

WORKSHOPS AND SPEAKERS

CAL SMACNA's 58th Annual Convention The Lodge at Torrey Pines, La Jolla, California, April 3-6, 2024

Workshop 1

Thursday, April 4, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

"California's Economic Outlook for Construction"

Dr. Anirban Basu, SMACNA's Chief Economist, is recognized as one of the foremost strategic analysts in the construction world. His presentation will leverage his knowledge of current market forces and past economic trends to inform CAL SMACNA contractors about what to expect in California for 2024 and beyond.



Dr. Anirban Basu is Chairman & CEO of Sage Policy Group, Inc., an economic and policy consulting firm headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland with an office in Orlando, Florida. The firm provides strategic analytical services to energy suppliers, law firms, medical systems, government agencies, and real estate developers among others.

In 2014, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan appointed him Chair of the Maryland Economic Development Commission (2014-2021). He serves as Chairman of the Baltimore County Economic Advisory Committee. He also serves the chief economist function for Associated Builders and Contractors, the Construction Financial Management Association, the Modular Building Institute, the Maryland Bankers Association, and several others.

He has taught at several universities, most frequently at the Johns Hopkins University. He currently teaches History of Economic Thought at Goucher College as their Distinguished Economist in Residence.

In 2007, 2016, and 2022, the *Daily Record* newspaper selected Dr. Basu as one of Maryland's 50 most influential people. The Baltimore Business Journal named him one of the region's 20 most powerful business leaders in 2010.

Dr. Basu is currently on the boards of the University of Maryland School of Law, St. Mary's College, the University of Maryland Medical Center, the University System of Maryland Foundation, the Lyric Opera House and the Archdiocese of Baltimore School System. He is also on Truist Bank's advisory board.

Dr. Basu earned his B.S. in Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He earned his Master's in Public Policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and his Master's in Economics from the University of Maryland, College Park. He acquired his Juris Doctor at the University of Maryland School of Law. He completed his doctoral work at UMBC with a concentration in health economics.

Workshop 2

Thursday, April 4, 2024

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

"Upcoming AI in Construction – How to Manage and Secure"

With over 300 million jobs expected to be displaced by Artificial Intelligence, and 30 million jobs lost; the future is changing for the workplace, job site and everywhere in between. As verticals scramble to adjust and adopt A.I., mistakes have been made in not only its application but also in management and security. In this presentation, Nick will explain what A.I. actually is, what its capabilities are, and how it's being applied successfully. We will then dive into proper management and use of A.I. and also how to secure systems, devices and robotics that are leveraging the most intelligent ways to accomplish tasks in the workplace. Do not miss this presentation!



An expert in cybersecurity and network infrastructure, **Nick Espinosa** has consulted with clients ranging from small businesses to the Fortune 100 level. In 1998, at age 19, Nick founded Windy City Networks, later acquired by BSSi2, where he is now CIO.

A nationally recognized speaker and industry thought leader, Nick advises company leaders on the future of technology and its impact on businesses and consumers. He is a member of the Forbes Technology Council, a TEDx Speaker, a regular columnist for Forbes, the co-author of a bestselling book *Easy Prey*, and host of the nationally syndicated radio show "The Deep Dive."

WORKSHOPS AND SPEAKERS

Nick Espinosa – continued

Additionally, Nick serves on the Board of Advisors for Roosevelt University's College of Arts and Sciences as well as their Center for Cyber and Information Security. He also serves as an advisor to the COVID-19 Cyber Threat Coalition.

Annual Business Meeting **Saturday, April 6, 2024** **8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

CAL SMACNA's annual business meeting is where delegates will vote on the 2024 Executive Committee and 2023 financial statements. Hear updates on SMACNA from National representatives.



CAL SMACNA President **Rick Reinholz**, CEO and President, Associate Mechanical Contractors, SMACNA of San Diego, will open the annual business meeting.

The following guest speakers will give updates on SMACNA activities:



Carol Duncan is SMACNA's President and CEO and Owner of General Sheet Metal in Clackamas, Oregon.

With nearly 40 years of leadership and expertise in the sheet metal industry, Duncan has helped grow the company from 25 employees to more than 180 since becoming CEO in 2000—building a positive corporate culture and keeping

both employees and clients happy. General Sheet Metal specializes in mechanical, architectural and HVAC fabrication, installation and repair services for the commercial and industrial markets.

Dedicated to addressing issues that affect the industry, Duncan has been active on the national legislative front for over 25 years, serving as the PAC Chair and Legislative Chair for many years. She is an active part of her local chapter, SMACNA Oregon & Southwest Washington. Duncan attended Mt. Hood Community College.



We are also honored to have SMACNA's Chief Executive Officer, **Aaron Hilger**, who will offer our membership a national update and share the latest issues and concerns affecting SMACNA.

Aaron became SMACNA's CEO in January 2022 after a long career leading the Builders Exchange of Rochester as their President & CEO. At Builders Exchange he managed 13 local and statewide trade associations, including the Construction Industry Association of Rochester, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (SMACNA) Rochester, the Roofers Industry Fund and New York State SMACNA. He has served as a trustee on building trades in upstate New York and left the role of Chair of the BAC Local 3 New York Funds to join SMACNA. He also served on the North Atlantic Carpenters Funds, Laborers Local 435 Funds, and Painters DC 4 Health Fund.

Aaron holds a BA in Political Science and Psychology from the University of Rochester, an MA in Political Management from The George Washington University, and an MBA from the University at Buffalo. Hilger was honored in 2007 with a Rochester 40 under 40 and in 2021 he received The Presidents Hammer award from Flower City Habitat for Humanity in recognition of leadership as chair of the Construction Committee and commitment to building a better Rochester.



CAL SMACNA is again privileged to have **Jason Watson**, SMACNA's Executive Director of Labor Relations, who will be giving us an update on National Labor Relations.

Jason has more than two decades of experience working with labor unions. He administers national labor agreements and specialty agreements covering over 4,000 contractors and 70,000 plus building trades' union members, serves as chief management spokesperson in industry labor negotiations and arbitration hearings, and develops and implements the Association bargaining objectives and strategies.

Jason provides labor relations and legal advice to contractors and local chapters engaged in labor negotiations and is charged with the chief responsibility of planning and conducting educational programs to improve industry national and local labor-management relations.

WORKSHOPS AND SPEAKERS

Jason Watson – continued

He holds a Masters' degree in Business from the State University of New York Polytechnic Institute and a Bachelors' degree in Political Science from Cazenovia College.

Keynote Speaker

Saturday, April 6, 2024

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

"Life is Magic"

With 14 years in the NFL as a professional athlete, a finalist on America's Got Talent and America's Got Talent: The Champions, a regular on the ELLEN Show, and a world-class speaker on Fortune 500 stages, Jon shares his inspiring journey from tragedy to self discovery. It's an extraordinary and empowering story of resilience, forgiveness, and living a life of purpose in the face of unfathomable obstacles.



Jon Dorenbos played 14 seasons in the NFL, notably making the Pro Bowl twice as a member of the Philadelphia Eagles, as well as being the Ed Block Courage Award recipient and the Eagles Walter Payton Man of the Year. He also holds the record for the most consecutive games played in Philadelphia Eagles franchise history.

Jon competed on Season 11 of *America's Got Talent* where he showcased his skills as a sleight-of-hand magician, making it to the finals and placing third overall amongst over 100,000 competitors. He then put his talent on display as a guest on *Ellen*, who quickly became one of his biggest fans and advocates. Jon appeared on *Ellen* more than any other guest in the history of the show. He also has been featured on *HBO Real Sports* more than any other guest in the history of that show as well. He retired from the NFL after he was diagnosed with a life-threatening heart condition requiring 15 hours of emergency open-heart surgery.

Known for his great sense of humor and positive outlook on life, Jon uses his skills as a magician and his incredible life story to inspire audiences around the world. He wrote a book titled *Life Is Magic* that draws a roadmap for how to shut that self-doubting voice up by choosing to find happiness in every situation. Producer Mike Tollin has optioned the book and is making it into a feature film. The screen play is being written by John Gatins, who was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for the drama film *Flight* with Denzel Washington.

President's Awards Luncheon

Saturday, April 6, 2024

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The agenda includes the annual legislative update, recognition of our generous sponsors and the announcement of the winners for the Ed Banks Memorial Award for Contractor of the Year, Tom Guilfooy Memorial Award for Craftsmanship of the Year, and the Safety Awards.