

## Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce September Calendar

Please RSVP (required for food events) to the Chamber at 310/545-5313 or email to [info@ManhattanBeachChamber.net](mailto:info@ManhattanBeachChamber.net)

- September 3**  
● Labor Day – MBCC Office is closed
- September 7**  
● Chamber Pak Flyers Due at the MBCC Office
- September 9**  
● Manhattan Beach Arts Festival – 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Downtown MB
- September 12**  
● Business Toolbox Meeting, 12 Noon, AdventurePlex, 1709 Marine Ave., MB. Lunch is available for purchase. RSVP to the Chamber
- September 13**  
● M.B. Women in Business Breakfast at Kids Kabaret – "Raise Your Business Score" 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. 1601 PCH, Hermosa Beach. The Guest Speaker will be Tony West, a volunteer counselor for SCORE, the resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Mr. West, a retired business owner, will share his wisdom and lessons learned in business. He will also present the resources available through SCORE. Register online at [www.ManhattanBeachChamber.net](http://www.ManhattanBeachChamber.net) or call the Chamber, (310) 545-5313, \$15.00 for Chamber members, \$20.00 for guests. Registration a must!  
● SBA/SCORE Counseling, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, MBCC Office, by appointment only
- September 18**  
● Board of Directors Meeting - 8:00 a.m. - Joslyn Center

- September 19**  
● Mixer, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Manhattan Beach Toyota/Scion, 1500 N. Sepulveda Blvd., MB. Free for Chamber member, \$10.00 non-members.  
● SBA/SCORE Counseling, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, MBCC Office, by appointment only
- September 21**  
● SCACCE Conference – MBCC Office is closed
- September 25**  
● Legislative Advocacy Council Meeting, Noon, AdventurePlex, 1709 Marine Ave., MB. Lunch is available for purchase. RSVP to the Chamber.
- September 27**  
● New Member Orientation, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., Il Fornaio Restaurant, 1800 Rosecrans, MB. RSVP to the Chamber (310) 545-5313 or email [kathleen@ManhattanBeachChamber.net](mailto:kathleen@ManhattanBeachChamber.net)
- September 28**  
● South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce, Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Manhattan Beach Marriott, 1400 Park View Ave. MB. \$35.00 Register (no later than September 24) online at [ManhattanBeachChamber.net](http://ManhattanBeachChamber.net) or call (310) 545-5313. Registration a must!  
● SBA/SCORE Counseling, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, MBCC Office, by appointment only

## At Least Four Eyeballs

By Debra Anne Davis  
Communication Consultant

For a few summers, I worked as a camp counselor. This camp had all the usual activities: messy pie-eating contests, moonlight ghost stories, water balloon wars. There was also an academic component of the camp, and I was in charge of setting up the English test for the new campers.

Glad to be in charge of something official, I took my job very seriously. I carefully typed up an instruction page that I attached to the front of each test. I proudly showed a fellow camp counselor my handiwork. He read through it quickly and slid it back across the table. "Do you best?" he asked.

At first I didn't understand what he meant because, well, what he'd said didn't make any sense. Then he pointed at my instruction sheet. The last sentence I'd written, intended to be words of encouragement to the perhaps nervous test-taking

campers ("Do your best!" I'd meant to say), was instead an example of a mistake they shouldn't make in their summer school class. That sentence contained—horror of horrors!—a typo.

I grabbed up the entire stack and ran out. I tore the tainted sheets off the tests. I re-typed the instruction sheet. And this time I showed it to the other counselor before proceeding. He read it over, declared it sound. I then confidently copied, stapled and distributed the now-perfect test packets.

It's not that I hadn't read over the original—several times. It's just that, for some reason, my eyes hadn't caught the mistake. Typos don't often slip past me, but I am human. That's why I find it helpful to augment my two eyeballs with two more. Now, before publishing or distributing anything, I ask someone else to give it a read. And sometimes their eyes catch something mine have missed, even though I've done my best.



Debra Anne Davis

## Health Care Reform: AB 8 May Not be the Answer

By Charles Gale, Chair, Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce  
Legislative Advocacy Council

California businesses large and small provide healthcare coverage to millions of working Californians and their families. The Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce, along with the CALChamber, supports the goal of increasing healthcare coverage to more Californians by increasing insurance affordability without undermining California's economy.

Unfortunately, the plan proposed by Assembly Speaker Núñez and Senate President Pro Tem Perata does not achieve this goal. Assembly Bill 8 is not healthcare reform; it is a prescription for continued budget deficits, increased taxes, higher health insurance premiums and fewer jobs.

Rather than seek to contain costs and address access through increased affordability, AB 8 simply imposes a questionable tax on employers who can't afford to purchase health insurance. Labeling this new health care tax a "fee" that can be approved by a simple legislative majority violates the will of the people, who amended our state constitution to require a two-thirds vote for tax increases when they passed Proposition 13.

What is even more frightening about the

Democrats' leadership bill is that it gives the power to raise this new tax, "as necessary," to an unelected board of political appointees. Since the government-run health care program created by AB 8 is financially unsustainable, it certainly will be "necessary" to raise the tax.

A 7.5-percent tax on the payrolls of low-wage employers will not provide enough revenue to purchase the average HMO plans envisioned in the legislation; much more revenue will be needed. And since health care cost inflation grows more rapidly than payroll, even more taxes will be needed in the future as the gap between the costs of the new program and collected revenues widens.

Where will the extra needed revenue come from? As envisioned in the legislation: by continually increasing the health care payroll tax. This means employers who provide health insurance today and believe the bill won't impact them should think again – the payroll tax almost certainly will have to be raised above the payroll percentage level most employers spend on health care today, triggering a requirement for them to pay the difference to the state.

AB 8 does not increase affordability, does not share responsibility, and is neither sustainable nor legal. AB 8 is bad legislation. The Manhattan Beach Chamber encourages Chamber members to attend the August 28 Legislative Advocacy Council meeting to discuss and persuade our Senator Jenny Oropeza and Assembly Member Ted Lieu to focus on real solutions that are financially sustainable for local business and provides cost-effective and efficient healthcare for our employees.

## September Mixer in Manhattan Beach

By Mary Pat Dorr  
Mary Pat Dorr Photography

Be prepared for a great evening, mixing business and pleasure, when, on September 19th, Manhattan Beach Toyota/Scion hosts our mixer at their show room, 1500 N. Sepulveda Blvd. Manhattan Beach. Members, new and established, are invited to join us from 5:30 p.m. until about 7:00 p.m. If you are not a member, please join us to get to know what the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce is all about. The charge for guests is \$10.00.

New owner Darrell Sperber is hosting the event in order to meet our members and offer his hospitality. Be prepared to enjoy tasty appetizers. Beer and wine will also be available for purchase.

Bring lots of business cards and plan on spending some fun time getting to know new people and visiting friends at the same time.

## How the Chamber Worked for Nikki

By Mary Pat Dorr  
Mary Pat Dorr Photography

I was once again reminded of the value of being a Chamber member during our recent mixer held at Chevron Park in El Segundo.

I was chatting with a new member when I noticed two people who looked as if they were waiting to talk to me. I recognized the woman as someone I always said hello to when I walk on the Strand. I was able to move over to them and introduce myself.

After chatting a bit, including the "What do you do?" question, Nikki mentioned that she was trying to launch a new business. As a business owner of 30 years I was able to

share many tips on this subject. However, I soon realized that the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce has many members who were much better sources of information for Nikki and her particular business idea.

I introduced Nikki to these Chamber members, so I was able to start Nikki on her way. These introductions pointed her to great resources for her business idea.

Next time I saw Nikki on the Strand she was so appreciative of the help and said, "Whew, I never knew there was so much value in the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce!"

Remember that you get out of the chamber what you put into the chamber.

Manhattan Beach CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Women in Business*  
committee

10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**2008**

**CONFERENCE**

••• SAVE THE DATE! •••

**FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008**

Manhattan Beach Marriott

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[www.MBWIB.com](http://www.MBWIB.com)

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