



UCC Government Affairs January 2021 meeting

The Government Affairs Committee of United Chambers of Commerce, convened its first meeting of the year with an introduction of returning Chair, Richard Fisk, returning co-Chair, Diana Duenas and new co-chair for 2021, Rana Ghadban, President and CEO of the Hollywood Chamber. The committee is dedicated to be an information avenue and advocate for the business community focused on issues that have an effect on the emergence, growth, and now survival of businesses in the San Fernando Valley and beyond.

The January monthly meeting was a great example of valuable, pertinent information that all business owners and managers need to know. Sue Bendavid, from the law firm Lewitt/Hackman's Employment Practice Group identified and explained the new employment laws taking affect this year. Her definitive, but capsulated presentation was clear and concise, with explanations of the impact these laws will have to the owners and employees of business. She took and answered questions as well as extended an invitation to see and hear the full version of the presentation in upcoming webinars.

To be an effective advocate, we first need to be aware of what our legislatures are proposing. The State legislators started the 2021 legislative season on December 7 of last year, where 127 bills were introduced before taking the holiday break and resuming their work on January 11th. The GA committee created a hand out list of some of the bills to monitor of which 10 were on the meeting's agenda for discussion. Many of that 10 were introduced as "intent" bills which presents an opportunity for advocates to have an influence in the details of the bill and while doing so creates more awareness of United Chambers to the legislators.

We also monitor County and City issues as those elected propose motions and resolutions. The City's motions can often be alive in committees and other departments for years before being enacted or dying, while the state bills have the first nine months of the year to complete or no more than 2 years with a rewrite under a different bill number. However, when the City Council puts a high priority on an issue that has been introduced, they have shown it can be discussed, written, and approved by the City Attorney and enacted into law in as little as 3 weeks. Legislative representatives for all levels of government are invited to the GA meetings to give reports and to hear what we are discussing, taking back to their respective elected what UCC's opinions and thoughts are. We encourage and often host the elected official themselves to present their ideas for governance and to hear ours.

Our monthly meetings are open to business men and women in our collective community. We are looking forward to hearing from you so that we can all work together toward a brighter future for everyone.

The February Meeting will be on Monday, February 8, 2021. Please contact Marian@unitedchambers.org for the Zoom meeting codes.