

October 10, 2005

Message From the Chair Emeritus—Dick Johanson

This week we have a chance to show our gratitude to all of those who work so diligently within the public sector. It is these folks, working in harmony with those of us in the private sector, who are making a difference in our extended community. On Thursday the Fresno Business Council, in partnership with the Fresno Bee and Maddy Institute, will present two awards of distinction. The Excellence in Public Service Award will be presented to Fresno City Chief of Police Jerry Dyer. The Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award will be presented to long time Clovis public official Harry Armstrong. The recognitions will be made at a luncheon on Thursday, October 13, at the Radisson Hotel. This is a unique opportunity to individually commend two highly committed individuals while expressing our appreciation to all of those engaged in public service. To make a reservation call 278-5412. You will witness two moving examples of this week's

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"Every Life Is A Work Of Art Shaped By The One Who Lives It"*.

California Partnership with SJV Provides Platform for Transformation

Before focusing on the work to come, it's important to acknowledge and celebrate the historic and strategic importance of a state government embracing the unique challenges of a region in an intentional and comprehensive way. Clearly, our region has geographic, demographic and economic challenges that make a "one size fits all" approach by state and federal policy untenable. To those that have stepped up to guide the work and serve on working groups, we stay thank you. Information about the Partnership is available on the Business, Housing and Transportation (BTH) website at www.bth.ca.gov. We are most fortunate to have at the helm, Secretary of Sunne McPeak who was raised in the Valley and is an accomplished leader of regional solutions. We are also fortunate to have strong Fresno Area representation on the Partnership, including Mayor Alan Autry (whose vision and perseverance has played a major role in raising the profile of the Valley and the creation of the Partnership), Larry Fortune, Coke Hallowell, Fred Ruiz, Lorraine Salazar and Pete Weber. Ashley Swearengin has played a pivotal role in framing the issues and will continue to serve in a leadership role in the work of the Partnership.

Proposed Principles, Ground Rules & Working Groups

The Partnership has been set up as a multi-county collaboration whether the interests of the entire regions are paramount. It has adopted an action bias and a commitment to build upon what is already in place rather than duplicate or start over. It has both a short-term focus and a long-term intention to insure sustainable economic prosperity. In an acknowledgement of the interdependence of issues, the focus areas include all major domains. On the BTH website you will find briefing papers that provide a framework for the work groups. The proposed work groups include: Economic Development, Higher Education and Workforce Development, K-12 Education, Transportation and Highway 99, Land use, Agriculture and Housing, Air Quality and Environmental Protection, Water Quality, Supply and Reliability, Health & Human Services, Technology and Advanced Telecommunications.

San Joaquin Political Academy Serves Important Role

In many leadership positions, the experience is often quite different than anticipated. Most officials learn after election that campaign promises, no matter how "right" can be very difficult to implement in a world of regulations, imbedded culture and conflicting agendas. Stemming from his own experience and passion for the community, former supervisor Stan Oken led the effort to create the San Joaquin Political Academy. The mission is "to assist in the development of visionary political leaders who recognize that a healthy business climate is necessary for a strong economy and a strong economy is necessary for a vibrant community." The Academy serves as a veritable boot camp in terms of substantive issues and skills sets needed to win a campaign and effectively lead once elected. More information is available on the Chamber website under links at www.fresnochamber.com Thanks to all the FBC members are providing leadership to the Academy... Stan Oken, Joe Levy, John Ostlund and Alan Pierrot.