

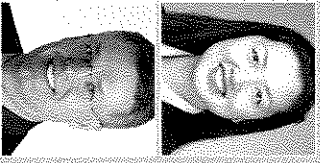
Members Interviews

MOVING ON & UP



Ken Garcia, the award-winning journalist who became well known for his willingness to take on mayors, supervisors, and those who would compromise his beloved San Francisco, has joined the *San Francisco Examiner* as a columnist. His new column will appear every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday in the San Francisco and Peninsula editions of the paper. Three Farella Braun + Martel LLP attorneys have

been elevated to the partnership: Katherine Philippakis, Kevin Poloncarz and Anthony Schoenberg. Terri Emery, David Peables, Bill Stotler and Andrew Wilson have been named principals in FME, Architecture + Design. Emery and Peables join Stephen Fee, Jack Munson and David Ebert as principals leading design and project management. Stotler and Wilson are the firm's first business management principals. The San Francisco office of SMITHGROUP, one of the nation's largest and oldest architecture, engineering, planning and interiors firms, named two new principals, Juliee Cho and William I. Loftis, to lead the Workplace Studio. Tim Williams, P.E., has been elected vice chair



of the California-Nevada section of the American Water Works Association.

KUDOS

Harold S. Stein Jr., president & CEO of Crane Pest Control, was inducted into Pest Control magazine's "Pest Control Hall of Fame." Stein stewards the cutting-edge integrated pest management organization into its 75th year and third generation of business in San Francisco.

Mandated Health Care is the Wrong Prescription for SF

Supervisor Tom Ammiano has proposed legislation that will make health insurance mandatory for all businesses with 20 employees or more, and could be amended to include businesses with fewer employees. Unfortunately, Ammiano's legislation was written without discussion and review by the businesses it will impact. The Chamber has helped organize a coalition of local business owners in opposition to the proposal as drafted because of its potentially devastating impacts on all city businesses.

These are just a few reasons why Ammiano's health care proposal is wrong for San Francisco:

- The ordinance will require San Francisco employers with 20 or more employees including part-time and seasonal workers (a minimum of 80 hours a month) to pay a fee to provide health coverage to their employees. The

amount of this fee has not yet been determined.

- In addition to the health care fee, the city will impose an additional fee on small businesses to help pay for the administration and enforcement of the ordinance.

San Francisco small businesses will be required to maintain records of their employees' health care expenditures on an annual basis and to provide a report to the city that details the health care payments made to their employees.

- Heavy fines and penalties may be levied on businesses not in compliance with the ordinance.
- A task force of seven people appointed by the Board of Supervisors will have nine months to study the cost of the program and how to implement it in San Francisco.

The Chamber has been working for the past year on ways to extend health insurance to more of San Francisco's uninsured residents, but requiring employers to provide health insurance violates federal law, depresses local wages, stunts job growth and harms low-income workers by narrowing the job market.

The Chamber is working with the Mayor's Office and Small Business Commission to draft an alternative proposal that calls for the city establish a broad-based task force to do a comprehensive study of the complex issues involved in providing health care and to implement the provisions of voter-approved Prop I, which requires the city to do an economic impact analysis of all proposed legislation

For updates, watch the *Monday Report*, visit www.sfcchamber.com or contact Jim Lazarus at 415-352-8841 or jilazarus@sfcchamber.com.

Encouraging Families to Take Advantage of Tax Credit

SFWorks is working to increase participation in the San Francisco Working Families Credit as the innovative program enters its second year. Nearly 10,000 low-income families – an estimated 50 percent of the eligible population – received the credit last year. The program

also aims to spur participation in the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a larger federal benefit traditionally under-claimed by San Franciscans. Applicants for the credit must apply when they file their 2005 taxes.

With the continued support of Working Families Credit sponsor H&R Block as well as generous media donations, SFWorks will launch an intense marketing campaign aimed at increasing awareness and ensuring more eligible residents benefit from the tax credit this year.

"Low-income workers tell us they depend on their employers for this type of information," says SFWorks Executive Director Terri Feeley. "In

turn, we are looking to employers to help raise awareness among their staff." Employees that are entry-level, part-time, temporary or earn less than \$18 per hour are likely to qualify.

Further details about the Working Families Credit program and how

employers can promote it to their employees is available online at www.sfcchamber.com/taxcredits.htm.

For information on developing and supporting a company's entry-level workforce, contact Terri Feeley at tfecley@sfcworks.org.

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