

GSA Insider

Great Service Always!

GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY NEWSLETTER AUG 2021

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From the Director...

GSA Makes Its Countywide Social Media Debut

Housekeeping and Mail Couriers Spotlighted on County's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter Pages

As part of a recent and ongoing campaign to raise public awareness of all that County employees do “behind the scenes” to improve the quality of life for everyone in Ventura County, Assistant Public Information Officer Jackie Nunez has begun an earnest effort to bring information to the public in a manner that makes it more easily accessible. Because we live in a digital world, the quickest way to do so



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This issue of the *GSA Insider* brings our agency firmly into the spotlight—showing once again how GSA values providing great service always to our internal and external customers. You'll see many great stories about how GSA employees have been going the extra mile: helping out RMA to get needed resources and services, saving the Sheriff and Clerk of the Board money, and finding less expensive ways to renew our own software licenses.

And, when it comes to “seeing” our employees more, GSA recently made our debut on the County's social media platforms! Read about how some of our lesser-known team members received some great exposure on the County's Facebook site as part of the County's overall effort to highlight public outreach and let the public know about the diversity of services we provide across the County.

Speaking of firsts, this past spring, GSA hosted a virtual conference of the County General Services Association (CGSA) of California. More than 132 participants attended the 3-day conference, and Ventura had two members of senior leadership present on key topics. The conference was a huge success—read on for all the details.

Until next time,

David J. Sasek, P.E.

is often via social media: Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram have quickly become fast-growing platforms for disseminating information.

In addition to using the County’s social media platforms to get information out to the public quickly—such as library hour changes, clinic updates, and animal shelter information—these avenues of expression are also useful in shining a spotlight on some of the lesser known areas of County service—where GSA thrives. We’re grateful to have Ms. Nunez’s understanding of the great behind-the-scenes service our GSA employees provide. The GSA Grounds crew recently received a “shout out” on the County’s Facebook and Twitter pages in early July.

Kathy Johnson Mulford
Sabino we miss you at the Rose vaccine clinic!! You did a wonderful job serving the public during your time as a DSW!
Like Reply 3w 1

County of Ventura
July 6 at 10:35 AM · 🌐

Meet our Grounds Team – Lorenzo, Steve, Antonio, Juan, and Sabino (left to right). They help keep over 100 acres of land beautiful, clean, and safe for people who visit and work at the Ventura County Government Centers at the County's General Services Agency.

"We are of service to the community. The County's mission of supporting our community is what motivates us," – said Antonio who has worked for the County for 14 years.

During the pandemic, Antonio and Sabino were deployed as #DisasterServiceWorkers with the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging to deliver hundreds of meals a day to older adults as part of the #GreatPlatesDelivered program. While they cared for people, their colleagues Lorenzo and Juan stepped up and worked hard to maintain the upkeep of the government centers – landscaping, irrigation, trash removal, and more.

People like Lorenzo, Steve, Antonio, Juan, and Sabino are committed to serving our community and we are so grateful for their work.

Learn more about the County of Ventura's General Services Agency at <https://www.ventura.org/general-services-agency/>.

Many County employees took the opportunity to comment on the great work these guys did as Disaster Service Workers during the pandemic as well.

A week later, mail courier Veronica Villalobos received her own cameo (*see page 1*) across all three media platforms when a short video, featuring Veronica, driving her distinctive orange mail truck on her rounds across the Government Center campus, was posted, along with some important facts about the essential services GSA Mail Center provides.

We look forward to sharing many more interesting highlights with our County PIO and the public about the great service our team members provide!

Photos:

Top from left to right: Lorenzo Villa, Steve Romero, Antonio Barajas, Juan Valladares, Sabino Benitez
Bottom, left: Sabino Benitez, Juan Valladares
Bottom right: Lorenzo Villa, Antonio Barajas



Procurement Earns Kudos from Resource Management Agency

We appreciate all you do!!!

*— Teresa, Sundry
RMA Fiscal Team*

The close of the fiscal year is always a period of high activity, as everyone in GSA, especially Procurement and Fiscal, picks up the pace, doing whatever they need to do to get the fiscal year closed out.

What many people don't realize is that, at the same time, GSA is still providing great service always to it's regular County customers. This was on display as we closed out FY20-21, and GSA Procurement stepped up to go the extra mile during year-end processing for the Resource Management Agency.

RMA was extremely grateful, send-



ing a kind note of thanks, and a much appreciated box of bagels to say thank you to buyer Melissa Lorenzen and senior buyer Curtis Heath, as well as the rest of the team. Melissa processed four im-

portant requisitions after the year-end deadline to support various professional services needed for the 2040 General Plan Update. These included special Spanish translation services for maps and desktop publishing documents and consulting services for developing a web-based version of the 2040 General Plan. Curtis was able to accommodate several RMA requests by modifying existing multi-agency documents to allow for purchases after procurement deadlines.



For example, Procurement was able to add RMA to the Master Agreement for **Aspen Helicopters** to provide for "the dispersal and treatment of mosquito larvaside to Santa Clara River estuary."

The Aspen Helicopters Master Agreement is used by both Public Works for transportation to remote locations and VC Fire for Emergency Fire Suppression Services. Curtis was able to modify the descrip-

tion of the existing MA, rather than have RMA process a new requisition—which might not have been completed before the closeout of the fiscal year!



GSA would like to recognize Office Systems Coordinator **Brad Wyatt** for his efforts to save the agency on software licensing costs.

GSA was facing a big decision and potentially large upgrade costs recently, which were necessary to become current with some of our essential software applications.



In order to upgrade these critical applications, GSA Admin was looking at a potential cost of \$100,000 per year to upgrade our database servers that the applications rely on—the newer versions of the applications require newer versions of database software.

Brad reached out to an IT contact with the Fire agency, who extended the option of utilizing the pricing they receive for this database software from Microsoft through a State of California agreement. This action from Brad is saving GSA **close to \$80,000 in the first year, and an additional \$100,000 per year after that**. Kudos to Brad for taking action and reaching out to a partnering agency.

CGSA Virtual Conference

2021

Leadership
Collaboration
Innovation
Growth
Success



APRIL 28-30, 2021

GSA Successfully Hosts Statewide Virtual Conference for General Services Association

decided to attend, both for the learning opportunity and to support Mr. Melton, a fellow Fleet professional.

In the afternoon, GSA Administrative Services Director Greg Bergman partnered with Danielle Enriquez from San Diego County to give a presentation and then lead a roundtable discussion (see the photo below) on how to set rates—both within an ISF model, and not within an ISF—with a particular emphasis on rate reductions and development methods due to pandemic restrictions. Ms. Enriquez and Mr. Bergman both discussed how difficult a rate season the past fiscal year became, and offered ways each of their counties were able to overcome those number and dollar requirements—information that the attendees found very beneficial.

On April 28 through 30, 2021, the County of Ventura General Services Agency hosted the first ever virtual conference for CGSA—a statewide association of general services groups in all of their iterations. After having to take the 2020 year off from any type of association conference gathering due to the COVID 19 shutdown, most participants were more than ready to get together to share some best practices and new ideas.

While CGSA (County General Services Association) is hoping to return to an in-person conference in 2022, the 2021 conference was proof positive that where there is a will—and some very determined conference organizers!—there is definitely a way... A virtual way, that is. The conference organization committee included Brittany Stephens from Ventura County, and Rachel Gerber and Christopher Lopez from San Luis Obispo. Of course, CGSA president David J. Sasek, Ventura County GSA Director, was heavily involved as not only the president of CGSA, but as the director of the hosting agency as well. The committee “met” monthly at the outset, and much more frequently as the week of the conference grew nearer. Brittany Stephens became the de facto conference committee chair and facilitator.

Not only was this the first time Ventura County GSA had hosted a virtual conference, it was the first time CGSA had presented their annual meeting in anything other than an in-person format. There were myriad challenges to anticipate and overcome, but the group was up to the task, and many attendees gave outstanding feedback, some even commenting that the 2021 conference was one of the best they had ever attended.

For the 2021 virtual conference, 132 participants registered, including:

- 13 counties
- 1 city
- 3 sponsors
- 4 “other” participants—such as representatives from other groups with a vested interest in CGSA

On the opening day of the conference, Ventura County Fleet Deputy Director Christopher Melton helped kick off the event with his presentation, “How to Lead a Successful Electric Vehicle Rollout.” Members of the local Gold Coast Fleet Group, including Kevin Jorgensborg, Fleet and Facilities Manager of the City of Camarillo, attended. Although not a regular member of CGSA, Mr. Jorgensborg learned about the impressive conference lineup from CGSA’s aggressive and expanded conference marketing campaign and

How Are Rates Calculated?

Frequency

Rates are typically calculated annually

Goal Identification

Intended outcome for rate/cost recovery

Rate Determination

Identifying full cost (internal and external overhead) of service **and** determining the basis of allocation

5



Brittany Stephens also cohosted a roundtable on COVID-19 Effects on Operations with Christopher Lopez from San Luis Obispo County. This “Lunch and Learn” discussion panel was a guided forum with poll questions to initiate discussion on how counties are handling new polices due to COVID-19 protocols.

Meanwhile, GSA was everywhere behind the scenes, ensuring that the conference went smoothly even before it started. GSA IT Group’s Office System Coordinators, along with IT Manager Robert Langley, all worked diligently to provide much needed tech support—from running multiple test runs pre-conference, to providing on-the-spot IT support throughout the conference, to ensuring conference sponsors’ virtual gift certificates to Starbucks and GrubHub were uploaded to all the attendees smoothly on various days of the conference.

Speaking of the conference sponsors, the committee was fortunate to secure some very generous sponsors, and some really unique door prizes—it’s safe to say that, after the diverse agenda, the door prize giveaways were probably the highlight of the conference! CGSA President David Sasek enjoyed himself during each break, drawing names from his top hat on camera (see the photo on the next page), and giving away the prizes to the lucky drawing winners, which the committee mailed out after the conference. A total of 24 door prizes, valued at \$3,500 overall, were given away over the entirety of the 3-day conference, and included items from Kuerig, Yeti, Nutribullet and more.

(continued on page 5)



Dr. Lina Svedin

Conference Committee Secures Incredible Keynote Speaker

Dr. Lina Svedin, research professor at the University of Utah, brought her expertise all the way from Sweden, where she worked as an area specialist in crisis management for the General Services Department of the Government Offices of Sweden. Currently her research focuses on ethical decision making and organizational cooperation during crisis.

Dr. Svedin kicked off the conference in style, coaching and inspiring the participating California

counties in the different ways to lead ethically and with integrity in public service – even under adverse circumstances, like a worldwide pandemic. The conference attendees made sure they were in attendance for Dr. Svedin’s can’t-miss keynote address, which is posted to the CGSA website, and can now be seen online here: [CGSA 2021 Session: Opening Presidents Welcome and Keynote - YouTube](#)



Ventura County GSA Director and CGSA President David Sasek draws names for door-prize winners during a break in the morning session of Conference Day 1.

(continued from page 4)

The conference committee was able to secure three main sponsors for this year’s virtual conference: Accruent, Project Management Advisors, Inc., and Kitchell. In addition to the \$20 GrubHub gift cards for all 132 attendees, which enabled them to “have lunch” with the sponsors and learn more about their companies, and the \$5 Starbucks virtual gift cards for the “coffee and stretch break” so that everyone could virtually network with each other, the conference sponsors also provided the registration gift for every attendee: a Hotlogic portable personal oven.

There were so many topics covered throughout the 3-day conference, it would be hard to list everything. But, one aspect of holding a virtual rather than an in-person conference that is definitely a bonus would have to be the ability to post all of the recorded “sessions” online, which is exactly what the conference committee did. All roundtable discussions, presentations, awards ceremonies, and more can be found on CGSA’s 2021 Annual Conference webpage at: cgsa.wpengine.com/?page_id=2299. The team can hardly wait to start planning for 2022, and looks forward to seeing everyone in the spring!

Workplace Bullying Subject of Popular Virtual Presentation at CGSA Conference

Shelline Bennett, managing partner of the Fresno and Sacramento offices of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, presented one of the conference’s most well-attended workshops when she spoke about the growing concern of workplace bullying. Ms. Bennett was not just a dynamic speaker, she also helped with conference marketing – creating a short promotional video for her session that the conference organizers published to the CGSA website and distributed to its membership.



During her presentation, Ms. Bennett elaborated on the legalities of workplace bullying, and her workshop is great for use as a training tool. Passionate about her topic, she even attended the “coffee and stretch break” following her presentation to continue answering questions.

Ms. Bennett’s workshop, “Workplace Bullying: A Growing Concern,” was recorded and is posted on CGSA’s website. It can be accessed at [CGSA 2021 Session 6: Workplace Bullying - YouTube](#)

GSA Awarded Prestigious Association Honors Again

**Fleet Earns CGSA's Award for Customer Service,
While Maintenance Earns CCFSA's Achievement of Excellence**

County of Ventura

"CCFSA is a great avenue to meet with other counties to discuss our different problems and solutions to problems, also we share our best practices with each other and also benchmarks and how we reach those benchmarks"



Receiving the Award on behalf of the County of Ventura:
Steve McLaughlin, Facilities Manager



Each year, the CCFSA—California Counties Facilities Services Association—determines which counties are eligible to receive the association's Award for "Achievement of Excellence in Facilities Management." The recipients are selected from a pool of applicant counties in California that submit a questionnaire answering 29 questions about what they are doing within each county.

The questionnaire is thorough, asking questions about policies regarding ethics, customer service, continuous improvement, safety, and training practices. Also

included is the use of technology, automation and the implementation of cost-saving measures. The CCFSA deciding board requires proof of management certifications and education; environmental initiatives and reporting; and publishing of environmental-related procedures and awareness programs along with green initiatives. Emergency preparedness along with construction and project management of capital projects are all included in the questions asked. Agencies that achieve a minimum score of at least 200 points are awarded the achievement trophy.

In 2021, GSA received the 2021 award of excellence for the 15th consecutive year. "CCFSA is a great avenue to meet and discuss with other counties to discuss our different problems and solutions to problems," said Steve McLaughlin, Facilities Manager, upon accepting the award on behalf of GSA Maintenance this year. "Also, we share our best practices with each other, and also benchmarks and how we reach those benchmarks."



ence, earning first place in the association's Lieb and Kronberg Award for Excellence in Service.

This award is given to an individual or team that best model the high standards that were set by the founders of CGSA, Duane Lieb and Dave Kronberg. In 2021, Fleet Staff Services Manager Robert Crawford took home first-place honors, and a \$500 cash prize, for his work building Fleet's vehicle utilization report, which has, to date, saved the County more than \$100,000—and counting.

Robert was surprised with his award in person so the presentation could be recorded and shown during the conference, while a full award presentation was conducted later in front of his peers in Fleet.

Ventura County Takes Home the Top Award for the 4th Year in a Row

For the 4th year in a row, a member of the County of Ventura General Services Agency took home the top honor at the CGSA conference.

His first-place win leads a long line of Ventura County awards winners:

- 2020: Christopher Melton, Fleet, 1st place
- 2019: Rob Harris, Maintenance, 1st place
- 2018: Greg Bergman, Admin, 1st place
- 2017: Christopher Ramirez, BSS, 2nd place
- 2017: Fleet Operations, Team Award



Customer Service Shout Outs

“**Vince Childs** and **Josh Bean**, thank you for letting us know that the electrical work has been completed at the Eastman office. **Scott Broggie**, you have a great team working for you!”

— *Luka Viera, Public Health, Eastman Office*

Kudos to **Ethan Edmonds** and **Wayne Kirkland** for quick work in support of the Clerk of the Board! The Boardroom had a programmable screen (something that was installed by a vendor) go bad at the Clerk of the Board desk. The vendor’s cost to replace was approximately \$10,000. Ethan and Wayne were temporarily able to get by with an iPad, before finding a replacement screen through one of the County’s preferred computer equipment resellers. They then took the initiative to complete the replacement in-house, ultimately saving \$8,000 and pleasing their customer. Way to go, guys!!



A big thank you to **Martin Flores**, Plumber, GSA F&M, who noticed leaking fuel from a County vehicle and called it in. The vehicle had been vandalized with a hole in the fuel tank. Martin plugged the hole with a screw, put yellow tape around the cargo van, and immediately called GSA Fleet, who had the vehicle towed in for repair. **Kudos to Martin for his quick thinking and action!**

Thank you, **Doug Cooke** and **Stephanie Peres**, for your quick work planning and executing the Pride flag raising with short notice; you executed the ceremony flawlessly. Doug was quick to jump into this last-minute request, getting his flag vendor here ahead of schedule so that we would be ready for the high-profile event. Stephanie was able to coordinate all of the PA equipment, get Doug’s help and coordinate with Supervisor Ramirez’s office to get this event accomplished on short notice. The event went perfectly.

— Erik Hansen, VC EMS

Kudos to **Spencer Herson** for saving the Sheriff’s Department. about \$1,500! Spencer received an initial quote for two thermal cyclers for use in the VCSO lab for DNA testing. He found the machines on the federal schedule for \$600 less per unit. Spencer was able to quickly negotiate an additional 9% discount and realized over \$1,500 in savings! Instead of paying \$15,616.00 for the equipment, VCSO is paying \$14,219.44 due to Spencer’s due diligence. With quick thinking and legwork, Spencer saved the Sheriff \$1,504.79.

A big thank you to **Rob Harris** and **Doug Cooke** for supporting the installation of the new warehouse gate. What a difference! Jim Dorman and the warehouse staff are very appreciative of your efforts to make this happen. Also thanks to **Greg Bergman**’s leadership on this project.

“Thank you for your dedication to cleaning and maintaining our building. You may think that no one notices your hard work, but we do – each and every day. The cleanliness and efficiency of the building is a joy for all of us. Keep up the great work! And a special thank you to **Pedro Baylon** and **Salvador Duarte**.”

— *the team in PWA Engineering*

I just want to thank **Noemi Calderon** for helping us so last-minute and getting **Steve Blair** up here right away yesterday! It was pretty comical seeing us come back out of hibernation after over a year of no large in-person meetings (Where’s the decaf? I don’t know. Where are the sugar packets? I don’t know. Is the coffee machine dead? Probably.). Steve brought the coffee machine back to life by unplugging the timer and plugging in the regular cord, to start the water heating last night; so it was piping hot first thing this morning! Please thank him for us!



— *Maggie Han, Assistant to Mike Pettit, Assistant CEO*

Movin' & Shakin' – Who's coming, who's going in GSA

New Hires

Katie Barrett, Tech Specialist-PH, Admin
 Adrian Bonilla, Park Service Ranger Trainee, Parks
 Jennifer Cadoff, Accounting Assistant I, GSA Admin/Fiscal
 Magdalena Cervantes, Accounting Assistant I, GSA Admin/Fiscal
 Jeremy Chacana, Park Services Ranger Trainee, Parks
 Jeri Cooper, Staff Services Manager III, Parks
 Natalie Everton, Park Service Ranger Trainee, Parks
 Robyn Holland, Courier II, Mail Center
 Joel Landin, Inv. Mgt. Asst. III, Warehouse
 Edelia Meraz, Custodian II, Housekeeping
 Rebecca Moak, Management Assistant II, Housekeeping/Grounds/
 Caleb Newcom, Park Service Ranger Trainee, Parks
 Jose Nunez-Perez, Custodian III, Housekeeping
 Edward Olafsson, Maintenance Engineer, Maintenance
 Laura Onofre, Inv. Mgt. Asst. III, Warehouse
 Jesus Pacheco, Graphics Technician II, BSS
 Todd Rainville, Park Service Ranger I, Parks
 Seen Robinson, Graphics Technician III, BSS
 Joseph Rodriguez, Maintenance Engineer, Maintenance
 Eric Strobusch, Office Systems Coordinator II, GSA Admin/IT
 Veronica Villalobos, Courier II, Mail Center
 James Walton, Park Service Ranger Trainee, Parks
 Charles Wilson, Facility Project Manager, Facility Projects

Promotions

Jade Alamillo, Maintenance Worker II, Grounds
 Martin Cortez, Senior Auto Mechanic, Fleet
 Chastity Gaynor, Accounting Assistant II, GSA Admin/Fiscal
 Tryna Huebner, Graphics Technician III, BSS
 Jose Marin, Heavy Equipment Service Worker, Fleet
 Maria Moreno, Senior Buyer, Procurement

Tara Nelson, Accountant II, GSA Admin/Fiscal
 Johnny Wong, Staff Services Specialist I, BSS

Retirements

Shawn Mitchell, Staff Services Specialist I, BSS—8 years of service
 Joe Garcia, Maintenance Worker I, Parks Department—6 years of service

Resignations/Separations/Transfers

Jesse Aguilar, Fleet
 Anthony Apodaca, Parks
 Jim Bailey, Projects
 Tim Fontaine, GSA Admin/Fiscal
 Arturo Huizar, GSA Admin/Fiscal (transferred to Treasury)
 Robert Jenkins, Fleet
 Ayalineh Moges, Housekeeping
 Alma Perez, BSS
 Andrea Rios, Parks
 Dana Vodantis, GSA Admin/Fiscal (transferred to Public Health)
 Jacob Ward, BSS (transferred to HSA)

Spotlight on... Retiring Employees

Lea Hubbard, Accounting Manager II, Fiscal Retirement

Date: September 11, 2021
 13 Years of Service



"After twelve plus years with GSA, I am proud of my many collaborations with a highly skilled Fiscal team that fosters an environment of empowerment, teamwork, continuous improvement and sustainability. We've encountered many challenges over the years, and I've been so grateful to work with such a dedicated, talented and caring group of people. I'm looking forward to the next leg of my journey, traveling the country with my husband in our RV and doing a bit of real estate work on the side."

Ernie Griego, Principal Buyer, Procurement
 Retirement Date: October 2, 2021
 27 Years of Service



Ernie started his County career with the Ventura County Fire Protection District in 1994 as a Fiscal Assistant III, and in 2000 he promoted to GSA Procurement as a Buyer. Over the years, Ernie worked his way up the ranks to his current position as Principal Buyer. He has been responsible for handling the RFPs for multi-million-dollar projects, including the jail inmate phone system, Cerner electronic health records, and backup County Government Center generator system, to name a few.

Ernie is looking forward to new endeavors, enjoying "retirement" along with his wife Roberta and their new puppy Heidi. They plan to travel the United States in a new truck and trailer enjoying the beautiful sites, stopping at various casinos, visiting family and friends, and going to every major league baseball stadium along the way.

What's New in Parks?

If “Parks and playgrounds are the soul of a city” (Marty Rubin), then trails and campgrounds are the spirit of the suburbs.



This past June, Ventura County Parks reopened all facilities for community use. Day-use and community centers' reservations have skyrocketed and staff are

working diligently to meet the community's reservations requests.

July was National Parks and Recreation Month! Each year, Parks and Recreation professionals highlight the benefits of getting outdoors and enjoying the community. From bike trails to hiking trails, camping to day use, Ventura County Parks provides opportunities for all ages to get out, reduce stress, and increase healthy activity in the outdoors.

Tent camping will return to Camp Comfort in the fall. While the area is still under construction (*see photo below*), tent sites will feature a picnic table and barbecue ring at each site.



Tent camping has been closed in the area since 2005 due to its inclusion as part of a flood zone, but through the establishment of an Emergency Action Plan (EAP), County Parks will be able to reopen Camp Comfort to tent camping seasonally, May–October annually.

Contact Us

If you have questions about park projects, please e-mail Colter Chisum at colter.chisum@ventura.org. All other inquiries can be directed to the appropriate e-mail address or phone number listed below.

Park Reservations Line:
(805) 654-3951
(to reserve group day-use areas and individual campsites)
Park Ranger Desk:
(805) 672-2071
Park Maintenance Desk:
(805) 672-2073
General Questions and Comments:
county.parks@ventura.org

Visit us on the web at:
www.ventura.org/general-services-agency/parks-department.





Mark Your Calendars!

July is National Park & Recreation Month!

August 17: Quarterly Supervisors' Meeting

August 18: Monthly Safety Council Meeting

September 7: Leadership Council Meeting

September 16: Summer Lunch (hosted by F&M)

September 22: Quarterly Management Assistants' Meeting

October 2-3: County Softball Tournament

October 4: Leadership Council Meeting



GSA's Safety Council Launches an Exciting New Chapter

The newly reestablished GSA Safety Council now meets monthly to discuss different aspects of GSA's Health and Safety Program. Led by Health and Safety Officer Alicia Ibarra, council members represent each of the different departments within GSA. The Safety Council's mission is to promote a safe and healthy work environment for all GSA employees, prioritizing safety above all else.

Safety Council meetings consist of investigating injuries that have occurred and brainstorming different ways to prevent similar injuries from occurring again. The council takes pride in keeping its coworkers safe, and they welcome any ideas you may want to bring them to promote safety in the workplace!

Have any thoughts or ideas on areas of opportunity that can increase the safety of our work environment? Reach out to GSA Health and Safety Officer, Alicia Ibarra, at (805) 654-7627 or at Alicia.Ibarra@ventura.org. If you're interested in joining the GSA Health and Safety Council when membership opens up in 2022, be sure to let her know.



Safety Council Members, from left to right: Top Row: Brent Clements, Elva Rojas, Alicia Ibarra. Bottom Row: Doug Cooke, Joel Miller, David Esquivel, and Ryan Pimentel. Not pictured: Hayden McPherson.



Fire Extinguisher Training Goes Off with a Blast!

On July 7 at the GSA Service Building, and July 29 at the Saticoy building, training vendor FireMaster came out to train several of our employees on the safe use of a fire extinguisher in the event of a fire. Employees were even able to practice their skills on a digital fire! Kenny Schmidt got off to a slightly rocky start putting his fire out but soon got the hang of it, beating the record for speed by extinguishing his fire in 4.4 seconds.

Do you know the PASS acronym?

Pass, Aim, Squeeze, & Sweep!



Fire extinguisher class conducted by FireMaster at Saticoy in July 2021.

Vlad Markovic, with Fleet Services, demonstrates safe fire extinguisher usage on a digital fire during the training.