



# AICHE Orange County

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SECTION, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

No. 106

<http://www.aiche-orangecounty.org>

January 2003

## JANUARY DINNER MEETING

### WILL ChE's BE ALLOWED TO WORK IN CALIFORNIA? The Battle Continues.

**Robert A. Katin, PE**

**Thursday, January 30, 2003**  
**5:30 PM**

For years, we ChE's have been claiming that the State Engineers' Act arbitrarily restricts us from conducting chemical engineering because these activities have been defined by California law as the exclusive practice of civil engineers (CE's). We were successful in getting California Senate Bill 191 (SB 191) passed. It tasked an independent consultant, Cal State Sacramento's Institute for Social Research (ISR), to evaluate the Engineers' Act. We have increased awareness in the State Capital that the Engineering Board is dysfunctional. The Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee (JLSRC) requested that the Engineering Board respond to questions regarding why the Board had passed underground regulations, and why the Board promotes practice restrictions. We expect ISR's report and JLSRC hearings will be the basis for legislation authored by Senator Liz Figueroa.

NorCal AIChE, SoCal AIChE, and all other members of the California Legislative Council of Professional Engineers (CLCPE) have voted to oppose the continuation of the Engineering Board. Meanwhile the Board is still restricting activities ChE's can perform. The Board currently says that if you write reports, manage employees, manage contractors, or work with equipment that is geographically stationary (such as chemical plants, petroleum refineries, food plants, wastewater treatment plants, biopharmaceutical plants, energy production plants, and other process industries),

you must be a CE or be supervised by a CE. By California law, industry cannot hire their favorite consultant unless they are CE's, because after all, only CE's know about process industry. DOES THIS AFFECT YOU?

If this notice got your attention, attend the meeting to learn about the current status of chemical engineering in California and what you can do to promote your future career plans.

Robert A. Katin, PE is California AIChE's Government Relations Committee Chair (affectionately known as KeepUs). He represents us as CLCPE's President and served as NorCal AIChE's Chair twice. He is a licensed chemical engineer with over 28 years of experience. Due to downsizing and company buyouts, Bob not only has changed jobs, he has changed careers. Bob has operated nuclear power plants, chemical plants, and refinery units; been project manager of many jobs including a \$40 million expansion; has been Chief Engineer for engineering firms; and has been General Manager for an Instrument and Electric Contractor. To stay employed, he started his own company. Bob was a key member in the group that brought us AB 1354, SB 704, SB 2069, and SB 191; has testified at numerous hearings in Sacramento; and has met with State legislators and their consultants to increase their awareness of the ChE employment issues.

#### Meeting Schedule:

5:30 p.m.	Social Hour
6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:20 p.m.	Break
7:30 p.m.	After-Dinner Program

#### Place: Petroleum Club, Long Beach

**Directions:** Take 405 south to Long Beach. Exit Long Beach Blvd north. Right turn onto 36th Street. Left turn onto Linden Avenue. Petroleum Club is 3636 Linden Avenue. For a map or



general information about the club, go to their web page [www.lbpetroleumclub.com](http://www.lbpetroleumclub.com).

**Reservations: Please make a reservation at (949) 261-2622 by voice by Thursday, January 23. Or, you may email your reservation to [janice.west@ps.ge.com](mailto:janice.west@ps.ge.com).** Please specify your preference for either the main menu or the vegetarian menu when making your reservation.

**Cost:** Members, \$20 with a reservation, \$25 at the door; Non-Members, \$25 with reservation, \$30 at the door; Students/Unemployed/Retired, \$15 with reservation, and \$20 at the door.

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### Southern California AIChE Meetings

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The section for the LA area normally meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello. For reservations call (800) 274-3847. Visit their web site for the latest information [www.geocities.com/aiche\\_sc](http://www.geocities.com/aiche_sc)

#### KEEPUS By Bob Katin

*The following are excerpts from a report by Bob Katin, PE who is chairing AIChE's KeepUS lobby group:*

The long awaited report evaluating the State Engineers' Act by the independent consultant, ISR, was forwarded by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA, the Engineering Board's boss) to the State Legislature and the Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee in NOV 2002. The 260-page report is posted on the internet [http://www.dca.ca.gov/engineering\\_title\\_act.htm](http://www.dca.ca.gov/engineering_title_act.htm). The executive summary lists two principle recommendations:

1. Provide total overlap amongst the engineering disciplines.
2. Make all engineering disciplines practice protected.

Although, as ChE's we may have the formal education and experience to conduct tasks defined by State law to be CE, ME, or EE tasks, we are not legally allowed to conduct them. "Total Overlap" would legally allow ChE's to "overlap" and conduct work defined by law to be the exclusive area of expertise of CE's, ME's, and EE's. Right now, only the "practice" of civil, mechanical, and electrical engineering is restricted. In other words, only CE's can conduct civil engineering. That sounds

innocent enough until you read the State definition of civil engineering. The State definition for CE, ME, and EE includes virtually all tasks that ChE's perform. The ISR report recommends that the "practice" of all engineering disciplines be defined. State Law allows only engineering disciplines whose practice is defined to be in charge. By becoming a "practice" discipline, ChE's can legally be the manager of projects or a group.

It has been a long hard road and has taken a lot of time. The ISR report is very encouraging. This is the best position we have been in during the 10<sup>+</sup> years I have been fighting "the battle". However, we have not won "the war". The ISR report, as approved by DCA, is just a recommendation. One Legislator must author a bill to propose this recommendation become law. Once a bill is drafted, it needs to go through numerous committees. If it passes committee hearings, it goes through one house of the Legislature (Assembly or Senate), then the other house. If the two houses can agree on proposed wording changes to State law, it then goes to the Governor for his review. At best, this entire process will take until 2005 to become law.

ChE's have been donating money to support California AIChE's State Government Relations Committee (aka KeepUs) to support lobbying in favor of legislation to promote the standing of ChE's. Our goal is to collect \$20,000 to pay for the CLCPE lobbyist to meet with the Legislature. If that is not successful, we will need to hire a lawyer to file a lawsuit. This fiscal year, we have raised \$5432, and now have a total of \$18,180 toward our \$20,000 goal. If you can make a donation, please make your check payable to NorCal AIChE and mail it to my attention: Bob Katin, P. O. Box 4727, Antioch, CA 94509

Background information is posted on the NorCal AIChE website <http://www.aiche-norcal.org/> and from the home page select the tab on the top left corner for ADVOCACY.

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#### CALL FOR PAPERS

Presenters wanted for dinner topics and poster sessions for a special technical series tentatively scheduled for this summer. Warm-up for a national meeting, or just present your Senior Project. Please contact the Program Chair with your topic.



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## Lead Chocolate

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### I Hope this Problem Isn't as Bad as it Sounds

The American Environmental Safety Institute states that most of the chocolate products they purchased in stores in Los Angeles contained excessive lead and cadmium, in some cases more than 5 times the level considered safe. AESI has petitioned California to classify any cocoa products containing more than 0.02 ppm of lead as a source of environmental lead. According to the website <http://www.aesi.ws/>, some brands of chocolate they tested contained up to 0.105 ppm of lead, while others were as low as 0.00157 ppm. AESI found 1.44 micrograms of lead in a typical snack pack of M&Ms, compared to the California Proposition 65 "no significant risk" threshold of 0.5 micrograms per day. AESI is an environmental advocacy group that previously has taken on the issues of second-hand smoke in the home and the level of cadmium in Pokemon® children's vitamins.

### Do We Have Your E-Mail Address?

Newsletter delivery by e-mail has proven to be more reliable and expedient than the postal version. If you would like to receive the e-mail version, especially if you only want the e-mail version, please contact the editor at [Kris\\_lp@edwards.com](mailto:Kris_lp@edwards.com). Postage presently consumes a significant portion of our budget and volunteer time.

### Newsletter Contributors Wanted

The newsletter editor would like to hear from you if you have one or more brief articles to contribute, especially a review or brief discussion of a good website, technical book, etc.

### Professional Engineering Employment Update

**Job Seeking Members** can receive a list of web sites of area companies that sometimes hire ChEs. Contact the Senior Member Everett Knell at [EWKnell@aol.com](mailto:EWKnell@aol.com) to receive this list by e-mail.

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### 2002 Orange County AIChE Officers

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## Job Opportunities

① If you have an employment opportunity in Southern California for a chemical engineer, the newsletter will advertise it for free.

**American Institute of Chemical Engineers**  
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Irvine, CA 92623

**DATED MATERIAL**

***ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED***

