

# TRAC 2008 Officers & Board of Directors

## WILLIAM F. McGEEHAN, III Contra Costa County PRESIDENT

Bill grew up in Hazelton, Pennsylvania and studied at the John Miller School For Arts and Sciences. He then moved to Kansas City, Missouri to study audio engineering at the University of Missouri. He moved to California in his early twenties, working in the fields of disabled adaptive technology and design, in the transportation industry, for almost twenty years.



Bill believes the passenger rail system is going to see some of the best innovations and changes over the next several years, with progress and push from the train riding community, leading many other forms of transportation.

Bill recently had the opportunity to work closely with the design team at Amtrak on new sleeper car bathrooms. He was able to point out problems and positives with the design that will hopefully help passengers with mobility issues once those cars end up on the rails. Bill has logged about 370,000 miles so far by Amtrak and can't wait until he hits the half-million mark, which he is determined to do. He wants members to know that he is pleased to represent you, work with the board and the executive director to improve rail service in California.

## RICH McLAUGHLIN San Diego County VICE-PRESIDENT

A native of Chicago, IL, Rich grew up in Southern California watching sugar beet trains along Southern Pacific's Coast Line. Graduating from San Jose State University with a degree in Aero Engineering, he spent 22



years as a Naval Aviator. Since retiring from the Navy he's been employed by a Defense Contractor in San Diego, currently as Director of Strategic Business Activities. Rich has been interested in rail transportation my entire life and uses California and long distance trains at every opportunity.

Several years ago I joined TRAC in attempt to become more involved in the future of our rail systems. It is extremely important at this juncture that we maintain our route system and work towards improved service to give our Federal and State agencies the time to develop sound and workable rail strategies. We have some tough times ahead but the future is looking bright and rail, as the only environmentally sound choice for mass transportation, again gains support across all levels of Government.

## BOB REYNOLDS Sacramento County SECRETARY

Bob Reynolds is a second-generation Californian and fourth-generation rail man. His ancestors and relatives have worked on American iron horses since the mid-1800s, some getting killed during the notorious early days. He has traveled on the rails in Europe and Asia and has visited many



of the US's steam excursion operations over the last twenty years. He travels on the west Coast's commercial rails frequently. He started volunteering at TRAC after 2003's RAIL 2020 conference with an interest in California's evolving rail passenger network. He has since increased membership rolls at TRAC by more than ten percent.

He is a St. Mary's College of California graduate and has taught college and high school, flown Navy carrier jets, and managed several military programs over a 37 year career. In 2003 he retired from Air Force civil service as the business manager for the F-117 Stealth Fighter program office. He fills his retired days baby-sitting three avid railfan-toddlers, supplemented with volunteer activities and teaching religion to fifth graders. Last year the Friends of Amtrak web-published his fascinating account of TRAC's Board Meeting aboard the northbound Starlight, augmented with Rich McLaughlin's photos of the event.

## RANDELL HANSEN Sacramento County TREASURER

Born in New York and raised on Long Island, Randell graduated from Hofstra University with a major in Management and a minor in Accounting. He has been actively promoting rail for 8 years, but riding for much longer. Randell got around on Nassau County's local bus system, the Long Island Railroad, and New York subways. Because he thought he was always going to be a New Yorker and was proud to use transit, he didn't learn how to drive until he was 19.



Riding Amtrak trains around the US, he fell in love with California and knew he had to explore it further. In 2002, Randell moved to Northern California, first working in retail, then moving on to a fiscal job in state service. In Sacramento, he commutes via light rail and bus.

Randell wants to see expansion of local transit systems, improvements to Amtrak, and construction of high-speed rail. He has published letters in USA Today, the Sacramento Bee, and US News & World Report advocating more government investment in passenger rail. Randell believes membership expansion is a top goal because it will give TRAC a louder voice with Sacramento lawmakers and local leaders.

## LAURA BALDERREE Alameda County

Like many Americans, Laura grew up without the opportunity to ride passenger trains. She was born in July 1955 and the last passenger train left the depot in her home town in August 1955. Fortunately, on a youth study trip to Europe she discovered the many advantages of quality public transportation and has been a rider and advocate ever since. She has ridden most of Amtrak's routes at least once, commutes to work on the Capitol Corridor trains, and has been an active member of TRAC and NARP.



On the local public transportation level, she has worked on campaigns for transportation sales tax measures and served on the board of the Alliance for AC Transit. She appreciates the wider focus that TRAC has as a state-wide organization and welcomes the opportunity to be an advocate for improved passenger rail service in California as well as better rail connections between California and our neighboring states.

## LYNN FRANKS Sacramento County

Lynn has worked in the public transportation field for 28 years. The first five years he was employed by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) in Washington, D.C. where he certified employee protection agreements for recipients of federal mass transportation funds. He reviewed the agreements, and provided technical advice and mediation). He also conducted arbitrations in connection with the National Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970 for a small group of railroad and Amtrak employees.



Since then, most of his professional career has been in intercity rail passenger service, including work on the AB 971 study that began high speed rail study in California and the ACR 136 study that resulted in Capitol Corridor service. Lynn has been a member of TRAC since its inception and is an officer of the California Rail Foundation. He served as treasurer of TRAC for a year commencing in November 2004, followed by two years as Secretary.

## MARCEL MARCHON Santa Clara County

Marcel is 34 years old and works as Director of Software Engineering for a small Internet company called Travelzoo. He was elected as a TRAC board member at last year's meeting and had helped set up a redesigned website for TRAC the year before.



He was born in Switzerland and lived there until 4 years ago. He has been interested in trains ever since his grandmother started taking him along on her visits to relatives when he was 4 years old. After having lived in Switzerland all these years while relying on public transportation for all his mobility needs, he has a good idea what we're missing out on here in California.

He likes to ride trains and was fortunate to have the opportunity to make a cross-country trip on Amtrak in the spring of 2006. He has also traveled extensively on all kinds of trains in Europe — his favorite experience so far was the French TGV high speed trains. In his spare time, he also writes and operates a train-related "blog" (website) at <http://trainblog.com>

## MOE MOHANNA Sacramento County

Moe Mohanna emigrated to the United States from Iran in the late 1960's when he was in his late teens. His early years in the country were as an engineering student in the Boston area, where he learned the meaning of the phrase "cold and wet". California, with its sunshine and diversity attracted him, and he came to Sacramento in 1974.



He is a strong advocate for small business, and has helped numerous young entrepreneurs get a start in Sacramento. He has also been one of the few in the Sacramento business community who favor rail transit improvements.

Mohanna, prior to joining the TRAC board, filed suit to oppose a costly rearrangement of Sacramento's RT rail stations, a stance that has made him persona non grata among some in city officialdom. With his characteristic smile and a shrug he notes "That's politics." Mohanna, besides being a civil engineer, developer, and avid historic preservationist, has also been a

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## Join TRAC and Help Fight for Improved Trains

Clip & mail with your check or money order payable to:

### Train Riders Association of California (TRAC)

1025 Ninth Street #223 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 557-1667

Please fill out the following, or attach address label:

	Regular member	\$30-59	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____	Contributing member	\$60-124	<input type="checkbox"/>
Street _____	Sponsoring member	\$125-249	<input type="checkbox"/>
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	Sustaining member	\$250-499	<input type="checkbox"/>
Telephone _____ E-mail _____	Benefactor	\$500-2000	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Limited income	\$20-39	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	

To help TRAC regain paid full-time staff, I am enclosing a special donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a donation to TRAC's Legislative Action Fund in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I want to support the *Rail News*. Enclosed is a tax-deductible donation to TRAC's Educational arm, the **California Rail Foundation** in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_