

Fresno Business Council - Weekly Bulletin

Monday, September 18, 2000

Bulletin & Other Information Available on Website at www.fresnobc.org
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Message from the President—Dick Johanson

Someone once made an observation that you can't control the length of your life, but you can control its width and its depth. We are now in the middle of our democratic ritual of participating in the election process. We are more carefully analyzing candidates. We are more studiously scrutinizing issues. We are more faithfully exercising these prized privileges as concerned voters. All about us exists a new dedication to collectively reaching a higher economic, cultural and moral plateau. In other words, we are increasingly assuming our fair share of the responsibility of controlling the width and depth of our lives as we journey through its uncontrolled length. And, as someone else said one time, that ain't all bad!

Vote Yes on Measure A--Arts to Zoo—A Simple Way to Improve Our Quality of Life Countywide

The reasons to support Measure A crisscross every sector and interest group and the endorsements are coming in fast, countywide. Whether you are primarily concerned with children's access to art and music programs, new homes for animals at the Zoo, economic development, more activities for seniors, or natural beauty—the measure addresses it. For pennies, 25 cents for every \$100 taxable purchase, you invest in arts, cultural, history and natural science programs throughout the County of Fresno. Endorsements include mayors from all over the county, firefighters, California State University Fresno, former Sheriff Steve Magarian, Fresno Police Officers Association, Deputy Sheriffs Association, Chambers of Commerce and many farmers. Our challenge is reaching the people who have not yet decided to participate in our community renaissance. Call the campaign headquarters to help and order signs and bumper stickers—322-8973. Check the campaign out online at www.arts2zoo.com. Thanks to the businesses who have already donated to the campaign—Jerry Cook (office space), Doug Davidian (furniture) and Vision One (website).

Thanks to State Legislators and Businesses for Supporting School-to-Career Sustainability Bill (AB 1873)

If we're going to be successful in producing a well-trained workforce to take on the challenges of employment in the new economy, we need to start early. Helping students to keep their eye on the prize and preparing them with the information they need to find success in career choices requires careful planning. Over the past three years, the State Center Consortium has developed exceptional materials and programs to assist educators make the school-to-career connection in their curriculum. Many of our members have participated as business partners in this endeavor as well. In an effort to continue these types of programs, the **Assemblywoman Pat Wiggins** initiated AB 1873. The Bill would provide sustainability funding for the State Center Consortium and other School-to-Career initiatives throughout California. We wish to thank those of you who wrote letters of support on this Bill. And we especially want to thank **Senator Jim Costa**, and Assembly representatives **Mike Briggs**, **Sarah Reyes**, and **Dean Florez** for voting to send the Bill to the governor's office.

Business Council Board to Send Revised By-laws to Membership for Approval

At its meeting last week, the Business Council Board reviewed the draft by-laws presented by the By-laws Committee. After discussion and some modification, the Board agreed to send them on to the entire membership for their approval. Members will have a chance to vote on the by-laws at the general membership meetings, which will be held in October. Copies of the by-laws will be sent to all members by email in the very near future.

Business Council Board Endorses City of Fresno Room Tax Measure (Measure C)

In November, city of Fresno residents will have the opportunity to vote on increasing Fresno's transient room tax from 12% to 13%. The tax would be paid by visitors to the city and not the electorate. If passed, it is estimated that the measure would raise an additional \$566,000 per year to help pay the annual debt on the new Exhibit Hall. The proposal is also endorsed by the Fresno City Council, Fresno Chamber of Commerce, Fresno City & County Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

California 2000 Project Supports Research and Public Education on Reform Issues

"The ideas for government are well developed. What has been lacking thus far is the political will to change the status quo. Political distrust, and the growth and increasing diversity of the state, call for meaningful change." (Mark Baldassare, California in the New Millennium) The James Irvine and William and Flora Hewlett Foundations created the California 2000 Project to support policy research and public education on fiscal, governance, and land use reform issues in California. C2K facilitates information-exchange and fosters dialogue among policymakers, organizations and citizens. The project highlights a sample of current reform proposals to increase Californians' awareness about state level policy changes that will improve the quality of life in communities across the state. Their constantly evolving website provides a wealth of information on quality of life issues such as affordable housing, clean air and water, healthy and safe neighborhoods, jobs and the economy, parks and open space, schools and education, and traffic and transportation. You can access the website at www.c2kproject.net.

Activities & Events

Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00 a.m.—Public Safety Committee (Manco Abbot)
September 17 through 19—Civic Entrepreneur Summit