

# • • • Fresno Business Council • Weekly Bulletin • • •

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## Message from the President—Dick Johanson

Pass the cookies, please. I just figured it out!! We talk an awful lot about seeking "strong leaders" and encouraging them to become part of our political process. Problems arise when a candidate or office holder uses the two words together and the individual involved becomes inwardly focused as a self-identified "strong leader". Real leadership comes when the two words are considered separately and focused externally. For example, "strong" is the ability to recognize the value of the contributions of others through collaborative knowledge, cross-cultural awareness, socio-economic variances, etc. "Leader" is one who can move among peers and accept unsought recognition for his/her abilities in moving common goals forward. As we enter high season in the political arena, it might be well that we keep these definitions in mind. Is that worth a cookie or not?

## Downtown Stadium Groundbreaking - Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

Here's your opportunity to get involved in the spirit of downtown revitalization! The long awaited groundbreaking for the new, downtown multipurpose stadium at Tulare and Broadway – future home of the Fresno Grizzlies – will take place on Tuesday morning, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Join in the festivities, welcome the Grizzlies and personally thank all the folks who played a role in making this happen. It's these types of occasions that confirm that Fresno is indeed, an All America City.

## Media One to Air July 26<sup>th</sup> Mayoral Candidate Forum

The Fresno Chamber has scheduled several candidate forums over the next couple of months. The City of Fresno mayoral candidates forum featuring **Alan Autry** and **Dan Whitehurst**, which was taped on July 26<sup>th</sup>, will be aired on August 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 PM on Channel 14. Upcoming - the Fresno County Board of Supervisors District 2 candidates, **Susan Anderson** and **Ken Steitz**, will appear at a forum scheduled for noon on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at Grand Occasions. Call the Chamber at 495-4800 to make reservations.

## Education Committee Encourages Qualified Candidates to Run for School Boards

Several months ago, the Business Council's Education Committee set up a task force encouraging business leaders to run for local school boards. The group sent a letter to all members of the Business Council, notifying them of the seats that would be up for election in Fresno and Clovis. The letter included district maps and an article by Gary Hart (former secretary for education in the Gray Davis Administration). In his article, *A Call to Businesses: School Boards Need Your Expertise*, Hart noted: " – fewer business executives today run for and serve on school boards than once did. That's a shame because experienced business people can provide both the fiscal acumen and the ability to motivate community support that are sorely needed by local schools." Hart is correct. Think about it. The deadline to file candidacy papers with the Fresno County Elections Office is August 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Smart Growth is Topic for Planners' Sierra Retreat Scheduled for August 18-20<sup>th</sup>

Everyone's talking about smart growth, but what are we doing about it? This year's program, sponsored by the Central California Section of the American Planning Association, will focus on planners, architects, and builders in the local region who are actively involved in smart growth, infill, and new urbanism. Speakers will address topics ranging from zoning and development code changes, to design and community participation. The retreat, at beautiful Lake Sequoia, provides an excellent combination of camaraderie with fellow planners (and their families) with some professional development thrown in. Activities are provided for all members of the family. Registration is open to non-APA members as well. Call **Bruce O'Neal** 559-435-0461 for more information.

## Public Affairs Committee Has Full Agenda This Week

All Business Council members are encouraged to attend the Public Affairs Committee meetings. This committee hosts elected officials, political candidates and governmental leaders and recommends issue positions to the Business Council Board of Directors. It provides an informal setting for business leaders to meet and exchange ideas with those working in the public sector. The committee takes positions on key issues, typically following research and analysis in a white paper. The August agenda will address two topics of interest. First, there will be a discussion of the pros and cons of **Proposition 39** by Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, **Dr. Pete Mehas** and businessman **Michael Der Manuel, Jr.** Prop. 39, which would lower the voting requirement for passage of local school bonds, will appear on the November ballot. Following that presentation, members will have the opportunity to hear from two of the candidates running for FUSD Board seats. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM at Baker, Manock and Jensen.

## Activities & Events

Public Safety Committee, Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. (Manco Abbott)

Public Affairs Committee, Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. (Baker, Manock & Jensen)

Board of Directors, Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. (Location to be announced)