

100th ANNIVERSARY DIAMOND GALA

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce held our 100th Anniversary Diamond Gala on Wednesday, June 14th at the Doubletree by Hilton in Norwalk. This event celebrated the many contributions that were made by the Board of Directors of the Norwalk Chamber during the 100 years as a business here in Norwalk and also celebrated our current members and their activities.

At the 100th Anniversary celebration the Norwalk Chamber recognized our honorees for their work over this last year. The Business of the Year was awarded to Alba Professional Services/H & R Block and owner John Alba. Volunteer of the Year was given to Toni Grijalva of Cerritos College. Toni has served as the chair of the 100th Anniversary Committee. Ambassador of the Year was Irma Macias of Community Family Guidance Center while the Board Member of the year was Financial Vice President Karla Butler. Rounding out the awards was the President's Award that was given to Past President Jose Rios for his support during this last year. Our award winners were provided with plaques and certificates from the Norwalk Chamber, City of Norwalk, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, State Senator Bob Archuleta, State Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco, Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn.

Additionally, Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang attended the celebration and presented the Norwalk Chamber with a 100th Anniversary proclamation. He was followed by Nandy Santana of State Senator Bob Archuleta and Lisette Gonzalez of Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco, who presented a joint resolution to the Norwalk Chamber for the 100th Anniversary. Additional certificates were provided by Senior Field Director Ivan Sulic on behalf of Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn and David Arellano, Chair of the Greater Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.

Attendees were entertained by a Jazz Combo from Cerritos College which included musicians Aaron Dominia, Andy Pujazon, Esai Perez, Henok Astebeha and Ivan Ochoa. Guests were served a delicious meal from the Doubletree staff and received a 100th Anniversary coffee mug as a gift to take home from the event. The celebration would not have been successful without the support of our generous sponsors and we would like to take a moment to recognize and thank them.

Our DIAMOND SPONSOR was the City of Norwalk. Our PLATINUM SPONSORS were Athens Services and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn. GOLD SPONSORS were Alba Professional Services/H & R Block, Gordon Stefenhagen, Primestor Development, US Bank, Water Replenishment District, and YMCA of Greater Whittier. Our SILVER SPONSORS were Farmers & Merchants Bank, IBE Digital, L.A. CADA, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant, Nationwide Environmental Services, Southern California Edison, State Farm Insurance - Lucy Rodas, and TNT Fireworks. Thank you all for supporting our 100 Anniversary Diamond Gala.

We also thank our vendors who provided many goods and services to make the event so special. Thank you to Norwalk Florist for the beautiful centerpieces, Norwalk Printing for the event programs, Trita Me Nice for the coffee mugs, Kustom Made Graphics for our backdrops and 100th Anniversary pins and t-shirts, and the Doubletree Hotel for an amazing venue and meal. And lastly to our 100th Anniversary Committee for all of the hard work that was put in to make this a memorable event: Chair Toni Grijalva, Amanda Blanton, Chante Wise, Dora Sandoval, Denise Urriaga, Essen Menjivar, Irma Macias, Joe Derthick, John Alba, Jose Rios, Lori Herrera, Richard LeGaspi, Susan Arthur and Teri Bazen.

Please read the following information that was shared at the 100th Anniversary about the history of the Norwalk Chamber.

"Norwalk has a rich history going back to the early settlers in the 1800's. As more people arrived, bought land, built houses, the area began to be a thriving hub for business. As the community formed the railroad committed to build a route that went through what was known then as the Heart of the Valleys, or Corazon de los Valles. In 1874 the tracks of the Anaheim Branch Railroad crossed the North-Walk for the first time and 3 days later Gilbert Sproul had a townsite surveyed.

As businesses developed, a school district was formed and later the first Board of Trade was established for the purpose of promoting business interest in 1902. In 1912 this gave way to the Norwalk Commercial Club with its purpose as the improvement of Norwalk and the beautification of the town. And in April of 1923 the Norwalk Commercial Club formed a Chamber of Commerce. Officers elected to serve were E.E. Shacklett as the first President, along with eight other Directors.

Researching the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce provided a lot of insight into the formation of this city. As an unincorporated area, there was no local government to take care of the business of business and community. So it fell to the leaders of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce to represent this city with Los Angeles County and to advocate for the many different improvements that were needed. Norwalk Chamber leaders led the drive to install street lights, a sewer system, city clean ups, and to bring both parks and libraries to the community. Chamber leaders sat on the Unincorporated Cities Board for LA County and were the voice of both the business and the residential community here in Norwalk. Early leaders were involved with other local Chambers to advocate for our improvements and to be the voice for good legislation for the entire community. The Norwalk Chamber built a jail and presented it to the Los Angeles County Sheriff in the 1930's. The Chamber sought out bus schedule changes so visitors to Los Angeles could stay out late and have a ride back home at 11:30pm. In the 1940's they opposed the County bringing a Drunk Farm to the vicinity, along with opposing a Penal Farm coming here. And in the 1950's the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce led the drive to incorporate the City of Norwalk while officially welcoming Norwalk Town Square and many other new businesses to Norwalk.

Once the City of Norwalk was established, the Chambers role in bringing services to the community was handed over to city officials, but the many other activities that the Chamber was involved in are still part of what we do today. We are part of the Gateway Chambers Alliance where we advocate for good business legislation with County, State and Federal government officials. We welcome new businesses to the community. We partner with the City of Norwalk to promote Norwalk as a great place to live, work and play. While there have been some bumps in the road for the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, we are so happy to be celebrating our 100 years here in Norwalk. Understanding where we came from will help our Chamber leaders know how to navigate our future so that generations to come will be able to celebrate new milestones. I want to just remind you all, that the Norwalk Chamber is not just about businesses. When you have a strong Chamber, you have a strong community; and we have a strong community!"



Angie Mancillas of the Water Replenishment District with Board Member Dora Sandoval.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Ken Garcia, Manager of Golf n' Stuff with Norwalk Chamber Past President Linda De Carvalho.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez pictured with Board President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks.



Celebrating the 100th Anniversary at the Gala are (in no particular order) Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia, Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios, Norwalk Council Member Jennifer Perez, Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang, Norwalk La Mirada School Board Vice President Jose Rios, Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez, Griselda Ortiz, District Director Congresswoman Linda Sánchez, Nandy Santana, Field Rep for Senator Bob Archuleta, Lisette Gonzalez, Field Rep for Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco, Chamber Board Members Rich LeGaspi, Gary Murphy, John Alba, Dora Sandoval, Amanda Blanton, Karla Butler, Yovani Flores, Danika Mendoza, Ambassadors Chante Smith, Sue Arthur, Mary Montes, 100th Anniversary Chair Toni Grijalva and MC Scott Smith, Communications Officer for ABCUSD.



Recognized as the Board Member of the Year is Karla Butler. Presenting her with certificates are Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia and Board President Rich LeGaspi.

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

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Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

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www.norwalkchamber.com
info@norwalkchamber.com

Facebook:

http://on.fb.me/oB5EUM

PRESIDENT

RICH LEGASPI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EDITOR, NCBC

CAREN SPILSBURY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, July 12th

City of Norwalk
Summer Concert Series
Civic Center Lawn 5pm to 9pm
Jenni Rivera Tribute Band

Wednesday, July 19th

City of Norwalk
Summer Concert Series
Civic Center Lawn 5pm to 9pm
No Doubt Tribute Band

Friday, July 21st

Front Street Friday Night
Historic Front Street 5pm to 9pm

Wednesday, July 26th

City of Norwalk
Summer Concert Series
Civic Center Lawn 5pm to 9pm
Remix, Funk & R&B Revue

Thursday, July 27th

Coffee & Conversation
Chick-fil-A Norwalk Fitness Village
9am to 10am

Friday, July 28th

Coffee with a Cop
American Legion Hall 6pm to 8pm

Wednesday, August 2nd

City of Norwalk
Summer Concert Series &
National Night Out
Civic Center Lawn 5pm to 9pm
Soto Band

Wednesday, August 9th

City of Norwalk
Summer Concert Series
Civic Center Lawn 5pm to 9pm
Neon Nation

Wednesday, August 16th

Norwalk Chamber Annual Business
Expo & City of Norwalk
Summer Concert
Civic Center Lawn 4:30pm to 9pm

SPONSORS



PRIMESTOR



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.

39 Years
Norwalk Town Square Management
NEWMARK MERRILL COMPANIES
Edie Trott
818-710-6100
<https://www.newmarkmerrill.com/>

30 Years
Su Casa Ending Domestic Violence
Albert Uribe
562-249-2303
<https://sucasadv.org/>

29 Years
American Cancer Society
Nancy Gutzmer
800-227-2345
www.cancer.org

27 Years
Diana's Restaurant
Sam Magana
562-926-5802
www.dianas.net

23 Years
Norwalk Printing & Graphics
Steve Ives
562-864-3216

12 Years
Swift Freight
Abby Sapre
562-926-0509

10 Years
Norwalk Preservation Partnership
William Szymczak
310-802-6686
<https://ppmginc.com>

2 Years
LuTEC High School
Todd Moritz, Director
562-204-6538
www.LuTEC.org

Mitch Clemmons Plumbing
Charlene Clemmons
562-242-3218
jobs@mitchclemmonsplumbing.com

NEW MEMBERS

Metropolitan Water District
Luis Cetina
700 N. Alameda St. Ste. 10-111
Los Angeles, CA 90012
<https://www.mwdh2o.com/>

Lezama Consulting USA
Juan Lezama
Norwalk, CA
415-623-6611
jlezama@lezamaconsultingusa.com
www.lezamaconsultingusa.com

NORWALK CHAMBER WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



New Board Member Danika Mendoza of IBE Digital.



New Board Member Frank Zepeda of El Clasificado/ EC Hispanic Media.

local communities, business-oriented associations, nonprofit organizations, and government entities across Los Angeles County. Currently serving as the Government Account Executive at IBE Digital, Dani finds immense satisfaction in establishing enduring partnerships in both the public and private sectors, aligning with IBE Digital's people and technology-driven approach. She is proud to represent the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce as an incoming Board of Director and representative of IBE Digital. Her paramount goal, both now and in the future, is to empower local engagement and provide unwavering support to our vibrant communities.

Frank Zepeda has been a long-time thought leader in the world of digital, multicultural, and diversity marketing. He presently presides as the Director of Marketing at El Clasificado, where he seeks to optimize initiatives to reach the intended viewers. Prior to this, he corresponded with esteemed organizations, including Tribune Co. and the National Football League. In addition, Frank empowers local entrepreneurship as a part-time instructor at Cerritos College where he imparts essential skills to small business owners such as finance and social media. He has a sincere passion for promoting positive change within the marketing realm. Moreover, Frank takes pride in supporting grassroots business growth opportunities and supporting the small business community in Norwalk.

The Norwalk Chamber welcomes new Board Members Danika Mendoza of IBE Digital and Frank Zepeda of El Clasificado/EC Hispanic Media to our Chamber Board. Here is some information about both of our new board members, and we encourage you to meet them at upcoming events.

Danika Mendoza, affectionately known as Dani, is a dedicated and passionate individual with a profound commitment to her local community. Danika firmly believes in actively contributing as a partner in the communities where we live and work. Her extensive involvement spans a range of community organizations, service clubs, and advocacy groups throughout the region. With a bachelor's degree in legal studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz, Danika possesses a wealth of professional experience spanning the legal, public, and private sectors. Her specific focus lies in government affairs, and she takes great pride in the lasting relationships she has fostered within

NORWALK CHAMBER
Annual Business Expo
With City of Norwalk Summer Concerts
Wednesday, August 16th, 2023
NORWALK CITY HALL LAWN
4:30 to 7:00 pm
12700 NORWALK BLVD, Norwalk 90650
DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS AUGUST 11th

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

TITLE SPONSOR \$2500 Supreme Exhibit Space Two 6' Tables w/ 4 chairs Easy Up Individual Sponsor Sign Featured in Expo Media Banner Recognition Social Media (6) Logo on Website 9 months Newsletter Recognition	PLATINUM \$1,500.00 Prime Exhibit Space 6' Table w/ 2 chairs Easy Up Listed in all Expo Media Banner Recognition Newsletter Recognition Social Media (4) Logo on Website 6 months	GOLD \$1000 Preferred Exhibit Space 6' Table w/ 2 chairs Easy UP Banner Recognition Social Media (2) Logo on website 3 month Newsletter Recognition	SILVER \$500 Reserved Exhibit Space 6' Table w/2 chairs Group Banner Social Media (1) Logo on website 1 month
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You Can Sign Up Today!
Why wait until the last minute? Make your reservation today!

Business Name _____ Contact _____ Email _____

Yes, I would like to be a Sponsor (Circle One) **Platinum** **Gold** **Silver**

Yes! Please reserve my space (includes 6' table & 2 chairs) (\$100) **Members**

Yes! Please reserve my space (includes 6' table & 2 chairs) (\$125) **Non Members**

Yes! Please reserve my space (includes 6' table & 2 chairs) (\$75) **Member Non Profit**

Organization (provide Tax ID) _____

Yes! Please reserve my space (includes 6' table & 2 chairs) (\$100) **Non Member Non Profit Organization (provide Tax ID)** _____

I will be bringing my own Easy Up _____ (NO EASY UP PROVIDED UNLESS YOU RESERVE AND PAY FOR ONE)

I will need an Easy Up at \$ _____

Please email my invoice to : _____

Please charge my Visa, Master Card, Discover or American Express _____

Card Type: _____ Card# _____ ZIP _____ csc# _____

Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

TOTAL \$ _____ Print Name: _____

Phone: 562-404-0909 Fax: 562-404-0911 Email: info@norwalkchamber.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Thank you for your confidence in electing me to serve as your President again for the 2023-24 year. I look forward to another successful year with the Norwalk Chamber as we continue to celebrate our 100 years in Norwalk throughout this next year. We have some great events being planned for our businesses and the community, so look for information to be coming soon about opportunities to get involved.

I want to thank our Board of Directors for all the work that was done this last year and for continuing on to work to make Norwalk a better place to live, work and have fun. Welcome to our new Board members, Danika Mendoza and Frank Zepeda. I encourage you to meet them and get to know them as they begin their term as Board Members.

We have our Annual Business Expo right around the corner on August 16th, in conjunction with the City of Norwalk Summer Concert Series, so come on out and be a vendor, sponsor or attendee for this annual event. You will get to meet many other Chamber members and community members on the Civic Center Lawn. And you can join us for Coffee and Conversation on Thursday, July 27th, 9am at Chick-fil-A in the Norwalk Fitness Village (corner of Bloomfield and Imperial).

Your Chamber Board and Staff are here to help your business succeed in our community. If you need any resources, reach out to the office to see how we can help. You can reach the Chamber office at 562-404-0909 or by email to info@norwalkchamber.com

Be safe and have a great month.

Respectfully,

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

100th ANNIVERSARY DIAMOND GALA



Celebrating with the Norwalk Chamber are Juan Aceves and his wife Erika Aceves, from the Greater Whittier YMCA.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Past President Amanda Blanton of Farmers and Merchants Bank with John Casillas of the Downey Branch of Farmers and Merchants Bank

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Gold Sponsor Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty, with Chris Bazen and Marilee Stefenhagen, Soroptimist

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Terry Roznos, Board Chair of the Greater Whittier YMCA with his wife Janna at the 100th Anniversary Diamond Gala.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Gold Sponsor Water Replenishment District Division 5 Director and Board Vice President Vera Robles DeWitt with Martha Camacho Rodriguez of Central Basin Municipal Water District Board, Director District 1.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Having fun at the Gala are Ofi and Art Sanchez of the Arturo Sanchez Senior Halloween Parade Foundation.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Enjoying the evening are Aldo Arellano, Senior Field Deputy for Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang with Dario Rodriguez and Board Member Frank Zepeda of El Clasificado.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



At the 100th Anniversary Diamond Gala are Ken Garcia, Golf n' Stuff and Rita DeBenedictis, Trita Me Nice.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Ambassadors Denise Urriaga and Essen Menjivar of Kustom Made Graphics in front of the backdrop that they produced at the Gala.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Former Norwalk Council Member Bernie Gallie with his wife Nancy at the 100th Anniversary.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Ken Garcia, Manager of Golf n' Stuff with Norwalk Chamber Past President Linda De Carvalho.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Steve Richardson, SBDC with Past Presidents Megan Richardson and Rob Cazares.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Past Presidents Trisha Gutierrez and Sue Arthur are getting reconnected at the 100th Anniversary Diamond Gala.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Hannah Matus-Monroy and Jennifer Contreras of the City of Norwalk Public Relations Department enjoying the night at the Gala.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Laura Lira of Lauralira Creations and Decorations with her son Edwin celebrate with the Norwalk Chamber at the Gala.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Theresa and Cecelia Prumatico at the Norwalk Chamber 100th Anniversary Diamond Gala celebration.

Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Newly installed Board of Directors for the Norwalk Chamber. Pictured here (l to r) are Danika Mendoza, IBE Digital, Yovani Flores, US Bank, Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty, Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates, Jose Rios, TNG Realty, John Alba, Alba Professional Services/H & R Block, Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance, Gary Murphy, Community Member, Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis, Shana Crittenden, Norwalk Community Hospital, Tracy Polley, Kelco Sales, Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant and Frank Zepeda, El Clasificado/EC Hispanic Media. Also pictured here is Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez.



Getting ready for the big event are members of the 100th Anniversary Committee and guests. Pictured here are (l to r) Board Member Dora Sandoval, Lydia Sanchez-Fierro, ASSHP Foundation, Ambassador Sue Arthur, Past Presidents Toni Grijalva, Yovani Flores, Amanda Blanton, Chamber Interns Aubrey Spilsbury, Ashley Gomez and Joshua Cabebe.



Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang presents a proclamation to Board President Rich LeGaspi for the 100th Anniversary of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.

100th ANNIVERSARY DIAMOND GALA



Norwalk Chamber Past Presidents attending the 100th Anniversary Diamond Gala. Pictured here (l to r) back row: Jose Rios (21-22), Linda De Carvalho (87-88), Trisha Gutierrez (18-19), Rob Cazares (05-06), Megan Richardson (03-04), Amanda Blanton (19-21), Yovani Flores (17-18), Richard LeGaspi (22-23), Don Skala (01-03), front row: Susan Arthur (08-09), Julia Emerson (06-07 & 15-16), Past Executive Director Vivian Hansen (06-16), Toni Grijalva (13-15), and Teri Bazen (09-10).



100th Anniversary Chair Toni Grijalva is recognized as the Volunteer of the Year by the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. Pictured here are (l to r) Board President Rich LeGaspi, Toni Grijalva and Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia. Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



At the 100th Anniversary Gala are Norwalk City Council Member Jennifer Perez, Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia, and past Executive Director Vivian Hansen. Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



The Team at Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning is recognized as a Norwalk Chamber member for 60 years. Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



At the 100th Anniversary event are David Collin and Iso Nakasato of Athens Services. Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Ambassador Irma Macias of Community Family Guidance Center was honored as the Ambassador of the year. Accepting on her behalf was Past President Amanda Blanton. Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Receiving the Board Member of the Year award from Board President Rich LeGaspi and Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia is Past President Jose Rios.



Lisette Gonzalez representing Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco and Nandy Santana representing State Senator Bob Archuleta present a joint Resolution to the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce on the 100th Anniversary. Accepting the resolution is Board President Rich LeGaspi. Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Alba Professional Services/H & R Block was given the Business of the Year Award. Pictured here are (l to r) Board President Richard LeGaspi, Board Member John Alba, business owner and Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia. Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



The Greater Lakewood Chamber presents a certificate to the Norwalk Chamber on the 100th Anniversary. Pictured here are (l to r) Board President Rich LeGaspi, Board Chair Greater Lakewood Chamber David Arellano and Executive Director/CEO Caren Spilsbury. Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Don Skala, Past Chamber President and owner of Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing & HVAC, receives his 60-year member recognition plaque and certificates from Executive Director Caren Spilsbury. Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Celebrating the 100th Anniversary are Norwalk Chamber Board Members Jason Perez, Mr. Rosewood Family Restaurant and Frank Zepeda, El Clasificado/EC Hispanic Media. Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Ivan Sulic, Senior Field Deputy, Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, presents a certificate of recognition to Board President Rich LeGaspi for the Chambers 100th Anniversary. Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk

COFFEE & CONVERSATION Networking Event

Connect with the Norwalk Chamber over "Coffee & Conversation" Join us for a networking event at Chick-fil-A in Norwalk. Our Host: Farid Khansarinia

Date: Thursday, July 27th, 2023
Time: 9am
Location: Norwalk Chick-fil-A
12555 Imperial Hwy, Norwalk

Complimentary Coffee & Conversation
BYOB (Buy your own breakfast)



Enjoying the festivities at the Diamond Gala are (l to r) Past President Yovani Flores, US Bank, Theresa Prumatico and Jose Flores. Photo courtesy of City of Norwalk



Attending the 100th Anniversary Diamond Gala are Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios and Norwalk Mayor Ana Valencia.

NORWALK/LA MIRADA

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