

Minimum Wage Increase is Bad Business for California

By: Catherine Gaughen, Executive Director

Businesses in California are being targeted once again. Effective January 1, 2007, the California State Legislature has increased the cost of doing business by raising the state minimum wage to \$7.50 an hour instead of the current \$6.75 - making it the highest in the nation and far exceeding the federal minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour. The state has also approved a mandated second increase of 50-cents that will raise the minimum wage to \$8 an hour starting January 1, 2008.

This government mandated wage increase will have real world impacts – increasing both public and private employer wage costs by at least \$3 billion annually. While an increase of seventy-five cents per hour may not sound like a lot of money, consider it in these small business terms: the mandated seventy-five cent per hour rise in 2007 will increase a small business with 20 workers base payroll costs by at least \$31,200 per year. When the second tier of the mandated wage increase occurs on January 1, 2008, that same small company's base payroll costs will increase by at least \$52,000 annually.

Business costs such as workers' compensation, health care premiums and other employment related taxes also go up whenever payroll costs increase. Workers' compensation costs for employers of minimum wage workers are estimated to increase by an additional \$120 million this year alone. At the end of the day, businesses do not have an unlimited amount of financial resources to tap into to cover these new wage increases. Ultimately, mandated wage increases will result in layoffs, downsizing, and overall higher unemployment rates, as businesses are not able to sustain the inflated wage structure. Of course, all of these rising costs are ultimately passed on to consumers – causing the overall cost of living to increase and in the end, leaving minimum wage workers right back where they started.

California also currently has the nation's highest energy costs and unemployment insurance tax rates for businesses. This increase to the minimum wage is yet another cost driver hurting California's economy just as the state is on the road to recovery. This increase in the minimum wage places another cost on California businesses of all sizes when they are still recovering from other burdensome laws and regulations that have made it difficult for them to survive. By increasing the minimum wage, the State Legislature is sending conflicting messages to California businesses that are relying on state leaders to find realistic solutions to high-energy costs, health care costs, the nation's highest unemployment insurance tax rates and still-high workers' compensation rates.

The Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce believes that removing barriers to productivity and wage growth is a better avenue to improving California's economy. Instead of working to make California less competitive by

► *Continued on page 2*



Chamber Happenings

Natalie Neufeld, Gordon Zbinden, and Jim Richardson of Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary gave their wish lists to Santa Claus (Bob Sobel of Oxford Health Care) at the Chamber's Annual Holiday Luncheon ► *See page 3*

State of the County

Presented by Supervisor Don Knabe

Thursday, January 11, 2007

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Sheraton Cerritos Hotel

Lunch is \$30/person - *Sponsorship Tables are available*

Labor Law Workshop

Presented by Ann Smith, AALRR

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

7:30 am - 10:00 am

Cerritos Library - Skyline Room

\$25/person - *includes continental breakfast*

2007 Miss Cerritos Scholarship Contest

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts - Sierra Room
\$10/person - *Sponsorship opportunities are available*

Minimum Wage Hike

► Continued from page 1



Catherine Gaughen
Executive Director

mandating that the state minimum wage rate be the highest in the nation, the focus should be on removing the barriers to productivity and wage growth that government has imposed on the private sector. Specifically, California should:

- Reduce costs associated with providing employee benefits
- Increase opportunities for small business formation
- Increase the skills of both the current and future workforce
- Reduce regulatory red tape
- Do no more harm by resisting any new effort to increase either employment costs or business liability in California

To receive additional information on legislation affecting the business community, please attend the Cerritos Chamber's monthly Government Affairs Council meetings – held the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 am at the Chamber office. Or contact the Chamber's Executive Director, Catherine Gaughen, at 562/467-0800 or email at: catherine@cerritos.org.



2007 Miss Cerritos Scholarship Contest

The 2007 Miss Cerritos Scholarship Contest will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2007 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts. Miss Cerritos is a Scholarship Contest and **NOT** a pageant. This is a professional development opportunity for young women. The goal of Miss Cerritos is for young women to gain

professional networking skills, public speaking and interview skills, and to make contacts within the Cerritos business community to help further their professional careers. If you know of young women interested in participating in the Miss Cerritos Contest, please have them contact the Chamber before January 17, 2007: 562/467-0800. If your business is interested in sponsoring a young woman, please contact the Chamber for details.



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Union Development Company * Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, & Romo
Southern California Gas Company * JD Knabe & Associates*

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Jasmin Henriquez, Office Assistant

Clarence Fuqua, Bookkeeper

Chamber Happenings

Holiday Spirit Contagious at the Chamber's Annual Holiday Luncheon

The Cerritos Chamber hosted its annual Holiday Luncheon on December 7th. Guests were treated to a surprise visit and photo opportunity with Santa and entertained by Leal Elementary School students' holiday song and dance performances. The "Name That Holiday Tune" contest had everyone humming along to holiday favorites. The festivities ended with a holiday story that determined which lucky person at each table got the poinsettia centerpiece. The event was sponsored by Ziba Beauty, Los Cerritos Center, L&J Development, RSAOR, J.D. Knabe & Associates, ABCUSD, Rose Hills, Gateway Business Bank, Cerritos College, Hawaiian Gardens Casino and Wal-Mart.



Ken Kraus and his staff from Los Cerritos Center



Superintendent Dr. Gary Smuts, Dr. Mary Sieu, Mary Lou Jones, & Kathy Frazier



Erin Stibal, Chamber VP Briana Blackman, and Metre Anthony



Janice Cole, Lola Rizkallah, Dr. Ted Edmiston, Steve Richardson, Mary Donovan, and Hamlet Ong



Sarah Hagge and Christine Lastrilla



President John Meinert and Past President Melanie Broad



Donna Meyers, Richard Gaines, and Carmen Choy of the Sheraton Cerritos



Clarence Fuqua with the Chamber's Executive Director Catherine Gaughen



Linda Frisbey with new Chamber Member Diane Padelford Young



Bob & Mary Buell with Santa Claus (Bob Sobel of Oxford Health Care)



Rita Gallato and Chamber Board Member Mary Lou Landes



Santa's Helper: Theresa Brunella of the American Red Cross

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

- 1 NEW YEARS HOLIDAY - Office Closed**
- 3 GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL**
9:00 am - 10:00 am
Chamber Board Room - 13259 East South St
- 11 STATE OF THE COUNTY LUNCHEON**
Presented by LA County Supervisor Don Knabe
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Sheraton Cerritos Hotel
Lunch is \$30/person - *Sponsorships are available!*
- 15 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY**
Office Closed
- 17 2007 LABOR LAW UPDATE**
7:30 am - 10:00 am
Cerritos Library - Skyline Room
\$25/person - *includes continental breakfast*
- 18 AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE**
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Chamber Board Room - 13259 East South St
- 31 MISS CERRITOS SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST & NETWORKING MIXER**
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Cerritos Performing Arts Center - Sierra Room
\$10/person - *Sponsorship opportunities are available!*

FEBRUARY

- 1 "DOING BUSINESS WITH CHINA" LUNCHEON**
11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Sheraton Cerritos Hotel
Lunch is \$30/person - *Sponsorships are available!*
- 7 GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL**
9:00 am - 10:00 am
Chamber Board Room - 13259 East South St
- 15 NETWORKING MIXER - Location: TBA**
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- 19 PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY - Office Closed**
- 21 WORKSHOP: IDENTITY THEFT**
7:30 am - 10:00 am
Cerritos Library - Skyline Room
\$25/person - *includes continental breakfast*
- 22 AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE**
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Chamber Board Room - 13259 East South St

2007 LABOR LAW UPDATE

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

7:30 am - 10:00 am

Cerritos Library - Skyline Room

Presented by: Ann K. Smith, Esq.
Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, & Romo

\$25/person

includes continental breakfast
Non-Members: \$30

RSVP:

562/467-0800



2007 STATE OF THE COUNTY LUNCHEON

Presented by Los Angeles County Supervisor

DON KNABE

Thursday, January 11, 2007

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Sheraton Cerritos Hotel

Lunch is \$30

Reserved Sponsor Table of 10: \$400
Reserved Sponsor Half-Table of 5: \$250
Event Sponsor: \$100

RSVP:

562/467-0800

SEATING IS LIMITED

New Chamber Members

Please join us in welcoming these new Members to the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce. Stop by their respective locations and welcome them to our business community! If you would like information on joining the Chamber, please contact our office at 562/467-0800 or join online at www.cerritos.org.

AMERIPRISE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC

Brittney Castro
5000 East Spring
Long Beach, CA 90815
562-608-4001

GATEWAY BUSINESS BANK

Leigh Clausen
4146 Woodruff Ave.
Lakewood, CA 90713
562-627-9800

ARTESIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Veronica Bloomfield
P.O. Box 83
Artesia, CA 90702
562-865-1503

AUDIO ONE LLC

Kevin Watson
17316 Edwards Road
Cerritos, CA 90703
562-802-3581

Member Anniversaries

We appreciate the continued support of our renewing Members. Please stop by their respective locations and thank them for their Membership Investment in the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce!

20 Years or More

Su Casa
Creative Jewelers
Cerritos Nissan
Off Street Cafe
CalMet Services
Fred H. Matsumoto, D.D.S., Inc.
Paramount Ready-Mix Concrete, Inc.

15 Years or More

SELACO WIB
Rotary Club of Cerritos
Walton Roofing, Inc.
Paul Bowlen, City of Cerritos

10 Years or More

Press-Telegram
Admiral Pest Control
South Coast Shingles Company, Inc.

5 Years or More

College Hospital
David Sparks, D.D.S.
Sam Chu, CB Richard Ellis
Friends of the CCPA
California Educational Centers, Inc.
Long Beach Ice Dogs
Pioneer Medical Group
Ave 3 Pizza Subs & Catering

1 Year or More

Wilner & O'Reilly
David Brody and Company
Cerritos Storage Center
Artesia Ice Services
Black Angus Steakhouse
Wells Fargo Bank
ReMax Select
Red Brick Pizza
All Choice Realty
Cerritos Aglow International
Automobile Club of Southern California
American City Pest Control
Club Z! In Home Tutoring Services
Family Outreach & Community Intervention

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562/467-0800**



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Chamber Happenings

Business Leaders Develop New Contacts at the Holiday Networking Mixer at Black Angus Steakhouse

The Chamber's Holiday Networking Mixer was held at the Black Angus Steakhouse on December 14, 2006. Guests were greeted by twinkling white lights, treated to delicious appetizers and beverages, and enjoyed a relaxing break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. A special thank you to Black Angus General Manager Mario Duran for hosting this wonderful event.



Mary Ann & Allen Wood, Bob Hughlett, Leigh Clausen, Marianne Hughlett & Megan Richardson enjoyed the delicious appetizers at Black Angus



50-50 Raffle Drawing Winners:
Bob and Barbara Ashley



Executive Director Catherine Gaughen,
Mayor Paul Bowlen, and Breanna Carter



Ambassadors Frank Adamo, Joe Culbert, and Steve Chen with a potential new Chamber member



Ambassadors Dan Chatman and Patricia Dupree with potential new Chamber members



Connie Rich with Mary Donovan of Donovan Travel



City of Cerritos Mayor Pro Tem Laura Lee with Sal Flores and guest



Steve Richardson of Cerritos College Foundation with Jim Richardson of Rose Hills



Mixer Host Mario Duran of Black Angus with Christine Lastrilla and Capt Daryl Evans



Chamber Office Assistant Jasmin Henriquez with Operations Manager Jill Ovard

Member Spotlight

Highglow Jewelers

18644-A Pioneer Blvd.
Artesia, CA 90701
562-402-0112

A Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Ceremony for new Chamber member, Highglow Jewelers, was held on the evening of December 1, 2006. Upon entering the store, guests were immediately impressed by the dazzling displays of sparkling necklaces, earrings, and rings. The Montblanc company representatives, celebrating their 100-year anniversary, greeted guests and proudly showcased their elegant pens. Highglow Jewelers are renowned for masterful creations in gold and diamond jewelry. They are dedicated to providing customers with design excellence and innovative styles using 22K gold and IF-VVS quality diamonds. Raj Pranav, Vice-President of Sales, and his professional staff, invite you to view their jewelry and accessories by visiting Highglow Jewelers showroom in the city of Artesia.



Above: *Highglow Jewelers Ribbon Cutting Ceremony*



Left: *Chamber Board of Directors present owner Raj Pranav with his Cerritos Chamber Membership plaque*

Miss Cerritos Scholarship Contest & Networking Mixer

Wednesday, January 31, 2007
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts - Sierra Room

Tickets are \$10 /person
Sponsorship Opportunities are available!

RSVP: 562/467-0800

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A Message from LA County Supervisor Don Knabe



Los Angeles County Supervisor
Don Knabe

Friends of the Fourth District:

A few months ago, I had a chance to share with you details about the serious problem in Los Angeles County and throughout the State of California of criminals defrauding taxpayer subsidized programs which provide low-income families with money to offset the costs of child care. The State estimates this type of fraud exists in up to seven percent of all of the child care cases statewide. We know this type of fraud is costing California's tax-

payers millions of dollars every year, but here in Los Angeles County, we also know how to fight back against this type of fraud.

You may have recently read about a local case that perfectly illustrates what is happening. In early October 2006, 11 local residents were sent to prison for up to seven years for stealing \$1.25 million in taxpayer funds that should have been used for child care. The scam occurs when these criminals bill State and local agencies for child care reimbursement for employees that don't exist, care centers that don't exist or even for children who don't exist. One of the 11 recently sentenced was pocketing nearly \$20,000 every month even though she was not caring for a single child.

So how are these criminals able to get away with this fraud? Depending on their level of income, LA County residents eligible for child care funding get those funds from one of three sources: Stage 1, Stage 2 or Stage 3. The Stage 1 program is for families on welfare and is administered directly by the County. Stage 2 is for families transitioning off of welfare but still rely on a certain level of assistance. Stage 3 is designed for the working poor. Fraud occurs in every stage because criminals sometimes bill each one.

The County of Los Angeles has a successful taskforce for attacking fraud in Stage 1 – the only portion we can control. Last year alone, this partnership saved taxpayers over \$2 million in child care fraud in LA County and actually identified and helped prevent over \$50 in potential fraud before it actually occurred.

We are making great strides to curb Stage 1 fraud, but Stages 2 and 3 are funded and administered directly by the State of California. They have no clear policies in place that meaningfully address program integrity or quality control, let alone a means of preventing criminal activity in child care programs. The result is that nearly \$235 million given out locally under Stage 2 and 3 last year – is left wide open to fraud.

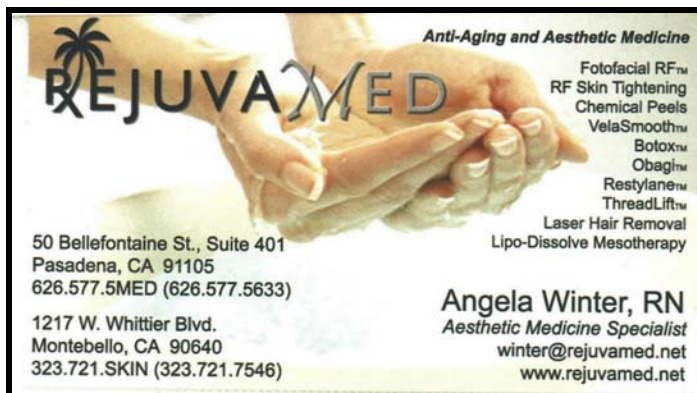
Need another example to know how bad the problem is? The recent prison sentences for 11 Los Angeles County residents were a result of the work of our Stage 1 fraud team. But only \$68,000 of the \$1.25 million they stole occurred in Stage 1. The other \$1,182,000 in fraud happened in Stage 2. The bottom line is that crooks know it's easier to cheat the State's two programs because there is no oversight and no fear of prosecution.

Last year, I joined with Senator Bob Margett (R-Glendora) in authoring Senate Bill 1421 which would have used the best practices of our fraud prevention program in Los Angeles County as a test model for a similar statewide program in Stage 2 and Stage 3 child care. While I'm pleased to say that the bill received bipartisan support, SB 1421 was parked in the Senate Appropriations Committee until after the session ended, essentially killing the bill. But the problem remains.

I will continue to advocate in Sacramento for a comprehensive statewide solution to this problem and Senator Margett will introduce another bill in the new legislative session. The new bill will call for a study and pilot program in several counties to test fraud prevention practices. The lessons we learn from this effort will serve as a basis for implementing a cohesive policy for ensuring integrity in these critically needed programs.

It is my hope that legislators will join with us in support of this reform in the months ahead. This reform will ensure that those who truly need this child care funding can continue to access the funding they legitimately need. It will also ensure that we have better quality control over the people applying for this funding and what they are using it for. Most importantly, it will be a tremendous step forward in curbing the millions of dollars in taxpayer funds that are taken every year by the criminals who defraud this important program.

Supervisor Don Knabe



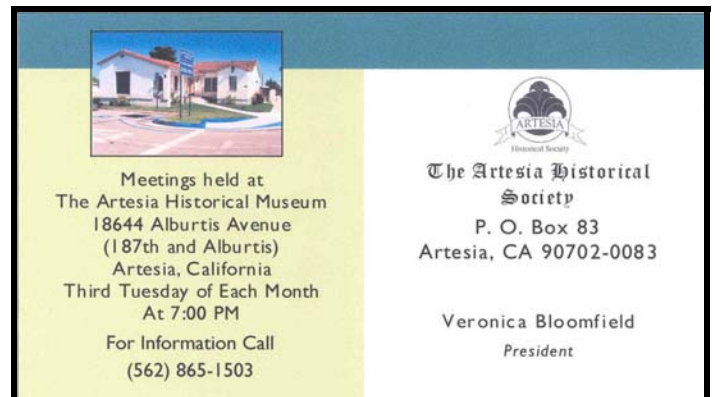
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The Artesia Historical Museum
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Artesia, California
Third Tuesday of Each Month
At 7:00 PM

For Information Call
(562) 865-1503

Veronica Bloomfield
President

Members in the News

Community Family Guidance Center Children's Holiday Store



This was the sixth year the Community Family Guidance Center hosted the Children's Holiday Store program. The majority of the families who participate are working poor and relatives providing foster care. Under the leadership of Pat Kent, this year the community donated the largest amount of toys and gifts that they have ever had. Those who were especially generous were Supervisor Don Knabe, Toys for Tots, Norwalk Transit, Norwalk Toyota, Wal-Mart, Los Cerritos Center, Soroptimist of Artesia-Cerritos, Macerich Company, John Glenn High School, Rotary Club and Community Family Guidance Center's Board of Directors. Overall 172 families were served, an increase of 15 over the previous year. Every child received at least two large gifts and a stuffed animal and every family received a game and a gift certificate for a grocery store. Community Family Guidance Center wishes to thank everyone who contributed to our Children's Holiday Store. Your generosity and concern for our less fortunate children and families made their Christmas and ours a very joyful one for all involved.

Complimentary Consultation from Ameriprise Financial



Brittney Castro, a Financial Advisor for Ameriprise Financial, would like to offer a complimentary consultation for members of the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce. Financial planning is about more than just numbers. It's also about dreams. Sharing your dreams with a personal financial advisor is the first step toward realizing them. Contact Brittney Castro for a complimentary initial consultation at Ameriprise Financial and explore your dreams and the Dream book guide: 562.608.4001 or brittney.a.castro@ampf.com.

Vicencia & Buckley Insurance Employees Volunteer to Help Those in Need



For the eleventh consecutive year, employees at Vicencia & Buckley Insurance donated time, food and gifts to help two local charities, the Greater Long Beach Chapter of the American Red Cross and the La Palma Chamber of Commerce Food Drive. Held at Liberty Park in Cerritos, Vicencia & Buckley employees volunteered to provide cookies, refreshments, gift cards and toys to local children. Many employees also donated food and gift cards to the La Palma Chamber Food Drive, which provides these items to local citizens in need.

"I am proud how our employees responded to help others less fortunate than them, even though they have their own families and responsibilities this time of the year," said Vicencia & Buckley Vice President, Laurie Painter, who spearheaded this gift of giving campaign. Vicencia & Buckley Insurance Services is a local independent insurance agency serving business and families. This coming year, the firm will be celebrating their 30th year in business. For more information, Vicencia & Buckley can be reached at 714-739-3177.

The Chatman Group Hosts Networking Breakfast



Dan Chatman of The Chatman Group/GoSmallBiz.com will host a January networking breakfast with Fran Tarkenton on Thursday, January 25, 2007 at 7:30 AM Coco's Restaurant, 11510 South Street, Cerritos. VIA Teleconference call, NFL Hall-of-Fame Quarterback and Business superstar Fran Tarkenton, along with his guest, will discuss issues of importance to the small business owner. In addition to hearing from one of the nation's top business gurus, you will be able to: expose your business to other local businesses; acquire new prospects and customers; share your marketing materials with the other attendees. This is a FREE event; you won't want to miss it!

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New Laws Will Help & Hurt Businesses in 2007

From the minimum wage to workers compensation, there are numerous new pieces of state legislation that will affect California businesses in 2007. More than half of these bills favor the overall business climate, but there are several “job killers” that will have very direct consequences for small businesses. The following is a list of some of these new laws that have recently gone into effect or will take effect in 2007:

Discrimination

SB 1441 - Adds sexual orientation to existing classifications protected from discrimination by recipients of state funds and expands the definition of discrimination to include the perception that the victim is a member of a protected class.

Employment

AB 546 - Outlaws the use of state-owned or leased computers by government officials/employees to access obscene materials.

SB 1759 - Establishes requirements for background checks and fingerprinting in the health care industry.

Health and Safety

AB 2067 - Clarifies the prohibition of smoking in workplaces.

AB 409 - Immediately authorizes suspension of the license of a cosmetologist, barber, and manicurist if required to protect the public health and safety.

AB 881 - Requires all roofing contractors to have workers' compensation insurance, whether or not having current employees.

SB 1613 - Effective July 1, 2008, limits the use of cell phones while driving to those having hands-free operation except for contacts with law enforcement and public safety agencies.

Sexual Harassment

AB 2095 - Limits mandated sexual harassment training to supervisors located in California.

State Government

AB 3058 - Directs development of a web-based small business handbook on emergency preparedness.

SB 1436 - Requires state agencies to improve their communication regarding regulations and assistance with businesses.

SB 1827 - Permits registered domestic partners to file joint state income tax and have their earnings treated as community property on a par with married couples.

AB 2293 - Penalizes an educational employer that submits willfully false statements about a worker's employment or termination to the Employment Development Department.

Wages

AB 2613 - Establishes conditions for a state overtime exemption for teachers in private educational institutions.

AB 1835 - Increases California's minimum wage and exempt salary standards for all California employers. This law increases the California minimum wage to \$7.50 per hour on January 1, 2007, and to \$8 per hour on January 1, 2008.

AB 2095 - Permits reporting of overtime hours on the same payroll date as the hours are paid when overtime is paid in the payroll period subsequent to the one in which it is earned.

Wage Deductions

AB 2440 - Imposes penalties on an employer that assists an employee with child support obligations evade meeting those obligations, including failure to file reports upon hiring.

Workers' Compensation

AB 1368 - Excludes public safety employees from the presumption that medical apportionment applied to certain specified job-related illnesses or injuries.

AB 2068 - Permits pre-designation of a medical group as the primary treating physician.

AB 2292 - Provides for payment of workers' compensation death benefits to the estate of the deceased worker and requires death benefits to be paid to the CA State Department of Industrial Relations if the employee has no dependents.



Kevin K. Watson
Southern CA
Regional Manager

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C.A.R.E. Award Program

Chamber Appreciation and Recognition of Employees

Congratulations Mary Lou Jones of ABC Unified School District!

Mary Lou Jones was honored and presented with the Chamber's first C.A.R.E. Award for her outstanding work at the ABC Unified School District. The Chamber's new "C.A.R.E." Award Program (Chamber Appreciation and Recognition of Employees), hosted by the Ambassadors, is designed to honor and recognize employees for their outstanding service in the workplace. Nominated by Kathy Frazier, Mary Lou Jones was acknowledged as an employee who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty with professionalism and dedication to her job. She received special recognition for always making her co-workers' day with a smile, kind word, and assistance. Mary Lou can always be counted on to make even the most difficult task look easy - and always while providing excellent customer service. The Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce is proud to honor Mary Lou Jones with the first ever C.A.R.E. Award.

Members of the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce are invited to nominate individuals (Chamber members only please) who deserve special recognition. Nomination Forms will be available at all Chamber events, or feel free to send us an email stating the reasons why your nominee deserves the "C.A.R.E." Award. Each month, an individual will be honored and recognized at our luncheon and in our Newsletter as well. Send your nominations to the Chamber by fax: (562) 467-0840, email: chamber@cerritos.org, or mail: 13259 East South Street, Cerritos, CA 90703.



Mary Lou Jones of ABC Unified School District received the first ever C.A.R.E. Award from Cerritos Chamber Executive Director Catherine Gaughen at the Chamber's Holiday Luncheon. Mary Lou was nominated by Kathy Frazier as an outstanding employee who deserves recognition.



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Are You Involved? *Join a Committee & maximize your Membership!*

Government Affairs Council Meets the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 am to discuss legislative issues and to make recommendations for action on behalf of local business

Small Business Committee Provides a forum for the exchange of ideas, fosters programs for professional development, and promotes small business growth and profitability.

Home Based Business Committee Provides resources, information, and an accessible forum for home-based businesses to grow and succeed

Ambassadors Committee Acting as public relations representatives for the Chamber, Ambassadors encourage interaction and involvement of all members at functions and events

Business & Education Council Brings business, education, and community leaders together as effective partners to build a quality workforce

Multi-Cultural Council Creates and develops a stronger link, partnership, and voice between the Chamber and the existing Asian and Indian communities of businesses in Cerritos

Industrial Council Provides outreach and business services to the industrial sector

Special Projects & Events Numerous events and projects provide networking opportunities, quality information and resources that help businesses grow and succeed

About the Chamber

The Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven, non-profit association of business professionals and civic-minded residents committed to improving the business climate and quality of life in the Cerritos area. The Cerritos Chamber provides support, resources, services, and opportunities for all existing and prospective businesses. The Chamber's goal is to help create and sustain successful business ventures that will benefit the economic vitality of the entire region.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce is to promote and enhance business within Cerritos and the surrounding area.

Vision Statement

The Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce, as the unified voice and advocate for business, promotes economic development and business retention, enhances government relations and community development, advances collaborative partnerships and alliances, and provides key resources for the entire community.

Why Join?

GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY
and political action to represent and protect your business from regulations and undue taxation

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
and referrals to help you make new business contacts

A PRO-BUSINESS AGENDA
to help strengthen the local economy and stimulate economic growth

DISCOUNTS AND BENEFITS
to save you and your business money and time

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
programs to help grow your business

Past Presidents

Kathy Frazier	2005-2006
Melanie Broad	2004-2005
Elizabeth Gadbois	2003-2004
Steve Vicencia	2002-2003
Margaret Pashko	2001-2002
Lou Banas	2000-2001
Gabe Loya	1999-2000
Jim Bockholt	1998-1999
LeeAnne Krusemark	1997-1998
Sharon Sidener	1996-1997
Waldo Arballo	1995-1996
Joe Julien	1994-1995
Sharon Sidener	1993-1994
Rose Reets	1992-1993
Julie Knabe	1991-1992
Philip Kress, DMD	1990-1991
Mike Mortl	1989-1990
Guy Hammond	1988-1989
Julie Knabe	1987-1988
Frank Scott	1986-1987
Sherman Kappe	1985-1986
Mary Alice Soares	1984-1985
Richard Boudreau	1983-1984
Jack Boyster	1983-1984
Steve Pope	1982-1983
Al Witt	1981-1982
Richard Boudreau	1980-1981
G. Anthony Rector	1979-1980
Angel Rivas	1978-1979
Paul Mangán	1977-1978
Dick Judson	1976-1977
Mildred Knost	1975-1976
Bill Woods	1974-1975
Don Nehlson	1973-1974
Ronald Call	1972-1973
Edward Rindahl, Jr	1971-1972
Jack Bettencourt	1970-1971
Juan de Cordova	1968-1970
Al Highstreet	1966-1968
Ray Hanson	1963-1966

