It's "Bills, Bills, Bills" in Sacramento

As the Legislature moves into its final week of the 2017-2018 session and bills start landing on the Governor's desk, VICA is making sure the San Fernando Valley's voice is heard in Sacramento. VICA urged the Governor to sign SB 910, which would ban short-term health insurance which lacks basic patient protections and risks destabilizing the health insurance marketplace. We urged him to veto SB 946, which threatens local cities' ability to regulate sidewalk vendors even if they are impeding brick-and-mortar business. Hundreds of bills are still in the Legislature, which has until next Friday to send bills to the Governor.

VICA is strongly opposing damaging bills such as SB 100, which will drive up costs for ratepayers by pursuing a goal of 100 percent renewable energy, even if that goal simply isn't reasonable. VICA is also opposing SB 328, which will take away the ability for school boards to decide what's best for local students by forbidding schools from starting before 8:30 a.m. VICA also opposes AB 1249 which will ban animal testing in many common personal care products, even when animal testing is required by government agencies.

VICA continues to advocate in support of SB 905, which will give cities local control over their nightlife and tourism industries, and SB 961, a financing tool for local municipalities to build affordable housing near transit stops.

Take action on these bills and many others by visiting VICA's Action Center.

VICA Opposes City of LA Ballot Measure to Allow City-Run Bank

The VICA Board voted to oppose City of Los Angeles Measure B, which is on the November ballot. Charter Amendment B seeks voter approval for the creation of a municipal bank. While voter approval would not create a municipal bank, it is the first step in the creation of a bank. Pursuing the establishment of a municipal bank requires energy, time and resources that could be better deployed serving the needs of Los Angeles. The City's own Chief Legislative Analyst found that a city-run bank would be hugely expensive, risky and unrealistic. Voters will be misled to believe that the creation of a municipal bank is a viable alternative to traditional banks or a solution to challenges such as lack of housing. This wastes city resources, including staff time, and distracts city leaders from investing their energy and political capital in more realistic solutions to Los Angeles' challenges.
Send VICA Your Nominations for the 2018 Harmon Ballin Community Service Award

VICA’s Harmon Ballin Community Service Award annually honors an active VICA member who has made an outstanding contribution to our community through their long-term community service activities. A nominee is someone who:

1. Has been an active VICA member and is actively engaged in the organization currently
2. Has significant and long-term involvement in philanthropic and community/public serve organizations or a significant record in that area
3. Is a role model as a community leader

For more information, email elizabeth@vica.com.
Transportation Committee Meeting Hosted by The Garland Tuesday, Sept. 11 8 to 10 a.m. The Garland 4222 Vineland Ave., North Hollywood Click here to RSVP

Government Affairs Committee Meeting Sponsored by Dolphin Group Wednesday, Sept. 12 Noon to 2 p.m. VICA Office 16600 Sherman Way, Suite 170, Van Nuys Click here to RSVP

Mile of Quarters Saturday, Sept. 15 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Westfield Topanga Mall 6600 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Canoga Park Click here to RSVP

Healthcare Committee Meeting Sponsored by Valley Presbyterian Hospital Thursday, Sept. 20 Noon to 1:30 p.m. Valley Presbyterian Hospital 15107 Vanowen St., Van Nuys Click here to RSVP

Ambassador Committee Meeting Wednesday, Sept. 26 8:30 to 10 a.m. VICA Office 16600 Sherman Way, Suite 170, Van Nuys Click here to RSVP

After Dark with LAPD Chief Michel Moore Wednesday, Sept. 26 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Bel-Air 662 Sepulveda Blvd., Beverly Hills Click here to RSVP

Please submit your nomination to Jessica@vica.com by Friday, August 31.

Spotlight on VICA Executive Committee Leadership

Alex Kasendorf, Treasurer of VICA, is a lawyer and lobbyist with Alpert, Barr and Grant, APLC in Encino. His practice focuses on litigation, dispute resolution, advocacy and lobbying. Licensed as an attorney since 2001, Kasendorf has worked on matters from beginning to end, ensuring his clients are an active participant in every step of the process. His broad involvement in the San Fernando Valley connects his clients with various organizations and individuals which can, at times, assist in efficiently accomplishing their goals. Alpert, Barr and Grant has been involved in VICA for many years, and Kasendorf has been active in VICA since joining the firm 10 years ago.

How is VICA valuable to you or your business? VICA provides real-time information and data to me about the business issues that are impacting our community. I am often aware of trends and developments well before they reach the public domain and I can use this information to better guide my clientele. I am also provided with numerous opportunities to meet individuals throughout our business and governmental communities that I end up working with.

Why should prospective members consider becoming more involved with VICA's committees? VICA's committees bring policies and influencers to its members. Committees provide intimate settings to do deep dives on our most pressing issues.

Click here for more information on VICA's leadership and Board of Directors.

Join VICA's 2018 Board of Directors

VICA’s 2019 Board of Directors nomination and selection process is underway, and we want your nominations! Board members must be able to attend regular board meetings and be prepared to vote on a wide variety of public policy issues. Board members must also attend regular committee meetings and VICA events. Additional responsibilities may include calling or writing lawmakers, attending press conferences, testifying, authoring editorials, interacting with top opinion leaders and more. For more information on the 2019 Board of Directors guidelines, click here.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating on the board in 2019, please click on the nomination form below and submit to Jessica@vica.com. If you don't want to serve on the board, but are interested in serving as a committee chair, please let us know that on the nomination form. Applications are due by Friday, August 31.

Click here for the Board of Directors Nomination Form.
**Hot Issues**

**Education**
In response to research showing that 70% of California's 2.1 million community college students neither earn a two-year associate degree nor transfer to a four-year school in six years, California is putting forth a plan to decrease the barriers between students and a diploma. Starting this fall, 40% of the state dollars a college receives will depend on whether the institution improves student outcomes and how well it serves poor students.

**Marijuana Convictions**
When California voters approved Prop 64 in 2016, they authorized more than the legalization of recreational marijuana - they also allowed people to petition the judicial system to have their old pot convictions expunged. AB 1793, now awaiting Gov. Brown's signature, provides a framework to make such expungements possible.

**Plastic Straws**
Restaurants in California would not be able to give out plastic straws unless a customer asked for one under a bill passed by the state Legislature Thursday and headed to Gov. Jerry Brown.

**Tax Deductions**
This week, the IRS and Treasury Department moved to block efforts by lawmakers in California and other Democratic-controlled states to help their residents avoid a new limit on state and local tax deductions. The proposed rule, which is likely to face legal challenges, targets legislation in those states that would allow taxpayers to claim a charitable deduction for state and local tax payments above the $10,000 limit set in the tax cuts passed by Congress last year.

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**Michel Moore**

**Los Angeles Police Department Chief**

Wednesday, September 26, 2018
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**The Bel-Air**

662 Sepulveda Blvd., Beverly Hills

Join VICA for our upcoming After Dark, featuring Los Angeles Police Department Chief Michel Moore. Attendees enjoy hosted drinks and appetizers as they meet and interact with other prominent business leaders from the community. VICA After Darks are complimentary to VICA members.

Non-members who are interested in attending are encouraged to contact Helene@vica.com.

Click here to RSVP.

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On October 6, 2018, join Homes 4 Families in going **Over the Edge for Veterans** - a chance for the most daring donors to rappel down the Universal Hilton. 100 percent of the funds you raise will help build homes and provide services for low-income veterans and military families in North LA County. Click here to register or explore sponsorship opportunities, or call Donielle DeLeon at (818) 884-8808 x209.

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**LOOKING FOR MEDICARE OPTIONS?**

**Turning 65 and need to know more about your health plan choices?**

Call me today — I'm here to help!
Member Messages:
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.

ABOUT VICA
Presenting the business perspective on behalf of employers in the San Fernando Valley cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, San Fernando and Santa Clarita.

Read more about VICA at vica.com

Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA)
San Fernando Valley, California
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