

**Legislative Action Committee
September 3, 2009**

ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Cliff Hamlow – Azusa Pacific University
Doris Blum-GUSD School Board
Dr. Pat Bushman – Ludwick Fdn.
Bob Cruz – The Gas Co.
Marilyn Grinsdale – Citrus College
Meaghan McLaughlin – Assemblyman Adams
Brian Mejia – Supervisor Antonovich
Gene Morrill – Certified Auto

Dr. Catherine Nichols - GUSD
Time Shaw – Senator Huff
Christine Smith - COUSD

Meeting called to order at 12:10 p.m.

Flag Salute

Welcome and Self- Introductions: Christine Smith was welcomed as the new representative for the Charter Oak School District.

Approval of the July 2, 2009 minutes

Announcements:

Chairman's Report, Cliff Hamlow –Cliff reported that the joint luncheon featuring Congressman Dreier was well attended and very informative. It was nice to have a joint function with the San Dimas and La Verne Chambers. Bob Cruz has volunteered to moderate the September 17th luncheon with Senator Bob Huff at Bidwell Forum hosted by the Glendora Chamber with the San Dimas and La Verne Chambers. Cliff asked for volunteers from the committee to become involved in the San Gabriel Valley Government Reform Task Force. Dates for upcoming meetings are:

9/3 @ 3:00 pm – SGV Tribune & Bay Area Council

9/17 @ 3:00 pm – Senator Bob Huff & Assemblyman Mike Eng

9/23 @ 3:00 pm – Assemblyman Dr. Ed Hernandez, LA Times and the League of California Cities

Everyone was reminded to sign up for the California Chamber website and to stay abreast of upcoming job killer bills. The committee was advised to look at the voting records of their legislators. Dates and topics for upcoming legislative lunches were discussed:

October or November 2009 – State of the Schools address.

January 2010 – Water issues.

Everyone was reminded of the Goldline meeting at the MTA headquarters on Sept. 24th at 9:30 am.

Catherine Nichols reiterated that holding joint functions with other chambers gives good viability to the members attending.

Bob Cruz commented that the luncheon for Senator Huff will be more structured with the ground rules laid out up front in order to avoid some of the issues encountered at the David Dreier luncheon, such as the hecklers. Bob suggested that the voting record of our legislators be posted in the Chamber newsletter and that the newsletter have more business information.

Legislative Updates - Please limit reports to 3 minutes or less and bring handouts for the Committee:

Brian Mejia, Supervisor Antonovich: Brian reported that the Supervisor has set up an interactive station fire map website providing residents with evacuation center information and locations. A meeting for victims of the fires is set for September 4th at the Azusa Senior Center and agencies providing assistance will be on hand. A review of the mass emergency notification system is taking place. Early release of felons from prison is going to place huge burdens on local police departments.

Meaghan McLaughlin, Assemblyman Adams: Meghan reported that the Assemblyman is concerned that the early release of prisoners poses a threat to public safety. The prison system is fundamentally broken and overcrowding has been a problem for decades. There are better ways to improve the system than the early release of thousands of

offenders. The Assemblyman is working to aid the victims of the current fires. SB 662 will restore funding to domestic violence programs. The Assemblyman has been named Legislator of the Year for his foster care legislation and education focus. Sessions end on September 11th and the Assemblyman will be setting up community coffees during his hiatus.

Tim Shaw, Senator Bob Huff: Tim reported on the state of the fires burning within the Senators district. Approximately \$27 million has been spent fighting the fires so far and the Senator is committed to helping the victims of the fires receive the needed help to get their lives back together. Tim mentioned AB 136 related to the sale of surplus government property, AB 598 regarding first time DUI offenders and car locking devices and AB 548 regarding benefits for business owners hiring disabled vets. SB 129 regarding Heritage Schools was vetoed. Early release of prisoners into the public sector remains a hot topic.

Doris Blum asked Tim to comment on the proposed NFL stadium.

Tim replied that the stadium, if built, will not be in the redevelopment area of the City of Industry and construction would not use any tax payer monies.

Richard Rea, Congressman David Dreier: No report

Ken Herman, City of Glendora: No report

Glendora Unified School District, Catherine Nichols: Three schools reported test scores in the 900 percentile. Declining enrollment remains a concern as does cuts to funding. Some students reported problems breathing the smoky air from the ongoing fires. Doris Blum added that modernization is ongoing at Goddard Elementary. GUSD is the largest water user in Glendora.

Charter Oak Unified School District, Christine Smith: Enrollment is up and test scores are in the 800 percentile.

Bob Cruz commented that in spite of the severe cuts to education funding, students within the district continue to receive an excellent education, but the effects are bound to catch up eventually.

Marilyn Grinsdale, Citrus College: Classes have been cut, so current classes are filled to capacity. As a result, students are not dropping classes as readily, and it is taking them longer to move through the system and get jobs.

Metropolitan Water District, Luis Cetina: No report

So. Calif. Edison, Donna Lee: No report

Bob Cruz, So, Calif. Gas: The AQMD is challenging the quality of gas being provided to consumers, so a legal battle is bound to ensue. Automated meter readings are coming, but are going to take awhile to implement for all consumers. The Gas Company is offering customer assistance programs for customers in need.

Gene Morrill, Certified Auto: Gene reported that he is watching SB 789 as it relates to his industry and for the possible ill effects it could have. The AQMD rescinded on AB32 and are now saying that the current Freon's in use are not environmentally friendly. It would be nice to put together a forum of City officials and school representatives so that residents could ask questions and present ideas to them.

Old Business:

New Business: Cliff reminded everyone of the Science Center Dedication in the afternoon at Azusa Pacific University.

