

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Ontario Chamber of Commerce
500 East "E" Street
Suite 200
Ontario CA 91764

Thursday, May 10, 2007
9:30am – 10:30am

Presiding: Bob Cruz, Chair

Call to Order

Chair's Report

- *Welcome*
- *Approved GAC Voting Membership* INFORMATION
- *Legislative Breakfast with Greg Devereaux - June 7th*

President & CEO Report

- *Government Affairs Tri-Fold*
- *California Chamber of Commerce Legislative Summit May 21- 22, 2007*

Agenda Items

1. Ontario Chamber Advocacy Program Overview DISCUSSION
2. Operating Procedures ACTION

Next GAC Meeting: Thursday, June 14, 2007

Adjourn

Approved GAC Voting Membership

Presentation

Bob Cruz
GAC Chair

Recommended Action

None.

Background

The following GAC voting member shall as GAC Chair from May 10, 2007 to December 31, 2007:

Bob Cruz
The Gas Company

The following shall serve as the GAC Executive Committee (pending board approval of the operating procedures) from May 10, 2007 to December 31, 2007:

Bob Cruz
The Gas Company

Mark Smiley
President/CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Shaun Lumachi
Director of Government Affairs
Ontario Chamber of Commerce

The following GAC voting members shall serve one term from May 10, 2007 to December 31, 2008:

Bob Cruz
The Gas Company

Cid Pinedo
Chaffey College Foundation

Peter Synn
Enterprise Rent-A Car

Maria Tessoro Fermin
LA/Ontario International Airport

Cindy Anderson
BAE Systems

Steve Harrington
County of San Bernardino

Patti Arldt
Metropolitan Water District

Jack Storrusten
Daily Bulletin

Ontario Chamber Advocacy Program Overview

Presentation

Shaun Lumachi

Director of Government Affairs

Recommended Action

None.

Background

The Ontario Chamber is leading an effort to effectively represent the Ontario business community's interests with government. 77% percent of Ontario Chamber members polled say that representing the interests of business with government is an extremely important activity for the Chamber.

The Chamber is working hard to help create a strong local economy, promote the community, and provide networking opportunities. We think our work in these areas is important. However, we must exceed the expectations our members have of the Chamber's impact in our business community. Specifically, the Chamber will:

- Build an advocacy program complete with mission and vision statements, goals and long term strategies.
- Develop a government affairs committee comprised of a majority of private sector members, grassroots volunteers and community leaders who will also serve as an action team when contacting legislators.
- Develop yearly legislative priorities and goals used to track legislation and other local issues.
- Track local and state legislation that might have an impact on Ontario Chamber's members.
- Develop and maintains an aggressive communication strategy via an advocacy Web site solely dedicated to interconnecting all functions of the Chamber's advocacy program.
- Develop an email-based "Legislative eALERT" sent directly to the Chamber's membership updating them and calling them to action on important advocacy related issues.
- Develop monthly advocacy related newsletter articles and other forms of communication.
- Communicate directly with local legislators and area officials, publishes their vote records and continuously hold them accountable to the Ontario Chamber's priorities.

Program Overview

The Ontario Chamber's government affairs program effectively and efficiently delivers the following for its business community:

1. Tracks legislation and issues;
2. Fosters involvement to develop and advocate goals;
3. Serves as a resource for your community, and;
4. Develops and maintain communication strategies to connect all areas of the advocacy program.

Ontario Chamber's government affairs program is dedicated to:

- Being proactive and less reactive.

- Setting vision and goals, track policy, then hold elected officials accountable to the business community.
- Facilitating opportunities for involvement and serve as a resource for chamber members and non-members.
- Dedicating the front page of every newsletter to advocacy.
- Maintaining a Web site solely dedicated to advocacy.
- Endorsing, funding, and/or recruiting candidates for elected office.
- Owning events that allow interaction with policy decision-makers.
- Serving as a resource for the California Chamber of Commerce and other pro-business organizations.
- Investing in one dedicated staff member to produce the advocacy program long-term.
- Fostering and maintaining relationships with reporters, elected officials and other stakeholders.

First Six Months Action Plan

Develop priorities. The Chamber's government affairs council develops the Chamber's legislative priorities and goals. These priorities and goals are used to track legislation and other local issues.

Advocacy Web site. The Chamber's aggressive communication strategy via an advocacy Web site is solely dedicated to interconnecting all functions of the Chamber's government affairs program.

Communicate with members / Develop a grassroots base. The Chamber is developing an email-based "Legislative eALERT" sent directly to the Chamber's membership updating them and calling them to action on important advocacy related issues. We develop monthly advocacy related newsletter articles that educate you on important issues impacting your business.

Track pertinent legislation. We track legislation and issues that might have an impact on your business. We work closely with elected officials communicating educating them on what is important to the Ontario business community. We also publish their vote records and continuously hold them accountable to the Ontario Chamber's priorities.

Operating Procedures

Presentation

Shaun Lumachi

Director of Government Affairs

Recommended Action

To review and approve the following recommended operating procedures.

To send the approved recommended operating procedures to the Chamber Board of Directors for approval.

Recommended Operating Procedures

I. Mission Statement

The mission of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (GAC) is to create a favorable and profitable business climate by representing the interests of its business community on relevant local, state and federal public policy issues.

II. Composition

The GAC meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30am.

The GAC consists of 12 voting members.

Composition shall be representative of the Ontario Chamber membership.

The GAC Chair is appointed by the incoming Chair of the Board of Directors in consultation with the President/CEO and subject to Board approval each year.

GAC membership is open to all Ontario Chamber members in good standing.

City staff, elected officials and their representatives will not be voting members of the GAC and are encouraged to attend all GAC meetings to report relevant business related priorities of their respective elected officials during the beginning of each meeting.

The GAC will allow no more than 20 minutes total for all representatives attending to report.

III. Meeting Agenda Protocol

Any person who would like to include a specific business related issue on the GAC agenda must complete all of the following:

Submit the proposed issue including, but not limited to: background of the issue, fact sheets, list of those supporting and opposing in writing to the President/CEO or GAC Chair by the 20th of each month.

The proposed issue must include a request with regards to a recommended Chamber position (such as support or oppose) including an explanation for such recommended position.

A representative of the issue must attend the GAC meeting in order to answer any questions relating to the agenda item.

The GAC meeting agenda shall be sent via email no less than five business days prior to the meeting date. Once the agenda is distributed to the committee members, there will be no additions to the agenda for any reason unless approved by the GAC Chair.

IV. Policy Platform

Beginning in October of each year, the GAC shall develop a Policy Platform consistent with the GAC's mission statement that shall serve as the basis for approving public policy positions on behalf of the Chamber.

V. Legislation Position Authority

Board of Directors

The Ontario Chamber Board of Directors shall be updated each month of any legislative positions approved by the GAC.

The Board of Directors shall have the authority to modify any position of the GAC.

The GAC's Policy Platform shall be approved by the Board of Directors no later than its January meeting each year.

GAC

The GAC shall have the authority on behalf of the Board of Directors to approve any public policy positions that align with the board-approved Policy Platform consistent with the GAC's mission statement.

The GAC must approve any public policy positions by a vote of 60% of the current GAC voting membership.

Executive Committee of GAC

The GAC Chairman, President/CEO, and the Director of Government Affairs shall have the authority, by a majority vote, to act on behalf of the GAC to approve any public policy positions that align with the board-approved policy platform consistent with the GAC's mission statement.

The GAC members shall be notified of any Executive Committee action within 48 hours (or no later than the end of the first working day should the Executive Committee action be taken on a Friday or day before a holiday).

The GAC shall have the authority to modify any decision of the Executive Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

VI. Voting Members

GAC members shall serve two (2) year terms beginning January 1 and ending December 31 of the following year with no term limits.

GAC members shall be appointed by the GAC Chair in consultation with the Chamber Chairman and President/CEO.

VII. Voting Membership Vacancies

Prospective GAC members can apply for openings by notifying the GAC Chair.

The GAC Chair shall appoint voting members to fill vacancies during the year in consultation with the Chamber Chairman of the Board and President and CEO.

VIII. Attendance

If a GAC voting member accumulates three (3) absences in a year, the member loses voting privileges and shall be replaced.

IX. Minutes

Minutes will be kept of all GAC meetings.

X. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the total voting GAC membership.

If a quorum cannot be assembled, the Executive Committee is empowered to act on behalf of the GAC.

XI. Amendments

The authority to approve and amend the GAC Operating Procedures shall be vested in the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.