

EAGA Business Builder

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October 18, 2022

Today's speaker was Carla Sonntag from New Mexico Business Coalition



The New Mexico Business Coalition (NMBC) is a non-partisan organization established to promote and support business friendly policies. The Coalition is involved with those activities at the local, statewide and federal level. It is their feeling that the current direction

of many of the local, and most of our state governmental agencies are operating contrary to the wishes of a majority of the citizens. It is relatively obvious that the current policies are not really working for the benefit of our residents. New Mexico has been graded very low in a variety of subjects, including education, child welfare and business opportunities. It is also the Coalition's opinion that a majority of our legislators and high ranking officials are more interested in growing government than they are in encouraging successful business growth. As a matter of fact, those agencies are favoring policies regulations and laws that are actually often detrimental to business operations. During the pandemic, NMBC had to become involved with forcing proper enforcement of the worker's compensation regulations in order to relieve some of the financial burden that was being incorrectly forced on businesses. The Coalition was also instrumental in getting the City of Albuquerque to reduce the number of authorized homeless encampments from 45 to 10. Another upcoming issue of major importance to New Mexico business owners will be a proposed medical leave ordinance that would require each employee be given up to 12 weeks of medical leave every year. The program would be administered (and claims paid to the employees) by a state agency similar to the way that it handles worker's comp. Not only would businesses and employees be required to pay a tax to fund operation of the program, but the proposed legislation would also require that the employee's job be kept available for them when they return to work. The employer would therefore have to operate with a reduced staff, or hire 'temporary' workers to fill the position for possibly three months, until the original employee returns. The program is full of requirements and conditions that are a detrimental to operating a business. The collection of taxes would begin a year before the leave could be taken, but even that 'priming the pot' would not generate enough money for the program to operate with a positive cash flow. Projections are that this medical leave program would not be financially stable, even for a short period of time, without requiring an increase in the taxes. The medical leave ordinance is definitely a serious issue, but it is certainly not the only thing of importance looming on the horizon. The upcoming elections could have a great impact on the business climate as well. Obviously, which candidates win will matter, but so will the constitutional amendments that could affect the state's financial situation through additional payouts from the reserve fund, costs for proposed infrastructure work done by the government for private citizens and entities, and bond issues that always have something to do with the reduction, increase, or status-quo of tax revenues. Employers have to become knowledgeable about all the candidates and all the issues. They need to know how everything will affect their particular operation. It is also imperative that employers seek to properly educate their employees as well so that the workers are aware of what is at stake. People are interested in living in an environment where only necessary regulations exist, and they really only want those laws that are beneficial to overall, and long term, well being of residents. News, campaign advertisements and general public perception of what is going on are not usually detailed, or even accurate enough for someone to make an educated decision. Providing employees with correct information will give them the ability to make beneficial choices. That obviously goes along with encouraging the folks to vote. The New Mexico Business Coalition makes a lot of information available. They have even set up a grading system for most of the candidates. The system uses the 'standard' method of A through F grades with an 'A' grade indicating that the candidate appears to have a great business friendly attitude. The grades decrease as candidates pro-business attitude decreases. An 'F' grade indicates that the candidate appears to heavily favor bigger government. If you would like to see what NMBC is currently working on, or if you want to find useful information about the business climate in our city and state, or if you want to review the grades assigned to particular candidates, visit NMBC website nmbizcoalition.org. You can also speak directly with Larry or Carla Sonntag at 505-366-8150.

Contact information for Executive Director: Mario Hernandez

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Leads & Business Information:

None submitted this week

- ◆ First announcement for a prospective new member:
AirWell/Assaigai/ImmunoLytics
Representative: John William (JW) Biava
Category: Indoor Air Quality Inspection and Testing
Sponsor: Kevin Lorenzen

- ◆ Second announcement for a prospective new member:
1st Service Team
Representative: Lonnie Carreathers
Category: Life safety services
Sponsor: Phillip Menicucci

If you have an objection to either of these companies 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.

- ◆ EAGA Holiday Party will be held at Hotel Albuquerque on Saturday, December 10th. Cocktails at 6pm; Dinner at 7pm. There will also be pre-party drinks in the Presidential Suite from 5pm to 6pm. Following dinner will be dancing and door prizes. The hotel has set aside a few rooms at an EAGA discounted rate for the night. If you are interested in securing one of those rooms, please click [this link](#) to setup your reservation.
- ◆ A new EAGA roster is in the editing stage. Please review the current roster book and let Mario know if there should be any changes to your information. A revision copy will be passed around during the next couple of meetings, so make sure to take the time and review your info and make any needed changes right there in the circulation copy.
- ◆ We are glad to hear that John Campbell is now recovering at his home. Not sure if John is really missing the scrambled eggs and floppy bacon, but we hope to see him back at our Tuesday breakfast meetings very soon.

Badge Board Greeters

Oct 25th Kevin Gullick—SealMaster
Nov 1st Paul Losey—Covenant Schools of America
Nov 8th Lance Darnell—Darnell Fasteners
Nov 15th Tom Briones—Briones Business Law Consulting
Nov 22nd NO MEETING—THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Nov 29th John Woods—PHOCUS Real Estate
Dec 6th
Dec 13th

Upcoming Speakers

Oct 25th Dr. Nathaniel Roybal—Retina Consultants of New Mexico
Nov 1st Mike Krepfl—AAA Pumping Service
Nov 8th Jack Bonsignore—Jump 4 Fun
Nov 15th Steven Douglas—The Printing Guy
Nov 22nd NO MEETING—THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Nov 29th John Mead—John Thomas Jewelers
Dec 6th Laurence Saban—AED One Stop Shop
Dec 13th Rich Rosley—A-TECH Security

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