diebel
Woodruff Sawyer & Co.

WRITER:
Mark Munekawa,
Woodruff-Sawyer & Co.

associate leader

The position of UCON Associate Director is an opportunity that is both earned and respected. Patrick Diebel took on this position and has fully represented the qualities of a dedicated volunteer who has the best interests of his fellow association members. As a leader of his generation of Surety Bond professionals, Patrick has invested his professional career in advising and supporting construction contractors to help them achieve their business goals.

Patrick's professional success comes from his investment



in technical expertise, industry knowledge, a robust professional network and continuing his professional education. As V.P. of Surety for Woodruff Sawyer, he works to be a Trusted Advisor to construction organizations, representing their interests and leading a team of other surety professionals. His involvement in UCON has allowed him to broaden his efforts in advocating on behalf of the engineering contractor community and the need to invest in our State's critical infrastructure needs.

A proud graduate of San Diego State, Patrick has enjoyed his journey from his hometown of Bakersfield to an active and

involved business and family man in the Bay Area. Patrick is most proud of his success as a husband to his wife, Kaitlyn, and father of two—Quinn and Jack. While not at work, you will find Patrick at home on weekends working around the house, spending time with family, and finding time to work on his golf game. Whether it's coaching one of his children's sports teams, helping with homework, or supporting his local school, where Kaitlyn is an elementary school teacher, his free time is devoted to family and community.

As Associate Director, Patrick exemplified the mantra "you get what you give." His volunteer efforts have supported the association, its members and the entire construction industry. For



ASSOCIATE LEADER AWARD



Patrick Diebel was chosen by the 2020 Board of Directors as someone who has significantly contributed time and commitment. He contributed at the level of peer and leader and distinguished the Associate membership with his Board service. Patrick was integral in keeping the momentum of the Associate communication going during a challenging year. Under his strong leadership, the Associate Committee was able to pivot to many new online offerings while maintaining the committee's goals and objectives. Patrick led by example and continued to provide value to the group, sharing member highlights, industry news, and more while communicating UCON's strategy and vision throughout 2020.

Patrick though, it provided an opportunity to meet current and future construction industry leaders and learn more about the fundamentals for success that reach across both the construction and surety industries.

The entire Woodruff Sawyer team congratulates Patrick on earning the Associate Director Leadership Award! ■

Mark Munekawa is Senior Vice President, Surety Manager at Woodruff-Sawyer & Co.



UCON'S 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

UCON Board of Directors A Legacy of Leadership

51 years ago four union contractors got together to discuss how they could gain better representation. They were small businesses. They were families. They were contractors determined to have a voice in negotiations and in shaping the fate of their industry. Founded by union contractors for union contractors—large and small—United Contractors remains true to the values that inspired it: Integrity, Innovation, Leadership, Unity, Trust, Teamwork. But most of all 100% Member Driven.

Today, UCON is California's union construction trade association. Representing more than 500 union contractors and vendor firms across California. Every day, UCON works to empower, educate and advocate for our members and the greater union construction industry.

While UCON and its influence have grown over the years, its democratically elected Board of Directors remains the foundation of the organization. These professionals guide our work and mission. The UCON Board, like the association itself, is unique: made up of contractors, large and small, democratically elected by their peers, each with an equal voice and a unique and valued perspective. The Board makes decisions based on strong governance and sound policy. The staff works for them and their vision to exceed member expectations in everything that we do. Decades of exceptional Board Leadership is what has made UCON what it is today, and what it will be for the future.

UCON Board Members are outstanding and dedicated leaders. Their collective business energy, experience, risk taking and dedication to the organization and industry create a powerful positive impact. The vision of our Board of Directors is what has allowed UCON to maintain a more than 50 year legacy of leadership.

On behalf of the United Contractors team, Congratulations to the newly installed 2021 Board of Directors, under the leadership of Kurt Kniffin.



KURT KNIFFIN
2021 President
Stacy and Witbeck, Inc.
UCON Member-25 Years



JOE SOSTARIC
Vice-President/President-Elect
The Conco Companies
UCON Member-5 Years



CHARLES WALL
Past President 2020
Brosamer & Wall, Inc.
UCON Member-8 Years



KEVIN HESTER
Secretary/Treasurer
McGuire and Hester
UCON Member-31 Years



CHRISTI PLUM
*Secretary/
 Treasurer-Elect*
P C & N Construction, Inc.
UCON Member-22 Years



GUY SMITH
Past Secretary-Treasurer
St. Francis Electric LLC
UCON Member-33 Years



JUAN C. ARREQUIN
*Bay Line Cutting &
 Coring, Inc.*
UCON Member-28 Years



RON BIANCHINI
Preston Pipelines, Inc.
UCON Member-51 Years



DALE R. BREEN
Midstate Barrier, Inc.
UCON Member-15 Years



BRYN BURKE
*Dees Burke Engineering
 Constructors, LLC*
UCON Member-5 Years



STEVE CONCANNON
Director at Large
*Pavement Recycling
 Systems, Inc.*
UCON Member-13 Years



GREG GOEBEL JR.
Goebel Construction, Inc.
UCON Member-7 Years



DAVE JORDAN
Associate Director
*Vulcan Materials
 Company*
UCON Member-24 Years



TONY NARANJO
*Southern California
 Advisory*
*J&M Concrete
 Contractors*
UCON Member-1 Year



JEFF PEEL
Steve P. Rados, Inc.
UCON Member-7 Years



KEARY SULLIVAN
Associate Director-Elect
F & M Bank
UCON Member-7 Years

UCON'S 2021 PRESIDENT

Kurt Kniffin
Stacy and Witbeck, Inc.

WRITER:
George Furnanz,
Owner
Stacy and Witbeck, Inc.

Kurt Kniffin is special. We are fortunate he will lead UCON.



He knows construction. Kurt's career in the heavy civil engineering construction industry spans 35 years with Granite, and now Stacy and Witbeck. He has an excellent knowledge of construction means, methods, and materials and has led the procurement and construction of more than \$2 billion in successful projects.

Kurt's character is what sets him apart. Brought up by hardworking parents in the farming community of Watsonville, CA, he learned

the importance of team and family. Success playing sports and football from childhood to Sacramento State underscored important values—

trust, training, and execution. As a field engineer, his vital team experience proved valuable when working closely with field crews to plan and construct challenging projects. Kurt learned the importance of treating others with respect, communicating honestly and openly, and approaching all challenges as a team.

This is what makes Kurt special. He knows and values

the importance that every team member brings to sports, work, and everyday life. Kurt is well-respected by craft workers, project management teams, joint venture partners, and project owners. These values and traits have served him well. They will guide him as he leads UCON. ■

George Furnanz is the Owner and President of Stacy and Witbeck, Inc.





**UCON's 2021 President,
Kurt Kniffin of Stacy and Witbeck, Inc.**

How do you see your role as President of the Association?

My role as President is to support our members and industry as a state-wide organization through collaborative partnerships with our union partners and political advocates. We will achieve this by working closely with our Board of Directors and talented UCON staff who work hard to support our businesses.

What is one of your primary goals for the year ahead?

I would like to grow our membership in Northern and Southern California while delivering superior services and support statewide.

What is the industry's biggest challenge?

Our biggest challenge is continuing our diligence in fighting this pandemic on all of our job sites. We have done an outstanding job keeping our essential projects going and have shown our political leaders that we "walk the talk" when it comes to safety.

What are some leadership principles that you have discovered and executed that have contributed to your success?

Treat the craft people with respect, and they will teach you how to build. Two ears and one mouth, listen twice as much as talking. Work hard at creating win-win situations for both sides.



THANK YOU TO UCON'S 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank you to UCON's 2020 Board of Directors for their exceptional leadership during an unprecedented year of change.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Charles Wall, *Brosamer & Wall, Inc.*

VICE-PRESIDENT / PRESIDENT-ELECT

Kurt Kniffin, *Stacy and Witbeck, Inc.*

PAST PRESIDENT, 2019

Steve Clark, *Granite Construction Company*

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Guy Smith, *St. Francis Electric LLC*

SECRETARY / TREASURER-ELECT

Kevin Hester, *McGuire and Hester*

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Juan C. Arrequin, *Bay Line Cutting & Coring, Inc.*

Ron Bianchini, *Preston Pipelines, Inc.*

Dale R. Breen, *Midstate Barrier, Inc.*

Paul Cocotis, *(Formerly with) Shimmick Construction Company, Inc.*

Patrick Diebel, *Woodruff-Sawyer & Co., Associate Director*

Dave Jordan, *Vulcan Materials Company, Associate Director-Elect*

Jeff Peel, *Steve P. Rados, Inc.*

Christi Plum, *P C & N Construction, Inc., Past Secretary/Treasurer 2019*

Joe Sostaric, *The Conco Companies*

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