

## REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER

In the years prior to 1978, maintenance superintendents in the counties of Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Napa, Marin and Solano counties had little interaction. What communication was taking place was between local agencies and seldom went beyond the agencies immediate neighbors.

Lyle Swaney of the City of Santa Rosa had been a member of MSA prior to coming to the Redwood Empire and he brought with him the knowledge of the benefits Maintenance Superintendents Association could provide. Lyle solicited the help of Don Kiser, Caltrans, Napa; Al Zanolini, County of Sonoma; Roy Kelly, City of Petaluma and Bob Ricker of Ricker Machinery. Ultimately 26 agencies expressed interest in the Association.

The work of organizing a chapter started with a coordinating meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 1978 in Santa Rosa initiated by Lyle Swaney. There were 18 people present at this initial meeting including Glen Baltzer, MSA President and Roger Campbell of the MSA Executive Board.

By November 1, 1978 officers had been elected and the basic structure of the chapter was established. Elected as the first chapter officers were:

President	Lyle Swaney, City of Santa Rosa
Vice President	Don Kiser, Caltrans/Napa
Secretary	Al Zanolini, County of Sonoma
Treasurer	Roy Kelly, City of Petaluma

Organizational meetings were held in December of 1978 which resulted in the selection of a name for the chapter; the establishment of boundaries and the writing of bylaws. With the completion of this work the Executive Board of MSA was petitioned for the chartering of the Redwood Empire Chapter and on January 13, 1979 a charter was granted by the MSA Executive Board.

The chapter had 32 charter members

In July of 1979 the same officers were re-elected to the same offices for the 1979-80 fiscal year. In April of 1980 President Swainey accepted employment in the state of Utah and was forced to resign from the chapter. Vice President Don Kiser assumed the remainder of hyles term.

In July of 1980 the following group of officers was elected for the 1980/81 fiscal year:

President	Don Kiser, Caltrans/Napa
Vice President	Gary Phillips,
Treasurer	Roy Kelly, City of Petaluma
Secretary	Al Zanolini, County of Sonoma

Unfortunately Gary Phillips was unable to complete his term and Lance Heide of the County of Napa was appointed to fill this vacancy.

Officers for 1981/82 were elected in July 1981 and were as follows:

President	Al Zanolini, County of Sonoma
Vice President	Lance Heide, County of Napa
Treasurer	Roy Kelly, City of Petaluma
Secretary	Bill McBride, Caltrans/Petaluma

Again a job transfer forced the resignation of the Secretary and Al Hinojos of the Town of Corte Madera was appointed to replace him.

The following officers have been elected each July

1982/83	President	Lance Heide, County of Napa
	Vice President	Al Hinojos, Town of Corte Madera
	Treasurer	Roy Kelly, City of Petaluma
	Secretary	Al Zanolini, County of Sonoma

1983/84

President	Al Hinojos, Town of Corte Madera
Vice President	Charles Beck, City of Fairfield
Treasurer	Al Zanolini, County of Sonoma
Secretary	Lance Heide, County of Napa

Al Hinojos was never able to serve as President and Charles Beck was appointed President prior to the July 1 installation of officers.

1984/85

President Charles Beck, City of Fairfield  
Vice President Ron Rowton, County of Sonoma  
Treasurer Al Zanolini, County of Sonoma  
Secretary Lance Heide, County of Napa

1985/86

President Ron Rowton, County of Sonoma  
Vice President W. "Pat" Miller, City of Petaluma  
Treasurer Al Zanolini, County of Sonoma  
Secretary Lance Heide, County of Napa

1986/87

President W. "Pat" Miller, City of Petaluma  
Vice President Bob Kyle, City of St. Helena  
Treasurer Al Zanolini, County of Sonoma  
Secretary Lance Heide, County of Napa

1987/88

President Bob Kyle, City of St. Helena  
Vice President Chuck Hammond, City of Santa Rosa  
Treasurer Ron Kilgore, City of Petaluma  
Secretary Lance Heide, County of Napa

## MEMBERSHIP

The membership consist of supervisory and management personnel in the various aspects of public works including parks, water distribution, fleet operations and maintenance, grounds, sewers, drainage, street maintenance, inspection, signals and lighting, signing, striping, building maintenance and administration. Agencies represented include cities, counties, state and federal agencies, special districts and public utilities.

In 1986 the Redwood Empire Chapter accepted its first foreign member when the Minister of Information and Training of the Bureau of Roadways and Transportation of the Republic of Zaire was welcomed as a member.

Members of this chapter are located throughout California including the extreme north coast area. Several members from the Pacific Northwest have also held memberships for several years.

Membership growth is the responsibility of a Membership Committee appointed yearly by the President. Membership has grown steadily through the years with current membership well over 100.

Officers and directors are elected in June of each year and are installed during the annual July installation barbeque. Chapter officers include the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition to the four officers, there are six directors, four Regular members and two Sustaining members.

Membership fees are \$15 for Regular, Associate and Sustaining members and free for Honorary and Life members. Life and Honorary memberships are awarded by the Executive Committee to those individuals who have provided exemplary service to the Chapter.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Key to the Chapters growth rest primarily with the ability of Chapter to provide for the needs of its members. Although the Chapter likes to maintain an informal atmosphere during meetings, in concert with the rural surroundings of the area, the purpose of this group is to share ideas and knowledge.

Prior to each meeting a program is presented which deals with some aspect of administration, supervision or operations as they relate to public works. In addition a once a year Vendor's Day is sponsored where new equipment and supplies are shown and demonstrated.

Periodic workshops are also held where common problems and ideas are shared and discussed. In addition the informal atmosphere of the meetings encourages the free expression of ideas and stimulates discussion with counterparts at other agencies.

Plans are presently underway to formulate a certificated program through a local community college.

Also periodic seminars have been held using professionals in various areas. Recent seminars included programs on hazardous materials and personnel development.

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Chapter has had a scholarship program available to any student showing an interest and effort in pursuing a higher education through an accredited college or university. In addition, over the years, the recipients of the Chapter scholarship have also received awards through the Association scholarship.

in higher education and to provide economic support and scholastic recognition of students pursuing the ideals of a college education.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

An annual barbeque is held each spring at the Beringer Winery in St Helena, California. This affair is held in the private picnic area at the Rhine House and has become very popular with members, guests and spouses.

An installation barbeque is held each July in Cotati, California. Beside the installation of officers and committee members, awards are presented to the outgoing Committee members and the scholarship awards are presented to the outstanding students.

A golf tournament was held in August of 1986 and has now developed into an annual event for members and their guests.

The highlight of the year is the Christmas Party which is an evening for members and spouses to enjoy good company, good food, entertainment and dancing. The sustaining members have annually provided gifts for the spouses. This has evolved into a very festive and joyous celebration.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCES

The Redwood Empire Chapter hosted its first Conference and Equipment Show in 1985 in Santa Rosa. Conference committee chairmen were:

Charles Beck and Al Zanolini	Chairmen
Ron Rowton and Charles Beck	Registration
Lance Heide	Finance
Alan Auld	Publicity

Wayne Zitzke and Bob Kyle	Ladies Program
David Robertson	Workbook
Al Zamolini	Hospitality
Pat Miller	Workshops
Frank Wheeler and Don Cooper	Equipment Display

The Chapter has been selected to host the 1992 Conference and work has already begun on its preparation. Pat Miller has been appointed Chairman and site selection and committee assignments are progressing. The Chapter is anxious to take on the challenge once again.

### AWARDS

Beginning in 1985, an award has annually been presented at the Christmas Party honoring the Superintendent and Manufacturers Representative of the year. In 1985 the winners were Charles Beck, City of Fairfield and Leo Cinochio, Z.A.P. Manufacturing; 1986 Lance Heide, County of Napa and Wayne Zitzke, Hawkins Traffic Safety Products; and 1987 Pat Miller, City of Petaluma and Bill Stuart, Kaiser Sand and Gravel.

The Redwood Empire Chapter nominated Lance Heide of Napa County for the Peter Walsh Award in 1986 and 1987.

### PAST PRESIDENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 1987 the Executive Committee established an advisory panel composed of all past chapter presidents who were to meet once year for the purpose of maintaining the goals and ideals of the Association and to record the history of the Chapter. The current President is

charged with bringing the group together each August. This group has met only once so far but it was a most worthwhile gathering.

### OTHER COMMENTS

One of the keys to attendance at the monthly luncheon meetings has been to include meaningful programs at each meeting. Topics have included A.I.D.S., various safety topics, drug use on the job, Fish and Game requirements, alcoholism, hazardous materials topics, etc.

Current attendance at meetings range from 50 to 120 with an average of 70. Meeting locations are rotated within the Chapter area.

An annual roster is provided as well as a mid year supplement.

The monthly mailing list, roster and other records have been computerized for ease of maintenance.

A chapter history is maintain by the Secretary and includes rosters, correspondence minutes and other memorabellia.