

48th Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

"Love builds Community," was the theme for the 48th Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on Wednesday, February 14th. Mayor Luigi Vernola welcomed guests and admired the youth who participated in the 6:30 a.m. breakfast. Testimonial Speaker April Reutter spoke of how she was led to serve education in the City of Norwalk. Keynote Speaker Pastor Kay Butterfield reminded everyone of the responsibility they possess to nourish the community and the true definition of a "good neighbor." Pastor Arthur Mckibben concluded the ceremony with bestowing upon the Mayor a Rosary blessed by Pope Francis and praying over him.



Norwalk City Council Member Margarita Rios is pictured here with Norwalk Sheriff's Station Captain James D. Tatreau Jr., and other Norwalk Sheriff's officers.



Enjoying the breakfast at the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast are Chamber Vice President, Karla Butler, Thompson Bookkeeping, Chamber Vice President Adam Stanchina, Doubletree by Hilton, Norwalk Los Angeles, President Elect Trisha Gutierrez, QM Fundraising and Chamber President Yovani Flores, U.S. Bank.



Hearing from the keynote speaker at the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast are Cerritos College Board of Trustees President Zurich Lewis, retired Cerritos College Trustee Bob Arthur and Norwalk Chamber Ambassador Sue Arthur.



Norwalk Chamber attend the Norwalk Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. Pictured here are (l to r) Jose Rios, Berkshire Hathaway, Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company, Michelle Romero, Norwalk Chamber, Ambassador Sue Arthur, Bob Arthur, retired Cerritos College Trustee, Karla Butler, Thompson Bookkeeping, Francella Aguilar, Republic Services, Trisha Gutierrez, QM Fundraising, Chamber President Yovani Flores, U.S. Bank, Chamber Executive Director Caren Spilsbury and Adam Stanchina, Doubletree by Hilton, Norwalk Los Angeles.



Enjoying the Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast are Chamber Board Members, Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty, Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, NCCC Member Zaira Villa, Marilee Stefenhagen, Norwalk Soroptimist, Sayaka Ponce, Field of Dreams Learning Center and Natalie LeGaspi, Norwalk Soroptimist.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Norwalk Chamber had a busy month connecting to the Norwalk community, City, and local schools. This month we volunteered with the Norwalk/La Mirada USD and the City of Norwalk to give over 200 students the opportunity to practice for their first interview by providing mock interviews. I am honored to have participated for 3 years in a row. This is such an important experience for our young adults. They get advice from actual business owners on what we look for when we interview for one of our jobs. This helps our young high school students be more confident, know what is expected when they interview, and get an idea of the type of questions they will be asked. They are advised on how to dress for the interview, to have a firm shake hand, and to know something about the company or job they are interviewing for.

Another partnered event with the City of Norwalk was The Community Congress, an amazing event where the City asked the input from the community residents and business owners on

1. Economic Development
2. Transportation
3. Infrastructure
4. Senior & Social Services
5. Community Outreach
6. Public Safety
7. Recreation and Cultural Services

This was done using a SWOT analysis which is strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. At the end all input was gathered and a plan is being put in place to work on suggestions and concerns. This is truly a connected community.

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

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MARCH 2018

Lastly the Norwalk Chamber had a Leadership Breakfast on Tax Tips for the New Year conducted by one of our tax specialists and Chamber member John Alba. Another way the chamber is helping the community and business owners understand new tax changes.

As we aim to keep our members informed of opportunities and developments within the City and Chamber, we are pleased to invite you to our Annual Golf Tournament on March 14th, 2018 at the Don Knabe Golf Center starting at 5pm. For more information please contact our chamber office at 562-404-0909 or by email at info@norwalkchamber.com for more details and sponsorship opportunities.

Sincerely,
Yovani Flores
2017-18 President
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
US Bank Branch Manager

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**Norwalk
Chamber of Commerce**

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YOVANI FLORES**
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDITOR, NCBC
CAREN SPILSBURY**
**PUBLICATION SPONSOR
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**CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**

Wednesday, March 7th

After Hours Networking Mixer
Doubletree Hotel
5pm to 7pm

Thursday, March 8th

Cerritos College
Hall of Fame
5:30pm
Doubletree by Hilton, Norwalk
For tickets:
www.cerritos.edu/hof

Wednesday, March 14th

Annual 9-Hole Golf Tournament
Don Knabe Golf Center
4pm to 8pm

Friday, March 16th

City of Norwalk Artastic
6pm to 9pm
Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex

Wednesday, March 21st

Board of Directors
7:45am
Doubletree by Hilton

Wednesday, March 28th

Norwalk La Mirada USD
Principal for a Day

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, April 17th

Creating Connections
Luncheon

Wednesday, April 25th

Membership Orientation
Norwalk Chamber of
Commerce
4:00 to 5:30
5:30 to 7:00

Thursday, May 3rd

Norwalk Education Alliance
Education Expo
Norwalk City Hall

Friday, May 4th

Norwalk Rotary Club
Quartermania Fundraiser

Thursday, May 10th

Kaleidoscope 6 Chamber Mixer
Doubletree by Hilton
4pm to 7pm



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NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Renewing Members

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

40 Years

Norwalk Elks Lodge #2142
562-868-6603

31 Years

**Southeast Los Angeles
Workforce Development Board**
Larry Lee
562-402-9336

28 Years

St. John of God Church
Fr Raymond Decipeda
562-863-5721

27 Years

Cerritos College
Dr. Jose Fierro
<http://www.cerritos.edu/>

26 Years

Reinforcing Iron Workers
Hart Keeble
562-868-1251

22 Years

Norwalk Vacuum & Sewing
Dora & Bill Sanning
562-864-7781

20 Years

Coast Plaza Hospital
Greg Padilla
562-868-3751

19 Years

**Alba Professional Services/H & R
Block**
John Alexander Alba
562-868-3518
www.albarapidtax.com

17 Years

**Teachers Association of Norwalk
La Mirada**
Clay Walker, President
562-868-6251

13 Years

Caremore Medical Group
Erica Bedard
562-622-2900

11 Years

The P.C. Help Desk
Steve Guzman
www.thepchd.com

5 Years

**North Walk Villa Convalescent
Hospital**
Pamela Junge
562-921-6624

Fit Nation Gym

Sam Tonikian
562-991-5504

3 Years

JWCH Institute, Inc.
Daniela Rodriguez
562-281-0305

Money Mart

Denise Urriaga
562-868-3288

2 Years

Berkshire Hathaway
Jose Rios
562-972-4761

**The Doubletree by Hilton
Whittier California**

Kristen Reyes
562-945-8511

Starbucks Coffee House

Alexis Ancheta
13001 Rosecrans Ave.
www.starbucks.com

Farmers Insurance

Roy Corral
562-622-0062

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Women Professionals gathered at Frantone's in Cerritos for lunch, networking, and a presentation. Business cards and insights on business experiences were shared. Guest speaker Carrie Uva, Attorney at Law, spoke about Estate Planning. Also of the importance of having a living trust and picking an executor that will follow through on your wishes. The Lunch and Learn workshop was presented by the Downey and Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.

If you have any questions about creating a living trust call Attorney at Law Carrie Uva at (562)382-1252 or email cuva17@aol.com



Norwalk and Downey Chamber Women in Business Attendees: (l to r) Jessica Flores, Leti Arriaga, Carrie Uva, Trisha Gutierrez, Caren Spilbury, Sue Arthur, Jessie Liu, Gloria Rojas, Cristal, Michelle Romero and Elizabeth Vargas.

NORWALK WELCOMES A NEW CITY MANAGER



Attending the City Manager Meet & Greet are (l to r) Chamber President Yovani Flores, U.S. Bank, Ambassador Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Board Member Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company, Immediate Past President Francella Aguilar, Republic Services and Kristen Reyes, The Whittier Doubletree by Hilton.

The City of Norwalk welcomed new City Manager, Jesus Gomez, with a luncheon meet and greet on the City Hall lawn. Many residents, community and business leaders attended the event to welcome Jesus. Mayor Luigi Vernola introduced Jesus, who spoke briefly to the audience about this opportunity to serve as City Manager and what he hopes to accomplish here in Norwalk. The Norwalk Chamber was well represented at this event with attendees from many of our Chamber member businesses and organizations. We welcome new City Manager Jesus Gomez and look forward to a bright future in Norwalk.

NORWALK HAPPENINGS

Open House at the Norwalk Chamber

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce relocated on January 1st and on the 31st held an Open House to welcome members and guests to the new facilities. Many were on hand to see the new location and enjoy refreshments while networking their business. Many of our Norwalk Chamber members attended this event, along with representatives from elected officials, past Norwalk Council Members and community organizations. The new address for the Chamber is 14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk CA 90650. We also have a new phone number, 562-404-0909. If you would like to find out more about the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and how to become a member, give us call or an email to info@norwalkchamber.com



Chamber members are enjoying the refreshments at the Open House. Picture here are (l to r) Joe Derthick, AFLAC, Zurich Lewis, Cerritos College Board President, Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty, Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company, Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Denise Urtiaga, Money Mart, Essen Menjivar, Kustom Made Graphics, and on the right is Chamber Ambassador Eduardo Mejia, El Clasificado.



Welcoming our guests to the Open House are Ambassador Eduardo Mejia, El Clasificado, Board Member Trisha Gutierrez, QM Fundraising, Little Lake City School Board Vice President Dora Sandoval, Past President Francella Aguilar, Republic Services, Board Member Karla Butler, Thompson Bookkeeping, Board Member Lynda Fisher, Walmart Norwalk, Frank Zepeda, El Clasificado.



Enjoying the Open House are Ambassador Amie Boersma, Coast Plaza Hospital, Board member John Alba, Alba Professional Services/H & R Block, Dave Rosa, Bill's Barber Shop and Board member Adam Stanchina, Doubletree Hotel, Norwalk.



Members and guests attend the Norwalk Chamber Open House.



Meeting at the Chamber Open House are Karla Butler, Thompson Bookkeeping, Mike Motlagh, Forest Lawn and Lucy Rodas, State Farm Insurance.



Connecting at the Chamber are Norwalk Commissioner David Ang, Board member Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company and Steve Moua, Helpline Youth Counseling.



At the Open House are Ambassador Jose Rios, Berkshire Hathaway, Norwalk City Council member Margarita Rios, Chamber President Yovani Flores, U.S. Bank and Board member Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company.



Networking at the Chamber Open House are Trisha Gutierrez, QM Fundraising & Tupperware, Edie Gonzales, Norwalk Records, Chamber Ambassador Richard Sneed, Norwalk Records and Board Member Joe Derthick, AFLAC.



Pictured here at the Norwalk Chamber Open House are (l to r) Immediate Past President, Francella Aguilar, Republic Services, President Yovani Flores, U.S. Bank and Little Lake City School Board Vice President Dora Sandoval.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Norwalk La Mirada USD Seeks Candidates for "Principal for a Day" Event



The Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District would like to extend a special invitation to Norwalk Chamber of Commerce members to become the Principal for a Day in one of our schools. We are looking for partners in education to volunteer for half-a-day of service as an honorary Principal for a Day.

Join us and find out what it's like to walk in the shoes of a school site administrator, be part of a proud campus environment and share with dedicated educators your good ideas.

As a Principal for a Day, you will learn about our district and its:

- High student engagement through technology integration;
- Effective teaching practices provided by highly-qualified staff; and,
- Great courses in subjects and programs such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), VAPA (Visual and Performing Arts) and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

We proudly invite you to spend time experiencing what our schools do every day.

The Principal for a Day takes place from 8:00 a.m. to noon (includes debrief and luncheon) on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018.

For more information or to sign up, contact Norma Altamirano, executive secretary, at: Naltimirano@nlmusd.k12.ca.us or 562-210-2205.



NORWALK EDUCATION ALLIANCE (NEA) HOLD MOCK INTERVIEWS

The 3rd Annual Mock Interviews were held by the Norwalk Education Alliance (NEA) which includes the City of Norwalk, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, Cerritos College, Norwalk La Mirada USD, Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board and Santa Fe High School. The intent of this event is to provide local High School students with a real life experience of what happens on a job interview. The students are prepared for a number of months on their school campus through trainings on writing resumes, dress for success, interview preparation and more. The day of the Mock Interviews, six local high schools participated: Norwalk High School, John Glenn High School, Southeast Academy, El Camino High School, Santa Fe High School and La Mirada High School. The interviewers were local business owners, educators and elected officials. This event is just one of many that the NEA presents each year, with the intent of raising the overall education level of the residents here in Norwalk which will in turn raise their earning potential which trickles down to support economic development in the community. Thank you to the sponsors for this event: Doubletree by Hilton, Norwalk Los Angeles, Gordon Stefenhagen, Coast Plaza Hospital and Alba Professional Services/H & R Block.



Getting ready to interview students at the Norwalk Education Alliance Mock Interviews is Norwalk Chamber Board member Ric, Ochoa of So-Cal Pizza.



Dr. Hasmik Danielian, Superintendent of Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District is ready to greet her first student at the Mock Interviews.



Bob Arthur, retired Cerritos College Board of Trustees is waiting for the Norwalk Education Alliance Mock Interviews to start.



Norwalk High School students after the Mock Interview sessions, getting ready to head back to school.



Mock interviews are getting ready to start. Many dedicated supporters were in attendance that day to help with the interview process. Included in the group are (l to r) Ernesto Centeno, Dr. Patricia Robbins Smith, David Fabish, Shannon Baker, Bob Arthur, Yvette Tafoya, Norwalk Vice Mayor Leonard Shryock, Superintendent Dr. Hasmik Danielian, NLMUSD Board President Chris Pflanzner, Maria Carbajal, Cerritos College Board of Trustees President Zurich Lewis, Ric Ochoa, Norwalk City Council Member Jennifer Perez, Dr. Patricio Vargas, Toni Grijalva, Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez, Ben Salvador, Bing Hyun, Paul Weldon, Joanne Jung, Kathy Tai and Kevin Gano.

CITY OF NORWALK HOLDS A COMMUNITY CONGRESS

On Saturday February 3rd, the City of Norwalk hosted a Community Congress which brought together residents, businesses and other stakeholders here in Norwalk for the purpose of examining how the City is doing with regard to seven topics. These were Economic Development, Public Safety, Community Outreach, Transportation, Senior & Social Services, Recreation & Cultural Services and Infrastructure Improvements. Each person who attended rotated through seven tables and they were able to provide their insights and perspective on each of these topics. Once all groups had visited each table the table leaders gathered to compile the most important items that were discussed at their table and then make a presentation to the entire group on their findings. These findings are now being looked at by the consulting group, Evan Brooks and will be presented at a future City Council meeting, where it may be determined what steps the City of Norwalk can take to continue the great things that Norwalk is doing and make changes and adjustments in the areas of concern. Look for more information coming in the future about this Community Congress and how it will help shape Norwalk.



Table leaders at the Norwalk Community Congress: Toni Grijalva, Cerritos College and Lynda Fisher, Walmart Norwalk.

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

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