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Annual Member Meeting – October 1, 2008

Many thanks go out to the representatives of 26 CAFB members who traveled to Oakland on October 1 to attend the Annual Member Meeting, along with many thanks to our host, Suzan Bateson and the Alameda County Community Food Bank. For those who could not be with us, we wanted to share some of the highlights of the meeting:

New Member Orientation

The day started off with an orientation for Executive Directors of new member food banks. Welcome to our newest members:

- Shasta Senior Nutrition Services, Redding
- Food In Need of Distribution (FIND) Food Bank, Cathedral City
- Feeding America San Diego
- California Emergency Foodlink , Sacramento
- Golden Empire Gleaners, Bakersfield
- Community Resources Council, Roseville

Mid-morning, our new members were joined by representatives from returning members for lively discussion and sharing of information and resources, including:

Farm to Family

CAFB Finance Director David Carroll shared the latest information about the Farm to Family (F2F) program, which continues to grow. We are on track to distribute 60 million pounds of fresh produce in 2008, up from 22 million pounds in 2006. Currently, the Association moves 35 truckloads each week.

To facilitate better distribution to rural and remote food banks, the Association has piloted a new “hub and spoke” distribution system, with larger food banks acting as distribution centers for smaller food banks, cutting down on transportation costs for all. Ron Clark, Food Sourcing and Logistics Manager, informed the members that a new rotation system will be implemented to ensure more parity in what members are receiving. Members were also invited to speak about their produce distribution projects and ideas, including:

- Larry Sly, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County talked about his produce distribution program at school sites, where volunteers and school staff help bag produce.
- Gary Maxworthy informed members about San Francisco Food Bank’s Healthy Children Pantries.

- Tim Viall, Greater Stockton Food Bank spoke about mobile farmers markets, with two vans dispensing fresh produce, nutrition education and food demonstrations.
- In Nevada County, Toni Thompson stated that job fairs were noted as good distribution sites.
- Anne Holcomb noted that she has sent outreach workers to community fairs, using live music to create a farmer's market atmosphere.
- Second Harvest of San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties does outreach, provides food and nutrition education at events targeted with immigrant community.

Over a delicious lunch, members were treated to a showing of the new F2F video, which will be distributed to all members and will be available on the CAFB website.

Food Stamp Outreach and Nutrition Education

Jessica Bartholow, CAFB Director of Programs gave an overview of CAFB's Food Stamps and Nutrition Education activities, noting that \$979 thousand in food stamps funding was received by CAFB, and the group enjoyed a presentation on program achievements and opportunities.

Members joined in to share some new information, including:

Tulare County- 80% of food stamp outreach is being done out of the office

Alameda County – Computerized application pilot is being tested

Santa Clara is using a fax application, return calls generate a 90% success rate

CBO's are doing applications; they are paid \$40 for completed application

Policy and Member Services

CAFB Audited financial statements for 2007 were presented, with CAFB Chairman Michael Flood noting that it was a clean, unqualified audit. Treasurer Willy Elliott-McCrea talked about the financial health of CAFB and the need for a solid revenue base. He explained the costs of operations of CAFB and the need for increased member support.

The subject of member dues rates was thoroughly discussed, and a proposal to increase 2009 CAFB dues was presented. In the discussion that followed, several members spoke out about the value they receive for their membership fees, and wholeheartedly endorsed the new fee structure, particularly in light of recent CAFB accomplishments (see attached). Michael Flood encouraged members to contact a Board member with their comments prior to the October 23 Board meeting, when the new structure will be put to a vote.

Michael also reminded members to get involved by considering joining a CAFB committee or becoming a board member.

Guest Speaker

Those in attendance were treated to a presentation by Karen Jetter, Ph.D., Assistant Research Economist Agricultural & Resource Economics, UC Davis, who spoke on how improved dietary behaviors would affect the horticultural sector, differences in the food environment faced by high and low-income neighborhoods and the effects of exotic pests and diseases on consumers and producers. At the request of those in attendance, Karen's presentation is attached.

Board Elections

Anne Holcomb presented the slate of Board members for 2008-09, which was unanimously approved. The Board thanked departing members Sandy Beals and Suzan Bateson for their service, and welcomed the following new and returning Board members:

- Bruce Rankin, Michael Flood, and Shirley King, who were elected to a second term
- New Board members Dana Wilkie, Toni Thompson, Tim Viall, Mark Lowry and Gary Romreill.

Attachments:

- CAFB Accomplishments 2008
- Karen Jetter's presentation
- Farm to Family Video