

MINUTES

LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)

Monday, October 26, 2024 – 5:00 PM – Moose Lodge

Meeting called to order at 5 PM at Moose Lodge. Flag salute by Congressman Jay Obernolte (“JO”)

Minutes approved. Moved by Debbie Schultz. Seconded by Frank Francis

Treasurer report. Collection--\$99. \$20 to Moose. Deposited \$79. Balance \$\$4459.39. Insurance paid 10/22/24. Issued check #1222 for \$569 to The Hartford for insurance.

Jay Obernolte, Congressman (JO)

-Inflation and rising prices. Real wage growth -3%. Some costs are twice what other states are. Government deficit has grown due to increased federal spending.

-Existential crisis for U.S.-- National debt passed \$35 trillion. Per capita debt \$103,000. In response to inflation, the Fed has raised interest rates, raising our costs and interest rates on national debt. Now we borrow money to pay the interest. For the first time in our history, we are paying more on interest on the debt than the debt itself, and defense spending, Social Security, Medicare. We MUST do something about it

Do what? 1. STOP SPENDING. JO introduced legislation (or resolution?) to balance federal budget annually. 2. Get a handle on federal spending. After WW2, they used an Anti-appropriations Committee to ID unnecessary expenditures. Do this again – Finding Federal Savings Commission.

-California. Barstow International Gateway project. BNSF wants to take containers off ships at ports, put them on rail cars to intermodal yard and sort and ship out from there. Would help freeway traffic. 20000 new jobs to High Desert. Three times more energy efficient. California Air Resources Board opposes this proposal. CARB wants to mandate all-electric locomotives, which is impossible when pulling heavy freight. BNSF will move the whole project to Surprise AZ if CARB persists. JO intends to stop CARB. They need a waiver from Federal EPA to do it. Clean Air Act prohibits regulation of railroad locomotives. EPA has not answered. JO got a provision into Budget bill to prevent EPA from issuing waiver to CARB.

-Five military bases in our district. PACT Act. Need to make sure the veterans get the benefits they deserve due to their service. Legislated provisions to help vets whose health problems manifest themselves later in life, even though they are from their service. Focus on the Loma Linda VA hospital, to clean up its sloppy operations.

Q. BNSF to leave Barstow and move project to AZ? They are waiting at JO's word that he might be able to solve the electric locomotive issue.

Q. Fusion and artificial intelligence. Fusion Energy Caucus co-chairman. Recently accomplished the first fusion reaction and a net-positive energy fusion reaction. S/b inexpensive, local, w/o long transmission lines, nuclear waste. Zero atmospheric emissions.

A.I. Chairman of that committee. Trying to create a regulatory framework to protect against negative harmful uses of A.I. – promote beneficial uses.

Q. Continuing Resolutions? A result of the failure of a dysfunctional government. Gov't shutdowns are no answer. Cost more than it seems. People get back pay when gov't reopens and overtime to catch up. Military don't get furloughed but don't get paid until later. Really a bad deal. Fiscal Responsibility Act passed last year. Largest reduction of non-defense spending in our history. Very difficult to do.

Q. Social Security. When husband dies, the wife should get higher amount. Seems that's been changed and wife has to live on lower amount. LeeAnn Peterson said from her personal experience, she did get increased Social Security when her husband passed. Gets entangled with issue of illegal immigrants getting Soc. Sec. when they didn't pay into it

Two thoughts in summary. Remember constituent services that are available through the district office. If you have a problem with federal gov't, call JO office. Second: we have a responsibility and obligation to vote. And leave our kids a country better off than what it is now.

Sheriff's Report Sgt. Joe Necochea jnecochea@sbcisd.org. 508 calls for service. 48 reports. 32 arrests. 7 vehicles reported stolen. Q. Loud music over weekends? Call in disturbing the peace. Complaint re. off-road vehicle noise and troublesome neighbors and after spending time documenting with photos, videos, and written reports, getting runaround. Call CHP if complaint is road- or traffic-related.

THIRD DISTRICT. Steve Reyes. Prop. 36 important – strengthens existing laws on drug use and possession. Questions about Rancho Lucerne and its affect on the school district, swamping it with thousands of new students. Land Use Services open house 10/30 at the Library.

Assemblyman Lackey. Iris reminded of the office in the Town of Apple Valley where help with state issues is available. As of 10/14, ABX2-1 requires refineries to keep minimum oil supply. Lackey opposes since it gives bureaucracy too much power to run gasoline supply. Lackey tried to get gas prices lowered suspending taxes but the bill went nowhere. Will try again in the new year. Concern expressed that suspending the tax would affect road maintenance on our terrible roads. Answer: that's also governed by Measure I and local sales tax, which doesn't benefit LV anyway.

LVUSD. Peter Livingston and Chelsea. Enrollment steady at 1175. 49% growth in enrollment since Covid. 203% growth in English language learners during same period. 3 of 5 top graduates are English learners. New project by Site Logic will save millions over life of project: HVAC units; lighting for athletic fields; new solar array for elementary; battery energy storage system. Working with Chuck on Rancho Lucerne, the future, impact on school district.

County Fire, Station 8, Battalion Chief Eric Spies. 98 calls, 24 were fires, 8 crashes. New Type 1 fire engine on order. Much discussion about how the firefighters find remote places, places without county addresses but only GPS coordinates. Re burn permits: south of hwy from CDF; North of hwy, go to SBCFire.org. (NOTE: After the meeting, the chief responded: I consulted with our Emergency Communications Center Chief and our system does not operate with an APN number in referencing location. Our suggestion for difficult locations is to provide us with the address and specific details that will assist us in locating and utilizing best routes so we can attach the notes to any incident at the address allowing any responding unit to see this information.)

LV Museum by Chelsea LaGrange. Their original fire truck blew out the rear end, but they were able to replace the rear end and truck bed for it. Bringing old railroad engine down from Mitsubishi. Can sponsor this and get a plaque or some kind of recognition.

Big Bear Health Van. Ryan: Will be able to take veterans and relieve them of trip to Loma Linda. To bring van down here need the permit from the State Health Dept, and Memo of Understanding with LVM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Angie Miller

Business baskets at FFB. Businesses create baskets for drawing and raising funds

Roadrunners have Halloween Tailgate for Oct. 31, with \$100 prize for best decorated tailgate.

Christmas tree lighting on December 7, 4-6 PM. Activity center at Burger Depot. LV High School band and choir will perform plus children's choir

Rose from Church of the Living Word. November 9, 2pm, pie baking contest as a fundraiser. Open to everyone. The church helps those who need it, like showers with His Closet. Looking for a van to help with transportation for those without it.

Jason Hanes: Victor Valley Transit Route 23 has been changed and is no longer helpful to the riders. It only goes down Hwy 18 to LVM and stays there for 30 minutes. Not side roads, no deviations without \$4 fee. County will help look into this decision and see what can be done.

Adjourned 6:57.

