

Fresno Business Council - Weekly Bulletin

Monday, December 11, 2000

Bulletin & Other Information Available on Website at www.fresnobl.org

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Message from the President—Dick Johanson

Most weeks these few words come relatively easy. This week they don't . . . last week's board of directors' meeting was my final one as your president. It has been a cherished experience to preside over such a generous and caring group of businessmen and women. My deepest thanks are extended to our board and staff for so many personal and professional kindnesses to me over the past six years. Very few have been as fortunate as I . . .

Non-Profit Advancement Center Provides a Valuable Resource to Community

Earlier this year, the *Great Valley Center* published the *Survey of Current Area Needs*, which provided a philanthropic portrait and needs assessment of California's Great Valley. One of the findings in the report noted that the Central Valley receives only about half the amount of major foundation funding as other regions in the state. Statewide, philanthropic grants average \$3 million per 100,000 people. But in the Central Valley from 1995 through 1997, the number is \$1.2 million (40% of the state average). This information alerted local non-profits of a critical funding disparity, and may have created a turning point in the way funding opportunities are approached. The *Nonprofit Advancement Center*, within the Fresno Regional Foundation, can be helpful to nonprofit organizations. The NAC offers a variety of workshops for nonprofits on such topics as grant writing and fundraising and can provide assistance in helping organizations examine their extensive database in search of new funding sources. Contact NAC training director **Janice Mathurin** at 226-0216 x 103 for more information.

Report on Valley Demographics is Now Available Online

Myron Orfield and his *Metropolitan Research Corporation* have finished work on *Central Valley Metropatterns: Regional Challenges in California's Central Valley*. The report is largely composed of maps that graphically depict social separation, growth patterns, and revenue disparities in Valley communities. In addition providing insights about our region, the report could serve as a valuable source of demographic information for grant writers. The report is available on the *Great Valley Center's* website at www.greatvalley.org.

Growth, Finance and the Case for Regionalism

Bee columnist **Dan Walters** noted recently that with California's population growing at about 600,000 people per year, we can anticipate having 50 million residents around the year 2025. The resounding success of anti- or slow-growth measures on this past November's ballot is consistent with trends of anti-growth sentiments peaking during times of economic expansion. Walters surmises that this "cycle of growth-control activism" will continue as long as the economy stays strong. However, he also asserts that growth management should occur at a state or regional level, and not on the community-by-community basis that currently exists. If the growth impacts are not distributed on at least a regional level, growth limits will push development into adjacent areas and cause urban sprawl. Tied in with the growth issues, however, is the question of local government finance. This further complicates the matter, Walters states, for it is a topic that state politicians are reluctant to approach. However, many local officials are urging them to do just that.

Going National—Alliance for Regional Stewardship

"Regional stewards recognize the interdependencies between four spheres: new economy, livable community, social inclusion and governance. They work across boundaries of jurisdiction, sector and discipline to connect these four spheres and create opportunities for their regions." To support these efforts, a national peer-to-peer learning network has been established to share best practices among regional leaders across the United States. The organization has published its first monograph entitled: *Regional Stewardship: A Commitment to Place* authored by Collaborative Economics. The website is www.regionalstewardship.org.

During the Holidays - Consider Giving the Gift of Life

Actually, consider it all year long. The *Central California Blood Center* is always in need of donations, but especially at this time of year. During the holidays, the Blood Center is challenged to collect the 200 pints of blood that are needed daily to supply the 30 Valley hospitals that rely on them. It will take you only one hour out of one day, but could extend a lifetime to those who need it. This is one of the most personal contributions you can make. Fresno's two centers are located at 3445 N. First St. (224-2900) and 8094 N. Cedar (324-1211).

Upcoming Activities and Events:

Public Safety Committee – Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 a.m. (Manco Abbott)

Public Affairs Committee – December 13th Meeting Canceled

Executive Committee – December 26th Meeting Canceled

Business Council Offices will be closed December 26th – 29th