

EAGA Business Builder

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March 08, 2022

Today's speaker was Larry Sonntag—New Mexico Business Coalition



Mr. Sonntag is a 30 year veteran of working to protect the citizens of our country and our community. Ten of those years were as a member of the US Air Force, and the other twenty years were with the Albuquerque Police Department - finishing his APD tour as Director of the Crime Lab. Probably Larry's commitment to protect and serve has covered more than the thirty years of formal efforts noted above. It is likely the 'protect' thoughts have been foremost in his mind for at least the thirty-nine years he has been married to his wonderful wife Carla, and as they raised their two sons (who are now grown and on the way to their own future). Larry and Carla are continuing their efforts to make at least our part of world a better place. They are doing that through the their organization—New Mexico Business Coalition. NMBC is a nonpartisan organization focusing on improving the business environment and quality of life for all New Mexicans. Developing a pro-business atmosphere is one of the best ways to build our state's overall economy...and create more opportunities for all citizens. Our state has a long standing reputation for being near the bottom of good lists and near the top of bad lists. Recent studies indicate that we are in the very bottom ranks in education, child welfare and employment opportunities. We have a substantial amount of governmental red tape, fees, taxes and crime. And an even more serious issue to overcome is that nearly 943,000 state residents are receiving some sort of governmental welfare. That is a very large percent of the population. Obviously, the state has the attitude that giving money to its citizens is more desirable than promoting the personal growth, satisfaction and economic benefits that could be achieved through working in a productive job. Margaret Thatcher is quoted as having said: "The trouble with socialism is that eventually you run out of other people's money." NMBC is not just another chamber of commerce to promote business. NMBC understands that the bottom line is that some things have to change, and they wants to offer solutions. Probably the best solution would be for everyone to get involved in making our state better. As a business person, you can become involved by letting governing entities know, and understand your particular interests and concerns. NMBC can facilitate that. They can make it easy for you to get involved, and can assist in focusing your efforts toward issues about which you are specifically interested. As of today, NMBC has formed fifty-three likeminded groups and provides information and access to learning about individual laws, actions and operations that pertain to the specific group's interest. NMBC has set up processes that allow members an easy way to communicate their concerns to legislators. During the recent legislative session in Santa Fe, those processes generated over 300,000 emails and phone calls letting legislators know about the possible affect that pending legislation would have on business. That conveyance of knowledge and information was instrumental in stopping proposals for: a state operated banking system; an ill designed clean air act; and certain energy related bills, among others. NMBC also offers more education and guidance for becoming involved. They can assist you with advice for providing information to your employees about the affect, or potential affect, of rules, ordinances and laws would have on your business and/or their workplace. NMBC has access to a substantial amount of information concerning a lot of things that pertain to creating, or improving, a pro-business attitude at all levels of government. New Mexico Business Coalition's next effort in educating the general public will be an event to be held on April 7th where gubernatorial candidates will be asked to 'interview' for the job as Governor of New Mexico. The format will not be a standard debate format, but will instead consist of asking each candidate a few questions related to why the citizens should hire that candidate to be our governor. The interviewer will make sure that the questions are answered and any rambling, or off the subject answers, will be cut off. That is just one of the ways that NMBC is working to improve our state. If you want to become a member of the New Mexico Business Coalition, you should visit their website nmbizcoalition.org/join-us and take a roughly four minute survey to determine where your particular interests lie. If you have questions about the organization, or their philosophies, you should give Larry a call at 505-366-8150. He is certainly willing to provide beneficial insight derived from his knowledge, research, personal experiences and general concern for improving the business atmosphere in our state. But in trying to find a way to move our state in a more business favorable direction, be sure not to ask Mr. Sonntag a question for which you really don't want a direct answer.

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Leads & Business Information:

None noted this week

Reciprocity:

Thank you to: Paul Losey for getting my grandson into his eastside facility.
Robert Biernacki for great landscaping project-EAGA discount.
Randy Baker for electrical service at my house.
- Jack Zipper

- ◆ Jack Zipper has set up an EAGA Cruise that leaves port on September 14, 2023
14 night Greenland cruise on the RCCL Jewel of the Seas, round trip from Bayonne, NJ.
Our balcony cabin was \$3500 for both of us, taxes and fees included.
Contact Jack at 505-259-5959 or Richard at By Land or by Sea Vacations at 678-354-9270.
Cabin availability is extremely limited. (\$900 per person refundable deposit)
- ◆ We need a Badge Board Greeters. We need a lot of Badge Board Greeters for the end of March, and for all of April and beyond.
Please let Mario know if you can take those duties on one of the open days. Mario will also be quite happy to sign you up for one of the speaking dates that are available in late April and in May. Mario's contact information is in the box below.
- ◆ First announcement for a prospective new member:
Kinney Brick Company
Representative: Benjamin Hoffman
Category: Brick Manufacturing
Sponsor: Mark Tobiassen

If you have an objection to this business becoming a member, or if you have information that you feel should be considered during the review process, please contact our Membership Committee Chairman, Jack Zipper (via telephone number 505-259-5959 or email at jdzipper@comcast.net) as soon as possible.

Badge Board Greeters

Mar 15th Rich Rosley—A-TECH Security
Mar 22nd
Mar 29th
Apr 5th Brian Walden—Christians Automotive / Mango Automotive
Apr 12th
Apr 19th
Apr 26th
May 3rd

Upcoming Speakers

Mar 15th Mark Abramson—Los Ranchos Gun Shop
Mar 22nd Paul Jew—Moji Studio
Mar 29th Damian Pascetti—Pascetti Steel
Apr 5th Scott Lardner—Rocky Mountain Stone
Apr 12th
Apr 19th
Apr 26th
May 3rd Guest Speaker—Todd Brown—UNM Baseball

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