**2016 HIGHLIGHTS**

**JANUARY**

**U.S. Trade Rep addresses expanding opportunities for L.A. businesses**
Luis Jimenez, counselor to the U.S. Trade Representative, met with Chamber members and representatives of the region’s trade associations in January to discuss how the President’s Trade Agenda is expanding economic opportunities for regional businesses.

**FEBRUARY**

**TPP top of mind for Global Initiatives Council**
Myron Brilliant, executive vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, headlined the Global Initiatives Council meeting in February to discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The head of international affairs at the nation’s largest business organization, Brilliant also outlined the top trade issues on the policy agenda in Washington, D.C. and the campaign trail.

**Chamber Participates in Singapore Air Show**
In late February, the Chamber and the Los Angeles Regional Export Council (LARExC) participated in the U.S. International Pavilion at the Singapore Air Show 2016 in Changi, Singapore. Four small/medium-sized California firms participated as exhibitors at the event. Singapore Airshow is Asia’s largest and one of the most important aerospace and defense exhibitions in the world.

**MARCH**

**Chamber co-hosts the 2016 Latin American Business Conference**
UCLA Anderson’s Center for Global Management, the Latin American Business Association and the Chamber hosted the 2016 Latin American Business Conference. The conference brought together influential private and public sector leaders across multiple industries and disciplines to provide a macro-overview of the region and panel discussions that explored the relationship between Latin America and L.A., the region’s social transformation, the changing media and entertainment landscape, the role of technology and innovation to Latin America’s economic growth, and the importance of intraregional trade and global cooperation to Latin America’s future.

**Members receive update on the Panama Canal expansion**
The Global Initiatives and Transportation & Goods Movement councils heard from Oscar Bazan, executive vice president of Planning and Business Development for the Canal De Panama. Bazan provided an update on the Panama Canal Expansion Program and the projected implications of the canal on North American trade. The expansion will double the Canal’s capacity, having a direct impact on economies of scale and international maritime trade.

**APRIL**

**Chamber welcomes Mexico City Secretary of Economic Development**
Secretary Salomon Chertorivski met with Chamber members and guests in early April and shared the desire of the Mexico City Government to create additional avenues to strengthen the commercial and industrial ties with the City of Los Angeles. The Chamber expressed its commitment to assist with this endeavor. The Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2015 with the Mexico City Chamber of Commerce, and the fact that L.A. and Mexico City are part of Brookings’ Global Cities Initiatives are integral components to fulfill this goal.

**Members meet with German Vice Minister of Goods Transport and Logistics**
The Chamber met with Dorothee Bar, vice minister at the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure and coordinator of the Federal Government of Germany for goods transport and logistics. Bar was accompanied by 20 representatives of German logistics companies, interested in learning more about the logistics sector in the U.S. and discussing potential synergies. The visit was coordinated by the Logistics Alliance Germany. Consul General of Germany, the Hon. Hans Jörg Neumann, was also in attendance, along with representatives of the L.A. Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association.

**MAY**

**Global Synergies & Innovation Central To World Trade Week Kickoff**
For the 90th year, the Chamber hosted the kickoff breakfast for World Trade Week (WTW) on May 3 in downtown L.A. with nearly 800 attendees. Headlined by the Chairman of Walt Disney Studios, Alan Horn, the event included remarks by L.A. City Mayor Eric Garcetti, who acknowledged the Chamber for its vision and offered his congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone. “Here’s to 90 years of great work and many more,” noted Garcetti. Special remarks were provided by WTW Chairman Comr. Anthony Pirozzi, Chamber President & CEO Gary Toebben and special guest U.S. Representative Ed Royce.

**Chamber hosts California-Mexico Trade & Investment Summit**
The Chamber, the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), ProMéxico and the Los Angeles Regional Export Council (LARExC), hosted the California-Mexico Trade & Investment Summit to discuss cross border relations. The summit was part of Gov. Brown’s 2014 Trade and Investment Agreement with the Mexican Government. Representatives of L.A. Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties participated as panelists under LARExC’s Counties Initiatives.

**JUNE**

**Chamber welcomes the Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce**
The Chamber welcomed board members of the Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce in June. Eyup Bartik, chairman of the board, led the trade delegation representing 15 industries ranging from logistics to construction and textiles. These senior executives expressed great interest in forging commercial and industrial relations with L.A.-based firms. Turkey is the L.A. region’s No. 41 trading partner with almost $800 million in bilateral trade.

**Diplomatic & Commercial Officers Group meet with LA Biomed**
Members of the Diplomatic & Commercial Officers Group joined Dr. David Meyer, president & CEO of LA Biomed in March to receive an update on the region’s latest biomedical research initiatives, including in areas such as precision medicine, microbiomes and genetic modification. “International partnerships are an important part of expanding our research initiatives,” said Meyer. The Diplomatic & Commercial Officers Group is proud to now include more than 40 members.
Global Initiatives Council hears from Councilmember Blumenfield

In June, members of the Global Initiatives Council met with L.A. City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, chair of the Innovation, Grants, Technology and Trade Committee. “Every council decision impacts international trade, and, in return, impacts our quality of life. We must work with the international community to help facilitate future connectivity and trade,” noted the Council member, as he provided an overview of how the committee is interacting and working with the international business community.

JULY

Chamber hosts Governor’s International Trade & Investment Advisory Committee

Ten members of the Governor’s International Trade & Investment Advisory Committee met at the Chamber for their quarterly session. The Council, chaired by former U.S. Ambassador to Hungary Eleni Kounalakakis, advises GO-Biz on strategies to expand international trade and investment for California businesses, as well as attract foreign direct investment into the State. Carlos Valderrama, executive vice president of Global Initiatives at the Chamber, is an active member of the Council since 2015. The Chamber continues to engage with key players at the state level to ensure the L.A. region is at the forefront of seizing global trade opportunities.

AUGUST

Diplomats and Commercial Officers meet with L.A. regional counties

Nearly 50 members of the Chamber’s Diplomatic & Commercial Officers Group participated in an economic roundtable discussion with representatives of the counties of Ventura, Riverside, San Bernardino and L.A. Topics of discussion included economic development through foreign direct investment and collaborative bilateral trade opportunities. Participants included consul generals of New Zealand, Germany, Turkey, Angola, Sri Lanka and Paraguay. Members also held a private briefing with Brian Peck, deputy director of California Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development immediately preceding the session.

Chamber welcomes the Nagoya Economic and Port Promotion Trade Mission

The Chamber joined the Port of Los Angeles in welcoming 40 senior executives representing the Nagoya Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Nagoya Port Authority in August. In 1959, both organizations signed formal agreements with the Chamber and the Port of Los Angeles. The Sister Port and Sister Chamber relationship is unique and serves as the bridge between both regions to continue conducting more trade, as well as cultural and investment activities. This relationship is strengthened by the City of Nagoya maintaining a Sister City relationship with L.A. These long lasting commercial agreements and strong working relationships continue to provide the L.A. business community with powerful commercial links in Nagoya, Japan.

SEPTEMBER

Diplomats Receive Railway Tour and Port of Los Angeles Briefing

Members of the Chamber’s Diplomatic & Commercial Officers Group received a private Goods Movement & Infrastructure briefing at the Port of Los Angeles. The session included a detailed briefing on new developments at the Port by key officials, and a rail tour led by Pacific Harbor Line and the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority. Ambassador Vilma Martinez, president, Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners and Gene Seroka, executive director, provided welcome remarks.

Chamber leads meeting with USTR Counselor on Trans-Pacific Partnership

Private sector business executives representing various industries convened with visiting counselor for the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Luis Jimenez and more than 100 members of the business community to review the positive impact the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement will have on the U.S. and California economies. Speakers also included Hon. Leon Grice, Consulate General of New Zealand; Dr. Robert A. Kleinhenz, Beacon Economics; and program moderator Vince Iacopella, Janel Group Inc.

OCTOBER

Chamber’s Diplomat members tour Skechers Distribution Center in Riverside County

Members of the Chamber’s Diplomatic & Commercial Officers Group participated in a private tour of the 820,000 square-foot Skechers Distribution Center in Moreno Valley, the largest LEED Gold certified building in the nation. The session focused on the significance of the logistical importance of Riverside and Southern California.

Chamber supports Mayor Garcetti’s launch of the City of L.A.’s new export initiative

Mayor Garcetti, in partnership with the Chamber and the Los Angeles Regional Export Council (LARExC), was joined by more than 180 manufacturers, exporters and service providers at the USC Galen Center, as he announced several new initiatives as part of his plan to boost exports from L.A. companies. These initiatives include increasing the size of his international trade team, developing a network of public and private service providers in the region to assist potential exporters and the announcement of new trade missions in 2017.

NOVEMBER

LARExC participates in Governor’s Office Trade Mission to China

The Los Angeles Regional Export Council (LARExC) joined the Governor’s Office of Business Development (GO-Biz), and the California Energy Commission for the California-China Clean Tech 26-member Trade Mission to China. This trade mission offered a unique opportunity for California firms to explore business opportunities with Chinese counterparts. LARExC, as the Southern California Secretariat of the Memorandum-of-Understanding signed by Governor Brown with the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, represented the Counties of Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange in meetings with representatives of seven Chinese provinces.

Chamber initiative LARExC co-hosts Beyond the Numbers

The Chamber’s L.A. Regional Export Council (LARExC) joined Los Angeles World Airport (LAWA) and the Port of Los Angeles in hosting the “Beyond the Numbers” conference, which attracted more than 150 regional executives interested in learning more about strategic imports, air and sea cargo movement and emerging trends in export and import movements and new trade numbers publication released at the May 3 World Trade Week Kickoff Breakfast and the LAWA Air Cargo Study. The program included a special panel discussion moderated by Amb. Mickey Kantor, featuring Executive Director of LAWA, Deborah Flint and Deputy Executive Director of the Port of L.A. Doane Liu. The Chamber and LARExC strive to provide current data to enhance business strategies in global markets.
Los Angeles draws its greatest strength from the economic diversity we've forged through innovation. That's why we're one of the world's largest trade hubs," said Mayor Garcetti. "Now we must build our future by broadening industry bases like aerospace and manufacturing, and investing in world-class infrastructure to keep us ahead in an increasingly competitive global marketplace.

— Mayor Eric Garcetti
90th World Trade Week Kickoff Breakfast

2017 events:

- Global Initiatives Council meetings
  February 15, March 15, June 21, August 16, October 18, November 15

- 91st Annual World Trade Week Kickoff Breakfast
  May 4

Visit our website for more information about upcoming events at lachamber.com/events.

Thank you to our sponsor

Learn more about the Chamber's Global Initiatives department at lachamber.com/globalinitiatives

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