

BUSINESS VOICE

ISSUE 169 | FEB '23

A PUBLICATION OF THE
RIDGECREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



36TH ANNUAL
IWV ECONOMIC OUTLOOK CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 23, 2023

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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
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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

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Roger & Lorrie Young
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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

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- 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
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For more information:
Vivian Baker
vbaker@cerrocoso.edu

Classes start February 13

FOOD, DRINKS, AND A NIGHT DOWNTOWN

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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:

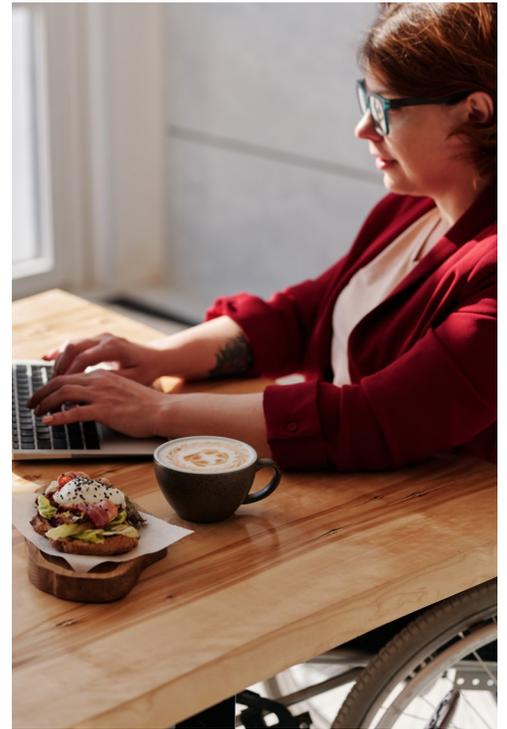
- Joe is scheduled to work from 8 a.m. to 6:15 p.m., which is 10 hours and 15 minutes. Because Joe is scheduled for more than 6 hours, he of course must take at least one 30-minute meal break. But since Joe's shift is 10 hours and 15 minutes long, is he then entitled to a second meal break? The answer 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.

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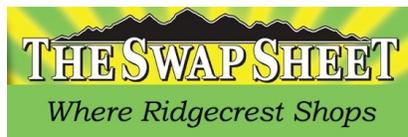
Women's Center High Desert

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