

**HSN Membership Meeting  
September 17, 2004  
Meeting Minutes**

**I. HSN Endorsement of Prop's J & K – Debbi Lerman/Bruce Fisher**

Presentation: It is crucial that Propositions J & K pass on November 2<sup>nd</sup> or the City will face another round of severe budget cuts. Prop. J, though it is a sales tax increase, is not as regressive as some think. SPUR analysis shows that the increase will cost the median family in SF about \$34/year, with a majority of the increase paid by tourists, businesses and those from out of town. Prop. K, the gross-receipts/legal partnership loophole business tax, will be needed until the City can replace the payroll tax, and it will sunset in four years. Prop. J & K are bundled together in one campaign with Prop. O, Supervisor Ammiano's advisory policy statement asking that the additional sales tax revenue be used to fund health and human services. Props J, K and O have support from labor, business, and Mayor Newsom. HSN plays a role in public policy and has been asked to participate in the campaign.

Discussion:

- Does business really support it? Yes, Fisher, Shorenstein & Hellman are all backing it, but it's unclear whether the Chamber of Commerce or the Committee on Jobs are. These measures came from Supervisor Ma's Revenue Advisory Panel.
- HSN reminded members that nonprofits can endorse and contribute to propositions.
- Should HSN have a fundraiser? Can agencies assist in raising money, fieldwork or phone banking? Many are struggling financially, but it's crucial to give what you can considering the alternative if they don't pass. Mayor Newsom emphasized saving nonprofits in his budget, and now is the time to step up and support the measure with money, etc.

HSN member vote: After reviewing the HSN endorsement process, members agreed that HSN should take a vote on endorsing Propositions J and K. Some members have already voted by email. Ballots were handed out, with votes to be tallied after the meeting.

**II. Proposition 72 - Health Care Coverage Requirements Referendum**

**- Guest Speaker: Jessica Rothaar, Northern California Organizer, Health Access**

Presentation: Health Access is a statewide consumer health care group working to pass Prop. 72. This measure would mandate that employers provide health insurance to employees who work more than 100 hours/month for businesses that have 50+ workers. Health care providers support it, while the main opposition includes fast food restaurants, the CA Chamber of Commerce, and the CA Restaurant Association. If the measure passes, 1.3 million workers would get health insurance, including 25% of currently uninsured. If you support it, please use the endorsement form on the website at [www.yesonProp72.com](http://www.yesonProp72.com).

Questions and Comments:

- How will they cap premiums? The measure does not address the cost of insurance.
- How will they classify who is a permanent employee? Members are concerned that relief workers could be counted as part of the threshold. These questions will get worked out during

implementation.

- Go to the website, [www.chcf.org](http://www.chcf.org) to get help with the estimated cost to your agency. It will give you the marginal cost of compliance compared to your current cost.
- Prop. 72 would require employers to pay 80% of the premium, and for businesses with over 200 employees, 80% of dependent coverage. This is an unaffordable expense for some nonprofits, especially if relief workers are counted as part of the 200-employee threshold.
- Society is already paying for the health costs of the uninsured. There will be many businesses against 72. Local political contacts are John Burton, Mark Leno, and Don Perata.

### **III. HSN Candidate Forums & Events – Quintin Mecke**

Candidate Forums: HSN is organizing three Supervisorial candidate forums: District 1 on October 6, District 5 on September 29 and District 9 on October 25. Staff will email fliers with more information. It is absolutely crucial that HSN member agencies turn out their staff, clients and board members to ensure that the candidates in each district see the support and strength of HSN. This is our opportunity to educate the candidates about health and human services and the nonprofit sector. Contact staff if you would like to be a co-sponsoring agency or if you have suggestions for specific questions to ask candidates in any district. Also, the last day to register to vote in the November election is October 18.

Proposition 63: HSN reminds all agencies that an important fundraiser for Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act, will be held at the Clift Hotel on October 14. For more information, see [www.yeson63.org](http://www.yeson63.org).

### **IV. San Francisco Parking Tax and Allocation for Senior Services – Jim Illig**

Parking tax: The parking tax set-aside for senior services has been ruled unconstitutional by the courts. The court ruled that the set-aside was a special use tax without getting the necessary 2/3 support of the voters. The money will now go into the General Fund, though Mayor Newsom has requested the money still be put towards senior services. It will require a ballot measure to restore the senior set-aside portion of the parking tax.

DAAS Director Update: When the Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) merged with the Department of Human Services, the Budget Committee chose to downgrade the DAAS Director position and make it equivalent to a Program Manager. Given the services that DAAS provides, the Department deserves and needs a Director to give it leadership and some autonomy. The Coalition of Agencies Serving the Elderly asks you to contact Board Budget Committee Chair Gerardo Sandoval and ask that he restore the Director position for DAAS.

### **V. Guest Speaker: Assemblyman Mark Leno – Moderator: Bruce Fisher**

Assemblyman Leno cannot believe that he has already been in office for two years. He has found the job of legislator to be much like that of a car salesman.

Governor Schwarzenegger: He is still waiting to see what the Governor will do with the bills that he has yet to sign or veto, which will indicate what kind of Governor he is. Leno observed that

Schwarzenegger seems to change his positions depending on how he feels it reflects on him, and no one really knows yet what he believes in. Leno does believe that he has an open mind.

Committee Chair: Leno chaired the Public Safety Committee, which handles some of the toughest hearings and legislation in the Capitol, including domestic violence, incarceration, rape, and capital punishment. He will be next Chair of the Appropriations committee, and only hopes that we have money to appropriate.

Budget: We have a revenue problem, not a spending problem. We have an \$8 billion deficit due to structural problems. The Vehicle License Fee was set for 50 years before we changed it. Tax cuts in the late '90s gave back \$30 billion (including the VLF). Never give it away because you won't get it back. By reversing the VLF, Schwarzenegger spent \$4 billion we did not have on his first day in office.

Term Limits: Term limits have a lot of negative consequences, especially with the loss of legislative experience on both sides of the aisle. However, that does mean that freshman legislators such as him are able to get opportunities very quickly to prove their worth.

Current Bills Pending:

- Bill allowing CA to make ex-felons eligible to receive federal food stamps.
- Bill banning .50 caliber machine guns.
- Assemblyman Leno wants to reintroduce his bill that would authorize a local VLF if approved by voters; this has the potential to bring San Francisco an estimated \$50 million/year.

Propositions:

- Yes on Prop.60, Assembly measure for Primary elections
- No on Prop.62, False Open Primary election.
- Yes on Prop.72 & Yes on 63. We need health insurance and we need to expand the funding for mental health services started with AB 34.

## **VI. HSN Updates and Announcements – Debbi Lerman**

- S.F. State Political History Class: There are still spaces available for community members to take the political issues class taught by Calvin Welch, Gordon Chin, and other community leaders on Wednesday nights. All of HSN's staff have taken the class and strongly recommend it.
- First Source Hiring Program: Supervisor Maxwell's office has provided HSN with a draft version of legislation to re-authorize the first source hiring program. Staff will review the draft to assess the impact it may have on nonprofits.
- DHS and Card Check Neutrality Agreements: Supervisor Sandoval has proposed a resolution urging that DHS honor all card check agreements with contractors. This originated out of a conflict with a security contractor, 24/7. HSN staff will review the exact parameters of the resolution and report back to the membership.

ATTENDEES AT HSN GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2004

Assembly member Mark Leno

Michael Blecker, Swords to Ploughshares  
Margi Dunlap, Int.'l Institute  
Ginger Martin, Safety Network  
Bill Hirsch, AIDS Legal Referral Panel  
Meaghan Connelly, The Lighthouse  
Sherilyn Adams, Larkin Street Youth Services  
Jackie Jenks, Central City Hospitality House  
Kavoos Bassiri, RAMS, Inc.  
Cynthia Williams, Whitney Young CDC  
Kelly Wilkinson, ECS  
Georgia Creel, DAAB  
Richard Gee  
Katy Chamberlain, UWBA  
Joe Neisen, New Leaf  
Belinda Lyons, MHA-SF  
Sandra Santana-Mora, Edgewood  
Steve Crabel, Toolworks  
Jon Osaki, JCYC  
Jack Fagan, The Arc of SF  
Tony Michelin, Catholic Charities  
Tracy Brown, TARC  
Bruce Fisher, Huckleberry Youth Programs  
Jim Illig, Open Hand  
Dodie Chaney Fernandez, BVHPMHS  
Alex Darr, Faithful Fools  
Nancy Brundy, IOA  
Karen Patterson Matthew, BVHP Foundation  
Sarah Wan, Community Youth Center  
Beverly Ng, Assemblymember Leno's office

Debbi Lerman, HSN  
Quintin Mecke, HSN