

Sept. 18, 2015

Valley Industry & Commerce Association

VICAWEEKLY



Serving the San Fernando Valley cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and San Fernando

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"When I'm on the fence, a meeting with VICA is helpful."

-Assemblymember Matt Dababneh, D-Van Nuys

Calendar

Save the Date

West Hills Hospital & Medical Center Hiring Fair
 Wednesday, Oct. 7
 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 7300 Medical Center
 West Hills
[Click here](#) to RSVP

Business Forecast Conference
 Friday, Oct. 16
 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Sheraton Universal Hotel
 333 Universal Hollywood Drive,
 Universal City
[Click here](#) to RSVP

Benevon Fundraising Workshop
 Wednesday, Nov. 18

Five Bills to Watch in Sacramento



With the end of the recent legislative session, Gov. Jerry Brown now has until Oct. 11 to sign legislation into law. Of the numerous bills supported and opposed by VICA, we urge members to contact legislators regarding the following pieces

of legislation as soon as possible by clicking the links below. Here are four bills VICA members voted to support, and one members voted to oppose.

Request to sign:

- [Senate Bill 9](#) (Beall): SB 9 redirects the cap-and-trade revenues dedicated to transportation system operational improvements to investment in large, transformative projects. The bill will benefit our transportation system and the environment, as well as ensure that cap-and-trade funding is invested responsibly and effectively.
- [Assembly Bill 47](#) (McCarty): AB 47 would provide - subject to funding in the annual budget act - all eligible children who don't have access to transitional kindergarten with access to the State Preschool Program prior to entering kindergarten. Numerous studies have shown that a high-quality preschool education decreases the need to repeat an academic course, increases high school graduation rates, increases college enrollment, increases earnings as an adult and decreases costs toward criminal justice and welfare.
- [Senate Bill 172](#) (Liu): SB 172 would suspend the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) and remove it as a condition for graduation for the 2014-18 school years. SB 172 provides substantial reform necessary for public education. Our students need a new framework that correctly tests proficiencies on new academic standards, not outdated policies.

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Valencia Country Club
27330 Tourney Road,
Valencia
[Click here](#) to register

Media Highlights

"Sunday Morning
Newsmakers With
Larry Marino"
[AM 870](#)

Hot Issues

Education

The University of California is struggling with budget woes that have deeply affected campus life. Yet the system's nine colleges still lead the nation in providing top-flight college education to the masses.

Finance

Cautious Federal Reserve policymakers on Thursday held a key interest rate at near zero, opting to wait longer to remove

- [Senate Bil 767](#) (de León): SB 767 would permit the **Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority** to impose sales tax that when combined with Measure R (2008), shall not exceed 1 percent. We support authorizing Metro to place such a measure on the ballot, and support SB 767 for requiring an expenditure plan that lists the transportation projects and programs to be funded by the tax, including their cost estimates and predicted timeline. SB 767 would allow Metro to place Measure R2 on the ballot. If Metro supports the **Valley on Track coalition's priorities** -- which would provide vital transportation infrastructure upgrades to the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles area -- the measure would have VICA support.

Request to veto:

- [Assembly Bill 465](#) (Hernandez), which hinders an employer's ability to use arbitration to solve complaints under the Labor Code, starting Jan. 1, 2016. Federal and California public policy favor arbitration as a form of alternative dispute resolution. AB 465 will serve only to increase the cost of legal action, and intensify the number of individual claims, representative actions and class action lawsuits against California employers of all sizes.

[Click here](#) to see all the legislation VICA is tracking.

Step Right Up and Sign Up for VICA's 2015 Business Forecast Conference



VICA's annual Business Forecast Conference welcomes all to see the economic "State of Confusion," the theme of this year's event, Friday, Oct. 16, from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the **Sheraton Universal**. Before the lunch-time keynote address by L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, there will be an economic forecast given by three experts on regional, state and national economics during breakfast. The economic forecasts, which are sponsored by **California State University, Northridge** and **U.S. Bank**,

the unprecedented easy-money stimulus to determine whether recent global financial market volatility has slowed the U.S. economy.

Insurance
California homeowners living near wild lands have seen their rates increase sharply because insurance companies are increasingly wary of high fire-risk areas.

Passing
Jim Dunn, owner of the **Airtel Plaza Hotel** in Van Nuys, passed away Monday of health care complications. He was 70. In addition to ownership of AirTel Plaza, he was the principal of Dunn Investment Properties and co-chair of VICA's Aviation Committee. He

will feature:

- William Roberts, director of the SFV Economic Research Center and professor of economics at **California State University, Northridge**, will present the local forecast. In addition to teaching graduate courses at CSUN's School of Business, Roberts prepares and presents the annual "CSUN San Fernando Valley Economic Report," which releases the center's Economic Forecast Survey, detailing demographic and real estate trends in the Valley.
- Jeffrey Kravetz, regional investment director, The Private Client Reserve of **U.S. Bank**, will present the regional forecast. Kravetz oversees portfolio management activities within the western region and works closely with market leaders. A member of both the Investment Management Executive Committee and the Investment Strategy Group, Kravetz has over 20 years of experience in the investment industry.
- Mark Vitner, the managing director and senior economist at **Wells Fargo** responsible for tracking U.S. and regional economic trends, will present the national forecast. Vitner writes for Wells Fargo's Monthly Economic Outlook report and the Weekly Economic & Financial Commentary. He chairs the Economic Advisory Council for the California Chamber of Commerce, and he's also a member of the Blue Chip Economic Forecasting Panel and the Western Blue Chip Forecast Panel.

After the forecasts, guests will be able to check out eight panel discussions with experts in the fields of transportation, housing, water, earthquakes, live entertainment and the future of the news business.

[Click here](#) to oppose this costly energy mandate.

Consulate General for UAE Speaks at VICA's International Affairs Committee

also served on VICA's Board of Governors. A celebration of his life is planned for what would have been his 71st birthday, on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 1 p.m. in the AirTel Plaza Conference Ballroom.

Politics

They tackled immigration, terrorism and Obamacare, but for 14 of the 15 candidates who took the stage Wednesday at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, the biggest issue was the man standing at the center podium.

Politics

The state's campaign finance watchdog agency on Thursday adopted new requirements that nonprofit groups that contribute through a political action



His Excellency Abdulla Alsaboosi, consulate General of the United Arab Emirates in Los Angeles (center), was a featured guest at VICA's International Affairs Committee meeting. At the meeting, which was chaired by Jeff Daar (**Daar & Newman**) and co-chair Zacharias Beckman (**HyraX International**). Alsaboosi discussed business partnerships between the USA and the UAE during Tuesday's meeting.

[Click here](#) to get involved in VICA's committees.

VICA After Dark with Mike Bonin



Mike Bonin

VICA invites you to a networking reception at **Bel Air Bar & Grill** on Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., with Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin. Bonin was elected to office in 2013, and represents the communities of Brentwood, Marina Del Rey, Pacific Palisades, Venice, West L.A. and Westchester. He is chair of the council's Transportation Committee, serves on the Board of Directors for the county's MTA and is vice chair of **Metro's** Expo Line Construction Authority. The event is

being presented by **Bel Air Bar & Grill**, **AT&T** and **Englander, Knabe & Allen**. It's being co-sponsored by **USI of Southern California Insurance Services**.

[Click here](#) to RSVP for free as a VICA member.

Have You Been to VICA's New Office?

committee to support or oppose ballot measures or candidates in California must disclose their donors.

Transportation
A long-discussed high-speed rail project linking Southern California and Las Vegas will be built by a U.S.-China joint venture, Chinese officials said Thursday, though many details about the agreement remained hazy.

Weather
A group of drought experts gathered in California this week, and it wasn't long before the conversation turned to El Nino.



VICA is operating out of its new office, and celebrating our grand opening with a ribbon cutting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 28. VICA's new address is **16600 Sherman Way, Ste. 170, Van Nuys**. Come join us with elected officials, appetizers and raffle prizes, including **Southwest Airlines** tickets. There are also sponsorship opportunities available within the new office, which offers exposure to foot traffic in the thousands - from business leaders to elected officials and community leaders.

[Email Athena](#) to register for our open house.
[Email Jessica](#) for sponsorship information.

Committee Report

Government Affairs Committee (9/16)

Hosted by **Providence Tarzana Hospital**

- Assemblymember Matt Dababneh updated the committee on state legislative priorities, including healthcare and transportation.
- Veronica Perez, with **Veronica Perez & Associates**, provided an update on Los Angeles city and county proposals to implement a wage theft ordinance.
- Senior Adviser Alexander Kim and Senior Deputy Alice Roth with Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu's office provided an update on the councilmember's policy priorities.
- The committee recommended the United States Department of Labor's recent efforts to raise the salaried overtime threshold.
- The committee discussed regulatory reform guiding principles for a potential bill that could be put forward in the 2015-16 legislative session.

Member Messages: Get Your Message in VICA Weekly!

VICA members can promote their business, events and news in VICA Weekly. Member messages are available for \$50 per week or \$175 for four weeks. Messages are text-based and may not contain more than 70 words. A logo may be added for an additional \$5 per week. For more information or to schedule your member message, contact Perry@vica.com or call (818) 817-0545.

ABOUT VICA

Presenting the business perspective on behalf of employers in the San Fernando Valley cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, San Fernando and Santa Clarita.

Read more about VICA at vica.com or read our [Guiding Principles \(PDF\)](#).

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