

October 3, 2005

Message From the Chair Emeritus—Dick Johanson

Let's devote a few words to our K-12 kids this week. From the Civic Education Network, to Character Development Programs, to Pre-school programs, to After-school programs, to one-on-one mentoring, to libraries, to the influence of Music and Drama, to the discipline of Sports activities --- thousands and thousands of our kids are growing to young adulthood in an environment conducive to a healthy and productive life style. It is from this cadre that will emerge men and women who will have within them the benevolent fire to one day seek ways to help those less fortunate than themselves. Let's salute them today for what they will become tomorrow. Knowingly or unknowingly, they will have been imbued with this week's:

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “*Character Is The Way We Act When Nobody's Looking*”

Culture Established Through Leadership—Honoring Stewards

We all make choices about who we will follow. An effective change agent, FBC member Dr. Altbarmakian (Kaiser), believes leadership is passion and service. Too often aspiring leaders believe it is about position and power and whatever perks they imagine they will get. The Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership and the Excellence in Public Service Awards were created to honor the kind of leadership that inspires others to act from the very best of who they are to achieve greatness. By honoring this type of leadership, The Maddy Institute at CSUF, The Fresno Bee and the Fresno Business Council hope to inspire others to provide it. The Awards Luncheon is Thursday, October 13 at the Schoettler Conference Center. To register call 294-9119 or email mkeppler@csufresno.edu. Join us this year in honoring Harry Armstrong and Police Chief Jerry Dyer. Thank you FBC board member Ray Steele, for your ongoing support of efforts to transform our community.

The Future for Economic Prosperity In Agriculture

A thriving agricultural sector is essential to prosperity in our valley. A conference this week underscores that value-added innovation and entrepreneurship are the future for economic prosperity in this vital cluster. Two all day sessions are planned...Monday, October 3 in Kerman and Tuesday, October 4 in Selma. Speakers include experts on the nature of value-added marketing, value-added opportunities in Fresno County, financing opportunities, the production process and resources for small business. Our rural communities are growing rapidly and capitalizing on new opportunities. Watch for a conference summary and additional workshops. Thank you FBC members Pat Ricchiuti and Bill Smittcamp for your leadership. Bill also co-chairs the RJI Food Processing Cluster among his many stewardship roles.

Regional Air Quality Summit Slated for Thursday, October 27th

Operation Clean Air is presenting a summit entitled, “A Focus on Solutions” on Thursday, October 27th from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Valdez Hall in downtown Fresno. The keynote speaker is John Parr, one of the country's most effective practitioners of collaborative governance and citizen involvement. To clean the air we will have to work together in new ways behind a comprehensive and integrated plan. Parr currently is president and CEO of the Alliance for Regional Stewardship, the national network of regions of which the Fresno Business Council is an active member. (www.regionalstewardship.org) The summit will feature panels on agriculture, growth & development, transportation and innovation. With the launch of the California Partnership of the San Joaquin Valley, our opportunity to meet this challenge is now. The Partnership will have a working group on air quality. Please mark your calendars now. Registration information will be available soon. Thank you FBC member Hal Bolen (Bolen, Fransen & Russell) for your tireless leadership on this critical issue.

RJI Leadership Council Report

The RJI Leadership Council meets quarterly to monitor progress, remove barriers and fine tune strategies for the Regional Jobs Initiative. To thrive in the global economy, regions must learn to collaborate effectively across all sectors. It was noted at the meeting that the RJI has helped to teach us how to work together differently. It has taken the strong leadership of our political sector, Alan Autry, Lynne Ashbeck, Juan Arambula, Susan Anderson, Judy Case and Nathan Magsig together with the incredible perseverance of our private sector—Pete Weber and FBC Chair Ken Newby to not just launch but to continue to build the RJI effort. Our public institutions have stepped up in tangible ways contributing staff and resources.

Thank you, Fresno State for deploying the enormous talents of Ashley Swearengin, Tim Stearns, Jim Michael and David Zoloske in this broad based community effort.