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SPECIAL EDITION!

2008 Annual Conference of the League of California Cities

PiperJaffray®

<http://www.piperjaffray.com>

Since the League of California Cities leadership brought **Chris McKenzie** to the Executive Director position, the organization has improved in many ways. A look at the legislative "wins and losses record" indicates that the League's lobbying effort on behalf of the cities of California has improved. The outreach services to member cities, relatively non-existent in the past, have been established as an effective tool both for the cities individually and the League in carrying out its representative duties in the State Capitol. And, of course, the Annual Conference has been transformed into a "Cities' Event of the Year."

We reached Long Beach early on Wednesday (September 24) to visit with conference delegates as they arrived and to get a good "lay-of-the-land." Of course, Chris was already there meeting with staff and attending to last minute details. As is his way though, he had time to stop and chat. He mentioned that he lost his 95-year old father the previous week, and told some stories about his grit to the end. We again send our condolences to Chris and his family.

Women Leading Government (WLG)
A Cal-ICMA Coaching Program WLG is designed to assist female managers in their career development.
<http://www.womenleadinggovernment.org/>

Chris noted that even with the poor economy and the resultant budget challenges facing California cities, the pre-registration for the 2008 conference was right at 1,700, pushed to 2,000+ with exhibitors. City officials recognize the importance of pulling together especially during times of need.

We also had the occasion to briefly chat with **Eric Figueroa** of the League on Wednesday morning and we spotted **Dwight Stenbakken** conducting a staff meeting in the hotel coffee shop.

After a speed-run to LAX to pick up our daughter **Casey Simpson**, who flew in from Nashville, we hustled back to the Long Beach Convention Center. Casey came to perform at the Annual Cruisin' For a Cure prostate cancer research fundraising program on Saturday at the Orange County Fairgrounds.

Many delegates and exhibitors had arrived by the time I returned, and it was like "old home week" as I made my way to the registration desk. **Elaine Aguilar**, Sierra Madre's fine City Manager, introduced the new Bradbury City Manager **Michelle Keith**. Norwalk Vice Mayor **Cheri Kelley** said "Hello" as she sat in the coffee shop area and took a cell phone call from Norwalk City Manager **Ernie Garcia**. **Marshall Linn**, a principal with Urban Futures, Inc. was there, along with a table surrounded with the seated Moreno Valley City Manager **Bob Gutierrez**; former Hercules City Manager **Mike Sakamoto**, who recently left Kinsell Newcomb & De Dios; El Segundo Assistant City Manager **Bill Crowe**, **Bob Dickey**, South Gate Public Works Director, and San Gabriel and La Verne City Attorney **Bob Kress**.



www.muni.com

Every California City Manager and primary assistant should be a member of the

[California City Management Foundation](http://www.cacitymanagers.org)



www.cacitymanagers.org

Before filling out the on-site registration form for processing, Western City Advertising Manager **Pam Maxwell-Blodgett** and **Sara Rounds**, with Western City Subscriptions and classified advertisements, stopped by to chat. During our years as a Senior Vice President in Marketing we always found Pam and the Western City's staff to be easy to work with and highly professional in their dealings.

If you have made it this far, you probably have a good feel for how the rest of this text proceeds. Our mission is to do our part to keep people in the city management craft connected. We do our best to list the names of as many city managers as possible.

Of course, we plead guilty to our inability to know everyone...unfortunately. However, since we have a shortcoming in our capacity to recognize and identify everyone at the conference there will be many left out of this text. We apologize. However, we do not subscribe to the notion that because we cannot name everyone, we should not name anyone. Our view is to try to recognize as many people as we can.

 The advertisement for Joe A. Gonsalves & Son features a decorative border with a stylized illustration of the California State Capitol building and a bear. The text inside the border reads:

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2008 Annual LCC Conference

We attended the Opening General Session where Long Beach Mayor **Bob Foster** welcomed the group. National League of Cities President **Cynthia McCollum** addressed the convention, and the Keynote Address was delivered by "No Barriers Only Solutions," **Neal Petersen**. In a slight departure from the printed programs and speeches, League President **Jim Madaffer**, San Diego Council Member, did a wonderful job describing the failings of the State Legislature, indicating that our State governance system is broken. Though most Legislators are well-intentioned they are ill-equipped to navigate the existing system to do the governance job the constituents of California deserves...witness the very late and poor State Budget.

Chris McKenzie noted that most public polls say two main things about California State Government: 1) The Legislature is doing a lousy job; and 2) Efforts are needed to address climate control. People are outraged by the lackadaisical attitude the State shows toward lawfully established deadlines, and they are highly concerned about environmental issues.



<http://caltrust.org/>

Contact Lyle Defenbaugh about CalTRUST investment opportunities for cities. Lyle.Defenbaugh@wachoviaps.com

Wednesday evening the good folks of Piper Jaffray hosted a wonderful and well-attended reception at the Hyatt Hotel. **Mark Curran** and his staff did their usual superb job of providing a comfortable and classy environment with appropriate beverages and snacks. With his "right arm" **Melanie Arner** on maternity leave, Mark deserves a huge round of applause for getting it done in the usual "Piper fashion" anyway.



<http://www.wolfhousing.com/>

Those we saw, chatted with or ducked (just kidding) at the Piper Jaffray shindig include: **Hugh R. Riley**, Assistant City Manager in Moorpark; Corning City Manager **Steve Kimbrough**; **Joe Tanner**, Vallejo City Manager; Professional Legislative Representative **Anthony Gonsalves** and his wife **Evelyn Gonsalves**; Atascadero Assistant City Manager **Jim Lewis**; El Segundo Assistant City Manager **Bill Crowe**; Huntington Park City Manager **Gregory Korduner** and his wife **Karen Korduner**; Santa Rosa City Manager **Jeff Kolin**; Half Moon Bay City Manager **Marcia Raines** introduces her Mayor **Bonnie McClung**. Others there included: **Bill Kelly** of Urban Futures, Inc., who is the current Interim City Manager in Yorba Linda, and his wife **Chris Kelly**, who is the Community Development Director in Chino Hills; retired Moreno Valley City Manager **Gene Rogers**; **Mike Busch** of Urban Futures, Inc.; San Gabriel and La Verne City Attorney **Bob Kress**; and a number of representatives of the host firm Piper Jaffray, including **Katie Koster**, **Bernie Mikell**, **Dennis McGuire**, Sacramento Managing Director, and, of course, **Mark Curran**.

Listen to Country Music Singer Casey Simpson

www.myspace.com/caseysimpsonmusic

2008 Annual LCC Conference



Hugh Riley, Moorpark ACM; **Huntington Park** City Manager **Greg Korduner**; **Steve Kimbrough**, Corning City Manager; and **Vallejo** City Manager **Joe Tanner** at the Piper Jaffray reception.

Later Wednesday evening the crowd gathered at the Museum of Latin American Art at 628 Alamito Avenue, Long Beach, for the Third Annual CITIPAC Leadership Gala Casino Night fundraiser in conjunction with a hospitality reception co-hosted by Willdan and Keenan & Associates. We jumped on a full special shuttle bus at the Hyatt Hotel with **Anthony and Evelyn Gonsalves** and rode to the museum.

The museum's meeting room and quad areas were crowded with CITIPAC supports. A big band entertained outside and casino card tables were scattered throughout. Our cursory scan of the gathering produced the following partial list of city manager and staff who are active League friends and supporters: **Julia James**, Finance Director, South Gate; **Mike Egan**, City Manager, Bellflower; **Rick Pucci**, City Administrator, Bishop; **Dave Anderson**, Saratoga City Manager; **Desert Hot Springs** City Manager **Rick Daniels**; **Bob Gutierrez**, Moreno Valley City Manager; and **McFarland** City Manager **Jerry Forde**.



<http://www.ejdelarosa.com/>



<http://www.styo.com/>

On Thursday morning we stopped by the City Managers' Department Meeting. Seated at the "Speakers Table" were **Ken Pulskamp**, Santa Clarita City Manager; **Mountain View** City Manager **Kevin Duggan**; **Santa Rosa** City Manager **Jeff Kolin** and **Poway** City Manager **Rod Gould** (**Mountain View**, **Poway** and two Santas). Again we admit to not know everyone, especially from a back-of-the-head view, but here is our partial list of those in attendance: **Rick Pucci**, Bishop; **Greg Korduner**, Huntington Park; **Mike Egan**, Bellflower; **David Jinkens**, South Lake Tahoe; **Jon Shull**, California Joint Powers Insurance Authority; **John Moreno**, ACM in Paramount; **Rick Daniels**, Desert Hot Springs; **Anne Harasksin**, Assistant to and City Clerk in La Mirada; **Hercules** City Manager **Nelson Oliva**; retired **Hercules** City Manager **Michael Sakamoto**; **Mike Parness**, Napa; **Laguna Hills** City Manager **Bruce Channing**; **George Rodericks**, Belvedere; **Bob Gutierrez**, Moreno Valley; **Signal Hill** City Manager **Ken Farfing**; **South El Monte** City Manager **Tony Ybarra** and Assistant City Manager **Jennifer Vasquez**; **Yucca Valley** City Manager **Andy Takata**; **Rick Cole**, Ventura; **Lafayette** City Manager **Steve Falk**; **Rancho Cucamonga** ACM **Pam Easter**; **Beverly Hills** City Manager **Rod Wood**; **Bill Kelly**, Interim City Manager in Yorba Linda, retired City Manager from Arcadia and a principal with Urban Futures, Inc.; **Jim Lewis**, ACM in Atascadero; veteran retired city manager **Mike Garvey**; **Jerry Forde**, McFarland; **Ernie Garcia**, Norwalk; **Ken Hampian**, San Luis Obispo; and Rancho Cucamonga DCM **John Gillison**.



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Of course, there were twice as many people in the room but our recognition skills were stressed beyond capacity. Thanks to Willdan Financial Services' **Frank Tripepi** and **Mike Sakamoto** for their assistance. **Natasha Perl** of the League staff did a fine support job for the session.

CRA Executive Director **John Shirey** did a good job presenting the crisis circumstances the State Legislature created for many of California's Redevelopment Agencies with the new and late State Budget. Once again the State's spending plan out paces its' ability to pay for it with available State funds. Once again the State is reaching into the coffers of local government. John discussed the possibility of legal action to keep the State from using the constitutionally protected redevelopment agency funds.

After the morning breakout sessions, most conference delegates and exhibitors gathered in a large second floor assembly hall to listen to California Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**. Of course we saw many of the same folks we saw previously at various times and places during the conference, so we tried to take note of new faces. I sat with **Marshall Linn** of Urban Futures, Inc., who was next to Ridgecrest City Manager **Mike Avery**. Others we saw in the Governor's crowd included: Simi Valley ACM **Dan Paranick**; Claremont City Manager **Jeff Parker** and ACM **Tony Ramos**; South Gate Assistant to **Brian Cooke**; Half Moon Bay City Manager **Marcia Raines**; Westlake Village City Manager **Ray Taylor**; retired City Manager **Kevin Murphy** of PARS; Laguna Niguel City Manager **Tim Casey**; **Phil Carter** of PMC; **Gregory Korduner**, Huntington Park City Manager; and Vista City Attorney **Darrell Piper**, a member of the CCMF Board.

Keenan
Associates

www.keenan.com



Atascadero Assistant City Manager **Jim Lewis** poses with **Bernie Mikell** and **Katie Koster** of Piper Jaffray.

His star value still in tacked, the Governor attracted a standing-room-only audience. He was glib and entertaining as usual at one point quoting Einstein about not expecting different outcomes when repeating the same actions. Following the Governor's talk the crowd moved along to gather lunch in the Exposition area. After collecting a half of turkey sandwich, some chips and a Diet Coke, I found a seat at a table with Belvedere City Manager **George Rodericks** and Brea Assistant City Manager **Terry Matz**. Others noted in the Exposition area include: Irvine City Manager **Sean Joyce**; Orange Cove City Manager **Alan Bengyel**; **Don Pauley**, City Manager in Kingsburg; and recruiter "extraordinaire" **Bob Murray**, also a former city manager.

Urban Futures Inc.

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With the weakened economy, we thought it of interest to visit the session on "Improving Your Community through Community Facilities District (CFD) Financings" in Room 202. Piper Jaffray Managing Director **Mark Curran** presided. Since the League limited those at the speaker's table to three, Piper Jaffray executive **Dennis McClure** was relegated to the audience, while **Phil Carter**, President of PMC, Rancho Cordova, and Rancho Cordova Assistant City Manager **Joe Chinn** made presentations.

Following the session, I walked with Norwalk City Manager **Ernie Garcia** and Long Beach City Manager **Pat West** to the Terrace Theater for the General Session Keynote address by **Richard Florida**. We also saw the Past Presidents' Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to **Harriet Miller**, former Mayor of Santa Barbara.



Professional Legislative Representative **Anthony D. Gonsalves**, with Norwalk City Manager **Ernie Garcia** and Long Beach City Manager **Pat West** at the 2008 Annual Conference of the League of California Cities.



www.joneshall.com

Thursday evening Mayor **Bob Foster** and the Long Beach host delegation presented a gala reception of the promenade outside the Long Beach Convention Center. I walked to those festivities with **Pat West**, and then made my way to Smooth's on Pine Avenue to attend a **USC** City/County Management Fellowship Fund program hosted by **Eric J. Middleton**, Alliance Resource Consulting's Managing Partner. Among those suffering the poor televised performance of Coach **Pete Carroll's USC** Trojan football team were:

La Cañada Flintridge City Manager **Mark Alexander** and Management Analyst **Carl Alameda**; former El Segundo City Manager **Jeff Stewart** and his wife **Sheryl Musicant** of the Lakewood staff; former Covina City Manager **Paul Philips**; **Bruce Channing**, Laguna Hills City Manager and CCMF Board member; Atascadero ACM **Jim Lewis**; El Segundo ACM **Bill Crowe**; **David Huntoon** of Claremont-McKenna Colleges; **Heather Dion** of Townsend & Associates; and Willdan Financial Services' **Frank Tripepi**, **Paul Whitelaw**, and **Chris Fisher**.



<http://www.bobmurrayassoc.com/>

On Friday morning after the Division breakfast meetings, I wandered toward the Exposition talking to friends and acquaintances. McFarland City Manager **Jerry Forde** introduced me to a couple of his San Joaquin Valley friends. Jerry has been working hard to find solution to a red-tagged sewer treatment plant...how best to obtain the necessary funding? Unlike the State the city cannot take from some "inferior" agency to satisfy its spending needs.

"Ho 'O Mau"



Gracie's Daddy **Jim Lewis**, Atascadero ACM, leads a "Go Trojans" cheer at the **USC** gathering at Smooth's hosted by **Eric Middleton** of Alliance Resource Consulting LLC.

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It was enjoyable to have HdL's **Lloyd de Llamas** stopped to chat. Lloyd is a former City Manager and very knowledgeable regarding California governments and its' economy. It appears as if California's cities will need to weather another 18 to 24 months of the economic downturn. Hang on to your hats and glasses!

While awaiting the Expo opening I walked to the coffee concessionaire. There I ran into Norwalk Mayor Pro tem **Cheri Kelley**. She had a bottled water while I sipped a Diet Coke. City Manager **Ernie Garcia** soon joined us. While sitting at a table in the concessionaire area, we bumped into a good number of people, including: **Paul Philips**, **Bob Kress**, **Andy Takata**, **Elaine Aguilar**, and Long Beach Government Relations Manager **Tom Modica**. **Bill Kelly** was at another table hard at work and **Eric Figueroa** of the League staff was table-hopping and visiting with city folks.



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After meeting up with the Norwalk group of Mayor Pro tem **Cheri Kelley**, City Manager **Ernie Garcia** and Director of Human Relations and Risk Management **Ernie Hernandez**, we walked across the street to Gladstone's for lunch. I almost literally ran into **JoAnne Speers** of the Institute for Local Government when exiting the center. JoAnne has worked extensively with public officials as general counsel and research director of the League. In 1999 she was name Public Lawyer of the Year by the Public Law Section of the State Bar. Her husband **Randy Pestor** is an executive assistant on a State Senate staff.

While seated in the outside seating area at Gladstone's, we had an unobstructed view of the shoreline dock area, and watched as Long Beach City Manager **Pat West** and Assistant City Manager **Suzanne M. Frick** came ashore from a high-speed off-shore race boat after a demonstration cruise at more than 100-mph. The fast boats were gathered in the marina for a weekend Poker Run. Pat and Suzanne entered the restaurant with the boaters, and stopped by our table and acknowledged the thrill of the high speed boat run.



Willdan Engineering's **Bill Pagett**, a retired professional boat racer, talks to McFarland City Manager **Jerry Forde**. Bill raced for several years, and was a National Champion racing K-boats at more than 150 mph. Jerry is a California surfer at every possible opportunity.

**"Laughter is the shortest distance
between two people."**

--Victor Borge

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After lunch I poked my head into the concurrent session entitled: "We're Only As Good As Our Employees." San Luis Obispo City Manager **Ken Hampian** and Beverly Hills City Manager **Rod Wood** were joined at the speakers table by Redwood City Mayor **Rosanne Foust**. An effective work force makes for a happy community, and it is not all about compensation. Supportive leadership should develop a positive culture impacting how employees feel about coming to work. **Rod Wood** noted that **"Life is not like a box of chocolates. It's more like a box of Jalapeños. What you do today will visit you tomorrow."**

During our last circuit of the Expo area we ran into retired city manager and old friend **Guy Huffaker**, who is currently a Senior Municipal Services Advisor for Quad Knopf, an engineering consultant firm headquartered in Visalia. Guy served as City Manager in Porterville and Colton. He was in Porterville for nearly 25-years. Guy introduced some of his colleagues, including **Lydia Zabrycki**, Director of Business Partnering.

We also had the occasion to chat with **Bill Stracker**, who is currently with Dean Ryan Consultants, engineers, scientists and planners, headquartered in Los Angeles. And, we had a nice chat with **Heather Renschler**, President and Chief Executive Officer with Ralph Andersen & Associates since 1985. It was also good seeing former City Manager **Jason Caudle** now of Kinsell, Newcomb & De Dios, Irwindale City Manager **Bob Griego** & active retired CM **Mike Garvey**.

Again we apologize to those we missed. Next time tap us on the shoulder and say "Hi." From our perspective, this year's conference was quite successful. We hope you find this thumbnail sketch of the Trackdown conference experience of some interest.

Trackdown Posse Roster

Thank you for the generous support:

Gregory Korduner, Huntington Park *
Howard Chambers, Lakewood
Mike Egan, Bellflower
Ernie Garcia, Norwalk
Joe Tanner, Vallejo
Bob Gutierrez, Moreno Valley
Dave Carmany, Seal Beach
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Linda Lowry, Pomona **
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Deborah Lopez, Pico Rivera
Glenn Southard, Indio
Jan Perkins, Management Partners
Andy Takata, Yucca Valley
Marcia Raines, Half Moon Bay
Gene Rogers, Moreno Valley (Retired)
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Arthur C. Simonian, Simonian Consulting, Inc.
Philip Vince, Moraga
Bob Griego, Irwindale
Ken Caresio, Retired City Manager
Greg Nordbak, Midway City Sanitary District
Carlos Urrutia, Rocklin
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David M. Jinkens, South Lake Tahoe
Wade McKinney, Atascadero
Mike & Judie Sedell, Simi Valley
Andy Lazzaretto, A.C. Lazzaretto & Associates
Fred Guido, County of Los Angeles
Tim Kerr, Turlock
Doug LaBelle, Chino Hills
City of Cerritos

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2008 Annual LCC Conference

Many thanks go to the Willdan gang for allowing me to hang out at their Exposition booth, as well as, for all they did for the conference, including the CITIPAC Casino Night. They did a fine job of dispensing cold iced tea and lemonade and warm churros at their Expo booth. At the risk of missing someone here is our attempt at recognizing the Willdan folks who were there: President & CEO **Tom Brisbin, Frank G. Tripepi, Mort August, Bill Pagett, Dave Hunt, Kimberly Gant, Al Warot, Adel Freij, Emilio Murga, Jeff Atteberry, Paul Whitelaw, Chris Fisher, Roxanne Hughes, Francesca Fuentes, Elroy Kiepkke, Ross Khiabani, and Ron Espalin.** Also, thanks go to the Keenan staff for their part in making the conference successful, including the co-sponsorship of the CITIPAC Casino Night. Among those representing the company were Assistant to the Vice President **Chad H. Morgan** and **Renee Wingert.** 🍁



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Cruisin' For A Cure

Orange County Fairgrounds

Saturday,
September 27, 2008

We missed the closing sessions on Saturday as we were committed to the prostate cancer research fundraising one-day car show Cruisin' For A Cure at the Orange County Fairgrounds. Our daughter Casey flew in from Nashville to perform at the program. She sang the National Anthem at the opening ceremonies, and did an hour and a half concert starting at noon.



Country Singer **Casey Simpson**, a veteran of the Nashville Star television show and Cerritos native, performed at the prostate cancer research charity fundraiser.



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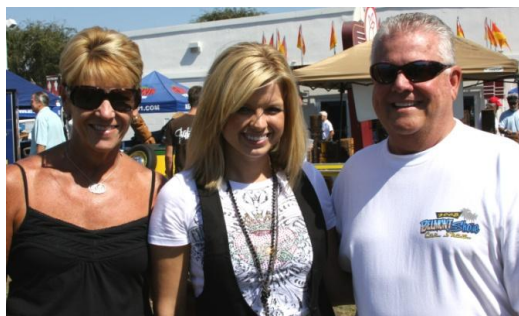
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Picking Up the Pieces: Los Altos Assistant City Manager **Starla Jerome-Robinson**, who is a former Finance Director in Atherton and Milpitas, has been selected by Menlo Park City Manager **Glen Rojas** to assume the Assistant City Manager position in that city (where she lives) effective October 20. **William Stookey**, who along with the late **Dan Heil** was a Founder of Willdan, passed away in September, 2008. Retired Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Chief **Michael Nagaoka** lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on Saturday, September 27, 2008. Mike worked with the City of Industry following his retirement from the Sheriff's Department. City Manager **Jeff Allred** and the Norco community are dealing with the loss of Council Member **Hal Clark**, who died of cancer at age 66. Rohnert Park City Manager **Steve Donley**, 37, a Lieutenant in the U.S. Coast Guard reserve, will take a year leave of absence after being called to active duty. Assistant City Manager **Dan Schwarz** will serve as Interim City Manager in his absence. eCivis executive **Brad McKinney**, formerly a Willdan marketing professional, has been appointed to a special internship training discipline-rotation program with the City of Anaheim.



Donna and Bill Pagett with Country Singer **Casey Simpson** at the Cruisin' For a Cure prostate cancer research charity event. The Pagetts have been Casey fans and supporters since her teenage years.

Daughter **Casey Simpson**, 23, and Granddaughter **Jamie Hearther**, 7, both celebrated their birthdays on September 29th...Happy Birthday to both. Retired West Covina City Manager **Herman R. "Bob" Fast** served more than 14-years there, and currently lives in Fairmont, Minnesota. Bob also was City Manager in Chino from 1972 to 1976. With the retirement of long-time CCMF Board member **Kevin O'Rourke**, former City Manager of Fairfield, Buena Park and Stanton, he leaves the Board but will remain active.



Jennifer Hill of eCivis and **Paul Whitelaw** of Willdan Financial Services at the 2008 Annual League Expo.



Huntington Park City Manager Greg Korduner and former La Habra Heights City Manager Sheryl Lindsey Boell at the 2008 League Expo. Sheryl is currently with CH2M HILL on assignment in Georgia.

Former Bell City Administrator **John Bramble**, 62, City Manager in Brighton, Colorado, is replacing 16-year Merced City Manager veteran **Jim Marshall**, who is retiring. Retired Paramount City Manager and CJPIA Executive Director **Bill Holt** used the word "solipsistic" in a sentence...and he is right about the Terminator and Steinberg. Fort Jones is in Siskiyou County with a 2000 census population of 600. Grand Terrace City Manager **Tom Schwab**, 51, hopes to return to work early next year, after recuperating from a cerebral hemorrhage. ACM **Steve Berry** has been Acting City Manager.