VICA's 2016 Annual Report Published!

Last year was a momentous year for VICA, with some of our biggest successes advocating for the San Fernando Valley business community and our members. VICA's Annual Report for 2016 is attached here. You can learn more about VICA's advocacy-related accomplishments on the local, state and federal levels, highlights of our major events, and summaries of staff, partners, and membership development from 2016. We're proud of what we accomplished in 2016, but none of it would be possible without our active and passionate membership. Contact our office if you want to find more ways to be involved with VICA in 2017.

Read VICA's 2016 Annual Report here.

Join VICA for the Region's Premier Advocacy Trip to the Nation's Capitol

May 22 - May 24

Join more than 200 civic and business leaders for the region's premier advocacy trip to the nation's capitol. Attendees will meet with members of Congress and senior Administration officials on priorities important to Southern California.

Early Bird Registration Fee: $750 (Before April 21)
Registration Fee After April 21: $850

For an additional $400, registrants will receive a one-stop Southwest Airlines roundtrip flight. (ONLY 2 LEFT)
Support adjustable reimbursement rates for service providers

VICA supports Assembly Bill 279 (Holden), which will allow adjustments to be made on reimbursement rates for developmental service providers. State legislators recognized the impact of raising the state minimum wage on developmental disability service providers and made provisions for rates to be adjusted under 2016’s Senate Bill 3 (Leno). However, no such provision exists for local minimum wage increases. For the next few years, some local minimum wages will be higher than the state minimum wage before they converge in 2020 or 2021. This bill will allow for variation in reimbursement levels at the regional level to account for higher local minimum wages until that happens. As service providers begin to feel the effects of these increases to their employee costs, it becomes more important to extend authority to regional centers to vary the rates of reimbursement to reflect these differences. Without this bill, reimbursement rates cannot be adjusted to meet local mandates, and service providers may have to reduce services or shut their doors, leading to a shortage of services available to people with disabilities in the state.

Send a letter supporting AB 279 by clicking here.
Oppose Restructuring the California Transportation Commission

VICA opposes Assembly Bill 179 (Cervantes), which would require that seven of the eleven voting members of the California Transportation Commission (CTC) meet specified professional qualifications in environmental-related issues in order to serve. Additionally, this bill would create an Environmental Justice Advisory Committee and mandate that the CTC hold at least two joint meetings annually with the California Air Resources Board. AB 179 would significantly change the makeup of the CTC, which is responsible for annually allocating billions of dollars in transportation funds. This bill would require commissioners to primarily represent special interests rather than the interests of their constituents: the people of California. The CTC already employs a professional staff, many of whom have expertise in the environmental areas of concern. In order to support California’s leading industries, the CTC must focus on funding programs that create a safe and efficient transportation system for the movement of goods and people. AB 179 would not only alter the configuration of the CTC, but also its mission to appropriately administer funds to improve our transportation system.

Send a letter opposing AB 179 by clicking here.

Vietnam Veterans Day

"Colleagues, on March 29, 2017, Vietnam Veterans’ Day was observed. As you may know, our shipmates and bunkmates of that era have borne an array of wounds including having never come home, resting in hallowed National Cemeteries, and many physical and mental scars from their service. I propose that we here extend a hearty Welcome Home and Thank You for what you have given your grateful Nation."

- Robert Rodine, Polaris Group

Visit Six Flags Magic Mountain for a Day of Thrills

Six Flags Magic Mountain and Hurricane Harbor is the perfect place to celebrate company achievements, show appreciation, boost morale and get everyone together for a day of fun. We offer customizable, affordable packages for any size group, and we’ll help you do everything from publicizing your event to managing all of the details while you’re at the park.

For more information please contact us at magicgroups@sixflags.com or 661-255-4806
prices for services and prescriptions with providers, pharmaceutical companies and others.

**Education**

Last Sunday, Granada Hills Charter High School secured its sixth California Academic Decathlon championship in seven years. The Granada Hills Charter team will head to Madison, Wisconsin for the 2017 United States Academic Decathlon in April to compete with students from across the United States, China, the United Kingdom and Canada.

**Employment**

In a report released by the California Employment Development Department last Friday, figures show that L.A. County’s economy chugged along at nearly full employment in February as the unemployment rate fell to 4.8 percent and employers added 33,000 jobs to their payrolls.

---

**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
16600 Sherman Way Ste. 170 Van Nuys, CA 91406
Tel (818) 817-0545 * Fax (818) 907-7934 * www.vica.com

Stay connected to VICA

Copyright © 2017. All Rights Reserved.