



### ***Recap of United Chambers Government Affairs Meeting January 10, 2022***

Maybe due to new year resolutions, the first meeting of the year brought many first-time attendees, growing the Zoomed in total to its highest seen in a long time. The Chair welcomed everyone mentioning that in just 2 months will be the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of these meeting being held via video. One of the advantages of video meetings is that we can attract guest speakers from virtually anywhere, this month being an example.

The State legislation year began last week with the legislators being in session. *Senator Hertzberg* was our first speaker from his offices in Sacramento. Also from Sacramento, our second guest speaker, *Tom Ross*, the CEO of Swing Strategies was able to Zoom in.

Senator Hertzberg's brief introduction noted that he is a long time Valley representative since 1996, only interrupted by his entrepreneurial stint in the solar industry. He came back to the State Legislator as a Senator in 2014 and is now in his final year because of term limits. Surprisingly, his talk was shortened by wanting to take the time to answer more questions. He did highlight the issues he was most enthusiastic about that helped the Valley. With term limits, this is his last year in the state legislation, not committing to what his next position will be, but strongly hinting at a County Supervisor seat. One question was about the petition drive to overturn inheritance provisions of Proposition 19. He answered by noting that he was one the authors of the bill that led to Prop 19 and strongly believes it should remain intact, as voted in.

A list of initiatives was sent out prior to the meeting which was meant to stimulate thought about possible legislation UCC could propose to a legislator to become a state bill. In that light Tom Ross, CEO of Swing Strategies in Sacramento was invited to be a guest speaker. After a personal, formal introduction by Joel Fox, Mr. Ross spoke about the initiative process and pointed out the ones his company is involved with. Explaining that his work is involved with following and working with legislators, he said he would like to have United Chambers be a coalition partner on selected issues.

We were fortunate to have many new representatives from all levels of government, giving their reports and answering a few questions. Several discussed how redistricting affected their offices which had caused a lot of confusion. With the LA City Council and LA County Supervisors, their new district boundaries took effect almost immediately. Federal, and State office will not take effect until sometime in June. Many reps did repeat that elected officials do want to hear from us for our opinions, sponsorship, and proposed legislation.

On the agenda, was a motion to support newly introduced AB1603 that would amend Prop 47 by lowering the threshold for shoplifting from \$950 to \$400. It is one of many bills directed at Prop 47. If passed by the legislators, it would be put on the ballot for all voters in California. City Hall introduced a

resolution in support of AB1603, that was incorporated into the motion. Pending any challenge by our members, support of AB1603 and the City's Resolution will be a formal position of United Chambers of Commerce by the end of the week.

Adjournment of the slightly longer than scheduled meeting was after a few announcements. The February 14<sup>th</sup> Government Affairs meeting will feature our City Controller, Ron Galperin with Senator Henry Stern tentatively scheduled. We are in process of planning for a Mayoral candidate in-person forum in lieu of the March 21 Government Affairs Meeting, we hope to see you there.

Richard Fisk  
Government Affairs Chair