

HSN Update: 1/12/06

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(1) HSN CALENDAR

HSN GENERAL MEMBER MEETING

Friday, January 20, 9:30-11:30am

LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 214 Van Ness

We welcome HSN's members, as well as nonprofits that are interested in joining.

HSN PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 25, 10am

Progress Foundation, 368 Fell Street

This meeting is open to all HSN members that paid dues in 2005 and/or 2006.

(2) BUDGET NEWS

(A) STATE BUDGET

Governor Schwarzenegger released his proposed FY 2006-07 California budget on Tuesday, January 10. It is posted online at <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/>. The California Budget Project has already posted its initial "quick and dirty summary", and will prepare more in-depth analyses in the coming weeks. See http://www.cbp.org/2006/060110_govbudget.pdf. The CBP summary is a good resource if you want a quick snapshot in a particular area such as CalWORKs, SSI, other social services, childcare, health or housing.

Some key points about the budget:

- * The Governor proposes General Fund spending of \$97.9 billion and assumes \$91.5 billion in revenues, resulting in a \$6.4 billion operating deficit, funded by higher-than-expected revenues in the last and current year.

- * The Governor also announced his 10-year public works "Strategic Growth Plan", which would cover \$222.6 billion in spending for transportation, education, flood control, public safety and the courts. The plan would be funded through existing and new sources, including a series of bond measures that would go to the voters between 2006 and 2014, beginning with \$25 billion this year. The remaining funds would come from the federal government, gas taxes, school and county budgets, new tolls and fees, and private partnerships with business.

The infrastructure bond plan does not address affordable housing or healthcare needs. As general-obligation bonds, the bonds and their interest would be paid back out of

the general fund for up to 30 years, reducing funds available for other services. Two legislators have introduced their own bond packages. Senator Don Perata has proposed \$10.2 billion in bonds that include money for high-speed rail and housing. Assemblymember Fabian Nunez introduced a public works package that also includes housing, open space and hospitals.

* The Governor proposes raising the State's minimum wage to \$7.25 in September 2006 and \$7.75 in July 2007. He does not support an automatic COLA. The proposed budget includes \$10.3 million to provide the minimum wage increases for workers in IHSS and Department of Developmental Services programs.

* Though overall health and human service spending would increase, proposed budget cuts fall hard on low-income families, seniors and the disabled through reductions in CalWORKs and SSI. It reduces TANF funds to counties, cuts CalWORKs childcare funding, and withholds CalWORKs and SSI COLAs.

* It provides an increase of \$72.2 million to increase enrollment of eligible children in Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Program. Over 400,000 children are eligible but not enrolled.

* The proposed budget assumes no increases for renewing contracts with state workers. Eighteen of the state's 21 collective bargaining units will negotiate new contracts.

(B) SAN FRANCISCO BUDGET

Departments are formulating their proposed FY 2006-07 budgets for presentation to Commissions in the coming weeks. Baseline budgets are due to the Controller on February 21. The Mayor's instructions require departments to absorb 50% of the cost of the employee pension contribution, and cut their general funds by 3%. (See HSN's update of 12/9/05 at http://sfhsn.org/news_archive.htm.) The Human Services Agency, for example, calculates their total general fund reduction at about \$2.5 million. They have been meeting with stakeholders to gather input on priorities.

(3) BOARD COMMITTEES

Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin recently announced the Committee assignments for 2006, which are below. The first-named Supervisor is the Committee Chair, and the second is the Vice-Chair. For more info on regular meeting times, see the City website at http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_index.asp?id=7252.

Budget and Finance: Daly, Dufty, Peskin

During the budget process, this Committee will expand to include Elsbernd and Mirkarimi.

City Operations and Neighborhood Services: McGoldrick, Dufty, Ma

Government Audits and Oversight: Ammiano, Alioto-Pier, Peskin

Land Use: Maxwell, Sandoval, McGoldrick

Rules: Mirkarimi, Elsbernd, Ammiano

City and School District: Ammiano, Maxwell, Ma; Commissioners Chin, Wynns

Select Committee on Ending Gun and Gang Violence: Maxwell, Mirkarimi, Ammiano

(4) HSN MEMBER DUES

It's that time again when we come to you for annual support of HSN's work to provide a nonprofit voice in City policy decisions. Remember, we count on member organization dues for a third of our annual budget, and need your support to demonstrate to our foundation funders that our sector believes in the importance of our mission. You'll find the annual dues form on our website at: http://sfhsn.org/getinvolved_membership.htm.

If you have questions, please call Merrill at 668-0444 x-1. Also, please note that our fiscal sponsor has changed. All checks should be made out to "S.F. Human Services Network, a project of TSFFCIF", and sent directly to HSN at 3310 Geary Blvd., S.F. CA 94118. Please enclose a copy of the membership form that is on the website to ensure that we have your current information.

(5) OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A) OBTAINING TTY'S FOR NONPROFITS

From Ken Stein, Mayor's Office on Disability:

Our office recently had an enquiry about how City-funded nonprofits (in this case, a homeless shelter) could obtain a TTY. The question gave me an opportunity to pull together a lot of information about how public and private entities can obtain TTYs, TTY and Relay Service training, as well as additional information for deaf tech communication issues.

CTAP (California Technology Assistance Program) is a very good resource. CTAP can provide free TTYs to deaf residents, as well as nonprofit organizations and state agencies, but not to cities or counties. They will also provide free TTYs to private businesses for the use of their deaf employee/s, if the business has less than 15 employees. They are available to train City departments and others (for free) in the use of TTYs and the California Relay Service.

501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations are also eligible to receive free TTYs. It is very important that staff be trained in the proper use of TTYs as well as how to place and receive calls using the California Relay Service. CTAP is available to provide this service as well, free of charge.

This equipment and these services can be accessed by contacting Dan Carbone at CTAP Consumer Affairs, 1-(877) 546-7414. Dan Carbone's direct phone number is (510) 302-1100, Ext 170. CTAP would need to be sent a letter of request on the agency letterhead, along with proof of nonprofit status.

The Hearing and Speech Center of Northern California (formerly the Hearing Society) is also available for information, advice and technical assistance on the use and purchase options for TTYs and other adaptive equipment for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Our contact there is Laura Clark, 921-7658.

Deaf individuals in the shelter might also be informed that the City has Sorensen Video Relay Service equipment installed at the Deaf Services Center at SFPL, in the Mayor's Office

of Neighborhood Services, and the Mayor's Office on Disability. This equipment enables deaf persons who use sign language to make free video relay calls during regular business hours.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like additional information about any of the above, and let me know if we can be of any additional assistance.

Kenneth Stein
Program Administrator
San Francisco Mayor's Office on Disability
401 Van Ness, Room 300
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.554.6789
415.554.6797 TTY
415.554.6159 Fax

(Note: Ken's email included two attachments that I have not forwarded. Please email debbilerman@sfn.org if you would like a copy. One has more info about CTAP and the information you should include in your request. The other lists locations for use of the Sorensen Video Relay Service.)

(B) FROM CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT -- CONFERENCE MARCH 16

Please join us for the California Budget Project's fifth annual conference, *2006 and Beyond: What's Next for California?* The conference will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center on Thursday, March 16 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. with a reception immediately following. This one-day event will explore the key challenges facing the state in 2006 and in the future. Workshop and plenary sessions will feature state and national experts who will address the upcoming budget debate, educating California's next generation, improving California's health care system, the state's tax system, and meeting California's infrastructure challenge. Sign up by February 17 and receive the early bird rate of \$85.00.

Registration materials may be downloaded at <http://www.cbp.org/> or by calling the CBP at (916) 444-0500.

(C) FROM ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE – FEBRUARY WORKSHOP

Tax & Election Law for Public Policy:
The Essentials of Representing Nonprofits & Foundations

A two-day course presented by the Volunteer Legal Services Program and the Alliance for Justice on the federal tax and election laws for attorneys and accountants representing tax-exempt organizations engaged in lobbying and election-related activity.

On February 14-15, 2006, Alliance for Justice and BASF/VLSP will conduct a seminar on tax and election law for attorneys and accountants representing nonprofit organizations and foundations. Our attorneys, experts in tax-exempt law, will explain the elements of representing nonprofit organizations that lobby for legislation, support or oppose ballot measures, or become involved in candidate elections, as well as the rules of foundation support for advocacy

Participants will learn the answers to such questions as:
How much lobbying can charities do?
How can foundations support public policy?

What are the rules governing election-year activities by nonprofits?
What are the common pitfalls of reporting lobbying to the IRS (Form 990)?

Golden Gate University Law School
Moot Court Room 536 Mission Street, Room 6224
San Francisco, CA 94105

February 14-15, 2005
8:30 am- 4:00 pm

The registration fee of \$190 covers training, reference materials and meals.

To register: <http://www.allianceforjustice.org/events/eventDetail.asp?eid=883>
For more info: Contact Robin Powers at (202) 822-6070 or rpowers@afj.org.