

Legislative Action Committee March 5, 2009

ATTENDANCE:

Doris Blum-GUSD School Board
Dr. Patrick Bushman – Ludwick Fdn.
Meaghan McLaughlin – Assemblyman Adams
Marilyn Grinsdale – Citrus College
Cliff Hamlow – Azusa Pacific University
Mary Martinez – COUSD

Corrine Delgado – Southland Properties
Donna Lee – So. Calif. Edison
Luis Cetina – Metropolitan Water District
Brian Mejia – Supervisor Antonovich
Gene Morrill – Certified Auto

Meeting called to order at 12:01 p.m.

Flag Salute

Welcome and Self- Introductions

Announcements: Community Expo on April 8th at Bidwell Forum – 5 to 7 pm
China Trip Orientation at Bidwell Forum on March 11th – 5:30 pm
Membership Luncheon at Petrillo’s on March 12th – 11:30 am

Chairman’s Report – Cliff thanked the volunteers who helped make the February 11th Candidates Forum such a success. The evening went well, but the 7:30 to 9:30 pm time frame seemed a bit long. Committee suggestions for improvements of the next forum included improvement on the recording of the event, improvement of the PA system, perhaps letting the candidates ask questions of each other and placement of the moderator. Pluses for the evening included the good turnout and the good press the event got in the newspapers. Cliff reminded the Committee that May ballot issues will need to be reviewed. For updates on the Federal Stimulus Package, visit their website, www.stimuluswatch.org. The site shows proposed projects for cities around the nation.

Donna Lee concurred on the length of the evening, feeling that two hours was a bit too long. She also felt that some of the questions posed to the candidates became redundant because of the long time frame.

Dr. Bushman replied that he felt the expansive amount of time gave each of the candidates plenty of exposure and time to state their case to the audience.

Corrine Delgado said she felt the difficulties some of the candidates had with their microphones was a deterrent.

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

Brian Mejia, Supervisor Antonovich: Brian reported that L. A. County is reviewing their budget. The Supervisor has suggested the County could save \$60 million dollars if inmates were allowed to give depositions on site via tele-a-promptors versus being transported to the courthouse. The Federal Stimulus Package may prevent the metro-board from absorbing funds destined for the Gold Line. The Supervisor was instrumental in securing the vote making sure that Measure R 3% commuter rail funds are used to enhance rail safety. The Board of Supervisors approved a motion presented by Supervisor Antonovich to investigate the need for more comprehensive laws related to “puppy mills” and irresponsible breeding. Remember the May 23rd, “Honoring our Veterans” event at Arcadia County Park from 10 am to 3 pm.

Meaghan McLaughlin, Assemblyman Adams: Meaghan reported that the Assemblyman has been receiving criticism from fellow Republicans for voting for the 2009 - 2010 budget because of the proposed tax increases the budget includes. The Assemblyman made the decision to vote for the budget

because he felt that raising taxes for a limited amount of time was better than letting the state go into bankruptcy.

Cliff Hamlow asked if the Assemblyman was being penalized for his stand on the budget.

Meaghan McLaughlin said yes, GOP funding to him is being threatened, but the Assemblyman is ok with his decision and feels that he did the right thing. The Assemblyman will be talking about his decision to support the budget when he addresses the San Dimas Chamber at the San Dimas Country Club on March 6, 2009.

Richard Rea, Congressman David Dreier: No report

Ken Herman, City of Glendora:

Glendora Unified School District, Catherine Nichols: Doris Blum reported that \$6 million in cuts will need to be made over the next 18 months. Layoffs could come by the middle of March. Doris reminded everyone of the community forums on March 11th and 12th at the GHS Event Center at 7:00 pm to inform the public of the school budget crisis.

Charter Oak Unified School District, Mary Martinez: Mary reported that budget concerns are ongoing. \$5.2 million in adjustments have already been made. Layoffs of personnel are coming, but the district will be providing training workshops to those laid off.

Doris Blum commented that in this climate nobody is hiring and teachers that could have found jobs in other districts will find the task daunting.

Luis Cetina asked about the chances of laid-off teachers being rehired.

Mary Martinez replied that rehire is based on seniority.

Marilyn Grinsdale, Citrus College: Marilyn reported that the College has cut classes and is hoping to avoid layoffs. Vacant positions are not being filled. Senator Bob Huff is hosting an Education Summit on March 19th from 6 to 8 pm. An Earth Day Celebration is scheduled for Friday, April 24th with keynote speaker Dr. Birute Galdikas, one of the original Louis Leakey scientists to study primates in their natural habitat.

Metropolitan Water District, Luis Cetina: Luis reported on the upcoming San Gabriel Valley Coalition meeting on March 26th at the Monrovia Courtyard Hotel to discuss current water issues. 50 bills have been submitted to the Legislature regarding the current water crisis. We are in the 3rd year of drought, so allocation of water supplies this summer is possible.

So. Calif. Edison, Donna Lee: Donna commented that Edison has a website to provide assistance to those who need help paying their bills. It is www.sce.com.assistance. On March 25th the San Gabriel Valley Coalition is doing an energy forum at the Edison C-Tech Center from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Bob Cruz, So, Calif. Gas: No report

Gene Morrill, Certified Auto: Gene reported that smog check rules are tightening up for diesel trucks.

Old Business:

New Business: Dr. Bushman reminded everyone of Citizen of the Year on April 16th at Citrus College honoring 2008 Citizens of the Year, Gordon and Diane Norman. Seating is limited to 250. The College will be on spring break, so that should help with the parking.
Remember the Great Trivia Challenge on March 28th at Azusa Pacific University.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:05

Minutes recorded by V. Thompsett