

BUSINESS VOICE

ISSUE 169 | FEB '23

A PUBLICATION OF THE
RIDGECREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



36TH ANNUAL
IWV ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 23, 2023

**2022-2023 Chamber
OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

Chris Hill
Board Chair
State Farm Insurance

Kristina Cross
Chair Elect
Grocery Outlet

Daryl Silberberg Jr.
Board Treasurer
I WV Insurance

Bernie Mondragon
Past Chair
Bernie's Landscaping

Debbie Benson
Maturango Museum

Janis Bottorff
S.A.S.S.

Kathryn Bachman
Cerro Coso Community College

Chip Holloway
Desert Empire Fairgrounds

Nancy Pace
Bake My Day

Christian Salviejo
RRH, Bella Sera

Nick Wakley
RAW Media Productions

Rebecca McCourt
Chamber Executive Director

Business Voice is a publication of the
Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce
128 E. California Ave. Ste. B,
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 375-8331
www.ridgecrestchamber.com
chamber@ridgecrestchamber.com

Issue 169 February 2023

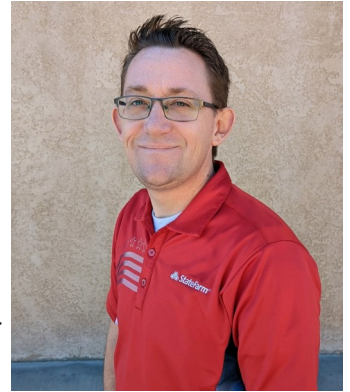
BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

Chairman Message – February 2023

Chris Hill

One month down already? Bye January, we barely knew you. Welcome February, arguably one of the busiest months for the Chamber.

February is also the month of Love, right? A designated time to show those we care about how much they really mean to us. Definitely a task we should be doing year-round, for sure. In addition to family and friends, I hope we all agree that we love our community, and we love you, the businesses and organizations that continue to support it. I was recently shown a social media post that really hit home regarding this. It said, "when you see something at an independent store that costs a little more, try to remember that Amazon & Target don't buy ads in the local football program, donate prizes to your silent auction and probably wouldn't let you have a bake sale in front of their store." Really puts things in perspective, and I thank you for all that you do to make this place the home we love.



Speaking of perspective, and touching again on the busy month that it is, we are in the final stages of preparation for the 36th Annual IWV Economic Outlook Conference. Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 23rd, and be sure to buy your tables/tickets soon! We're changing some things up a bit this year, hosting the event at the Desert Empire Fairgrounds. Join us as we hear from speakers and experts on all things local, changing trends that could affect us, and the economic forecast in general. This event is also our biggest networking opportunity of the year, and we're working hard to make it worth your time and money.

You, our members, are the reason we exist. Our purpose is to be here for you, and what matters to you is what our focus should be. We've recently solicited member feedback at our luncheons, hoping to hear suggestions on changes you'd like made to events that we host and opportunities we provide. We'd love your input. We're ready to work to make this the best relationship it can be!

See what I did there? Started and ended with love! Happy February everyone!
-Chris Hill, Chairman

An advertisement for Tj. Frisbee Bicycles. It features a silhouette of a cyclist on a road bike against a blue and green background. The text reads: "Tj. Frisbee BICYCLES", "Serving Toddlers to Champions Since 1972", and "Phone: 760-375-4202 217 N. Balsam, Ridgecrest CA 93555".

Tj. Frisbee
BICYCLES

*Serving Toddlers to Champions
Since 1972*

Phone: 760-375-4202
217 N. Balsam, Ridgecrest CA 93555

CHAMBER LUNCHEON

RSVP today!



CHAMBER@RIDGECRESTCHAMBER.COM

February 14, 2023— Cory Oliver, Oliver Law

Join the Ridgecrest Chamber at the **Historic USO** for our monthly luncheon at **12 noon on February 14, 2023** and hear a presentation from **Cory Oliver of Oliver Law**. Cory is the owner of Oliver Law, a law firm that specializes in estate planning and probate services. Cory is a Ridgecrest local, having been born and raised in town, then moving to Orange County to attend college and graduating law school. Prior to becoming an attorney, Cory worked with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and taught English in South Korea. In his free time, Cory enjoys spending time with his wife and son, and golfing whenever possible.



Please RSVP by noon on Friday, February 10, 2023.

Join the Ridgecrest Chamber at the Historic USO Building on Tuesday, February 14 at 12 noon.

Lunch will be provided by Casey's Restaurant.

\$25 w/RSVP, \$30 for non-members or without an RSVP.

Your Chamber
is dedicated to:

Building community

Strengthening the economy

Providing networking
opportunities

Representing the interest of
business to the government

Political action

Inside the
BUSINESS
VOICE

Board Chair's Message 2

Luncheon 3

New Member 4-5

Labor Law Corner 8-9

Renewing Members 11

Chairman's Circle 12



Roger & Lorrie Young
(760) 446-2796

1600 N. Norma, No. 4
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

NEW MEMBER

Police and Community Together

Police and Community Together (P.A.C.T.) is a volunteer organization that provides crime prevention support to the City of Ridgecrest. P.A.C.T. is a vehicle that allows the police, and the citizens they serve, to come together in a cooperative spirit helping each other achieve a crime free community. Citizen volunteer members are comprised of volunteers having an interest in helping their law enforcement agency. On



their site the P.A.C.T. director writes, “even though I have only been in the community for a short time, I find the people of Ridgecrest warm, caring, and striving for a safe area in which to live, work, and play. The Ridgecrest Police Department is here to serve you. All the resources of the department are at the disposal of every community member.”

The mission statement of P.A.C.T is: The Organization, Police and Community Together (P.A.C.T.) is a volunteer group which provides services to the Ridgecrest Police Department in community crime prevention, public education of safety issues, public health and provide the community with responsive, proactive public safety services.

An application to volunteer with the organization is available on the website. Programs that volunteers can participate in include Administrative Support, Animal Welfare, Child Identification (ID), Cyber Unit, Graffiti Taskforce, Emergency Operations Center, Neighborhood Watch, Nuisance Abatement, Patrol, Surveillance, and Vehicles Reports.

One program that anyone can partake in is the Neighborhood Watch program. Community members can start or participate in Neighborhood Watch Groups. The program is built upon cooperation between the police and the community they serve as it provides information and personnel to assist citizens in organizing their own neighborhoods into working Neighborhood Watch Groups. Additional information on all P.A.C.T. programs and how to get involved can be found on their website.

Learn more about P.A.C.T. at <https://www.ridgecrest-ca.gov/186/PACT> or by calling (760) 499-5107.

FEBRUARY 23

02
23

T W E N T Y 2 3

36TH IWV ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

TICKETS & INFORMATION
RIDGECREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(760) 375 8331 | 128 E. CALIFORNIA AVE

We provide insight into current, local, state, and national economies, while addressing topics of interest to the community.

www.ridgecrestchamber.com/eoc





Holiday Inn Express & Suites



Lindustries RV



Cox Evans & Bradford
Excellence since 1956



Business After Hours, Burkey Cox Evans & Bradford



FULL SERVICE LAW OFFICE

LAW OFFICE OF DENNIS M. SCHUSTER

123 GRANDE WAY E
760-371-1126 SHUSTERLAWGROUP.COM



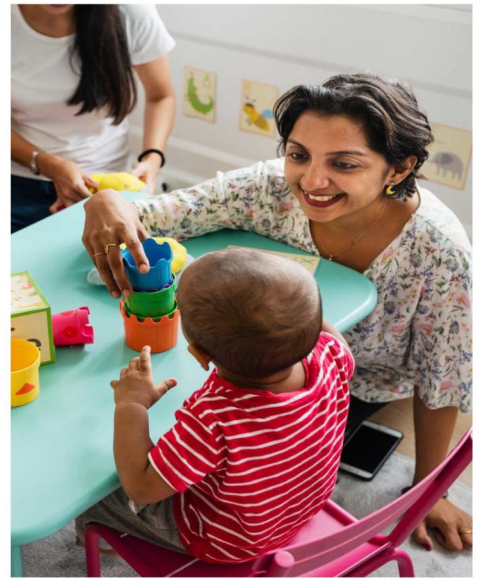
CHILD DEVELOPMENT LATE-START CLASSES

It's not too late to register!

ALL ONLINE! Only 12 weeks!

Seats are still available in these classes:

- CHDV C121 Health, Safety, and Nutrition
- CHDV C145 Language and Literature
- CHDV C156 Introduction to Dual Language in Early Childhood
- CHDV C 207 School Age Curriculum
- CHDV C241 Curriculum and Strategies for Children with Special Needs



Find the class schedule here:
www.cerrocoso.edu/class-schedule



Register Now!



www.cerrocoso.edu
Call a counselor (760) 384-6219

For more information:
Vivian Baker
vbaker@cerrocoso.edu

Classes start February 13

FOOD, DRINKS, AND A NIGHT DOWNTOWN

Come enjoy an evening with live music, Flightline Tap Room, 6 local food vendors, and 5 great visiting wineries!

A NIGHT ON BALSAM

Friday, Feb. 10 @ 5:00 PM
Balsam Street, Downtown Ridgecrest

LABOR LAW CORNER

Meal Breaks Generally Depend on Actual Number of Hours Worked

This article is reprinted from CalChamber (01/27/2023) By Ellen Savage

Are meal break requirements determined by the total length of an employee's shift, or by the number of hours the employee actually works?

Meal break requirements in California are determined by the number of hours an employee actually works each day. The length of the employee's assigned shift may be longer than the number of hours actually worked in a few situations.



Basic Meal Break Requirements

First, let's take a look at the basic meal break requirements for nonexempt employees in California:

- An employee who works more than 5 hours is required to take to an unpaid meal break of at least 30 minutes. The employer and employee can mutually agree to waive the meal break so long as the employee works no more than 6 hours.
- A second 30-minute meal break is required if the employee works more than 10 hours. However, that second meal break may be waived by mutual consent so long as the employee works no more than 12 hours and as long as the first meal break of the day was actually taken.

Shift Length vs. Hours Worked

Confusion over meal break requirements can arise when comparing shift length to hours worked. When calculating hours worked, we look at the total shift length and subtract out any unpaid meal periods or other time off.

Consider the following example:

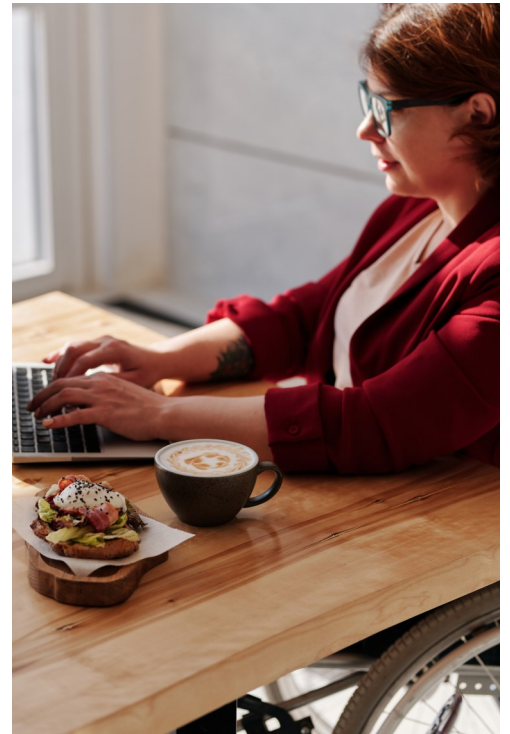
- Joe is scheduled to work from 8 a.m. to 6:15 p.m., which is 10 hours and 15 minutes. Because Joe is scheduled for more than 6 hours, he of course must take at least one 30-minute meal break. But since Joe's shift is 10 hours and 15 minutes long, is he then entitled to a second meal break? The answer is no, since Joe actually worked only 9 hours and 45 minutes because he took a 30-minute meal break.

The law looks to how many hours the employee actually worked, not the total number of hours of the

assigned shift. It's important to remember though that all required 10-minute rest breaks do count as time worked for calculating meal break requirements, even though employees are not working during their rest breaks.

Another situation that sometimes causes confusion is where an employee takes time off during the day, such as for a medical appointment, and uses paid leave time:

- Jane regularly works an 8-hour day from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and normally takes a half-hour lunch around noon. If Jane was planning to leave work at noon for a medical procedure and use sick leave for the rest of the day, she would not be entitled to a meal break because she would be working less than 5 hours. Although Jane would be paid 8 hours for the day (4 hours worked plus 4 hours of sick leave) she would not actually work enough hours to trigger the meal break requirement.



It's important to note that there are exceptions to these general meal break requirements in certain industries, such as health care and construction, as well as under some collective bargaining agreements.

Column based on questions asked by callers on the Labor Law Helpline, a service to California Chamber of Commerce preferred and executive members. For expert explanations of labor laws and Cal/OSHA regulations, not legal counsel for specific situations, call (800) 348-2262 or submit your question at www.hrcalifornia.com.

**BIRTHDAY!
ANNIVERSARY!
ANY SPECIAL OCCASION!**

**SHOW THEM YOU
CARE ON THEIR
SPECIAL DAY**

 The logo for Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce, featuring a stylized mountain and sun icon above the text "RIDGECREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE".

Act now!

Get your Business in Front of Ridgecrest

February rate special!
2 weeks for \$200
4 weeks for \$300

Contact us today!

[Learn More](#)

www.ridgecrest.com/sign
chamber@ridgecrestchamber.com
(760)375-8331

 A billboard for Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce. The billboard has a blue background and a photo of a woman. The text on the billboard says "SHARE YOUR MESSAGE WITH RIDGECREST" and "Advertisement with the Chamber \$49/yr.". The billboard is on a tall pole with the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce logo.

Community Message

LOVING RIDGECREST



SINCE 1946



Reduce the Risk of Consumer Fraud!



SECURE volume shredding
for a reasonable price.

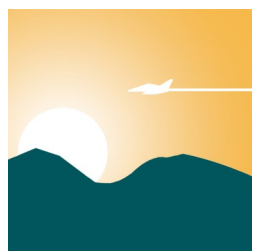
Free Pick-up of 40+ pounds.

(760) 375-9787

Home Office **SOLUTIONS**

Create a workspace
that works for you.





do business with

MEMBERS

RENEWING MEMBERS in December 2022

760 Fitness

Ashley Furniture Home Store

Balsam Street Cleaners

Cosner-Neipp Corporation

Cherokee Community of Central
California

Denny Kline

Desert Area Resources & Training

Desert Community Orchestra
Association

Desert Empire Fairgrounds

Edward Jones Financial Advisor:

Vincent Avalos

Historical Society of the Upper
Mojave Desert

Hockett's Building Supply Inc

Kern Citizens for Energy

Liberty Ambulance

Perrygo Consulting Group LLC

Ridgecrest Area Convention and
Visitor's Bureau

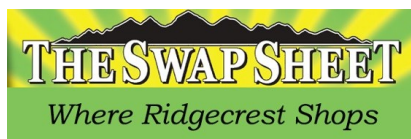
Women's Center High Desert

Thank You

36th Annual IWV Economic Outlook Conference Sponsors**Presenting Sponsor:** AltaOne Federal Credit Union**Platinum Sponsors:** Cerro Coso Community College, The City of Ridgecrest**Speakers' Reception:** Desert Valleys Federal Credit Union**Gold Sponsors:** Southern California Edison, DCS Corporation, The Swap Sheet**Silver Sponsors:** Silver Valley Propane, NDTI**Bronze Sponsors:** High Desert Haven, Ridgecrest Area Association of Realtors, The Daily Independent, State Farm – Gary Charlon, Waste Management



CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE MEMBERS



PLATINUM & GOLD MEMBERS

RIDGECREST REGIONAL
HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

SIENNA PODIATRY - DR. HOLLY
SPOHN GROSS, DPM.

SYNECTIC SOLUTIONS, INC.

TEYA DEVELOPMENT, LLC

Bowman Asphalt, Inc.

Burkey, Cox, Evans & Bradford

Cerro Coso Community College

Desert Empire Fairgrounds

Guaranteed Rate

Holiday Inn Express

IWV Water District

JT4, LLC

Liberty Ambulance

MWR (Morale Welfare & Rec.)

Oliver Law

Opportunities For Learning

PG&E

RBD California Restaurants / KFC

Saalex Solutions

Sabre Systems, Inc.

Sierra Sands Unified School District

Southern California Edison

Southern Inyo Healthcare District

T-Mobile

Toyota of Ridgecrest