

Annual State of the Nation Luncheon



Event Sponsor Southern California Gas Company, represented here by Julia Emerson with Norwalk Chamber President Amanda Blanton of Farmers & Merchants Bank.

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and other local Chambers hosted Congresswoman Linda Sánchez for the Annual State of the Nation Luncheon. This event brings together local elected officials, business leaders and community members to get updates on our District and what is happening in Washington DC. This year the Congresswoman attended and spoke while recovering from a minor surgery the day before! We send special thanks to her for being with us all, even as she was recovering! As she began her address she shared good news that had happened in recent weeks. A bipartisan spending blue print for the next two years had been approved, which was good news for our cities. This provides a framework for future spending and will help alleviate government shut downs. She stated that "just keeping the lights on isn't easy." Next the Congresswoman shared important issues, with the 2020 Census being the most important. The United States government is mandated to have a census done every 10 years which determines not only how many seats in the Congress each state is given in terms of representation but also effects over 130 different federal programs that send funds to the states. These programs include both healthcare and infrastructure and a full and fair count is needed not only in her District but throughout California. The Congresswoman shared that for every dollar in tax money that Californians send to the federal government, we only get back seventy two cents. We are considered a "donor state." It is estimated that in the 2010 Census over 1.5 million people living in California were not counted. This translates to not only having two additional seats in Congress but many dollars that could have come back to us. Congresswoman Sánchez shared that many cities in her District have census tracts that are hard to count. She is proud of the work that is being done in her cities especially Norwalk for being the first in LA County to kick off their 2020 Census Count.

The second issue discussed was the Veteran's community. The Congresswoman and her staff work hard to help our Veterans and through her work with the late Jose Ramos, put forward a bill to rename the Whittier Library after him. Jose Ramos was a Vietnam Veteran who led the way to the United States recognizing March 29th annually as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. She also shared that they are continuing to work on bringing home our MIA (Missing in Action) from the Vietnam War. She has recently been working with other members of Congress and the "Bring Raul Home" organization to identify and return Petty Officer Raul Guerra to the United States where he was interned at Rose Hills Memorial Park.

Continuing her work on the Ways and Means Committee the Congresswoman shared that they have bipartisan bills that they are working on such as the SECURE Act (Setting Every Community Up for Retirement) which will help with individual retirement savings and reduced paperwork required from small businesses, and the Prescription Drug STAR Act, which is intended to improve transparency for patients with regard to the cost of medication. The SECURE Act has been passed by the Committee and the entire House, and they are waiting on the Senate to discuss and approve.

Trade and tariffs continue to be a hot topic of conversation in DC. As they work on new trade agreements with Canada and Mexico the chief complaints are that not every county abides by the trade agreements and it is hard to enforce those regulations in other countries. Work is also being done on preserving digital privacy and trademarks. With regard to infrastructure, the Congresswoman was hopeful at the beginning of the year, but now this seems to be on the back burner. California has many needs in infrastructure. Our roads and bridges need work; most especially the Whittier Narrows Dam. The Army Corp of Engineers has given this the highest priority to repair; it has "super status." If this dam were to fail all of the Congresswoman's District would be affected and she mentioned we would have to get out our kayaks. Other projects in infrastructure that are ongoing are the Alameda Corridor East project, Rosecrans Ave. in Santa Fe Springs and other dangerous intersections in Montebello and Pico Rivera. One project that has been completed is the Albert Robles Center in Pico Rivera. The Congresswoman shared that there will be a Grand Opening to celebrate the completion of this project on August 22nd. Through this water recycling center they will be able to recover over three billion gallons of water to be reused every year.

As the Congresswoman wrapped up her State of the Nation address, audience questions were asked. They ranged from gun control to impeachment and how to make sure the homeless were counted in Census 2020. Again we thank the Congresswoman for her commitment to our Chambers and cities as our representative in Washington DC and for sharing this valuable information with the attendees. Special thanks go out to the Sponsors of this event: Metropolitan Water District, Southern California Gas Company, Southern California Edison, PIH Health and Rose Hills Memorial Park. If you would like additional information on any of the topics covered during this address, please visit Congresswoman Sánchez website at www.lindasanchez.house.gov or contact her office at (562) 860-5050.



Pictured here with Congresswoman Linda Sanchez are (l to r) Norwalk City Council Member Leonard Shryock, Norwalk Mayor Margarita Rios, Norwalk City Council Member Jennifer Perez and Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez.



At the State of the Nation Luncheon are Mayor Margarita Rios with City Manager Jesus Gomez.



Attending the luncheon from Cerritos College are (l to r) Miya Walker Director, College Relations, Public Affairs & Governmental Relations, President, Dr. Jose Fierro, Trustee Dr. Shin Liu, Irma Gorrocino, Public Affairs Specialist, and Student Trustee Valery Escobar.



Norwalk Chamber members at the State of the Nation Address (l to r) Board Members Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates, Trisha Gutierrez, QM Fundraising, Gary Murphy, Norwalk Florist, Tracy Polley, Kelco Sales and Ambassador Joe Derthick, AFLAC.



Little Lake City School District Superintendent Dr. William Crean with Board President Dora Sandoval at the luncheon.



Getting first hand information from the Congresswoman from the Norwalk Patriot Newspaper are (l to r) Chamber Ambassador Julie Ledesma, Jazmin Gomez and Alex Dominguez.



Norwalk City Council Members listening to the updates from the Congresswoman. Pictured here are Council Members Jennifer Perez and Leonard Shryock.



Enjoying the delicious meal from the DoubleTree Hotel are (l to r) Community Family Guidance Center Executive Director Bill Sinko, staff Christopher Craig and Victor Sanchez along with Norwalk Chamber President Amanda Blanton of Farmers & Merchants Bank.

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

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SEPTEMBER 2019



Attending the State of the Nation Luncheon from Liberty Utilities. In this photo are MWD Board Frank Heldman and Norwalk Chamber Board member Alison Vai.

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PRESIDENT
AMANDA BLANTON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDITOR, NCBC
CAREN SPILSBURY



NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Renewing Members

The following companies and individuals renewed their membership with the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and the services we provide are made possible by their support.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>44 Years
 Norwalk Toyota
 562-677-1329
 Lori D'Alessandro
 www.norwalktoyota.com</p> <p>38 Years
 Okimoto's Automotive Center
 Roy Okimoto
 562-926-7317</p> <p>33 Years
 Liberty Utilities
 Alison Vai
 562-926-7317</p> <p>32 Years
 Norwalk La Mirada USD
 Dr. Hasmik Danielian
 562-868-0431
 www.nlmusd.k12.ca.us</p> | <p>31 Years
 Doubletree by Hilton, Norwalk, Los Angeles
 Jennifer Bevington
 562-863-5555
 www.losangelesnorwalk.doubletree.com</p> <p>25 Years
 American Cancer Society
 Celia Veyna
 562-437-0793
 www.cancer.org</p> <p>13 Years
 Lorraine Neal
 Community Member</p> <p>13 Years
 Northgate Gonzales Market
 Carl Middleton
 562-863-8203
 www.northgatemarkets.com</p> | <p>12 Years
 Norwalk Community Coordinating Council
 President
 www.nccconline.us</p> <p>6 Years
 Norwalk Preservation Partnership
 William Szymczak
 310-802-6670</p> <p>2 Years
 Mujeres Extraordinaries Foundation Inc
 Martha Esquivel de Zamora, President</p> |
|--|--|--|

New Members

Pinnacle Industrial Supply
 Kalon Mendoza
 13023 Tom White Way
 Norwalk CA 90650
 562-741-8886
www.pinnacleindsupply.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 13th**
 Executive Committee Meeting
 12noon
- September 15th**
 Rose Hills Memorial Park
 Welcome Home Veterans Event
 2:30pm to 5pm
- September 19th**
 After Hours Mixer
 Outback Restaurant
 4:30pm to 6:30pm
- September 21st**
 1st Time Home Buyers Seminar
 Norwalk Chamber Office
- September 24th**
 Small Business Tax Seminar
 Norwalk City Hall
 8am to 12noon
- September 24th**
 Gateway Chambers Alliance
 Location TBD
 12noon
- September 30th**
 Paint the Town Pink Kick Off Campaign
 Coffee with the Mayor
 Starbucks Coffee House
 8am to 10am
- October 17th**
 Fall Festival in Oktober
 So-Cal Pizza
- October 19th**
 Arturo Sanchez Sr.
 Annual Halloween Parade

Ribbon Cuttings & More

Norwalk Chamber welcomes new businesses to the Norwalk Chamber through a variety of avenues. Through Grand Openings, Ribbon Cuttings, Mixers, Luncheons and more, we are happy to support the local businesses that choose to make their home in Norwalk. In August we were able to help "cut the ribbon" at our new Zen's Tea House, located at 12848 Pioneer Blvd. here in Norwalk. With our Norwalk Mayor Margarita Rios and Vice Mayor Luigi Vernola on hand, certificates and presentations were made to this new business. Owners Fernando and Alexis Lopez and Store Manager Sidney Ramos along with their business partners have been able to create a comfortable and welcoming location to sit and enjoy their many different choices of tea. They are also able to provide their customers with wonderful information about the many teas they sell and how they can help you be a healthier you. We encourage you to visit this Tea House and enjoy a cup! And for those coffee only drinkers, they also have cold brew!



Cutting the Ribbon at the new Zen's Tea House. Norwalk Chamber Board Members and Ambassadors along with Norwalk Mayor Margarita Rios and Vice Mayor Luigi Vernola help open the new business.



Ambassador Julie Ledesma presents Zen's Tea House with their new member plaque.



Mayor Margarita Rios and Vice Mayor Luigi Vernola present the new business with a City of Norwalk Business Spotlight Certificate.



At the Zen's Tea House Ribbon Cutting are (l to r) Norwalk Mayor, Margarita Rios, Ambassador Joe Derthick, President Elect Jose Rios, Past President, Trisha Gutierrez, Board Member Gregory Iwasaki, Vice President Karla Butler, Norwalk Soroptimist Natalie LeGaspi, Ambassador Rebecca Ortiz, Board Member Rich LeGaspi and guest Thomas Ramirez.



Kayla Park, Intern for Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon, presents a certificate to Zen's Tea House congratulating them on the opening of the new business in Norwalk.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



This last month was a busy one for the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. We started the month with our Annual Business Expo, which brought local businesses and community members together to connect with products and services. Thank you to all of our Sponsors and Vendors, volunteers and all who attended. This was our best Expo yet, and we can't wait until next year to see you all again on the City Hall Lawn. Then we were able to come together with our partner chambers and host Congresswoman Linda Sanchez at a "State of the Nation" luncheon. I want to personally thank the Congresswoman for not only sharing all of the updates but also doing this while recovering from surgery. The Norwalk Chamber appreciates your dedication to all of our attendees! Cutting the Ribbon at Zen's Tea House was a great celebration with our new member. Thanks to all that were able to be there and support this new business. Last was our "After Hour's" mixer at Golf n' Stuff, which was a lot of fun. Everyone was able to network while enjoying refreshments and finding out more about the facilities. And some of us even stayed and played a round of mini golf. Thanks go out to our host, Ken Garcia of Golf n' Stuff for a great event.

There are many more events this year for you to attend and connect with other business and community leaders, and one of them is my personal favorite, our Annual Fall Festival. Tickets are on sale now for the October 17th event which will be at So-Cal Pizza. We are also looking for sponsors so if you are interested reach out to the Norwalk Chamber at info@norwalkchamber.com or visit our website www.norwalkchamber.com. We also have another opportunity to connect coming on September 19th at Outback Restaurant. Our Chamber Mixers are always great for meeting new potential connections and building on your current networking circle. Be sure and attend this After Hours mixer with your business cards and plan on enjoying light refreshments! Looking forward to seeing you at our next Chamber event!

Amanda Blanton
2019-20 President
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Farmers & Merchants Bank

Norwalk Chamber Annual Business Expo

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce held their Annual Business Expo on Wednesday, August 7th on the City Hall Lawn. This event immediately precedes the City's National Night Out & Summer Concert program. With sponsors, nonprofit organizations and business members out in full force. There were over 50 different vendors who participated in this year's Expo. Over 750 residents and business owners visited our Chamber Expo this year and were able to taste samples from different restaurants, find out about taking classes at Cerritos College and learn how to get involved in the many different community organizations we have here in Norwalk. We want to thank our generous sponsors for supporting this annual event:

GOLD SPONSORS:

- El Clasificado/EC Hispanic Media
- US Bank
- Walmart
- Water Replenishment District

SILVER SPONSORS:

- Alba Professional Services/H & R Block
- Chick-fil-A
- Doubletree by Hilton, Norwalk Los Angeles
- Farmers & Merchants Bank
- Golden State Water
- HealthFirst Medical Group
- Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning
- Norwalk Town Square
- T-Mobile

Special thanks go out to our restaurant vendors: Chick-fil-A, Panera Bread, Toros Taqueria, Double Tree Hotel, Up Root Vegan, and Zen's Tea House for providing samples to the attendees. Also to Coast Plaza Hospital for giving free health screenings to all. Our Norwalk Chamber Event committee worked very hard this year to bring a great Business Expo to the community and were successful in their endeavors. Thanks go out to Teri Bazen, Lynda Fisher, Amanda Blanton, Trisha Gutierrez, Jennifer Gomez, Susan Arthur, Yovani Flores and Ric Ochoa for their hard work.



Checking in the Vendors for the Annual Business Expo are Board Member Lynda Fisher



Yovani Flores of U.S. Bank, Gold Sponsor for the Annual Business Expo.



Gold Sponsor Water Replenishment District, represented by Angie Mancillas and Brigid McLaughlin.



Golden State Water at the Annual Business Expo. Pictured here is David Mataitusi and Superintendent Albert Rivera.



Staff of El Clasificado/EC Hispanic Media at the Annual Business Expo.



Silver Sponsor Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning. Pictured here are Ambassador Teri Bazen and Board Member Gordon Stefenhagen.



Sponsor Norwalk Town Square represented by Edie Trotter, providing shopping bags to Expo attendees. Visiting her booth is Dora Sandoval, Board President Little Lake City School District.



Silver Sponsor HealthFirst Medical Group at the Expo. In this photo (l to r) are Ambassador Julie Ledesma, Norwalk Patriot, Board Member Gregory Iwasaki, HealthFirst Medical and Monica Malone.



Silver Sponsor T-Mobile at their Expo Booth.



Sponsor Farmers & Merchants Bank at the Annual Business Expo. Norwalk Chamber President is pictured here with other staff.



New Chamber Member Zen's Tea House is at the Expo providing samples and information about how their products can help better your health. Pictured here are owners Alexis and Fernando Lopez.



Norwalk Chamber Board Member John Alba, of Alba Professional Services/H & R Block, a sponsor at the Business Expo.



Providing samples from Silver Sponsor Chick-fil-A is Marketing Director Heather Ramirez.



Pictured here for the opening of the National Night Out are (l to r) Norwalk Council Member Leonard Shryock, California 57th Assembly District, Majority Floor Leader Ian Calderon and Norwalk Mayor Margarita Rios.



Panera Bread GM Stephen Dalziel with staff providing great tastings of some menu items at the Annual Business Expo.



Sponsor DoubleTree by Hilton, Norwalk Los Angeles, providing lots of treats for attendees at the Business Expo.



Pat's 605 Cyclery providing information about biking at the Business Expo. In this photo is Rick Patterson.

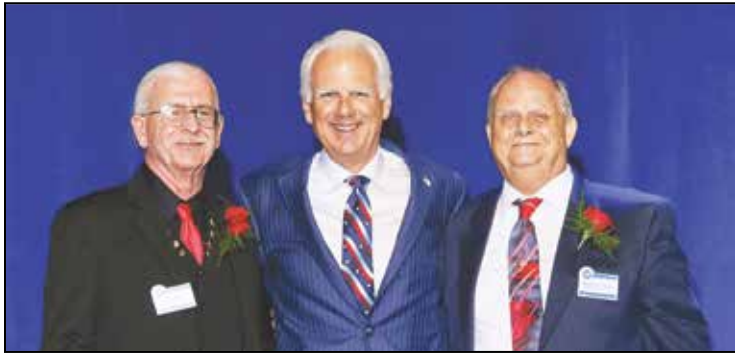


New Norwalk Chamber Member, Toros Taqueria, provides samples of their catering items at the Expo. Visit them at 15617 Studebaker Rd. to try some delicious treats.



Anise Jones of Cruise Planners provides Anthony Flier of Community Legal Services with information about upcoming trips they are planning.

Members in the News



Stater Brothers 50 year honorees for 2019.

Stater Bros. Markets Honors "Family" Members for Years of Service
 Honorees include 2 "Family" Members with 50 YEARS of Service
 San Bernardino, California (July 29, 2019) – Stater Bros. Markets recently recognized Stater Bros. "Family" members who reached milestone years of service in their careers. Through the "Family" Service Awards Program established in 1987, "Family" members reaching 5, 10 and 15 years of service are recognized with a beautiful gold pin that signifies their years of dedication to the Company. Honorees reaching 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years of service in 2019 were invited to an Awards Gala held at the Ontario Convention Center. Those in attendance were recognized for their dedicated years of service, and were presented with a gold Service Award pin decorated with precious gemstones.

This year, Floyd Groves, Baler in Distribution and Maurits Solleveld, Manager IT Innovation celebrated 50 years of service to the Company. "I am proud that so many employees have chosen to make Stater Bros. their career. It has been said that you judge a person by the company they keep ... and a company by the people they keep. In my 40 years in the grocery industry, I've never seen such a loyal team - dedicated to the mission of serving their Company, customers and community – like our Stater Bros. 'Family'," stated Pete Van Helden, CEO of Stater Bros. Markets. "We are proudly celebrating nearly 83 years of serving our 'valued' customers and this is because of the hard work and dedication of our loyal 'Family' members," he concluded. Stater Bros. was founded in 1936 in Yucaipa, California, and has grown steadily through the years to become the largest privately owned Supermarket Chain in Southern California and the largest private employer in both San Bernardino County and Riverside County. The Company currently operates 172 Supermarkets, and there are approximately 17,000 members of the Stater Bros. Supermarket Family. Since 2008, Stater Bros. Markets and Stater Bros. Charities have contributed more than \$80 million in food and funds to local Southern California communities. For more information, visit staterbros.com.

Legislative Update

Several Proposals Pending for 2020

Legislature Weighing Strict Product Regulation

With just weeks remain-ing in the legislative session, twin job killer bills upending how consumer products are packaged and sold in California are being discussed by lawmakers and stakeholder groups, including the California Chamber of Commerce.

The bills, both **opposed** by CalChamber, are **SB 54 (Allen; D-Santa Monica)** and **AB 1080 (Gonzalez; D- San Diego)**.

SB 54 and AB 1080 substantially increase the cost to manufacture and ship consumer products sold in California by providing the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) with broad authority to develop and impose costly and unrealistic new mandates on manufacturers of all single-use packaging and certain single-use plastic consumer products under an unrealistic compliance time frame that fails to address California's lack of recycling and composting infrastructure.

The CalChamber and coalition of industry groups opposing the bills continue to urge legislators to delay moving the legislation this year to allow continued work on the unresolved fiscal and policy issues in this complex area.

The bills attempt to solve a global pollution problem that is decades in the making.

Broad Power for CalRecycle

- The bills grant CalRecycle with substantial authority to:
- Determine the universe of packaging that will be considered "single-use";
 - Develop regulations requiring that all manufacturers and retailers of single-use packaging source reduce "to the maximum extent feasible";
 - Require that all manufacturers and retailers of single-use packaging be reusable, recyclable or compostable;
 - Require that all manufacturers and retailers of the 10 single-use plastic products most littered in California (referred to in the bill as "priority single-use plastic products") be reusable, recyclable or compostable;
 - Require that all manufacturers of single-use plastic packaging, priority single-use plastic products or single-use poly lined paper or paperboard packaging offered for sale or sold in California demonstrate a source reduction, recycling or composting rate of not less than 75% by 2030, through a tiered approach.

The bills impose a fine of up to \$50,000/day on manufacturers if recycling rates are not met.

Other Concerns

Duplicates Existing Plastic Packaging Law

SB 54 and AB 1080 would duplicate and supersede, but not repeal, the Rigid Plastic Packaging Container (RPPC) law currently administered by CalRecycle. Both bills will have an impact on manufacturers and packaging types currently covered under the RPPC program. Funding compliance and enforcement of both programs does not make for an efficient use of state resources.

Costs Millions in Fee Increases

SB 54 and AB 1080 also direct CalRecycle to prepare a scoping plan that will require the department to include detailed information on packaging and products affected; calculate the quantity of packaging and products disposed of, generated, and used in the state; set a baseline amount for the bill's reduction and recycling requirements; and conduct a series of public workshops to solicit stakeholder input. It is unclear how CalRecycle will be able to accomplish this requirement in such a short time frame.

Huge New Program

A recent analysis by the California Department of Finance underscores the huge scope of the program SB 54 and AB 1080 seek to create and the potential pressure for fee hikes:

"CalRecycle estimates costs of approximately \$6.4 million initially and \$6.3 million ongoing from the Integrated Waste Management Account (IWMA) for 46.5 permanent positions. CalRecycle also estimates \$16.8 million one-time IWMA costs, over a three-year period, for contracts to develop database systems that track and store product information and recycling rates and \$1 million IWMA ongoing for database service and support.

"This bill creates significant cost pressures for CalRecycle to implement this bill's provisions. The IWMA cannot support the cost pressures created by this bill without a major fee increase or redirection of existing resources from priority programs."

Lack of Infrastructure

Both SB 54 and AB 1080 seek to mandate unprecedented recycling and compostable rates without addressing a critical component for achieving a 75% reduction of single-use packaging or products: the infrastructure needed to collect and process the materials. For decades, California sent most of its recyclable material to China because that was less expensive than investing in the infrastructure needed to process the materials domestically.

China's policy restricting foreign imports of recyclable materials has substantially disrupted global markets, including how California manages its waste stream. The collapse of the market and closure of recycling centers across the country means more products and packaging are ending up in landfills due to lack of collection and processing capabilities.

What's Next

SB 54 was placed on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File on August 21, but still may be considered by August 30. AB 1080 is set for consideration by the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 26. If sent to the committee's suspense file, it too may be considered by the end of the week.

Staff Contact: Adam Regele

Paint the Town Pink Kickoff
Coffee & Conversation
Featuring Mayor Margarita Rios & the American Cancer Society

Monday, September 30th
 8am to 10am
 Starbucks Coffee
 17790 Firestone Blvd.
 Norwalk CA 90650

Come learn about resources available to those affected by Cancer, including:

- 1-800-227-2345, a 24 hour a day resource provided by the American Cancer Society that is available to answer questions and provide information.
- Learn about how to "Fight Back" against Cancer.
- Get involved with the Norwalk "Paint the Town Pink" Campaign.
- Meet the Mayor and learn about her Cancer Journey.

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Home Buyers Fair

Space is limited, make sure to make your reservation today @ www.riosandgarciateam.com

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We make the home buying and selling process EASY

Location
 Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
 14783 Carmenita Rd
 Norwalk CA, 90650

Time
 10:00 - 12:00

Date
 Saturday, September 21st

Any Questions You Can Call Or Text Us

Dina Garcia (562) 508-3148 DRE#01747450
 Jose Rios (562) 972-7461 DRE#01974667

Find us @ [@riosandgarciateam](https://www.instagram.com/riosandgarciateam)

Allianz Mortgage Services
 Marco A. Caamal (562) 755-7141 NML - 45057

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