

## Paul Hansen

*Candidate — President*

My name is Paul Hansen, and I am humbled to be running for the President position on the 2021 State Board of Directors. I am a husband of 10 years and a father to two beautiful elementary-aged girls. I am also a second-generation green industry professional following the footsteps of my father. As a young boy, my father demonstrated and taught me how to care for a beautiful landscape. I have carried his passion for hard work into my professional career of approximately 16 years now. I have maintained a steadfast interest in learning as much as I can about our industry. I currently hold my ISA Certified Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor licenses and QWEL certifications. I serve SouthWest Landscape in Southern California as the Director of Client Services.

I started my tenure as an active CLCA member in the Orange County chapter in 2012. I served as the Programs Committee Chair for one year and as the

Chapter President for two years. In 2017 and 2018 I served as the CPC South Co-Chair on the State Board of Directors. In 2019, I served as the Director of Resource Management on the State Board of Directors. Most recently, I have served as President-Elect on the State Board of Directors. Through the years, I have had a growing passion for our industry, our industry leaders, and the industry that gives my family and me so much.

As President of the CLCA State Board of Directors, I will commit to learning about the membership's current needs. I would make an effort to go out into the local Chapters and listen. I want to carry forth the vision and mission of the CLCA in unity with the grassroots efforts being done with each of our local Chapters. I pledge to work with other passionate members of our Association to expand efforts to connect with the Hispanic market via the development of Spanish language materials, training events, and support. I ask for your vote and help. It would be my honor to hold this position, and I would do so with integrity and passion.

## Megan Rios

*Candidate — President Elect*

My name is Megan Rios. I am running for the President Elect position. I have been CLCA Director of Legislation since 2018. I was awarded the honorable Mickey Strauss Grassroots Award in 2018.

My Landscape Architecture firm, Rios Design Studio LLC is in Bakersfield. We are licensed landscape architects and appreciate the value of working with licensed landscape contractors. Rios Design Studio believes in showing our clients that we (landscape architects and landscape contractors) are a team focused on the goal of completing the project within the best practices of our professions. As part of the construction team, we prepare the landscape documents for municipal agency submittal and approval and bidding purposes, as well as providing site observation and reports to keep the team informed when construction may deviate from the plans.

I have been active with CLCA since 1990 in the Inland Empire when I worked for Randy Hlubik & Associates in Riverside. Rios Design Studio has been active since 2010 in the Kern County Chapter and its board. I have served on our local board as Secretary for several years prior to taking up the Legislative Chair as well as Programs & Events. Rios Design Studio has chosen to be very involved with our local Kern County Chapter because we believe that it is important to be surrounded by highly ethical professionals and enjoy the camaraderie.

As your current Legislative Director, I strive to defend and market CLCA's expansive capacity to have a license that encompasses many facets of outdoor space design, installation, and maintenance. Licensure of our professions is imperative to maintain the highest level of work, including the health, safety, and welfare of the

public. In California, we need to be vigilant in maintaining our business health by keeping our voices heard, whether it be supporting or opposing bills authored in the State Assembly or Senate, and signed or vetoed by our governor. I have worked hard to enlarge the Legislative Committee and want to see that each chapter has a member involved to ensure that word gets out just how much CLCA is working on your behalf against the tides of our current legislature.

I continue to urge every chapter to invite their representatives to speak and network at general meetings. Our relationship with our representatives is so imperative. We try to connect with them regularly to help direct the laws which affect our businesses and professions. We, as employers, take care of our employees, and want a business-friendly environment in which to grow. We were able to subvert several dastardly bills that would have brought the profession of C-27s to an upheaval.

I will continue to stand up for our legislative powers while aligning with other affiliates to strengthen our profession and licensure. Involvement in our organization creates leaders. We are leaders in our field and our communities. I will work towards continuing to attract new members, retain existing members, and improve education through CEU opportunities. As an Associate, I appreciate our vendor support and dedication in our journey. We cannot do this without them. I wish to see each chapter welcome diversity and embrace our future as Urban Specialists.

If 2020 has shown us anything, it's that we need to pivot in a positive direction to meet the needs and desires of our present members and future members. There are a lot of great ideas within our creative crowd. I am confident that our future going forward is very bright and green. I would appreciate your consideration in voting for me to be your future President Elect.

## Alex Salazar

*Candidate — Secretary/Treasurer*

My name is Alex Salazar. I have been nominated for CLCA State Treasurer, thank you for your consideration.

Four years ago I was invited to serve on the Ways and Means Committee by my good friend and mentor Eric Watanabe. It was at this committee that my eyes were opened. I learned how intricate the CLCA organization is. Most importantly, I learned what a positive impact it makes not just for contractors but for all people within our trade. The CLCA lifts up our brand because it makes so many of us better at what we do.

I, like many of my CLCA peers, grew up in the gardening trade. My father and his father before him were gardeners. When I was 8 years old I would jump inside my fathers truck to go to “work” with him. I might collect

one or two piles of leaves, but mostly I would hang out in the truck and eat the lunch my mom had packed for us. Fast forward nearly 30 years and I am so happy to still be in this field. At a time when there is so much difficulty around us, I am grateful we are able to bring joy and relief to many, especially homeowners — ensuring that their outdoor spaces are clean, enjoyable and safe.

I started volunteering at the San Fernando Valley Chapter several years ago. I noticed that as I began to take on more responsibility I also learned more. Last year I was lucky to serve as president for the LA/San Gabriel Valley Chapter. It was a humbling experience, and an education like no other. We were able to do many good things.

I hope you will consider my candidacy for this assignment. If elected, I hope to do my part to support both the serving 2021 Board of Directors and this great organization. Thank you.

## Tom Sweeney

*Candidate — Director of Resource Management*

My name is Tom Sweeney and I've been in the landscape profession for over 40 years. Most of my tenure has been spent with Landscape Care Company, located in Martinez, as Operations Vice President.

Some of my duties include: Staffing (HR), scheduling, estimating, job costing, fleet maintenance, site supervision, labor distribution, client interaction and customer satisfaction.

Landscape Care Co started in 1970. We're celebrating 50 years of service, predominately with HOA's, PUD's and other commercial sites.

Landscape Care has been a member of CLCA since 1986 and has benefited from many of the programs and services provided by the association.

I'm an ISA Certified Arborist and hold a Qualified Applicators Certificate with the state of California. I provide consultation services and recommendations for our clients, including effective water management improvement projects and recommendations for landscape renovations.

My passion is water conservation and through CLCA became a Certified Water Manager (Expert-Level). I served as Chair of the Water Management Program from 2008 through 2011 and have been an active task force member ever since. The Water Management Program has evolved and been through many changes and will continue to grow as water sources become more scarce and the cost of water becomes more expensive. I have worked closely with Contra Costa Water District and East Bay Municipal Utility District and their rebate programs and continue a relationship with these partners.

Last year, I was asked to co-chair the Resource Management Committee and was voted in this year to serve out the remaining term.

Since then, the committee and I have had numerous projects with MWELo workshops, a new education Series and the WMP.

I would like to finish what I started and continue on as the Director of Resource Management and look forward to working with a great staff and my colleagues up and down the state.