

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY MIXER

Norwalk Chamber hosted our Annual Holiday Mixer at the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex on Wednesday, December 7th. Many members and guests were able to attend and celebrate the upcoming holiday season with the Chamber. We also had a visit from the man in the red suit, Santa Claus himself. All attendees were able to take a photo with Santa and share their wish list with him. The event featured donations of appetizers from many local restaurants and visitors were able to sample their many offerings. We want to thank our restaurant sponsors: Yoon McDonalds, Dulce Canella Churros, Toros Taquerias, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant, So-Cal Pizza, Doubletree by Hilton, Los Angeles Norwalk, Kung Pao Bowl, Starbucks Coffee and Chick-fil-A Norwalk.

This event would not have been possible without the support of our Sponsors and the many donations from our Board of Directors and Ambassadors.

**Farmers & Merchants Bank  
Athens Services  
Norwalk Community Coordinating Council**

Special thanks to Art Sanchez and his Elf (Veronica) for spending time with our Norwalk Chamber. Thank you to Jose Rios for providing the musical entertainment for the evening. And thank you to our Special Event Committee for your hard work in planning, implementing and cleaning up at the event. Chair Amanda Blanton, Irma Macias, Sue Arthur, Ric Ochoa, Gary Murphy, Dora Sandoval, Yovanni Flores and Joe Derthick. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events in the new year. Visit our website at [www.norwalkchamber.com](http://www.norwalkchamber.com) or our social media to find new networking opportunities.



Board Members and Ambassadors at the Annual Holiday Mixer. Pictured here are (l to r) Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, Sue Arthur, Community Member, Gary Murphy, Norwalk Florist, Joe Derthick, AFLAC, Chante Wise, Thinkers 4 Autism, Executive Director Caren Spilbury, John Alba, Alba Professional Services/H & R Block, Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis, Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty, President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks and Jose Rios, TNG Realty.



Visiting with Santa Claus and his Elf are Board President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks and Natalie LeGaspi, Soroptimist International Norwalk/SFS.



Visiting with Santa Claus and his Elf are (l to r) Iso Nakasato, Athens Services, Board Members Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant and Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis.



The participants in the "ugly" Holiday Attire contest at the Holiday Mixer. This year's winner was Ana Laura Huerta of Alba Professional Services.



At the Holiday Mixer is new member Michael Gutierrez of Bernabe Community Center and Pastor Jack Miranda, 605 Kiwanis.



Ambassador Sue Arthur is the winner of this year's Ice Chest O'Holiday Cheer!



Denise Urtega and Essen Menjivar of Kustom Made Graphics are having a visit with Santa Claus at the Holiday Mixer.



At the Annual Holiday Mixer are Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez, Board President Rich LeGaspi and Past President Jose Rios.



Board Member Gary Murphy lets Santa know that he has been good this year and should receive a nice present.



Ambassador Chante Wise of Thinkers 4 Autism visiting with Santa and his Elf.



Sharing their wish list with Santa are Board Member Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty and Marilee Stefenhagen, Soroptimist International Norwalk/SFS.



Communications Officer for ABCUSD, Scott Smith, lets Santa know that all of the children attending their schools have been good this year!



Visiting with Santa Claus is new member Jeff Smith of California Southern Model Railroad Club.



In this photo with Santa and his Elf is Ofelia Sanchez.



Sharing their wish list with Santa are Ambassador Craig Wicks and David Gallardo of Budget Car Sales & Rentals.



Spending time with Santa Claus are Edwin, Fernando and Lau Lira Salazar of Decorations and Creations by Laulira.

### SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL NORWALK/SANTA FE SPRINGS HOLIDAY GALA

December 4th was the Holiday Gala for Soroptimist International Norwalk/SFS at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex. The evening featured dancing entertainment, Christmas tree raffles and additional raffle prizes. Guests were treated to a lovely dinner provided by Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant and then dessert. This event raises funds annually to support the mission of Soroptimist International of Norwalk/ Santa Fe Springs. Soroptimist International of Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs is a women's organization whose members volunteer to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. Soroptimist International of Norwalk/ Santa Fe Springs's Dream Programs ensure women and girls have access to the education and training they need to reach their full potential and live their dreams. Soroptimist International of Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs is committed to investing in programs that have a sustainable, measurable change for women and girls.

Live Your Dream: Education and Training Scholarship Awards for women who serve as the primary wage earners for their families with the financial resources to offset costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education or additional skills and training.

Dream it, Be it: Career Support for Girls will help girls grow up to be strong, successful, happy adults. Dream It, Be It targets girls in secondary school who face obstacles to their future success.



Members of the Soroptimist International of Norwalk/SFS at the Holiday Gala. Included in this photo are former winners of the Live Your Dream Awards, President Gina Ayala and other officers and members.



Norwalk Chamber President Rich LeGaspi attends the SI Holiday Gala with his wife Natalie LeGaspi, a member of the organization.

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

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**Norwalk Chamber of Commerce**

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**PRESIDENT**  
**RICH LEGASPI**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**EDITOR, NCBC**  
**CAREN SPILSBURY**

**SPONSORS**



**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.

**30 Years**  
**Helpline Youth Counseling**  
Jeff Farber  
14181 Telegraph Rd.  
Whittier, CA 90640  
562-864-3722  
[www.hycinc.org](http://www.hycinc.org)

**26 Years**  
**PIH Health**  
Debra Legan  
12401 Washington Blvd.

Whittier, CA 90602  
562-698-0811  
<http://pinhealth.org/>

**21 Years**  
**L.A. CADA**  
Juan Navarro  
12070 Telegraph Rd. Suite 207  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
562-906-2686  
[www.lacada.com](http://www.lacada.com)

**11 Years**  
**Department of Rehabilitation**  
12501 East Imperial Hwy., Suite 140  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
562-864-8521  
[www.rehab.cahwnet.gov](http://www.rehab.cahwnet.gov)

**3 Years**  
**Sal Psychiatry Services**  
Ruth Aikoye  
13132 Studebaker Rd., Suite 10  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
562-280-7176  
[www.salpsych.com](http://www.salpsych.com)

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Bernabe Community Center**  
**Michael Gutierrez**  
10801 Fairford Ave.  
Downey, CA 90241  
562-863-1899

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Saturday, January 7th**

City of Norwalk  
Las Posadas  
City Hall Lawn  
5:30pm to 9pm

**Saturday, January 14th**

Regional Job Fair  
SELACO WDB  
9am to 1pm  
Hawaiian Gardens Civic Center

**Wednesday, January 18th**

Board of Directors  
9am via ZOOM

**Tuesday, January 24th**

Coffee with a Cop  
Code Coffee  
9am to 11am

**Wednesday, January 25th**

Ribbon Cutting Event  
Chick-fil-A Firestone & 605  
9:30am

**Thursday, January 26th**

Coffee & Conversation  
9am @ Chick-fil-A  
Norwalk Fitness Village

**Friday, January 27th**

Ambassador Meeting  
10:30am  
Norwalk Chamber Office

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Monday, March 6th**

100th Anniversary Coffee Kick Off  
12noon @ the Norwalk Chamber

**Thursday, March 30th**

Annual 9-Hole Golf Tournament

**Wednesday, June 14th**

100th Anniversary Installation &  
Awards Dinner

**PAINT THE TOWN PINK WRAP UP EVENT**

Starbucks Coffee was the host for our wrap up event for this year's Paint the Town Pink in Norwalk. Our Norwalk participants included City Manager Jesus Gomez, Norwalk Sheriff Captain Chris Johnson, Cerritos College President Jose Fierro, Little Lake City School District Superintendent Dr. William Crean and business owner Jason Perez of Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant. This group participated in the LA County Wears Pink fundraiser and between our five candidates were able to raise more than \$9,500.00 to help in the fight against breast cancer! The top fundraiser throughout the County was our very own Sheriff Captain Chris Johnson, who raised over \$2,700.00 on his fundraising page. Every penny that is raised will help our community with resources for those battling cancer, both breast cancer and all other cancers. Money raised helps with research in finding cures and in help for those that don't know where to go with their questions through the cancer helpline at 1-800-227-2345. Be on the lookout for our next Paint the Town Pink Campaign which will be coming next October and find out how you can participate and support in the fight against all cancers! Special thanks to Sergio Gonzalez, Manager Starbucks Coffee, for hosting both our kick off and our wrap up event at the restaurant.



Larry Sandoval of the American Cancer Society presents a certificate of participation to Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez. Pictured here also is Council Member (now Vice Mayor) Margarita Rios



Supporting Paint the Town Pink are (l to r) Nohora Osorio, Esperanza Serrano, Senior Citizens Commission Chair, Chamber members Sue Arthur and Denise Urtiaga.



Los Angeles County Sheriff Officers and Deputies on hand to celebrate the successful Paint the Town Pink campaign.



The community comes together to support the Paint the Town Pink wrap up event.



Larry Sandoval of the American Cancer Society presents a certificate of participation to Lieutenant Noe Garcia on behalf on Captain Chris Johnson. Pictured here also is Council Member (now Vice Mayor) Margarita Rios.



Larry Sandoval of the American Cancer Society presents a certificate of participation to Jason Perez of Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant. Pictured here also is Council Member (now Vice Mayor) Margarita Rios.



Jason Perez is recognized by Council Member Margarita Rios for both his participation and for hosting two fundraising events at the restaurant which raised over \$1,750.00 for the campaign.



Starbucks Coffee Manager Sergio Gonzalez is recognized by Larry Sandoval of ACS and Council Member Margarita Rios for hosting our Paint the Town Pink events.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Norwalk Chamber members,

I hope everyone had a good Holiday and took some time off to enjoy your family and friends. As we welcome the 2023 year, I know everyone will be heading to the gym to keep your New Year's Resolutions (LOL.) I hope that you are all able to make good resolutions and stick with them.

As 2023 begins, we want you to know that this is a special year for the Norwalk Chamber as it will be our 100th year in Norwalk. So, keep an eye open for many events this year as we celebrate our 100-year anniversary. It is very special to be in business for 100 years.

We welcome our new member Bernabe Community Center! Take the time to meet Michael Gutierrez as he attends events! Be safe as we head into the New Year and remember to visit a Chamber members business and let them know you are a Chamber member also. Businesses really like to hear when you are visiting them and it helps both of you to build on your network. Don't forget to join us for Coffee and Conversation on January 26th at Chick-fil-A at the Norwalk Fitness Village at 9am. And join in as we welcome our new Chick-fil-A, 605 & Firestone at their Ribbon Cutting on January 25th at 9:30am. Be safe and have a great month.

Respectfully,

**Rich LeGaspi**  
2022-2023 President, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce  
TNT Fireworks

## YMCA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PRAYER BREAKFAST

YMCA of Greater Whittier serves both Whittier and the surrounding communities of Norwalk, La Mirada, Santa Fe Springs in addition to other areas in and around Whittier. This year the 43rd Annual Christmas Prayer Breakfast was held on Friday, December 2nd at the Uptown Whittier YMCA location. The breakfast started bright and early at 7am where attendees were treated to a buffet breakfast and Christmas songs from the different groups that participate at the YMCA. We also heard inspirational messages from many of the staff members of the YMCA. Assembly Member elect Blanca Pacheco of the new 64th Assembly District attended and spoke along with State Senator Bob Archuleta. Executive Director Curt Skotnicki also shared updates about the YMCA and the impact they are making in the local communities. The breakfast ended with a stellar performance from the preschool children that participate in the YMCA programs.



Visiting with Santa Claus at the YMCA Christmas Prayer Breakfast are (l to r) Ambassador Irma Macias, Board Members Dora Sandoval, (Santa), Rich LeGaspi, Karla Butler, ABCUSD Communications Officer Scott Smith and Fred Zermeno of State Senator Bob Archuleta's office.



Waiting to hear from the speakers are (l to r) Jacob Wolak of Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, Assembly Member elect Blanca Pacheco, Ivan Sulic, Vincent Morales and Kylee Vela of Supervisor Janice Hahn's office.



Getting ready for the breakfast are Irma Macias, Dora Sandoval, Caren Spilsbury and Rich LeGaspi.



Inspired by the speakers and singers at the breakfast and ready to face the day are: (l to r) Board Member Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis, Ambassador Lori Herrera, Doubletree by Hilton Los Angeles Norwalk, Scott Smith, ABCUSD, Ambassador Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates, Mariana Pacheco, Cerritos College Trustee, President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Assembly Member elect Blanca Pacheco and Jacob Wolak of Congresswoman Linda Sanchez.

## WHITTIER REGIONAL SYMPHONY PRESENTS A HOLIDAY EVENT

Whittier Regional Symphony partnered with "The Wiseguys Big Band Machine" on Friday, December 9th for an outstanding performance. Conductor Kimo Furumoto led the Symphony in a number of classic hits for the first part of the performance. They were then joined by "The Wiseguys Big Band Machine" for a joint performance. After the intermission "The Wiseguys Big Band Machine" closed down the show with some amazing songs from the Big Band era. President Fred Zermeno spoke on behalf of the Symphony, thanking all for attending and also for supporting the raffle fundraiser in the foyer. He also shared that they Symphony will be celebrating 90 years as an organization in 2023 and he is looking forward to what the celebratory year will bring. Here is some information about the Symphony and their mission and their goals.

The Whittier Regional Symphony performs four admission free classical music concerts each season at the Vic Lopez Auditorium at Whittier High School, Whittier Ave. in Whittier California. The concerts start at 3 PM, have one intermission, and are completed before 5 PM. Two concerts are held in the fall, and two in the spring.

Their Goals:

- To **enrich the cultural life of the communities it serves.**
- To **expand the musical knowledge of youth and adults.**
- For more than 20 years the Symphony has been sponsoring a **Music Education Program** which reaches 8,000 children each year. Three professional musicians present 45-minute performance demonstrations to 3rd, 4th and 5th graders throughout the Greater Whittier area.
- Each year the Symphony presents at least one special **Children's Concert** for 4th, 5th and 6th graders. The concerts are created especially for the young audience. Most of the youngsters enjoy the experience of hearing a live symphony orchestra for the first time. They also learn a bit about proper concert etiquette.
- The **Young Artists Competition** was established to give young musicians an opportunity to compete against one another and, in doing so, to be motivated towards musical excellence. The winners have the priceless opportunity of appearing as soloists with the orchestra.
- To provide an **outlet for the talents of the musicians through the performance of symphony music.** When the Conductor and Music Director selects the music for each concert, he must think not only of the audience but also the musicians. The compositions should be challenging to them. The performances give the musicians a chance to display their talents to a live audience; the conductor has an opportunity to inspire the musicians to perform to their full potential.

Visit their website at <https://whittierregionalsymphony.org/> to learn more about how you can support this organization.



Attending the event for the Whittier Regional Symphony. In this photo are President Fred Zermeno and State Senator Bob Archuleta.



**INVITES YOU TO A  
RIBBON CUTTING EVENT FOR  
CHICK-FIL-A  
605 & FIRESTONE**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25TH  
at 9:30am

LOCATION:

10710 Firestone Blvd.  
NORWALK CA 90650

RSVP TO [info@norwalkchamber.com](mailto:info@norwalkchamber.com)



## HOLIDAY EVENTS TO CLOSE OUT 2022

### MULTI CHAMBER NETWORKING MIXER AT THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL



In front of a beautiful Christmas tree are Kathy Weiss and Gary Murphy.



At the Holiday Mixer are (l to r) Kathy Weiss, Doubletree Hotel, President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Board Member Gary Murphy and member Essen Menjivar, Kustom Made Graphics.



Norwalk Doubletree receives their 35-year membership renewal. In this photo are (l to r) Ambassador Lori Herrera, Sales & Catering Manager, Jason Pena, General Manager and Board President Rich LeGaspi.

Doubletree by Hilton, Los Angeles Norwalk hosted the Norwalk Chamber and the Santa Fe Springs Chamber for a multi chamber holiday mixer on Thursday, December 15th in the Vineyard Ballroom. Ambassador Lori Herrera and Kathy Weiss were our hosts for the evening event. Refreshments were served and members were able to enjoy those while meeting new connections from both Chambers. Attendees were able to meet the new General Manager of the hotel, Jason Pena, who previously worked at the hotel as an Executive Chef. Raffle prizes for the event were donated by the Doubletree Hotel, Norwalk Florist by Patty's Pretty Flowers, Santa Fe Springs Chamber and the Norwalk Chamber. Thank you to the Doubletree Hotel for hosting our Chambers at this fun networking event!



Norwalk La Mirada School Board Member and Past Chamber President Jose Rios with Ambassador Joe Derthick as he wins a raffle prize.



Ambassador Chante Wise of Thinkers 4 Autism as she is given a raffle prize from Board Member Jose Rios, TNG Realty.



Enjoying the mixer are (l to r) Joe Derthick, President Rich LeGaspi, Gary Murphy, Al Archuleta, Chante Wise, Dora Sandoval, Toni Grijalva and Jose Rios.

### HOLIDAY CREATING CONNECTIONS AT OUTBACK RESTAURANT

Outback Restaurant in Norwalk was the location once again for the Norwalk Chamber Holiday Creating Connections Lunch on Tuesday, December 20th. Attendees were able to enjoy appetizers provided by JJ Mastopietro, Proprietor and then a delicious lunch. We held our fun "steal the present" game again this year with some of our newer attendees joining in on the game. President Rich started the "stealing" and once the ice was broken, that became the fun part of the game. While Juan Aceves of the Greater Whittier YMCA tried to entice many into stealing his present, it was the gift cards and the technological gifts that were the most popular. Thank you to Outback Restaurant for once again providing a great location for our Norwalk Chamber members to build and create new connections! Visit our website calendar for new opportunities to grow your connections in the 2023 year.



Enjoying lunch while networking at the Creating Connections Holiday Luncheon are (l to r) Ambassadors Irma Macias, CFGC and Sue Arthur, Past President Toni Grijalva, Cerritos College, Board Member Karla Butler, Thompson and Associates, Ambassador Joe Derthick and Board Member Gary Murphy.



Past President Toni Grijalva of Cerritos College showing off the gift she opened in the present game.



Making new connections are (l to r) Michal VanTassel, Primerica, Mike O'Reilly, Sal's Psychiatry Services, Essen Menjivar and Denise Urriaga, Kustom Made Graphics, and Liz VanTassel, Primerica.



Karla Butler of Thompson and Associates sharing her 3D Tic Tac Toe game that she chose in the present game.



Creating Connections are (l to r) Board President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Juan Aceves, Greater Whittier YMCA, Board Member Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis and Ambassador Lori Herrera, Doubletree by Hilton.



Marilee Stefenhagen, Soroptimist International Norwalk/SFS shares the gift cards that she opened for her gift in the present game.



Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center is happy with her Starbucks gift card that she opened in the game.



Ambassador Sue Arthur gets Joy to the World and joy in opening the present she chose.



Frank Alcaraz of Helpline Youth Counseling is the happiest opening his gift, although he did not get to keep it for long!

### LABOR LAW CORNER

*What are the minimum wage increases I need to know about for the new year?*

Many California cities will ring in 2023 by increasing their local minimum wage rates. Employers should confirm what cities their employees work in to determine if any minimum wage ordinances apply.

#### State Minimum Wage Reminder

Beginning January 1, 2023, the California state minimum wage will be \$15.50 per hour for all employers, regardless of size. This state minimum wage rate is also used to determine the salary threshold for the administrative, executive and professional exemptions — the threshold is two times the statewide minimum wage. This means, for 2023, you will need to ensure all exempt employees earn at least \$64,480 per year.

In jurisdictions without a local minimum wage ordinance or with a local wage rate that is lower than the California state minimum wage, the state minimum wage rate will apply.

#### 2023 Local Minimum Wage Rate Increases for specific cities:

There are minimum wage increases for specific cities that are different than the State minimum wage increase. If your business is location in any of the following cities, check with the city on their specific increases: Belmont, Burlingame, Cupertino, Daly City, East Palo Alto, El Cerrito, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Hayward, Los Altos, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Novato, Oakland, Palo Alto, Petaluma, Redwood City, Richmond, San Carlos, San Diego, San Jose, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, South San Francisco, Sunnyvale, and West Hollywood.

#### Notice/Posting Requirements

Each of the above local minimum wage ordinances have notice, posting and recordkeeping requirements. Failure to comply with these obligations may subject you to fines, penalties or even civil action. If you have any employees working in one of the above cities, ensure you comply with the applicable ordinance and that you post an updated poster in a conspicuous location at your business — such as a break room. You should provide a physical copy of the poster to your remote employees as well.

Visit our website at [norwalkchamber.com](http://norwalkchamber.com)

Follow us on social media!

St. Lic. #271767

# NORWALK/LA MIRADA

## Plumbing

### Heating & Air Conditioning

11661 Firestone Blvd. • Norwalk  
**(562) 868-7777**

[info@laplumber.com](mailto:info@laplumber.com)

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