PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:
by Mark Jugar, PE, TE, PTOE

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As a “thank you” for being an ITE member, members were invited with their family to kick off their shoes and relax in the sand at our August Social! It’s was a free event planned for August 8th from 11:00AM to 2:00PM at Ski Beach in Mission Bay. A lot of fun was had by all!

Mr. Schulz, Associate Vice President of Real Estate, Planning & Development at San Diego State University and Mr. Boarman, Principal at LLG, discussed SDSU plans in terms of projects that are underway and will soon be built. This included a discussion regarding the South Campus Mixed Use project along College Avenue just north of Montezuma along with a discussion of the benefits of providing student housing from a traffic standpoint. The South Campus project includes complete street elements. There was a discussion regarding the evolution of trolley and general transit ridership as it relates to the campus. In addition, the recent California Supreme Court ruling regarding the SDSU EIR was discussed.
The SB 743 Workshop and Vendor Show program included a City of San Diego Plan Update from Nancy Bragado (City of San Diego Deputy Director, Planning Department), SB 743 Introductions from Eric Ruehr (ITE Western District SB 743 Task Force/VRPA Technologies) and Jeremy Klopp (Fehr & Peers), SB743 in San Diego with Stephen Haase (City of San Diego Planning Commissioner / Baldwin & Sons) and Kathleen Ferrier (Circleulate San Diego), and a SB 743 Update/Next Step presentation by Chris Ganson (California Governor’s Office of Planning & Research, OPR).

**FEATURE MEMBER**

**WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?**
I grew up in the post-World War II suburb community of Lakewood, California. My parents were both immigrants, mother from Ireland and father from Italy. My father studied engineering at NYU and became a General Contractor in New York with my grandfather. I’m not sure what inspired him to move to California in the early 30’s but that’s where he ended up building custom homes in the LA area. As the war loomed and resources grew slimmer, he went to work for Lockheed where his skills led him to be the facility manager on one of the RAF bases in Belfast, Ireland, where he met my Mother.

**WHAT SCHOOLS DID YOU ATTEND FOR YOUR DEGREES?**
I was pretty fortunate growing up in lower middle class America. I went through Catholic elementary school, St. Maria Goretti, and Catholic high school, St. John Bosco. Academia was never my forte and I thought I would end up being a mechanic because that’s where I had an interest. I even studied this at the Junior College level and was hoping it would be a career, but my father always told me it was easier to use my head rather than my hands. It finally sunk in and I gave in to pursuing a degree that helped me get to where I am now. I received an Associate degree from Long Beach City College and my Bachelor’s degree from UCI.

**WHAT/WHO INFLUENCED YOU TO CHOOSE TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING?**
I was practicing civil engineering for about 10 years in various public sector jobs doing what I thought I would do my entire career, roadway design, drainage studies, rock screening, the typical civil engineering stuff, etc. when I was approached by Tom Larsen, City Traffic Engineer in Eugene. He suggested I consider becoming his Assistant Traffic Engineer. I told him I knew very little about traffic engineering, but I thought it would be a challenge to learn about the field. I took him up on the offer and fifteen years later, I still feel that traffic engineering is very challenging and it is the field that can make the greatest change for everyday users in the shortest amount of time.

**WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT YOUR ITE MEMBERSHIP?**
I think any respectable profession has a primary organization to promote and foster its practice; ours is ITE. I became a member to be involved with a recognized institution where I could learn more from the experts in our field. I value the discussion forum and professional networking, where its members have a way to be connected to other members all around the globe.

**DESCRIBE A MEMORABLE/UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE/EVENT IN YOUR LIFE**
I have many memorable events in my life but I’ll go with something work related. One project sticks out that I know I’ll never forget and, since it has my stamp on it, will always be connected to me, good or bad. I was the Project Engineer/Manager for a rural-to-urban road reconstruction project that seemed to include every traffic calming treatment known to man. The project went through four managers before me, probably for a combination of reasons including being a contentious project and the fact that abutting property owners were assessed for a portion of the improvements. The project included extensive public outreach with a community design charrette moderated by Dan Burden, Walkable Communities. Most of the traffic calming treatments were typical, at least for Eugene, but one thing was added that was new. It was at a very late stage in the design, actually two weeks before advertising, that we received many complaints regarding the treatment for on-street bike lanes. Even with the chicanes and raised intersections, advocates argued that motorists would smooth out the curves by going in the bike lanes, just like they did on every other curvy roadway we built. So, I recommended that we include raised bike lanes, otherwise known as elevated cycle tracks. It sounded easy at the time, and it was a recommended treatment in the Oregon State Bike/Ped Plan. What I didn’t know was that the recommendation was based on what had been done in Europe, not the US. It was controversial then and I believe it still is. There were many lessons learned
and many became topics at local APWA and ITE conferences. The elevated cycle tracks are located on Ayres Road between N. Delta Highway and Gilham Road and on Gilham Road between Ayres Road and Honeywood Street.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES OR INTERESTS?**

I’ve had many interests and hobbies over the years including golf, tennis, racquetball, skiing, mountain biking, and commuting by bicycle. Most of these have gone by the wayside to make room for my current interest, sailing. I started sailing in 2000 when I wanted a hobby for my family that could take advantage of Fern Ridge Reservoir in Eugene. Unfortunately, my wife and daughters weren’t as interested as I had hoped, so I concentrated on racing with my son rather than cruising with my family.

**WHAT IS THE CRAZIEST THING YOU HAVE EVER DONE?**

Sailing in San Francisco Bay rounding Alcatraz Island planing and surfing with a jib only felt very scary at the time. What made it more so was that fact that my son, who was only 16 at the time, was driving. I believe there were five to eight foot swells in 25+ knots of wind, not your martini in hand cruising experience.

**WHAT INTERESTING TALENT DO YOU POSSESS?**

I don’t believe I have any unusual or interesting talents. I can say that I have been and continue to be very fortunate in every aspect of my life and I hope to make as much progress as I can toward doing my civic duty at the City of San Diego.
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- Must possess or working towards obtaining the Engineer-In-Training (EIT) certification
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- AutoCAD and/or Microstation design experience
- EIT Certification
- Basic knowledge of computer office software including: Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Adobe Acrobat.

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