

10th Annual State of the Nation Luncheon

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with eight other local Chambers, hosted our Congresswoman Linda Sánchez for her annual State of the Nation address on Friday, August 25th. Each year we invite our communities to attend and hear from the Congresswoman on issues of concern and get updates on what is happening legislatively in Washington D.C. Congresswoman Sánchez first spoke about activities that have taken place in her District, highlighting her recent Senior Fair which took place at Cerritos College. This was the first in person Senior Fair since the pandemic began and ended. Resources were provided to the Seniors in the community in seven different languages. Representatives were on hand from Social Security, Medicare, Veterans Services, food and housing programs and there were also free health screenings. Over 700 local seniors attended this event. The Congresswoman shared that our seniors have paid their dues and they should have access to their benefits. She then recognized her Staff for all of the work they put in on this event along with all of the other events they plan in our community. She shared that her office is here to help and to reach out to Staff if you are needing help with any Federal services.

Next the Congresswoman spoke about her work in Washington D.C. on the Ways and Means Committee. As a huge advocate for small businesses, she is constantly working to help them not only "survive but also thrive." She shared her thoughts on the current tax code and that it needs to be fair to all businesses, not just major corporations. Our small businesses are the backbone of our communities and she works hard to support them. Recently she championed legislation to allow restaurants to continue with outdoor dining which helped keep many restaurants open during the pandemic. She also supports additional funding for the Small Business Administration and expanding the Child Tax Credit, including making recent credits that expired permanent.

Congresswoman Sánchez then touched on successes in the health care industry. She mentioned that Medicare can now negotiate prescription drug prices that will benefit those receiving Medicare benefits. One specific piece of information that she shared was that Medicare can only charge a maximum of \$35.00 for the life saving drug Insulin. That garnered a round of applause from the attendees of which quite a few use Insulin. Moving on, the Congresswoman spoke about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill that was passed in November of 2021. This historic bill was the first major infrastructure billed passed in Congress in almost 100 years. There will be more than a billion dollars that will make there was to California for public transit, in addition to the other billions that will come for infrastructure projects.

Moving on, the Congresswoman talked about the Change Act modification of 2021. The county is expected to experience a "Gray Tsunami" which will bring the effects of Alzheimer's and Dementia to many of our families. This is both a bipartisan and a bicameral bill that modifies the requirements under Medicare for diagnosing and treating Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive impairments in older adults. This bill has been introduced and is currently making its way through the committee process.

Then the Congresswoman address community funding projects. For the House of Representatives Community Project Funding allows members of the House to request funding for specific projects for state, local, tribal and nonprofits. There are limitations to these requests which include maximum dollar amounts and the types of projects that can be funded. The Congresswoman is hopeful that her requested projects will receive funding approval.

Lastly the Congresswoman discussed immigration. She explained that there has been no changes in immigration laws in 35 years and that we need to look at updating our legal immigration system. There are still major worker shortages throughout the country, and it has only gotten worse because of the recent pandemic. Creating better immigration can help bring in a stronger workforces, similar to what is currently happening in other countries including Canada. She believe that we need to create a pathway for citizenship for those already in our country, contributing to our economy, and include "Dreamers" in this pathway.

In closing Congresswoman Sánchez answered a number of questions from the audience and then shared that her office is a partner and a resource for all. She thanked the Chambers of Commerce for providing the opportunity to meet her current District members, which changed with the recent redistricting. Her current District includes the Norwalk Chamber and our partners, Downey, Industry Business Council, La Habra, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Regional San Gabriel and Whittier Area Chambers of Commerce.

We thank our Sponsors for this annual event: Title Sponsor: Water Replenishment District, Gold Sponsors: Athens Services, Credit Union of Southern California, Doubletree by Hilton, Whittier and PIH Health. And our Silver Sponsors: California Water Services, Foothill Transit, Southern California Gas Company and Centerpiece Sponsor Rose Hills Memorial Park.



Pictured with Congresswoman Linda Sánchez are Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios and City Council Member Jennifer Perez.



Cerritos College is attending the State of the Nation Luncheon. Pictured here (l to r) Dr. Robyn Brammer, Andrea Wittig, Dr. Shin Liu, Board President, Dr. Jose Fierro, President Cerritos College, Dr. Eliabeth Riley, Martha Pelayo, Zurich Lewis, Trustee, Pamela Sepulveda, Debra Ward and Dawn Green.



Attending the State of the Nation are (l to r) Board Member Frank Zepeda, Ambassador Joe Derthick, Bill Sinko, Community Family Guidance Center and Board Member Tracy Polley.



Also attending from the City of Norwalk are (l to r) City Manager, Jesus Gomez, Director of Public Works, Glen Kau, Regional Director of Transportation, James Parker, Director of Recreation and Park Services, Allan Perdomo and Deputy City Manager, Richard Rojas.



Whittier Union High School District Trustee Josefina Canchola pictured with Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.



Attending the State of the Nation are (l to r) Vice Mayor Margarita Rios, Director of Community Service John Ramirez, Director of Human Resources, Carina Montes, Director of Finance, Jana Stuard, and Council Member Jennifer Perez.



Also attending from the City of Norwalk are (l to r) City Manager, Jesus Gomez, Director of Public Works, Glen Kau, Regional Director of Transportation, James Parker, Director of Recreation and Park Services, Allan Perdomo and Deputy City Manager, Richard Rojas.



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Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
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**Norwalk
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<http://on.fb.me/oB5EUM>

PRESIDENT

RICH LEGASPI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EDITOR, NCBC

CAREN SPILSBURY

**CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**

Thursday, September 7th

After Hours Networking Mixer
5pm to 7pm
Outback Restaurant

Friday, September 15th

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

Goodwill of Southern California

Power of Work Event
5:30pm

Saturday, September 23rd

Artesia Cemetery District
Open House

Monday, September 25th

Community Family Guidance Center
Annual Golf Classic

Thursday, September 28th

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

Friday, September 29th

SELACO WDB
40th Anniversary Luncheon

Sunday, October 1st

Thinkers 4 Autism Fall Fun Festival
10am to 2pm NASC

Monday, October 2nd

Paint the Town Pink Coffee Kickoff
10am @ Starbucks Coffee

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, October 10th

Paint the Town Pink Fundraiser
Don's Teriyaki Grill

Friday, October 13th

8th Annual Fall Festival

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.

48 Years

Golden State Water
Albert Rivera
arivera@gswater.com
562-863-2607

Southern California Gas Company

Julia Emerson
800-427-2200
jemerson@semprautilities.com

44 Years

Norwalk Auto Auction
Louis Rudich
562-864-7464
lou@norwalkautoauction.com

36 Years

Norwalk Lions Club
President
<https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/norwalkca/>

28 Years

**Advanced Copiers & Printers
(formerly First Class Copiers)**
Nancy Espinosa
949-529-1401
accounting@occopiers.com

14 Years

**Soroptimist International of
Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs**
President
<https://sinorwalksantafesprings.org>

11 Years

All American Trophy
323-725-1962
aatrophy@sbcglobal.net

9 Years

Thinkers 4 Autism
Chante Smith
chante@thinkers4autism.org
562-706-2128

8 Years

JWCH Institute, Inc.
323-201-4516
www.jwchinstitute.org

2 Years

Primestor Development
Claudia Cardenas
213-223-5526
ccardenas@primestor.com

NEW MEMBERS

Combat Baseball

Juan Loza
14114 Shoemaker Ave.
Norwalk, CA 90650
562-353-8371
info@combatbaseball.net
www.combatbaseball.net

Dialysis Education Services

Sharon Morales
16925 Bellflower Blvd.
Bellflower, CA 90705
562-376-4181
admin@dialysiseducation.net
<https://dialysiseducationservices.com>

FRONT STREET FRIDAY NIGHTS

August 15th was the second Front Street Friday Night of this year. These events bring out many different community groups and sports teams to share information with the attendees. They also showcase local talent along with the headline band. The band this week was Pop Vinyl who had the crowd moving and dancing to the music. Many different food trucks and other vendors were also in attendance. Mayor Ana Valencia welcomed all to the event and encouraged them to visit all the different vendor booths and the food trucks. Norwalk Elks Lodge #2142 provided a beer garden for a great social gathering. The final Front Street Friday Night will be on September 15th from 5pm to 9pm on Historic Front Street. The band that week will be Angeles Mariachi. Mark your calendars for this fun event provided by the City of Norwalk.



Balloon decorations for Front Street Friday Nights are provided by Lulira Creations and Decorations. Pictured here from left to right are Fernando, Laura, Emmanuel and Edwin.



Meeting Norwalk's new Sheriff Captain at Front Street Friday Nights. Pictured here (l to r) New Sheriff Captain Richard Conti, Norwalk Chamber Board Member Dora Sandoval and Norwalk Sheriff Lieutenant Noe Garcia.



Scott and Jennifer Ludwick of Norwalk Elks Lodge 2142 at Front Street Friday Nights.



Board member Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis and Ambassador Mary Montes, C & E Upholstery showing off their Front Street Friday Night bags.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Norwalk Chamber Members,

So we say Goodbye to summer and the summer concerts on the lawn and now we welcome the school year and a busy year ahead. Thank you all for a successful Business Expo. What a great turn out it was for the Expo and the final Summer Concert. Now we move on to a very busy September with social networking events starting on September 7th when we have our After Hours Networking Mixer at Outback Restaurant from 5pm to 7pm. Following that is a networking lunch on September 12th and a Coffee Meet Up on September 28th. Also, please plan ahead to attend our Annual Fall Festival on Friday, October 13th.

We welcome our new members Combat Baseball and Dialysis Education Services and we look forward to working with them. September also brings the final Front Street Friday Nights, so come by and visit our booth on Friday, September 15th down on historic Front Street. October will bring many opportunities to help "Paint the Town Pink" in Norwalk, so get ready to support National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

As you see we are busy here at your Norwalk Chamber doing our best to work with and for all of our businesses.

Be safe and have a great month.

Respectfully,

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

Little Lake City School District Celebrates their new Superintendent

Little Lake City School District held a "Meet and Greet" for their new Superintendent, Jonathan Vazquez. The "Meet and Greet" also showcased different organizations that provide services to the Little Lake schools and families. On hand to pass out information to the attendees were Chamber member LA CADA, Helpline Youth Counseling and JWCH Institute, Inc. Board President Manuel Cantu welcomed all to the event and introduced the new Superintendent. After the audience heard from Mr. Vazquez, certificates were presented by many of our local entities. On hand to make a presentation were Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios and City Manager Jesus Gomez. Also attending to welcome the new Superintendent was State Senator Bob Archuleta. After the ceremony concluded, all were invited to have a treat from Kona Ice.



Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios, with City Manager Jesus Gomez presents a certificate to new Superintendent Jonathan Vazquez.



State Senator Bob Archuleta presents Superintendent Jonathan Vazquez with a congratulations certificate on his new position.



Lisette Gonzalez, Field Director for Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco, presents a certificate to Superintendent Jonathan Vazquez.



Ivan Sulic, representing Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, congratulates Superintendent Jonathan Vazquez with a certificate of recognition.



Attending the new Superintendent "Meet & Greet" are (l to r) former Little Lake Board Member Dora Sandova, Ivan Sulic, Senior Field Director for Supervisor Janice Hahn, Field Director Nandy Santana with State Senator Bob Archuleta, Superintendent Jonathan Vazquez and Field Director Lisette Gonzalez, Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco.

• Creating a Strong Local Economy • 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 • Street Repairs • Recreation Programs
- And Much More

UNDERSTANDING SB799 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BILL

The California Chamber of Commerce has tagged SB 799 (Portantino; D-Burbank) as a **job killer**, citing the proposal's requirement for employers to subsidize striking workers through additional taxes paid to the Unemployment Insurance (UI) fund.

"By forcing employers to pay unemployment insurance payments to striking workers, SB 799 would raise taxes on employers across California and overturn more than 70 years of precedent," said CalChamber Policy Advocate Robert Moutrie. "Being unemployed is fundamentally different than being on strike," said Moutrie. "SB 799 fundamentally alters the nature of UI by providing unemployment benefits to workers who still have a job and have chosen to temporarily refuse to work as a negotiating tactic. Simply put, going on strike is not the same as being laid off."

Unemployment insurance (UI) payments are intended to assist employees who, through no fault of their own, are forced to leave their employment. Federal law sets out the basic requirements for individuals to qualify, including being "ready and willing to immediately accept work" and "totally or partially unemployed," and "actively looking for work." These claimants are paid from their particular former employer's reserve account in the UI Fund. In other words, each employer is incentivized to minimize turnover in their workforce because they pay for any individuals who they terminate that end up seeking UI benefits – and employees who lose employment through no fault of their own are assisted in their transition to other work. If the fund becomes insolvent, all employers face steadily increasing UI taxes. These taxes increase by \$21 per employee per year, until they reach a maximum of \$434 dollars per employee.

CalChamber was joined by more than 50 organizations in expressing opposition to the measure. Chief among the concerns of the CalChamber and members of the opposition coalition is that SB 799 will worsen California's ongoing UI fund crisis. Currently, California's UI fund is in historic debt of \$18 billion due to the COVID-19 pandemic and government mandated shutdowns. To address the insolvency, California employers are already paying increased UI taxes pursuant to federal law and are likely to face ongoing tax increases until approximately 2032. According to coalition members, SB 799 would worsen California's UI fund crisis and increase the state's interest payments. A copy of the coalition's letter of opposition can be found on the CalChamber website.

The Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

Invites you to...

AN AFTER HOURS MIXER

Outback Restaurant | 12850 Norwalk Blvd. Norwalk CA
Thursday, September 7th - 2023 from 5pm to 7pm



Great Opportunity to Connect

Norwalk Chamber Mixers are a great way to reconnect and build new relationships. Enjoy networking with other business owners and professionals!

No Charge to Attend!

Light refreshments will be served and make sure to bring plenty of business cards. Take advantage of this social opportunity to promote your business and network with business and community leaders!

Make a Reservation

When making a reservation please include:

1. Your Full Name
2. Your Company's Name
3. Your Company's Address
4. Phone Number
5. Email

Where to Send Your Reservation

Please mail, fax, or email your reservations to the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce



Norwalk Chamber Annual Business Expo

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce held our Annual Business Expo in conjunction with the last Summer Concert on the City Hall Lawn. This event was well attended by our business community and the local residents. Many businesses were able to connect with potential new customers while networking with the other participants in the Expo while listening to the local entertainment. Representatives from Congresswoman Linda Sánchez and State Senator Bob Archuleta were at the event to provide information and answer questions from our residents. Door of Hope Youth and Family Resource Center gave out laundry detergent, dish soap and other cleaners to everyone who came by their booth, while Chick-fil-A gave out samples of their goodies. Athens Services gave away vegetable seed packets while Golden State Water provided shower timers. Cerritos College gave out information on fall classes along with LuTEC High School and Trinity Christian School. Many of our non-profit organizations were able to share information about their upcoming events and PIH Health was on hand to share information on their services.

This event would not have been possible without the support of our Sponsors and we thank them for this.

- Title Sponsor: Athens Services
- Gold Sponsors: Golden State Water, PIH Health, Southern California Gas Company, Water Replenishment District, YMCA of Greater Whittier
- Silver Sponsor: Liberty Utilities

Special thanks go out to our Event Committee for all of the time and energy they put in to making this a successful event. Chair Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center, Sue Arthur, Community Member, President Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Jose Rios, TNG Realty, Dora Sandoval, 605 Kiwanis, Yovani Flores, US Bank, Ric Ochoa, So Cal Pizza and Teri Bazen.



At the check in table waiting for the Vendors to arrive are Event Committee Chair Amanda Blanton and Committee Member Sue Arthur.



Mayor Ana Valencia at the Norwalk Chamber Business Expo meeting the vendors and attendees.



Title Sponsor Athens Services at the Business Expo.



Gold Sponsor Water Replenishment District handing out information at the Business Expo.



Gold Sponsor Golden State Water with Board President Rich LeGaspi at the Expo.



Liberty Utilities is ready to educate attendees on the best way to conserve water.



Anabel Cuevas of Congresswoman Linda Sánchez with Chamber President Rich LeGaspi at the Annual Expo.



Gold Sponsor YMCA of Greater Whittier attending the Expo. Pictured here are (l to r) Juan Aceves, Makayla Epting, Soretta Walker and Board President Rich LeGaspi.



PIH Health providing information at the Business Expo.



State Senator Bob Archuleta's Norwalk Staff meeting his constituents at the Business Expo.



Norwalk Public Safety Officers and Cadets at the Expo providing information to the public.



Chick-fil-A at Norwalk Fitness Village getting set up for the Expo.



Door of Hope is ready to provide resources to the community at the Expo.



SELACO Workforce Development Board is sharing information on the programs they have to get people back to work!



LuTEC High School and Trinity Christian School working together to showcase their programs with Expo attendees.



Cerritos College shared information on their fall schedule and much more with people that visited their booth at the Expo.



Members of the Sanchez family letting the community know that the Annual Arturo Sanchez Senior Halloween Parade is coming on Saturday, October 14th.



Soroptimist International Norwalk/SFS sharing information on their Scholarship program and their "Live your Dream" program.



Norwalk La Mirada USD is sharing information about their many different CTE programs and their College and Career readiness programs.



NLMUSD School Board Vice President Jose Rios is sharing information about the different schools and their programs at the Business Expo.



Executive Director of the Bernabe Community Center Michael Gutierrez with Board President Rich LeGaspi.



Sandra and Carlos of Jumpers Jungle waiting to share information about their facilities with the community.



Elizabeth and Dr. Justin of Ladybugs Kids Dental at their first Norwalk Chamber Business Expo.



Audrey Diggs of West Coast Dental getting ready to share information!



Getting ready to wrap up the Expo after a successful event. In this photo are Mercedes Quintanilla, Door of Hope, Past President and current Vice President NLMUSD School Board Jose Rios, Board Members Yovani Flores and Dora Sandoval, Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios, Natalie LeGaspi Soroptimist International Norwalk/SFS and Board President Rich LeGaspi.



Event Committee Chair Amanda Blanton is showcasing our Expo Sponsors.

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