

Allies Join CalChamber Call for COVID Business Relief

Action Needed to Prevent California Employer Exodus

The California Chamber of Commerce and nearly 200 allied business organizations representing all sectors of the economy and employing millions of California workers sent a letter this week to Governor Gavin Newsom and the Legislature calling for specific and immediate actions to curb the impact of the current pandemic-related economic crisis as well as address the underlying causes of an ongoing exodus of employers to other states. "The State will need a strong business recovery to bring back jobs and stability to our communities. We cannot recover when businesses are shutting down and employers are leaving," the coalition states. In the letter, the signatories state that many employers currently believe they could safely reopen given the extensive work they have done to create a safe environment for their employees and customers. The letter further describes how the pandemic has exacerbated the challenge of doing business in an already high-cost state and, as a result, some employers are shutting down their office/locations here completely, transferring well-paying jobs elsewhere. While the coalition praises the Governor for his proposed grants, loans and tax relief for businesses, they believe much more must be done now to alleviate pressure on business and local economies.

Executive Action

The coalition specifically calls on the Governor to take executive action to:

- Suspend compliance with the California Family Rights Act for small businesses;

- End enforcement of structurally infeasible components of the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 emergency regulation—specifically those dealing with mandatory testing requirements and the payment of wages for employees excluded from the workplace due to COVID (since employees who test positive are already covered under Workers' Compensation and other provisions); and

- Temporarily delay the next installment of property taxes due in April 2021.

Joint Action

The coalition is asking the Governor and/or the Legislature to swiftly enact policies that will:

- Expedite additional financial resources to small businesses by expanding the eligibility pool and increasing the maximum amount of grants provided as well as providing immediate financial reimbursement or quarterly tax relief for employers who are investing in state-mandated upgrades or expenses related to the pandemic; and

- Allow employers to utilize net operating loss carry forwards and business tax credits suspended in 2020.

Legislation

The coalition is further asking the Legislature to consider and pass bills to:

- Eliminate disincentives for telecommuting;

- Relieve employers of abusive lawsuits under the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA);

- Delay enforcement of new or updated regulations;

- Pay down the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Fund;

- Reject new taxes; and
- Eliminate barriers to housing by reforming the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and reinstating policies that encourage economic development.

ABC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CELEBRATES "GREAT KINDESS WEEK"

Contributed by: Scott Smith, Communications Officer, ABCUSD

Every year, schools across the country smile a bit more, and are more likely to lend a hand during the Great Kindness Challenge. ABC Unified School District schools typically celebrate this week of kindness with large celebrations and acts of kindness. Even though students weren't at school but in the ABC Virtual Academy, they didn't slow down in celebrating kindness.

Students and teachers across the District celebrated the Great Kindness Challenge each day of the week. Some dressed like rock stars, superheroes, or even famous athletes, sharing messages that we can all be like them when we're kind to others. Students at Kennedy Elementary stopped by the campus, all physically distanced, of course, to pose as the "i" in "kind" in front of a large banner. Principals and teachers shared photos and videos with positive messages and reminders to be kind.

"Right now, we could all use a bit more kindness," said Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu. "I love seeing how engaged our students and staff were in raising the level of kindness in their homes and communities, even dealing with the pandemic. There's always time to be kind."

The Great Kindness Challenge is a movement providing tools to actively engage students, teachers, administrators, families, and communities in creating a culture of compassion, acceptance, unity, and respect. In 2019, the program was celebrated in over 100 countries, by over 10 million students, in 19,000 schools, with over 500 million acts of kindness.

ABCUSD students will continue spreading kindness all year long, building up to next January when they celebrate the Great Kindness Challenge again.



A view of students and teachers during the Great Kindness Week at ABCUSD.



Students and their teacher during an online class practicing kindness.



Additional Students during the ABCUSD Great Kindness Week.

The Great Kindness Challenge is a proactive and positive bullying prevention initiative that improves school climate and increases student engagement. The Great Kindness Challenge is one week devoted to performing as many acts of kindness as possible on campus. Using the provided checklist of 50 kind acts, students accept the challenge and show the world that KINDNESS MATTERS!

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

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**Norwalk
Chamber of Commerce**

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PRESIDENT

AMANDA BLANTON

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDITOR, NCBC
CAREN SPILSBURY**

**CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE:

**THESE DATES AND LOCATIONS COULD
BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

February 12th

City of Norwalk
Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
Virtual Event

February 12th

Executive Committee
Meeting 12noon

February 17th

Board of Directors Meeting
9am via ZOOM

February 19th

Paint Night Fundraiser
Spring Mason Jars
ZOOM Event
7:00pm

March 12th

Executive Committee
Meeting 12noon

March 12th

City of Norwalk
State of the City Address
Virtual Event

March 17th

Board of Directors Meeting
9am via ZOOM

March 18th

Support Local
Fundraising Event
So-Cal Pizza

April 16th

Norwalk Chamber
ZOOM Bingo Fundraiser
7:00pm



NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

New Members

Anna's Pet Grooming

12001 Firestone Blvd.
Norwalk CA 90650
562-868-1200

IHop Norwalk

12623 Norwalk Blvd
Norwalk CA 90650
Marisol Dominguez
562-868-6394

St Francis Episcopal Church

Rev Joy Magala
Tammy Shafer
12700 Paddison Ave
Norwalk CA 90650
562-863-9212
<http://saintfrancisnorwalk.com/>

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.

46 Years

Norwalk Business Services

Richard J Cavish
<https://www.norwalkbusinessservice.com/>
562-863-4808

43 Years

Norwalk Elks Lodge # 2142

562-868-6603
elks2142@verizon.net

31 Years

St. John of God Church

Fr Raymond Decipeda
562-863-5721

30 Years

Cerritos College

Toni Grijalva
562-860-2451 Ext 2798
grijalva@cerritos.edu

28 Years

Premier Wheels & Pro Tires

Garcia Family
562-926-0048

25 Years

PIH Health

562-698-0811
<http://pihealth.org/>

12 Years

Pat's 605 Cyclery

Ron Patterson
www.pats605cyclery.com
562-864-0740

11 Years

St. Linus Catholic Church

Ana Engquist
a.engquist@stlinus.org
<http://stlinus-church.org/>

11 Years

Sullivan Management

Jennifer Sullivan
562-863-8078
www.sullivanmanagementgroup.com

4 Years

Door of Hope Youth and Family Resources

Mercedes Quintanilla
562-972-1927
mq@doorofhopecenter.org

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Norwalk Chamber is happy to welcome our renewing members to the Chamber of Commerce and look forward to the time when we can all safely visit their businesses and provide support to them.



Board Member Rich LeGaspi accepts the renewal package for TNT Fireworks.



Gloria Robinson of Norwalk Outback is received their membership renewal. Outback is open for orders to go, and soon open for outdoor dining.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PANCAKES

International House of Pancakes (IHOP) is located at 12623 Norwalk Blvd (across from City Hall) here in Norwalk. They are now open 24 hours a day for outdoor dining and delivery services such as Grub Hub, Postmates, Uber Eats and Door Dash. IHOP offers not only great pancakes but many other menu items including breakfast, lunch and dinner.



SAL PSYCHAITRY

Sal Psychiatry Service has come to Norwalk to provide much needed mental health support. They are located at 13132 Studebaker Rd. Suite 7, in Norwalk. Their Mission is "Promote the highest quality care for individuals with mental illness, including substance use disorders, and their families." And their Vision is "To bridge the gap between physical and mental health, by providing the highest quality service to our clients." They are open for Telehealth appointments which you can book online at their website <https://www.salpsych.com/>.



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Francis Episcopal Church has been part of the Norwalk landscape since before 1953. Their mission and vision is "...to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." With the current pandemic situation, they have moved to virtual worship services but look forward to the time when they can meet again in person. To view their online church service, visit their website at <http://saintfrancisnorwalk.com/>. They hold the service on Sundays at 10:00am. Please call the Church Office at 562-863-9212 if you have additional questions.

ANNA'S PET GROOMING

Anna's Pet Grooming has been in business here in Norwalk since 1975 and their motto is "we pamper your pet as if it was our own." They are located at 12001 Firestone Blvd. here in Norwalk. They offer many different pet grooming services along with pet products that are sold at the location. They are open Monday through Saturday, 7:30am to 6pm and Sunday 10am to 5pm. If you would like to find out more about their services you can call 562-868-1200.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Norwalk Chamber Members,

Thankfully by the time you read this, our state will have reopened many of our business sectors, our hospitalization count will have gone down and other statistics will have improved here in Norwalk. With more and more people eligible for getting the vaccine, we are looking forward to the time when all businesses can resume their regular business practices, where all schools can hold classes again in person and when our Norwalk Chamber can have our traditional networking and fundraising events. Until that time, we continue to do our best to support our members and keep our Chamber doors open. Each fundraiser that we hold helps us just a little bit! Our February fundraiser will be a Spring Mason Jar paint night event on Friday, February 19th. We hope that you can participate in this fun time by getting some family or friends together in a socially

distanced way and paint with the Chamber. We are also planning a virtual Bingo night on Friday, April 16th and are holding out hope that we can host our Annual Golf Tournament sometime in late spring.

Once it is safe to visit businesses, we hope to visit you with our Ambassador team! We want to make sure that you know what your membership benefits are and are making use of them, along with seeing some of our friendly members and learning about their business also.

Keep your eyes open for future upcoming Chamber events so that you can connect your business with us, either online or when the time comes, in person.

Amanda Blanton
2020-2021 President, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
Farmers & Merchants Bank

LITTLE LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

All nine schools within the Little Lake City School District were recently recognized as a 2019 - 2020 Educational Results Partnership (ERP) Honor Roll Schools for their high achievement in student success. The ERP Honor Roll program, sponsored by the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE), is part of a national effort to identify higher-performing schools and districts that are improving student outcomes.

- Cresson Elementary School**
- Jersey Avenue Elementary School**
- Lakeland Elementary School**
- Lakeview Elementary School**
- William Orr Elementary School**
- Paddison Elementary School**
- Studebaker Elementary School**
- Lake Center Middle School**
- Lakeside Middle School**

are among the 3,490 public schools in the nation to be recognized.

The 2019 - 2020 ERP Honor Roll utilizes public school student achievement data to identify successful schools and districts. Little Lake City School District stands above others in the state because of their demonstrated ability to get students to grade-level achievement and beyond.

Schools that receive the ERP Honor Roll distinction have demonstrated consistent high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time and a reduction in achievement gaps among student populations.

Here a few important facts about the ERP Honor Roll:

- It is the only award given in collaboration with business leaders.
- It includes graduation and dropout rate data.

- It establishes a higher bar of performance than any other award.

- It is conducted by Educational Results

Partnership, a nonprofit organization that maintains the nation's largest database on student achievement.

Little Lake did not apply for this award. Our results led them to us! Because of our accomplishment, we will be featured on the ERP Honor Roll website at www.edresults.org.

Little Lake is thankful for the hard work of our students, staff, teachers and parents. This recognition is a testament to the sustained focus on academic results and commitment to student success that our school and parent community have shown over the years.

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Norwalk Chamber of Commerce Virtual Paint Night FUNdraiser Spring Mason Jars (set of 3)

Cost: \$35.00 (includes supplies & virtual instructions)

Friday, February 19th, 2021
7:00pm to 9:00pm
Via ZOOM

Registration & Payment required for this event
Sponsor Opportunities available, contact the
Norwalk Chamber for details. info@norwalkchamber.com

Visit <https://bit.ly/3ifRTNq>
To sign up to attend.

You will receive an email with payment
information once you register

(Actual design will be displayed at the event, shown here are some samples.)



Proceeds benefit Norwalk Chamber programs

*Creating a
Strong Local Economy
- and -
Promoting the Community*

**The Norwalk Chamber of
Commerce urges you to spend
your money locally to support
the business community
and protect jobs.**

**Local sales tax dollars support
basic city services When you
shop in Norwalk,
you are paying for...**

Public Safety Services

Recreation Programs

Street Repairs & Much More

COVID CORNER: COVID EFFECTS ON LOCAL NON PROFITS & SMALL BUSINESSES

Norwalk Chamber Ambassador Joe Derthick by day sells AFLAC and used to say that by night he was a musician. But all of that changed in March of 2020. For Joe and many like him, the COVID pandemic has shut down not only his opportunity to financially benefit by his nighttime job, but also the opportunity to volunteer at the many different performances that he would participate in benefiting the local school districts. Venues such as the Whittier Symphony and the La Mirada Symphony would put on free concerts for the community and free concerts for our local schools. But with the COVID shut down, all of these performances have stopped. Students attending virtual schools no longer have the benefit of hearing classical music from these amazing volunteers. And with the ongoing school closures, it will be a long time before anyone will be able to attend traditional concerts in person. Joe and many like him have been greatly affected by the pandemic. As a performing musician, playing your music just for yourself is not as fulfilling as play for an audience. We are hopeful that summer will bring an opportunity for Joe and many like him to play in outdoor venues and that they are able to continue

to bring happiness to our community.

And on that same note, it isn't just the businesses that you see while driving around town that continue to suffer economic loss, it is also the small self employed or home based business that continue to undergo economic hardship. Chamber Board Member Trisha Gutierrez is another example. Her business, QM Fundraising has assisted nonprofit organizations in raising money through in person fundraising events. These large gatherings of people are no longer allowed at this time, so she has seen a 100% shut down of her business model. While continuing to serve on our Chamber board of directors, Trisha does not know what the future will hold for her type of business. Not all businesses can transition to an online business, so many of our members have not been able to operate at all for the last ten months.

And of course our restaurants and hotels who have been told to close, then open, then close again have been some of the hardest hit industries. While some have drive through ordering, those that don't have to rely on community support for takeout or delivery orders. Salons, barber shops and personnel services have also been dealt the same hand

by the shut down orders and some have had to close their doors permanently.

So many of our business sectors have had to transition their business model continuously based on the current government orders of the day, it has been like a roller coaster for so many. That is why our Norwalk Chamber has promoted "Supporting Local." If you have the opportunity to spend your dollars, we ask you to spend them here in Norwalk! The entire city, both businesses and residents benefit when tax dollars are spent locally. So our new Norwalk Chamber campaign of "Shop Local, Support Local and Stay Local" will be promoted throughout the community and all through 2021! We ask everyone to get onboard with this campaign and let's all help each other as we continue through the COVID-19 pandemic.



Norwalk Chamber Ambassador Joe Derthick, AFLAC & Violinist.



Las Damas of Sun Gold Hills making a donation to Whittier Regional Symphony, who provide free concerts for many local school children. In this photo is Norwalk Chamber Past President Trisha Gutierrez of QM Fundraising.



Ambassador Joe Derthick playing with El Camino College as a volunteer.



Joe Derthick in his "night job" as a violinist.

When can I get vaccinated?

California is distributing vaccines and the designated providers of the vaccines are following the state guidelines on when you can receive your vaccine. While supplies are limited healthcare workers, first responders and long term care residents are first in line to receive the vaccine. But you may be wondering where you fall in their planned approach?

California has a three phased approach to the vaccination schedule. In Phase 1A are healthcare workers and long term care residents. Phase 1B Tier One is for those that are 75 years and older, those that are at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors: education, childcare, emergency services, food and agriculture. The Phase 1B Tier Two are those that are 65 to 74 years of age, those at risk of exposure at work in transportation and logistics, industrial, commercial, residential, and sheltering facilities and services, additionally those who work in critical manufacturing. Lastly those in congregate settings with outbreak risk, incarcerated and homeless will be offered the vaccine. Then comes Phase 1C which includes those that are 50 to 64 years of age, those 16 to 64 years of age who have underlying health conditions or disabilities which increase their risk of severe COVID-19 and those at risk of exposure in the following sectors: water and wastewater, defense, energy, chemical and hazardous materials, communications and IT, financial services, government operation and community based essential functions.

So what if you do not fall under any of these categories? The State of California states that those residents will likely be able to get the vaccine sometime in spring 2021, but that is not set in stone. This will all depend on vaccine production and how quickly the vaccines become available. The good thing is that it will not cost you anything to get vaccinated. Another thing to note is that even if you have had COVID-19, you should still get the vaccine as there is not enough data to know just how long you are protected from getting COVID-19 again after you have had it.

You may have additional questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and you should speak to your health care provider to ask those questions. Making a decision on whether to get the vaccine or not is an individual choice, but with any medical decision you should get as much information as you can before making your decision. Visit www.covid19.ca.gov for more details on the vaccine.

Labor Law Corner

Report COVID-19 Positive Test Result to Workers' Comp Carrier

Do I have to have to file a workers' compensation claim every time one of my employees tests positive for COVID-19?

No. The new law in California that went into effect September 19, 2020 requires an employer to report a positive COVID-19 test to their workers' compensation carrier within three business days from when the employer knows or reasonably should have known that an employee has tested positive. All the employer is required to do is to report a positive test result and the carrier will determine whether an "outbreak" has occurred, thereby triggering the presumption of a workplace injury.

Reporting Requirements

Employers must provide written notification to their claims administrator in writing via electronic mail or facsimile within three business days and include the following information:

- An employee has tested positive.
- The date that the employee tested positive, which is the date the specimen was collected for testing.
- The specific address or addresses of the employee's specific place of employment during the 14-day period preceding the date of the employee's positive test.
- The highest number of employees who reported to work at the employee's specific place of employment in the 45-day period preceding the last day the employee worked at each specific place of employment.

Civil Penalties for Non-Compliance

Under the new law, employers who fail to submit the required information or intentionally submit false or misleading information are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$10,000, assessed by the Labor Commissioner.

Presumption

Although the new law contains a presumption that an employee who tests positive contracted the virus at work, the burden to overcome the presumption is on the employer. For example, the employer may dispute the presumption by presenting evidence of preventative measures taken. The employer may also present evidence of the employee's non-occupational risks of COVID-19 infection. Good news for employers with remote workers—the presumption of COVID-19 workplace injury is not applicable to employees who don't leave their place of residence to work unless the employee provides specific in-home health care services.

Close Contact

The definition of "close contact" is 15 minutes of cumulative time within 24 hours. An employer should investigate as soon as they become aware of a positive test result to determine where the employee may have been exposed, who they have been in close contact with, and whether other employees were exposed or tested positive. In addition, if an employee tests positive, the employer is obligated to provide written notice within one business day to other employees who were in close contact with that employee. Since these laws are already in effect, employers may want to contact their workers' compensation carrier to understand what their carrier requires so that they will be prepared with the information that their carrier needs to determine whether a positive test is going to be filed as a workers' compensation claim.

Column based on questions asked by callers on the Labor Law Helpline, a service to California Chamber of Commerce preferred and executive members. For expert explanations of labor laws and Cal/OSHA regulations, not legal counsel for specific situations, call (800) 348-2262 or submit your question at www.hrcalifornia.com.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM REOPENS

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was reopened earlier this month by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in consultation with the U.S. Treasury Department.

The SBA website at www.sba.gov outlines details of what is required for First Draw PPP Loans, as well as the Second Draw PPP Loans for which the SBA began accepting applications on January 13. The application period continues until March 31. In a Tuesday news release, the SBA said it is taking steps to improve the First Draw PPP loan review "so that small businesses have as much time as possible to access much-needed PPP funds." News reports said that bankers had encountered what was described as a "technical error" with the software portal that lenders must use to submit applications for businesses seeking PPP loans. The SBA release said it would be hosting a national call to brief lenders on details of the program platform that will help resolve issues with First Draw PPP loan reviews and potential delays in approval of Second Draw loan applications. The SBA also will be providing information to SBA field team loan specialists and additional guidance to PPP lenders on the review and resolution process.

Second Draw PPP Loans

According to the SBA, at least \$25 billion is being set aside for Second Draw PPP loans to eligible borrowers with a maximum of 10 employees or for loans of \$250,000 or less to eligible borrowers in low- or moderate-income neighborhoods. Certain eligible borrowers that previously received a PPP loan may apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan with the same general loan terms as their First Draw PPP Loan. Second Draw PPP Loans can be used to help fund payroll costs, including benefits. Funds also can be used to pay for mortgage interest, rent, utilities, worker protection costs related to COVID-19, uninsured property damage costs caused by looting or vandalism during 2020, and certain supplier costs and expenses for operations. For most borrowers, the maximum loan amount of a Second Draw PPP Loan is 2.5 times the average monthly 2019 or 2020 payroll costs up to \$2 million. For borrowers in the Accommodation and Food Services sector (use NAICS 72 to confirm), the maximum loan amount for a Second Draw PPP Loan is 3.5 times the average monthly 2019 or 2020 payroll costs up to \$2 million.

Eligibility

Generally, a borrower is eligible for a Second Draw PPP Loan if the borrower:

- Previously received a First Draw PPP Loan and will or has used the full amount only for authorized uses;
- Has no more than 300 employees; and
- Can demonstrate at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts between comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020.

The SBA posted a document on January 19 explaining how to support Second Draw PPP loans, calculate revenue reductions and what documentation to provide.

IRS Option

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has posted information on how businesses that asked for but didn't receive PPP loan forgiveness can claim the Employee Retention Credit for 2020 when filing their quarterly Form 941 federal tax return. The IRS post cites a provision of the relief package approved by Congress in December 2020.

Visit us at
www.NorwalkChamber.com