

December 2022



## Special Edition - A Message From President Clifford

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### A Message from Chamber President, Tony Clifford



I took over as Chamber President fulfilling my sworn duty, that the Vice President shall act in the absence of the President and shall succeed the president in office for the remainder of that term. Thank you to Paul Formosa, CFO South San Francisco Scavenger Company, for his leadership. When others were not ready to take on the challenge of being Chamber President, Paul stepped in for another go as chamber president. Before that, Paul served as our chamber treasurer, guiding our financial well-being for many years. It was hard to see Paul go after the many years he dedicated to our Chamber. The Chamber wishes Paul and his family their very best.

As with all non-profits (mutual benefit corporation 501-C6) there is something to be said for continuity, but there is also a benefit for others to step up in a leadership role. This year we lost someone that wore the tagline "Mr. Taste of South San Francisco," Jim Metz. Jim too was the foundation to which this Chamber of Commerce was built. These "givers" (Paul and Jim alike) were ALL-IN when it came to the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

In a short period of time, five months, we accomplished what appeared to be a lot. I am so proud of our Chamber Board of Directors to stand up and take a stance against Measure DD. Nobody is against childcare, especially during the formative years, but a plan needs to be put in place. Measure DD went to the people and the people voted against it.

After the setback caused by the pandemic, we were happy to acknowledge our friend Jim Metz with the revival of an in-person Taste of South San Francisco. Still over a month later, it is hard to walk around town and not hear the continued buzz about November 4<sup>th</sup> Taste of South San Francisco. It was a huge day. Exemplified by the most vendors to participate (50) and the most attendees (450). What an inspiring event, especially after the pandemic. Jim Metz was smiling down on the South San Francisco Conference Center. Thank you to the Committee Jim McGuire, Kristin Ditlevsen, Olga Garcia, Christina Ng, Bill Benavides, and Linda Parenti. Thank you to Elaine Garbarino for overseeing raffle prizes. Thank you to David Huddleston, Cesar Dominguez, James Jurow and Astrid Rivera for selling raffle tickets. The sale of raffle tickets raised \$3,040.00 for our scholarships for higher education. Thank you to all the restaurants that participated and to the 400+ attendees. Please remember to visit these restaurants as they are still on the post pandemic road to recovery.

Taste started off with the "A Taste of the Year In Review." It was an informational breakfast and economic outlook with Mayor Nagales and City Manager Mike Futrell taking the lead. Economist Jason Moody was there to show how our great city measures up to the overall economy. Conclusion...the city of South San Francisco continues to thrive.

Who participated in Project Read's 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Challenge? It was my understanding in was a challenge just to find a seat at the event. The in-person event drew many of our top county officials and many library fans. It was a successful fundraiser to bring awareness of our many literacy programs throughout San Mateo County.

Genentech who has once again supported our businesses with the Genentech Goes to Town Program. GGTT is a community engagement program sponsored by Genentech and operated in partnership with the SSF Chamber of Commerce. This year celebrated the 29<sup>th</sup> year of the program in SSF. Since the program's inception, Genentech has invested more than \$3 million to support local businesses.

Our Chamber has had a wonderful working relationship with the City of South San Francisco. Mike Futrell, City Manager, served on our board as a non-voting member. Mike was instrumental at keeping our business leaders informed to the progressiveness of South San Francisco. Mike, thank you, and you will be missed.

Our Chamber was established in 1913. We have had our challenges over the years. Today our integrity is being challenged. It is difficult to express that we will lose further leadership as Jim McGuire, South San Francisco Conference Center, and Gus Shihadeh, Amoura Restaurant, cycle off after three 3 year terms. Your leadership is unprecedented. Your involvement undisputed. THANK YOU!

I know that I am in good company, as I too, cycle off. As I took the presidency to help a business colleague, a fellow board member and more importantly a friend, I hope to continue to be involved with the best chamber on the Peninsula, OUR South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

**We are fortunate to have our Chamber staff, Linda Parenti, acting CEO and Arlene Dozier, Administrative Assistant. Again, the Chamber remained and continues to be a force in the community and throughout the Peninsula. Thank you, Linda and Arlene!**

**Carpe Diem,**

**Tony Clifford**