

Monday, April 24, 2006

Message From the Chair Emeritus—Dick Johanson

If there is a distinguishing characteristic of this Council, it resides in its commitment to a collaborative Stewardship in improving our common resources as the pathway to the ultimate enhancement of our individual enterprises. Our Board Chair, Ken Newby, dramatically presented what we have accomplished and underscored what is yet to be done at this month's meeting of our Board of Directors. As individual member/leaders, our challenge is to define and accept our responsibility in addressing the many tasks before us. A rewarding entryway is seeking out and inviting others to participate with us. To plug yourself into all of this, give Ken or Deborah Nankivell a call.

A Hardhats & Hearts Party to Support the Majaree Mason Center

While most of us are busy working on economic development and a wide range of other initiatives, there are countless numbers of people addressing the shadow side of our community. Child abuse, domestic violence and addiction affect many people for a lifetime. The staff, volunteers, and supporters of The Marjoree Mason Center step up every day to support the victims and survivors of these issues. The Fresno Area Construction Team (FACT) is holding a special event to help. On Thursday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of James and Kathleen Boone the festivities will begin. FACT includes the mechanical, electrical and plumbing union contractors and the union construction trades. Tickets are \$250. For information call 436.4700.

Central California Excellence in Business Awards Luncheon—Wednesday, May 17

Before the notion of a triple bottom line business became part of the culture, The Fresno Bee created the Excellence in Business Awards. The criteria includes high ethical standards, significant growth, a healthy work environment, concern for employees, significant contributions to the community and a concern for the environment. This event is one of the largest celebrations of excellence in Fresno each year. Listening to the recipients talk about their businesses is always inspiring. This year the luncheon is Wednesday, May 17th at the Robert A. Schoettler Conference Center at the Radisson downtown Fresno. The deadline for reservations is May 5. Call 441-6067. We are proud to partner with The Bee on this important event.

Two Critical Elections Coming Up—Sheriff & County Office of Education

The responsibilities and qualifications necessary for elected officials differ widely. In many ways, a legislative body functions as a jury and policy maker. Judges serve in a special capacity. In a few cases, the responsibilities of office are to provide leadership and a chief executive officer function. Changes at the CEO level impact culture, priorities, vision and effectiveness in significant ways. There will be a number of opportunities coming up to hear the candidates for sheriff and superintendent of schools. On Saturday, April 29 from 2 to 4, the League of Women Voters and Fresno Pacific University are sponsoring a Q & A session with the candidates for the superintendent of schools. Thank you to both organizations for this vital community service.

California Budget Challenge—2006 Update

Next Ten is launching an update to the California Budget Challenge (www.NextTen.org/challenge) today. Prepare yourself for budget season by getting informed on state budget issues and learning more about the policy choices that face the legislature. The California Budget Challenge is a nonpartisan Internet tool that lets you roll up your sleeves and create your own state budget. You can decide how much to give to schools, health care, prisons and other state programs. Then you make choices on how to pay for these programs. The Budget Challenge was first launched in April 2005 and this update includes current budget numbers, new policy options, and enhanced graphics. Next Ten is an independent, nonpartisan organization that educates, engages and empowers Californians so that, together, we can improve our future economy and quality of life. Taxation with representation—it's up to us.