



Kaleidoscope

Management Growth Thru Communication, Training, and Personal Development

President's Message —

by Christy Madden

Your Board

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Welcome to 2009! While I'd like to start my message with eternal optimism, the conditions in which we're living make that virtually impossible. "The good news is, we now have a State budget . . . the bad news is, we have a State budget" according to Dan Walters, political columnist for the Sacramento Bee and recent speaker at the UCSB Economic Forecast Seminar. Mr. Walters' comments were remarkably brief – a mere 20 minutes in the three-hour program. Thanks to your Council, you can hear a more in-depth discussion with Dan on March 5th when he comes to the Superintendent of Schools' new complex in Camarillo. Registrations are due by February 27th so don't delay. You can download the registration

form from our website.

In addition to bringing timely information so we can position ourselves personally and professionally for the challenges ahead, the Council is proud to offer a variety of opportunities throughout the year for increasing camaraderie amongst the County family. As such, we're proud to once again be sponsoring the County's participation in the Corporate Games.

We're also hosting a welcome reception for Supervisor John Zaragoza at our spring members' BBQ at Freedom Park on March 31st. It's a low-key event offered to members at minimal cost, so look for the flyer coming to your e-mail box soon.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to let you know that we

have several new members on our Board. We continue to reach out to ensure broad representation across unrepresented classifications and departments. Please join me in welcoming Mark Varela from Probation, Chris Cooper from Public Works, and Cheryl Wade from Sheriff. Cheryl has also volunteered to take on the role of editor for this newsletter. Producing the document in house will not only save us money, but more importantly facilitate the timely distribution information to you – our members. So if you have suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact Cheryl through the County e-mail system. You can read about all of our Board members by visiting our website at

www.vcmanagementcouncil.org.

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2008 Management Council Awards And the winners are...

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| <p>BEST KEPT SECRET</p> <p>Debora Carrington (PD)</p> | <p>INTEGRITY</p> <p>Chuck Pode (CEO)</p> | <p>SUPERIOR CUSTOMER SERVICE</p> <p>Jim Franks (CEO)</p> |
| <p>INNOVATION</p> <p>Jess Lemos (PWA)</p> | <p>MENTORING</p> <p>Kelly Shirk (CEO)</p> | <p>View event photos at: www.vcmanagementcouncil.org/Gallery/</p> |

TOASTMASTERS

by Dan Hansen

The Mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn fosters self-confidence and personal growth.

In the Toastmaster program, you will prepare and present short talks and practice impromptu speaking in a relaxed, enjoyable, and supportive atmosphere. Your listening and analytical skills will be sharpened. You

will learn to communicate with confidence and poise.

Toastmaster programs put a premium on developing leadership skills so critical for career advancement.

There are two Toastmasters clubs that meet here at the Government Center in the Pacific Conference Room off the HOJ cafeteria. The County Speak Toastmasters Club meets Thursday afternoons from 4:00 PM until 5:15 PM. For more

information on that club, please contact Don Hansen at (805) 654-3771. For you early risers, County Communicators Toastmasters Club meets Wednesday mornings at 6:40 AM until 7:45 AM. For more information on that club, please contact Mark Lager at (805) 648-6164.

Take charge of your career, join Toastmasters!

“California’s Economic and Political Future”

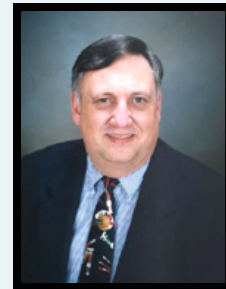
GUEST SPEAKER: DAN WALTERS

We are pleased to announce that Dan Walters, Political Columnist for the *Sacramento Bee*, will be in Ventura County to discuss California’s economic and political future at the Ventura County Office of Education in the city of Camarillo on Thursday, March 5, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Dan has a passion for poli-

tics—California politics. With more than 60,000 written articles, his columns now appear in more than 50 California newspapers, as well as other well-known publications like *The Wall Street Journal*. Dan’s journalism career spans more than 40 years, and he’s known for his hard-hitting and thoughtful

commentaries. Contact Betty Huff at betty.huff@ventura.org for more information.



BROWN BAG LUNCH

by Dennis Scamardo

The Brown Bag Lunch meetings were started by Johnny Johnston as a way to communicate new and useful information. They are typically held on the first Wednesday each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Pacific conference room.

Topics presented have included: Budget issues, and various guest speakers from all departments providing topical information from the perspective of that department such as: Pandemic flu, CIT, remote motor pools, and new tech-

nology such as GIS mapping. Everyone is welcome to attend, just bring your lunch and enjoy.

If you’d like to hear a particular topic or speaker at one of our Brown Bag Lunch seminars, please contact either:

Dennis Scamardo at dennis.scamardo@ventura.org or Betty Huff at betty.huff@ventura.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON Supervisor Zaragoza



Supervisor John C. Zaragoza

District 5 Supervisor, John C. Zaragoza, was sworn into office in January 2009. During his campaign, Mr. Zaragoza's stated priorities included the building of cohesive and harmonious teams with county, local cities & businesses, and community leaders to address concerns and issues. Not a stranger to public

service, Mr. Zaragoza became an Oxnard City Council member in 1996, and served as Mayor Pro Tem in 1998.

As a dedicated civil servant, Mr. Zaragoza participates in many community organizations, he is a past member of the American Red Cross of Ventura County Fundraising Com-

mittee, the Los Angeles Times Summer Camp Fund Committee, and Oxnard's Citywide Enhancement Program (CWEP) Committee.

Please join the VC Management Council as we welcome Supervisor Zaragoza at the Freedom Center in Camarillo on March 31st.

2009 SPECIAL EVENTS



- ◆ March 4th—Brown Bag Lunch—Guest speaker is Barry Zimmerman
- ◆ March 5th—Guest Speaker Dan Walter—Ventura County Office of Education in Camarillo
- ◆ March 18th—Book Club—Pacific Conference room
- ◆ March 31st—Greetings BBQ for Supervisor Zaragoza—Freedom Center in Camarillo

SAVE
THE
DATE

- ◆ April 1st—Brown Bag Lunch—Guest speaker is Barry Fisher
- ◆ April 15th—Book Club—Pacific Conference room
- ◆ Apr 8 to May 16—Corporate Games—Various county locations
- ◆ December 10th—Management Council Holiday Party and Awards ceremony—Wedgewood in Ventura



BOOK LOVERS UNITE

by Paul Grossgold

Did you know the Management Council has a book club? That's right, and it's called "Bookworms." The Book Club is an informal group of book lovers who meet monthly to discuss a book that everyone has read. Our last reading was "The Final Lecture" by Randy

Pausch, the Carnegie Mellon professor who decided to share his thoughts on life, even as he was dying of cancer. The time and day for the meetings has recently changed. They will now be held on the third Wednesday of each month from 12 noon to 1 PM in the Pacific Conference Room at the Government Center. This schedule will

pick up in March, so the next meeting will be on March 18th.

In March we'll be reading: *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism*.

Anyone interested in joining may contact Paul Grossgold (paul.grossgold@ventura.org).



For newsletter contributions or suggestions, please contact the Editor, Cheryl Wade, at:

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OUR MISSION

The Ventura County Management Council promotes excellence among its members by providing opportunities for professional growth through education, networking, exchanging information, celebrating success and developing future leaders.

To this end, the Council will work to host, create, develop, fund, market and evaluate events and resources that support its members to become active and effective participants in the governance of Ventura County.

E-mail:

Management.council@ventura.org

Corporate Games

The deadline to register for this year's Corporate Games is rapidly approaching. Those who register after Friday February 27th will be given positions on teams only on a space available basis.

We're taking a more strategic approach in forming our teams to better position ourselves to take the perpetual trophy away from Amgen - who's had it almost forever! We were closer than ever last year, and now that Paint Ball is a competitive rather than Spirit event (we won the gold last year) we're confident we can catch them. Teams will be formed in twenty-six events, giving everyone an opportunity to find something to suit their skills and interests. Of course there's always a need for tug-gers to pull the rope in the mandatory tug-of-war competition. This event takes

place on the final day at Harbor Cove Beach with the sand castle contest, culminating the month-long competition. There's live music, company organized barbeques and lots of festivities for the whole family. As a Division AA team, the County is allowed a maximum of 4 teams per event, and consequently there may be some friendly internal competition to determine which teams compete in the official Games for some of the more popular events.

Like last year, there is no cost to participate, so there's no excuse not to join in the fun. For those who represent the County in the Corporate Games, we simply ask that you purchase a t-shirt with the winning 2009 Corporate Games County logo to iden-

tify you as a member of the County team. The participation fee this year is being underwritten once again by the Management Council whom firmly believes in the benefits of teamwork, camaraderie, and sportsmanship associated with the Corporate Games philosophy.

Employees from all agencies, departments and positions are encouraged to get involved. As of this writing, there are nearly 350 individuals signed up to participate with the deadline rapidly approaching, so if you haven't signed up DO SO NOW! There's never been a better time to participate as we "GO FOR THE GOLD"!

Register at : <http://apps.countyofventura.org/corpgames/>