



Sand Dollar

Where Business and Lifestyle Work Together

Message from the Chair:

Staying Alive ... Yeah Baby!

By Charles Gale, Jr.
Metropolitan Water District

Who would have thought we could have this much fun and laughs at last month's Chamber Installation and Awards Dinner? We honored the Large Business of the Year, Chevron; the Small Business of the Year, Fresh Brothers Pizza; the Volunteer of the Year, Marisa Scarda of Natural Simplicity Design; and the Rose & Scroll recipient was Beverly Rohrer. The 2010-11 board of directors was installed and we thanked Past Chair David Curry for an outstanding year in leading the Chamber through some of its most difficult challenges. It was a great evening.



Charles Gale, Jr.

But, now back to my theme ... Staying Alive – In This Economy!

Those of you who have brought your business through this difficult economy – the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression – know what it is like to face some difficult decisions. The Chamber coped with a unexpected loss of funds and despite the resulting pressure on the Chamber's budget, we reached most of the objectives that the board had established at last year's planning retreat.

This year I am committed to meet the new goals set out by the board and at the same time build upon key areas of a successful Chamber: camaraderie, transparency and being relevant.

Our Chamber is the home for our businesses community – whether a large or

small business, in the private or public sector, camaraderie is pivotal in making everyone feel at home. From networking events, to the welcome new members get from the Ambassador Committee, the Chamber wants everyone to feel a part of our Chamber. We try to give each member the kind of support they need. The door is always open, come visit President/CEO Helen Duncan at the Chamber office. I know she will be happy to talk with you.

As mentioned, the Chamber lost a large part of its budget because of the realignment of city funds. We had to make a lot of quick and tough changes just like many of you may have done last year. But, these changes were done to maintain and even build on the services and commitment we make to our members. I aim to be more transparent when these kinds of changes are made because the board needs to be kept informed so that it can ascertain their impact on the Chamber's membership and budget.

If we can challenge ourselves on the two above areas – our efforts will build a stronger and healthier Chamber, and we will be relevant to our membership – which will lead to a stronger and more effective Chamber for our business community in the future.

So, I ask you to join me in leading the Chamber. Whenever you have the time, please get in touch to give me your thoughts and suggestions – I would like to hear them. You can reach me at cgalejr@mwdh2o.com. I know we will survive.

Mentors:

A Manhattan Beach Women in Business Mentorship Program

■ www.mentors.MBWIB.Com

Mentors can be critical to the growth and success of your business and career, but finding a good mentor is not always easy. Now the Manhattan Beach Women in Business Committee can fill this void with a robust and well-matched mentoring program. We call this program **Mentors**, and it is open to all who would benefit from being teamed with a vetted and experienced mentor.

Successful business professionals from the South Bay are now accessible to Manhattan Beach Women in Business members. You can now take advantage of the Manhattan Beach Women in Business Committee mentoring program, through **Mentors**. This unique program offers the opportunity to connect with some of the top proven business professionals in our community. You can read about our featured mentors online, and choose the mentor who best inspires and complements your business needs and aspirations. This is a special opportunity for you to learn to manage risk, to receive feedback, to open doors, and develop their capabilities and skills within a framework of support. The voluntary sharing of knowledge, experiences, challenges and successes are the keys to a successful one-to-one mentoring relationship.

What is the role of the mentor?

A mentor plays an important part in the success of their mentee. She or he is chosen from the applicants for their ability to communicate, empathize and inspire trust. A mentor's main role is to coach the person to develop and strengthen their business,

specifically by focusing on business issues and business goals. A mentor is also a sounding board, offering an open ear, empathy, encouragement and support.

If you are a person with teachable business skills or past business experience, and you value giving back to your community, then being a mentor as part of **Mentors** is for you. People often choose to become mentors because they value the assistance they received from their own mentors, and because they want to give back, thereby helping other people to grow and succeed.

What is the role of the person being coached?

A **Mentors** mentee is motivated to work toward business success. The role of the mentee in a **Mentors** relationship is to prepare and share with a mentor their set of goals and objectives. The purpose of the mentoring experience is to open mentees to new possibilities and perspectives. The best learners are willing to consider new ideas and recognize that growth can sometimes be uncomfortable; they come to the program wanting to learn and not expecting to be taught. The best mentoring experiences occur when those being mentored take ownership of their growth, invest in the partnership, and create a vision for their journey of discovery.

How does it work?

Once you join **Mentors**, you will be able to read about the mentors online and choose the one whose experience and knowledge best complements your business needs and career aspirations. Please go to www.mentors.MBWIB.com to sign up.

Manhattan Beach Women in Business Committee Awards Six Scholarships

On June 21, at the Mira Costa High School awards ceremony for graduating seniors, Chamber President/CEO Helen Duncan and Chair of the Manhattan Beach Women in Business Scholarship Committee Debra Lauzon presented each of the following Mira Costa High School seniors with a \$2,000 scholarship. Part of the proceeds from the 12th annual M.B. Women in Business Conference on April 16 funded the scholarships. These accomplished young women intend to study business in college:

Jordan Racklin-Costello will attend Michigan State University. She was active in high school in many service activities, including Darfur Club, Link Crew and Christian Club; and volunteering at the Sunrise Assisted Living facility.

Julie Devine will attend UC Santa Cruz. Julie started a club at Mira Costa called

Don't Throw Away Those Bagels. The club collected bagels and other baked items from shops, and took them to the homeless on weekends. Julie also participated in her church Youth Group service trips.

Samantha 'Sammy' McBride will attend San Francisco State University, and is the first, along with her twin, to attend college in her family. Sammy was involved in Lunches with Love at school, making and delivering lunches to the homeless. She also coached younger girls' volleyball teams.

Heather Schiraldi plans to attend Southern Methodist University. She volunteered while attending Mira Costa at the Good Shepherd Shelter, and also participated in Lunches with Love and the Darfur Club.

Lindsey Chamberlain will attend Biola University in the fall. She founded a Christian Mission Club at Mira Costa, and



Receiving scholarships from the Manhattan Beach Women in Business Committee are from left: Lindsey Chamberlain, Laura Leventhal, Heather Schiraldi, Jordan Racklin-Costello, Julie Devine and Sammy McBride.

(photo by Paul Silva)

participated in many mission trips to help those less fortunate.

Laura Leventhal will attend the University of Colorado at Boulder. Laura participated in the Help Darfur Now club, and was on Link Crew. She also did volunteer work

for the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation and Hermosa Beach Education Foundation as well as Manhattan Beach Botanical Gardens and Friends of the Park. Congratulations!

The Official Publication of the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce
Mission Statement: The Manhattan Beach Chamber is an association of businesses, other entities and individuals organized to encourage a strong local economy and quality of life by promoting commerce, sound government and an informed membership and community.



Content and opinions expressed in the Chamber publication are the sole responsibility of the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce.