

**Legislative Action Committee
January 8, 2009**

ATTENDANCE:

Cliff Hamlow – Azusa Pacific University
Doris Blum – GUSD School Board
Gene Morrill – Certified Auto Specialists
Brian Mejia – Supervisor Antonovich
Steve Johnson – Assemblyman Adams

Dr. Patrick Bushman – Ludwick Family Fdn.
Ken Herman – City of Glendora
Mary Martinez – Charter Oak USD
Jody Roberto – Senator Bob Huff
Dr. Catherine Nichols - GUSD

**Meeting called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Cliff Hamlow
Pledge of Alliance**

Review of the minutes – A motion was made to accept the December 4, 2008 minutes by Cliff Hamlow and seconded by Gene Morrill.

Ken Herman asked the committee if they felt there was a conflict of interest with him attending the Legislative meetings since he is working on the campaign of Gene Murabito for City Council. The committee decided that since they are not endorsing any candidate for City Council, there would not be a problem.

Chairman's Report –Cliff opened the meeting with a discussion of the upcoming City Council Candidates Forum scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2009. The forum will be held at the Glendora High School Event Center from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. All 5 council candidates will be invited. Seating will be done by drawing prior to the beginning of the forum. Each candidate will be given 3 minutes for an opening statement. 2 minutes will be allowed for each question directed to a specific candidate and 1 minute will be given for each candidate to respond. Each candidate will have 2 minutes for a closing statement. No candidate posters or signs will be allowed in the Event Center before, during or after the forum. This format was approved by the committee and letters inviting all 5 of the candidates will be mailed asking them to participate. Bob Cruz from the gas company has agreed to moderate the event.

Doris Blum mentioned that she had heard that Bob Cruz was planning on endorsing Gene Murabito for City Council and wondered what affect that would have on the Chamber and the forum, since the guidelines for the moderator suggest he or she be unbiased and completely neutral of any ties to the candidates.

Ken Herman replied that it was his understanding that Bob Cruz did intend to endorse Gene Murabito for City Council, but he was not announcing his endorsement until after the forum.

Gene Morrill and Cliff Hamlow concurred that since the announcement would be coming after the forum and since the Chamber was not endorsing any candidate, they did not feel there would be a problem.

Cliff Hamlow continued by asking for volunteers to help on the evening of the forum -

Gene Morrill volunteered to collect the written questions.

Dr. Bushman and Doris Blum volunteered to review the questions and submit them to the moderator.

Cliff Hamlow said that he would ask Marilyn Grinsdale to be the timer and that he would look into obtaining a stopwatch for her to use. Cliff asked the committee to think about topics and speakers for the next Legislative Luncheon in either late April or early May. It would be great to focus on topics from the list of Legislative Priorities. The date and topic need to be solidified at the February meeting, so that work can begin on it. It looks like construction of the Goldline will be delayed until 2017, so, it appears that the ½ cent sales tax increase to fund construction further into the SGV, was just a way to get a tax increase.

Ken Herman suggested the economy as a topic or to have Assemblyman Anthony Adams give another address at one of the luncheons.

Dr. Bushman suggested the affect of the economy on non-profit organizations or focusing on how the economy is affecting business owners. Since the focus of the Chamber is business, perhaps their concerns should be addressed.

Ken Herman suggested that a business owner from the Village be asked to speak about what they are doing to survive doing business in this tough economy.

Cliff Hamlow said that would work as long as they were up to date on current legislation affecting business owners. He suggested everyone work on their ideas and bring them to the February meeting.

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

Steve Johnson, Assemblyman Anthony Adams - Steve reported that concerns with the lack of a State budget remain a top priority of the Assemblyman's.

Richard Reyes, Congressman David Dreier—no report

Brian Mejia, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich – Brian gave everyone a handout from the Department of Consumer Affairs for LA County. The pamphlet provides information on foreclosures and where people can get help from the County. On Wednesday, January 14th, the Supervisor and the Department of consumer Affairs are doing a seminar for seniors giving them information on how to protect their assets and themselves from fraud, scams, identify theft, abuse by caregivers and tenant rights. The seminar will be held at the W. Covina Senior Center from 9:00 – 11:30 am.

Jody Roberto, Senator Bob Huff – Jody reported that the Senator is concerned about the lack of a State Budget and the affect the deficit is having upon the entire State. The Senator has not received his committee assignments yet, which is something that usually takes place immediately. He has proposed his first bill regarding performance based budgeting. The current way funding to schools is handled is not working and needs to be changed. The idea of limiting the number of bills a Senator or Assemblyman can introduce to the Legislature appeals to him. Everyone was given a handout on where the Senator can be contacted in Sacramento and his temporary office in Glendora.

Cliff Hamlow asked Jody how many people it takes to fully staff his district office.

Answer: 9

Ken Herman, City of Glendora – Ken reported that the City is beginning to feel the budget crunch, although we are in better shape than many communities. The suffering Auto industry has affected revenue from the Auto Center, so the City is thankful for the Diamond Ridge Development and the revenue it is generating. The City is not hiring, has made cuts to the budget and did a review on their payroll numbers. The Fresh & Easy project is coming along and the Elwood Development has a waiting list for tenants. The Gange project is probably going into receivership, but the Glendora development is doing well. The assisted living suit on the Gladstone development has been settled and the City is taking steps to keep foreclosure properties looking decent by working with the utilities to keep the water and electricity on.

Glendora Unified School District, Dr. Catherine Nichols –Dr. Nichols reported that 3 district schools are eligible to receive California Distinguished Awards. Since 2008 budget cuts of 1.3 million have been made, but the district needs to get to 2.6 million in cuts. So, they continue to work on it. Although the Governor has suggested cutting 5 days from the school year as a means of saving money, people do not understand the full impact such a shortening of the school year would have upon the district and students.

Jody Roberto mentioned that the meetings the Senator has had with Doris Blum and Dr. Nichols on the budget cuts to our schools have been very enlightening and constructive.

Charter Oak Unified School District, Mary Martinez – Mary reported that the district is looking at all options for budget cuts. They have staffed accordingly due to years of declining enrollment.

Marilyn Grinsdale, Citrus College –no report

Metropolitan Water District, Luis Cetina – No report

Donna Lee, So. Calif. Edison –No report

Bob Cruz, So, Calif. Gas – No report

Gene Morrill, Certified Auto – Gene reported that he finds the Legislative meetings enlightening and informative, but feels the committee needs more representation from the business community.

Old Business – New Business : Our next meeting is Thursday, February 5, 2009

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm

Minutes recorded by V. Thompsett