

## Advocate and Make a Difference! — Jamie Freymuth Thompson, Director Program Services

**WE** are proud to announce that NBI has a new AbilityOne champion! Congratulations to Congress Member Jimmy Panetta for receiving his champion award in Washington DC. Becoming a congressional champion means advocating to protect our services and supporting the NBI mission.

Did you know NBI serves six different counties? A large service area means more representatives to discuss key issues with. You may have heard us

talk about the importance of advocacy, and the need for additional support on the state and federal level. Many challenges and threats are continuously arising to programs and services across the U.S. It is of upmost importance that we speak up about these issues and support positive change, while fighting for our rights and services. Please take some time to contact your representatives and state legislators to tell them how important services and employment are for people

with disabilities in California. A letter or email is a great way to contact them. Your voice can be heard and together we are stronger! Check out our new advocacy outreach packet located in the contract support office for more information.

*Governor Gavin Newsom:  
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone (916)445-2841*



Taylor Baranzelli, Jamie Freymuth Thompson, Rep. Mike Thompson, Robert Hutt, and Jacob Valencia



Representative Jimmy Panetta with Jamie accepting his AbilityOne championship award

## Two Rock/Hamilton Grounds — Alexandra McGinnis, Contracting Support Assistant

**GROUNDS** maintenance crews at the Two Rock and Hamilton Coast Guard bases had their work cut out for them this winter and spring. Like all of our grounds contracts, they had to battle the fast-growing vegetation throughout the long rainy season. However, they also needed to play catch up after being unable to work at their sites during the month-long government shutdown in January. We found plenty of other work to keep our crews busy — NBI headquarters got a thorough cleanup, among other things. Conditions were unusually rugged

once the employees were finally able to return to their sites, but they have been working diligently



New xeriscape outside Lower Galley, TRACEN Petaluma (Two Rock)

to catch up on maintaining the grounds at their usual high level of quality.

In addition to regular maintenance duties at Two Rock, Jose Guzman, Misael Avalos and the crew have designed and installed several new drought-tolerant xeriscapes throughout the base during the past year. These low-maintenance, sustainable areas look incredible! We are pleased with all the hard work and dedication exhibited by our employees. Keep up the good work!

# NBI News



“Serving adults with disabilities since 1968”

Summer 2019

## President’s Corner — Robert Hutt, President/CEO

### What is our Mission?

We all know that NBI employs people with disabilities and also creates other employment opportunities outside of the NBI contracts. NBI’s mission is to “assist adults with disabilities to become more productive, self-reliant members of their communities through participation in NBI sponsored training, employment and housing programs.”

What does this mean to the people we serve and how effective are these efforts to the disabled community? For people with disabilities, employment means greater economic self-sufficiency, an opportunity to use their skills, and more active participation in community life.

Nevertheless, a striking employment gap persists between Americans with

and without disabilities. At nearly 20 percent of the population, people with disabilities are one of the nation’s largest minority groups. Yet the most recent U.S. disability employment statistics show that only 20 percent of people with disabilities are participating in the workforce, compared to 69.1 percent of people without disabilities. This is a very big gap between the two workforces and clearly we need to do more to increase the percentage of people with disabilities in our workforce.

This brings me to some news: NBI will be opening a new branch of operations in Carson City, Nevada. We will be opening this facility in the next couple of months and will move our apparel contracts as well as look at other services to support people with disabilities in the Carson City area. If you want to know more about this move please come by

and talk with me or if you are interested in relocating to Carson let me know. We will have some job openings coming up in the near future.

Thank you all for the hard work that you are doing to help us achieve our mission to support people with disabilities.

Robert Hutt, President/CEO



## 2019 Human Race: “May The 4th Be With You”

— Dalia Flores, Contract Support Assistant



**IT** was very nice to see everyone Saturday morning, May 4<sup>th</sup> to participate in this year’s Human Race at Herbert Slater Middle School. It was a chilly day but everyone attending had a great time doing the 3K walk. Our top three donation pledge earners were Melvin Johnson, Ben Goetz and Judy Fazio. Melvin Johnson was also the winner of this year’s T-shirt contest. Congratulations!!



Proud partners of AbilityOne

## Community Employment Roundup — Contracting Support Staff

**WITH** a change in the weather comes new and exciting changes and events happening in our community employment sites!

Over at **Lowes**, Kevin Huskey, David Long and Ted Copus were unanimously voted to receive Service Star Awards from the Lowes Human Resources Department. This group is going on 13



Kevin Huskey and Colleague

**PATRICK** Hulsbus is celebrating his 30th anniversary at the Mill Valley **Safeway** this year. Patrick is an instrumental part of their staff, he enjoys working with the customers, and knows all the regulars by name. Patrick is a devoted employee and Safeway is lucky to have him on their team. Congratulations on this milestone Patrick and keep up the good work! — *Alexandra McGinnis, Contracting Support Assistant*



Patrick Hulsbus and Liz Sutton

years of customer service at Lowes, and all their hard work and dedication shows! Dave Berlin, Human Resources Manager, at Lowe's states:

"Thank you for providing great customer service day in and day out. Our customers are noticing and we appreciate you too!"

Way to go Kevin, David and Ted!

At **Keysight**, Ben Goetz, Melvin Johnson, and Caesar Zunino have been hard at work building kits, assembling handle straps, and labeling cables! The last year has had its fair share of challenges — the group had to adjust to a new work area after losing their original work space in the Tubbs Fire. Through all the tribulations, these guys have stayed willing and able to com-



Caesar Zunino, Melvin Johnson, and Ben Goetz

plete any job Keysight sends their way! Their attention to detail and flexibility in completing assigned work is greatly appreciated.

Along with their daily tasks, the group has also been starting to exercise their artistic and creative sides once again. This year, Melvin Johnson won first place in the t-shirt design competition for the Human Race.



Karen Becerra

**IF** you recall at the beginning of the year, Luisa Buenaflor retired from our **IDEX** workgroups and it has been a quite a search to find the right person to blend in with the current staff and workers. We looked high and low for the right person and we finally found her!! Say "Hello" to Karen Becerra.

IDEX has three workgroups, including nine clients and three lead workers. The clients have a combined 129 years of work experience with NBI. Isn't that amazing!! — *Dalia Flores, Contracting Support Assistant*

## Kudos — Rose Jaros, Site Manager

**GOOD** work does not go unnoticed! I recently received the following communications in my email inbox:

"Good morning NBI,

Thank you all for your services and level of effort you put into our grounds landscape. Because of your hard work and attention to detail, you have been acknowledged by the base commander for your job well done. Please see email below.

As you can see, eyes are on you at all times. Thank you for doing the right thing by practicing safety and meeting and exceeding con-

tract standards. Keep up the great job!

Thanks,

**Peter Reyes**  
Facility Support Contract Manager



The NBI grounds crew at Navy Support Activity Monterey

-----Original Message-----

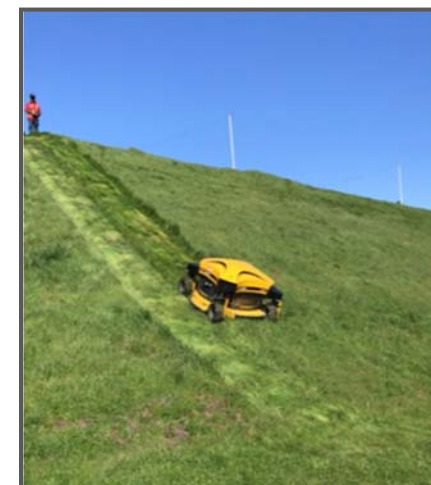
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Grounds

Tim Matt and Mike, please pass to your guys and our BOS contractors the grounds look great and thanks for cutting back the weeds on the path to the bridal paths behind Stanley House. The whole area could not look better and their attention to detail is superb.

**CAPT Rich Wiley**  
"Coyote", USN  
Commanding Officer  
Naval Support Activity  
Monterey"

## MOTCO — Dalia Flores, Contracting Support Assistant

**SUMMER** time is finally here after this long winter and wet spring. The grounds maintenance crews have been kept very busy, first with debris clean up resulting from winter storms, followed by mowing, mowing, and more mowing. The grass grew fast throughout the spring, with everyone logging many hours on their line trimmers.



One way to make things easier is to apply new technology. MOTCO has a lot of embankments that are too steep for tractors and traditional mowers, so line trimming was often the only answer. A recent addition to our grounds maintenance equipment roster is the Spider, a remote controlled mower used on the hillsides. It does a great job of hugging the ground without endangering a driver. If things get too steep and slippery, it can be run up and down attached to a winch.

The janitorial crews are no less busy keeping offices and buildings clean. The Army has been building and opening new offices over the past few years, and two additional buildings were recently added to our janitorial workload.

*The Spider Mower crawling down an embankment.*

## Bob Goosens Memorial Under Construction



NBI is remodeling the patio area in front of the Activity Center, and will be dedicating this space to the memory of beloved AC client Robert "Bobby" Goosens, who passed away last year. We look forward to the completion of this project!

