Meet Charles McKee

Charles McKee is slowly moving into his new office on the third floor of the Government Center in downtown Salinas. It’s a short walk down a hallway from his old office in the County Counsel Department.

McKee, who has served as County Counsel since 2003, was selected by the Board of Supervisors to be County Administrative Officer after a nationwide search. He was officially confirmed to the position Tuesday and was immediately ‘on the job,’ making it a seamless transition in the County’s top office.
And you have already heard from him! Shortly after his confirmation, McKee sent out an email to county staff, introducing himself to those who don’t know him and thanking those who have already sent congratulations and offered their support.

McKee brings a depth of knowledge of county issues and needs to the job as well as a dedication to public service. Hear more about his background and expectations for the job - in his own words:

**Q. Why did you apply for the CAO position and what skills and attributes do you bring to the job?**

A. When Lew Bauman announced his retirement, people both in and outside of County government approached and suggested I should apply. The seed was planted. Of course, I love Monterey County and saw this as an opportunity to continue serving and doing so in a new role. I thrive on challenges and being the CAO is the ultimate county government challenge. I will bring the analytics of a lawyer to this job but also an easy-going collaborative style.

**Q. When in college and law school, did you set your sights to work in government law?**

A. I have always been intrigued by government, politics and the interplay with the economy; however, my early focus was more national and international. After law school, I realized that making a difference in people’s lives is often best achieved at the local level.

**Q. Before you were a CAO and a lawyer, you had a variety of regular jobs and experiences. How did this shape your philosophy and the work style?**

A. Working a variety of jobs and volunteer positions has provided me perspective on how I think organizations should operate and how people should be treated. With that perspective, I try to regularly focus on making the work environment a place I want to be within the bounds of the providing service to our community. Attitude is a big part of a positive work environment to me.

My perspective on management was shaped by both work life and volunteer activities. My early
jobs included construction as part of the Laborer’s and Operating Engineer’s unions, painting houses and staffing a resort hotel front desk. My volunteer endeavors have included pro bono legal services for low income clients, legal advisor to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and 10 years on the National Ski Patrol.

Q. What can employees expect to see as your work ‘style’?

A. Those who know me as a colleague, or a “boss,” know that I have an easy-going style and take seriously only what is serious. I focus intently on projects and lighten-up quickly when it’s completed. I value appropriate attitudes and respect for all persons. However, I try to recognize that we all have different styles, which should be accommodated, within reason.

Q. What are some fun things you’d like people to know about you?

A. I think many people are aware that I spend as much time as possible outdoors. Yes, my car often has a bike on the back. Although I no longer ski patrol, I still ski, mountain bike, backpack, kayak, paddle board and anything else I can find to do outside.

Social Services Preparing for Automated Benefit System Launch

More than 20 years ago, Monterey County’s Department of Social Services joined in the first steps towards an automated benefit system in California. That journey is nearly complete!

The California Statewide Automated Welfare Management System (CalSAWS) will be fully
Monterey County Administrative Office

The week of September 16, 2017

Employees Work Out at Bootcamp

After a hard day’s work, some county employees are putting in one more hour at Bootcamp. Bootcamp is an ‘after hours’ physical fitness class offered by the Health Promotion Partnership. Any
employee that wants to participate is welcome, just show up in comfortable workout gear.
No need for a fancy or expensive gym. Bootcamp meets Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in front of the Government Center on Alisal Street and uses the beautiful East West Wing courtyard and courthouse open space for a variety of exercises. There is plenty of parking for staff coming from other facilities.

Camp size ranges from 16 to more than 30 and is led by Derick, a personal trainer from a local gym.

"We have a wide range of fitness levels and your workout can be as challenging as you make it," says Debra Dunn, Health Educator. "Derick offers lots of adjustments and modifications if you need something more or less demanding. Everyone can do this! We use our body weight as resistance. No fancy equipment, the exercises we are doing can be done at home too."

Lupe Covarrubias-Martinez is a regular participant, coming over from her office at Schilling Place. She says it’s a great start to a fitness routine.

Still plenty of time to join in – Bootcamp runs through October 30th.