

'That Just Happened'

Recap of the Partnership Board Meeting

Friday, September 15, 2017

- The Oath of Office was administered by Partnership Lead Executive Ismael D. Herrera Jr. New board members Patty Poire, Charles Riojas, Cherylee Wegman and Jim Yovino were sworn in as well as reappointed board members Lynne Ashbeck, Amarpreet Dhaliwal and David Nelson. Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, was sworn in as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. Other reappointed board members are John Eisenhut and Andrew Mendoza; they will be sworn in at the December meeting.
- New Board Chair Supervisor Vito Chiesa convened the 3rd Quarter 2017 Board Meeting at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Shafter after a site tour of Grimmway Academy in Shafter where attendees were able to observe the charter school's blended learning program which integrates an edible schoolyard program.
- Board, staff, speakers and guests were welcomed by Kern County Board of Supervisors Chairman Zack Scrivner who spoke about Kern County's successes, projects, plans and challenges. David Franz and Jim Zervis from City of Shafter shared information about local projects and background of Shafter and their current emphasis on education and college readiness. Nick Ortiz from Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce gave an update on the work of the Chamber, including the current Leadership Class of 32 community leaders which attended the afternoon portion of the board meeting. Much appreciation was given to our Kern County meeting sponsors: City of Shafter, Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce, Grimmway Farms, Tejon Ranch and The Wonderful Company.
- Ismael Herrera called out important additions to the consent calendar which were the inclusion of the Manufacturing Month Proclamation, letters on immigration that were issued to the entire congressional delegation that represents the San Joaquin Valley, and a letter of support for SB 623, the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act.
- Legislative updates were offered by Matt Rogers, District Director for US Senator Kamala Harris; Sandra Garcia, District Representative for US Congressman Jim Costa; Ariana Joven, Field Representative for US Congressman David Valadao; Lauren Skidmore, District Director for CA Assemblymember Vince Fong; Janea Benton, District Director for CA Assemblymember Rudy Salas; Michael Bowers, District Representative for CA Senator Andy Vidak. The Partnership plans to devote time at each board meeting for updates from representatives of legislators that represent the San Joaquin Valley.
- For the Partnership Regional Industry Clusters Strategic Effort, board member Lee Ann Eager introduced panel moderator Mark Hendrickson from the Merced County Economic Development Division. He led a discussion on the growing e-Commerce sector within the region with panelists Melinda Brown, Kern Economic Development Corporation; Mark Mimms, Fresno County Economic Development Corporation; Tyler Richardson, Opportunity Stanislaus.

[Download CA Central Valley EDC Presentation](#)

Lynne Ashbeck asked for a second part to this presentation at the December meeting with a focus on policy recommendations to support local retail with adjusting to growing e-Commerce sector.

- For the Partnership Health Strategic Effort, board member Patty Poire of Grimmway Farms introduced a panel presentation on the topic of Groundbreaking Education: Healthy Lifestyle Principles for Replication. Paul Escala, Executive Director for Grimmway Schools, and RJ Valentino, President of Grimm Family Education Foundation, discussed the history, process and results attributed to the work of the Foundation.

[Download Grimmway Farms Presentation](#)

- Jim Suennen, Associate Secretary-External Affairs, California Health and Human Services Agency, updated the board on the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) program. Further updates will be presented at the December board meeting.

More information is available at www.CalEITC4Me.org.

- Sid Voorakkara, Deputy Director, External Affairs, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), discussed the California Competes Tax Credit program available for California businesses.

[Download GO-Biz Presentation](#)

- The next Partnership board meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2017.