VICA Honors Important Valley Businesses at 2018 Hall of Fame Dinner

"VICA is about uplifting the community and bringing positivity to the San Fernando Valley."

- Senator Henry Stern at VICA's 2018 Hall of Fame

Over 300 Valley business and community leaders gathered Thursday at the Universal Sheraton for VICA's 11th Annual San Fernando Valley Business Hall of Fame Dinner, where five businesses were honored for their positive impact on the Valley. In her welcome speech, Natasha Fooman of the California Financial Service Providers Association noted, "We are so delighted to recognize the local companies that are contributing to the success, economic vitality and growth of the San Fernando Valley."

This year's inductees were: Health Net, Inc.; Kirsch Kohn & Bridge; Laurence School; Tapia Brothers Farms and Traders Loan & Jewelry. The event was presented by California Financial Service Providers Association and co-sponsored by AT&T, The Garland, Los Angeles Daily News, San Fernando Valley Business Journal and Southwest Airlines. Attendees were charmed by emcee State Senator Henry Stern, who acknowledged the importance of San Fernando Valley businesses and the crucial role VICA plays in keeping those businesses alive.

Click here to view photos from the event on our Facebook page.

Health Net, Inc.
Inductee Farid Hassenpour (Health Net), Presenting Sponsor and VICA Board Member Natasha Fooman (California Financial Service Providers Association), and VICA Board Member and Award Sponsor Jamie Chien (Valley Presbyterian Hospital).

Licensed in California in 1979, Health Net is one of California's most well-established health plans, with more than 38 years of doing business in the state. Today, Health Net provides and administers health benefits to nearly 3 million individuals throughout the state. Health Net is committed to delivering better health outcomes at lower cost and transforming the health of the communities they serve.

During his acceptance of the award, Farid Hassenpour discussed VICA's advocacy on healthcare policy, saying that "We are proud to work with VICA on these issues." Health Net's award was sponsored by Valley Presbyterian Hospital.

Kirsch Kohn & Bridge
Established in 1961, **Kirsch Kohn & Bridge, LLP** is a full-service CPA firm located in Woodland Hills. The firm provides a complete range of services for closely held businesses and their owners and not-for-profit organizations. Members of the firm work together with the client to realize the client's potential for excellence. The firm's three underlying principles are professionalism, responsiveness and quality.

During his acceptance of the award, Stuart Jaffe discussed the importance of establishing community partnerships, which he said "is the secret sauce to our success." **Kirsch Kohn & Bridge** was presented their award by **Wells Fargo**.
555 Universal Hollywood
Drive
Click here to RSVP

Education Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 2
8:30 to 10 a.m.
VICA Office
16600 Sherman Way,
Suite 170, Van Nuys
Click here to RSVP

Energy, Environment & Utilities Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 9
Noon to 1:30 p.m.
VICA Office
16600 Sherman Way,
Suite 170, Van Nuys
Click here to RSVP

Land Use Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 14
8 to 10 a.m.
The Garland
4222 Vineland Ave., North Hollywood
Click here to RSVP

Government Affairs Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 15
Noon to 2 p.m.
VICA Office
16600 Sherman Way,
Suite 170, Van Nuys
Click here to RSVP

Local Officeholders Luncheon
Thursday, August 16
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 Universal Hollywood
Dr., Universal City
Click here to RSVP

VICA After Dark with Frank Miller
Wednesday, August 29
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Burbank Airport Marriott
2627 Hollywood Way,
Burbank
Click here to RSVP

VICA Board Member and Award Sponsor Francesca Vega (California State University, Northridge) and Inductee Laurie Wolke (Laurence School).

Founded in 1953, Laurence School is a co-educational, independent Kindergarten - 6th grade school in Valley Glen, California, dedicated to educating the "Total Child." As a result of Laurence's stellar reputation for educating elementary age children and matriculating them to the most competitive independent secondary schools, Laurence attracts not only families from throughout the Valley, but also from all over the city, which is beneficial for the Valley's business growth and reputation.

During her acceptance of the award, Laurie Wolke talked about the school's humble beginnings, established as a local summer program by her father. In taking a "total child" approach to education, Wolke noted that the school works "to raise really good human beings." Laurence School's award was sponsored by CSUN.

Tapia Brothers Farms
Taxes
The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states will be able to collect sales tax from all online retailers, provided they meet criteria to be determined by each state. Previously, states could collect online sales taxes from sellers only if the seller had a physical presence in the state.

Ballot Measures
Twelve propositions have earned a spot on California's November ballot. Voters will also be asked to weigh in on proposals to split California in three, repeal the $5 billion-a-year gas tax, and adopt year-round daylight saving time.

Labor & Employment
The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that teachers, police officers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. The justices overturned a 41-year-old precedent and ruled that the 1st Amendment protects these employees from being required to support a private group whose views may differ from theirs.

Consumer Privacy
Under a new online privacy protections law signed by Gov. Brown, consumers will have the right to know what personal information companies are collecting and why and with which businesses it's being shared. They will also have the right to direct companies to delete their information and not to sell it.

Environment
As Californians have heavily developed and continue to build along the edge of the Pacific, sea level rise is eating away at California's coastal cliffs. Cliffs could recede more than 130 feet by the year 2100 if the sea keeps rising.

Economy
U.S. consumer spending rose less than forecast in May as outlays on services fell and Americans saved more of their incomes. Inflation topped the Federal Reserve's goal by more

Tapia Brothers is a family-owned and operated third generation open air produce market. Founded in Encino in 1984, Tapia Brothers seeks to provide the Valley with the best produce available in a fun, welcoming, family friendly environment. They offer shoppers an opportunity to buy produce that is all locally grown in the Valley and are a daily celebration of the businesses upon which the Valley was built.

Tom Tapia and John Pollack of Tapia Brothers accepted the award. Pollack referred to Tapia Brothers as "a time capsule in the middle of the Valley," noting that it evokes memories of years past, when the Valley was covered with orange groves. Tapia Brothers was presented their award by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Traders Loan & Jewelry
The final inductee of the evening was Traders Loan & Jewelry, the oldest pawn shop in the San Fernando Valley. Since 1954, Traders has provided its customers with friendly service, complete honesty and firm integrity, educating their clients as to the best loan/product that fits their needs.

Accepting the award, Diane Taylor mentioned Traders' important role in helping community members access financial assistance, as well as their wedding band design services. Traders Loan & Jewelry was presented with its award by US Bank.

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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 Helene@vica.com or call (818) 817-0545.