

### Norwalk High School SkillsUSA Takes Home top Honors

The Norwalk High School SkillsUSA Chapter recently competed at the 2018 SkillsUSA California Leadership and Skills Conference. This event took place at the Ontario Convention Center and a few remote sites, from April 19-22. Since 2011, students from our Automotive and Culinary Arts programs have participated, and represented our community honorably. This year, the NHS Engineering Pathway joined our team, and they are off to an amazing start! Collectively, the students competed in: Chapter Display, Promotional Bulletin Board, Community Service, Community Action Plan, Restaurant Service, Auto Collision Repair, Career Pathway Showcase (Industrial & Engineering Technology). The students did an outstanding job of representing the City of Norwalk and Norwalk High School. Gold medal recipients will advance to compete at the 2018 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, in Kentucky (Louisville). The event will take place from June 25-29.

Below is a detailed breakdown of each contest and the honors they received:

**Career Pathway Showcase (Industrial & Engineering Design) - GOLD**

Ricardo Brito  
Fatima Gomez  
Jocelyne Cruz

**Restaurant Service - GOLD**

Shianne Horn

**Automotive Collision Repair**

Anthony Boyce (Post Secondary- Cerritos College) NHS C/O 2014 - **GOLD**  
Dakota Blutworth (Current NHS Student)

**Community Action Project - SILVER**

Jesus Chavez  
Angel Myers

**Community Service**

Leslie Trejo  
Chantel Morales  
Shianne Horn

**Promotional Bulletin Board**

Citlalic Aguilar  
Yemy San Jose  
Samantha Campos

**Chapter Display**

Mary Beth De Guzman  
Yesenia Terrones  
Diana Espinoza

**Engineering Design Technology**

Omar Gutierrez  
Vincent Medina  
Steve Guerra

**Advisors:**

Ken Cook- Automotive  
Tracy Horton- Culinary Arts  
Ashley Baclaan- Engineering Pathway

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce congratulates Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District, Norwalk High School and the SkillsUSA Team on their accomplishments at the 2018 competition.



These Lancers competed in the Chapter Display Contest. Featured in the photo are: MaryBeth De Guzman (Auto), Diana Espinoza (Culinary Arts), and Yesenia Terrones (Culinary Arts).



Norwalk High School earned the Lowe's-SkillsUSA Models of Excellence Award, for their contributions to the Norwalk community. Featured in the photo are: Clay Mitchell (SkillsUSA CA. State Director), Tracy Horton (Culinary Arts Teacher), Angel Myers (President of the NHS SkillsUSA Chapter), Shianne Horn (Culinary), and Ricardo Brito (Engineering) Each student in the photo will represent NHS, at the 2018 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference.



In total, Norwalk High School had 19 students participate in the 2018 SkillsUSA CA. Leadership and Skills Conference. Their hard work resulted in NHS earning the Lowe's-SkillsUSA Models of Excellence Award, 5 gold medals, and 2 silver medals. These Lancers represent the future of Norwalk, and will be: "Job Ready- Day One!"

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear members and chamber supporters,  
In a few weeks, 1 out of 4 Los Angeles County businesses selected at random, will receive a U.S Economic Census questionnaire. This survey is sent every five years to gauge the state of business throughout the United States. It is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, and response is required by law. Forms go out to nearly 4 million businesses, including large, medium and small companies representing all U.S. locations and industries. Respondents are asked to provide a range of operational and performance data for their companies. Trade associations, chambers of commerce, and businesses use information from the economic census for economic development, business decisions, and strategic planning purposes. The next Economic Census will be conducted for the year ending December 2017. Please keep in mind that many resource allocations and decisions at all levels are made based on the information compiled. The information you submit is confidential and completion is required by law by the deadline of June 12th, 2018. If you are sent the questionnaire, we encourage you to fill it out to the best of your abilities. April was another busy month for our chamber and I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone that attended Business Visits with Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon On Friday, April 27th 2018. This was a wonderful opportunity for our businesses and Ian Calderon to get to know each other.



Norwalk Chamber of Commerce thanks outgoing Mayor Luigi Vernola with a donation for the Santa Sleigh Foundation and a certificate of appreciation. Pictured here are (l to r) Board Member Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks, Norwalk Chamber President, Yovani Flores, US Bank, outgoing Mayor, Luigi Vernola, Ambassador Sue Arthur, Board Member Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty and Ambassador Jose Rios, Berkshire Hathaway.

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

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PERMIT NO. 1000

MAY 2018

Businesses visited were:  
Alba Professional Services, at 11825 Alondra Blvd;  
Coast Plaza Hospital, 13100 Studebaker Rd;  
State Farm Insurance, 11928 Firestone Blvd;  
Kelco Sales, 11936 Front St.  
Starbucks, 11790 Firestone Blvd for the wrap up.  
We look forward to seeing you at upcoming

events. For more information please contact our chamber office at 562-404-0909

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



**NORWALK CHAMBER BUSINESS CONNECTIONS (NCBC)** is the Official Publication of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.

**Norwalk Chamber of Commerce**

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http://on.fb.me/oB5EUM

**PRESIDENT YOVANI FLORES**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDITOR, NCBC CAREN SPILSBURY**

**PUBLICATION SPONSOR REPUBLIC SERVICES**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Friday, May 4th**

Norwalk Rotary Club  
Quartermania Fundraiser  
Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex  
5pm to 9pm

**Saturday May 5th**

Southeast Academy  
Quartermania Fundraiser  
Southeast Academy  
10:30am to 3pm

**Thursday, May 10th**

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

**Wednesday, May 23rd**

Leadership Series Breakfast  
7:30am to 9am  
Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex

**Wednesday, June 6th**

Regional Update  
Featuring Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Holiday Inn, La Mirada  
11:30am to 1pm

**Wednesday, June 13th**

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce  
95th Annual Awards & Installation Luncheon  
12noon to 1:30pm  
Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Thursday, July 26th**

LA's Largest Mixer  
Pasadena Convention Center  
4pm to 8pm

**Wednesday, August 8th**

Annual Business Expo  
Norwalk City Hall Lawn  
5pm to 8pm



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Store Manager  
Norwalk Walmart

**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.

**43 Years**  
**Southern California Edison**  
Adrian Garcia  
323-720-5223  
www.sce.com

**19 Years**  
**New Harvest Christina Fellowship**  
Pastor Richard Salazar  
562-929-6034

**6 Years**  
**All American Trophy & Engraving**  
Paul Purdue  
323-725-1962  
www.aatrophyco.com

**42 Years**  
**Stater Bros. Markets**  
Alondra Blvd.  
Laurel Dickerson

**El Taco Locco**  
Delia Castro  
562-929-0071

**5 Years**  
**Preservation Partners Development III, LLC**  
Norwalk Christian Towers  
William Szymczak  
310-802-6670

**Stater Bros. Markets**  
Firestone Blvd.  
Laurel Dickerson

**11 Years**  
**Shakey's Pizza Restaurant**  
Gail Hill  
11403 Firestone Blvd.  
562-864-2512

**26 Years**  
**General Alarm Service**  
Bill E. McDonald  
562-602-2000  
http://www.generalalarmservices.com/

**7 Years**  
**Department of Rehabilitation**  
Patt Kadriik  
562-864-8521  
www.rehab.cahwnet.gov

**New Members**

**Alpha Business Services**  
Angelina Espinosa  
14241 Firestone Blvd. Suite 400  
La Mirada CA 90638  
866-272-6500  
www.alphabusinessservices.net

**NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**Norwalk Chamber Welcomes New Member Bibiana Martinez of Century 21 Powerhouse Realty**



New Member Bibiana Martinez of Century 21 Powerhouse Realty is presented with her new member plaque by Norwalk Vice Mayor, Margarita Rios and Norwalk Chamber Board Member Gordon Stefenhagen.

My name is Bibiana Martinez with Century 21 Powerhouse. I am a Realtor, Notary Public & Signing Agent. My reason for joining the Chamber is so that I can learn from other members, build strong business relationships & overall assist families here in Norwalk with their Real Estate & Notarial needs. Looking forward to doing business together!

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www.facebook.com/Norwalk Chamber

Remember if they're looking at the Chamber they're looking at you!

~Like Us and We will Like you Back~

**RENEWING MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**



Kristen Reyes of the Whittier Doubletree Hotel receives their membership renewal from Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios and Board Member Gordon Stefenhagen.



Joe Derthick, AFLAC receives his membership renewal plaque at the Creating Connections Lunch at Golf n' Stuff. Making the presentation are Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios and Board Member Gordon Stefenhagen.



Norwalk Chambers longest serving member is Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning. Receiving their 55 year membership renewal is Past Chamber President and current Ambassador Teri Bazen. Here with her are Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios and Past Mayor Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty.



# NORWALK HAPPENINGS

## WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Norwalk and Downey Chamber Women in Business Council spent their networking lunch in April learning about organization and time management from our member Holly Noble, 4 the Love of Horses. Holly spent many years in corporate America before she ventured out on her own to start her Mary Kay Cosmetics Business. After many years of success as an entrepreneur, Holly was able to incorporate her love of horses into a new business venture, 4 The Love of Horses. She was just the right woman business owner to share with the attendees ideas and tips on how to manage your time and your business. One thought that everyone was able to take away from the lunch was to find the process that works best for you. There is no one "right" way to manage and organize your time, but many different ways. The best you can do is try different methods and see what works best for you. We thank Holly for sharing her experiences with our attendees.



Norwalk and Downey Chamber members and guests with our speaker Holly Noble of 4 the Love of Horses at the April Women in Business lunch.



Michael Calvert, Executive Director of the Downey Chamber is the winner of the Doubletree by Hilton, Whittier CA container of wonderful cookies. Pictured here are Michael with Kristen Reyes of the Doubletree and Ashlyn Ramirez who was also a door prize winner. Thank you to Kristen for donating both prizes.

## CREATING CONNECTIONS AT GOLF N' STUFF

Ken Garcia of Norwalk Golf n' Stuff welcomed Norwalk Chamber members and guests to a fun filled lunch on Tuesday, April 17th inside the Snack Bar Party Area. Attendees were able to enjoy pizza, wings and sodas while networking away their lunch time. Our Creating Connections Luncheons are designed to support one of our local member businesses while giving everyone an opportunity to meet other business and community leaders. The Norwalk Chamber was honored to have Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios attend this event and help present our new member and membership renewal packages. Also in attendance were past Council Mayors Gordon Stefenhagen and Cheri Kelley.

For nearly 40 years, Golf N' Stuff has been providing quality family entertainment for all ages. The park features unique miniature golf courses, go-karts, and bumper boats. They also have the most current and up to date video and prize arcade games available for your enjoyment. They have something for everyone. If you are planning a group outing, birthday party, company event, church celebration, sports banquet, or just a special get together, look no further. Golf N' Stuff can make any event memorable. For information about GOLF N' STUFF and our services, please give us a call or drop us a note. One of our friendly staff members will be happy to assist you. We look forward to seeing you!



Golf n' Stuff is the host of our April Creating Connections Lunch

Special thanks to Ken Garcia and his staff for hosting our Creating Connections Lunch!



Networking at the Creating Connections Lunch are Crystal Cano, World Financial Group, Paco Solorzano and Antonio Garcia of Farmers Insurance, Roy Corral.



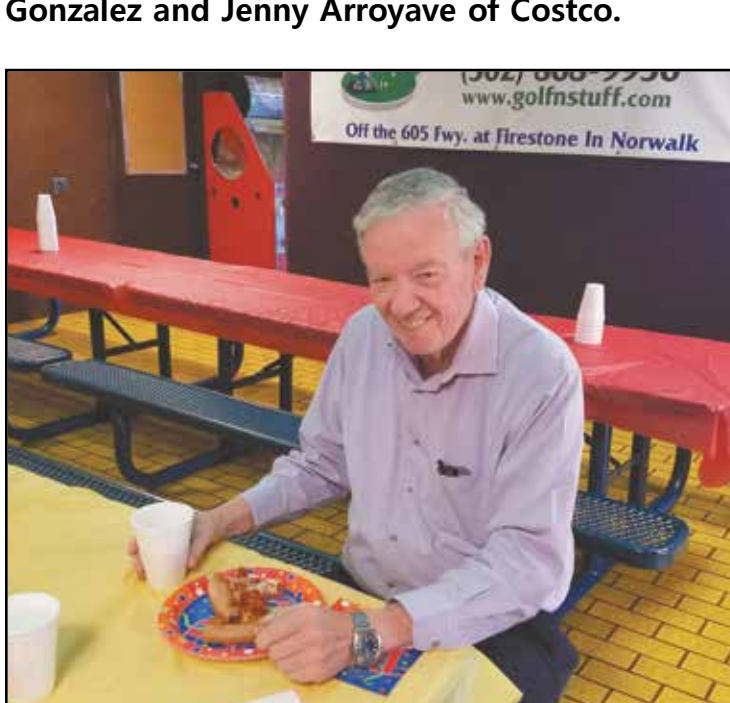
Enjoying lunch and networking are Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios, Ambassador Jose Rios, Berkshire Hathaway, Dora Sandoval, Vice President Little Lake City School District, Gloria Gonzalez and Jenny Arroyave of Costco.



Sharing a meal together and networking are Ambassador Sue Arthur, Marilee Stefenhagen, Norwalk Soroptimist and Jasmine Beltran of Money Mart.



New Executive Director for the Paramount Chamber of Commerce, Kyle Miller visits our Norwalk Chamber. Sitting with him is Kristen Reyes of the Whittier Doubletree Hotel.



Board member Gordon Stefenhagen is enjoying the Pizza & Wings!



Networking over lunch are Stephanie Garcia of Money Mart, Teri Bazen of Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing & HVAC and guest Greg Gunter of Greg's Auto Body.



# NORWALK HAPPENINGS

## MEET OUR NORWALK CHAMBER AMASSADOR



**Norwalk Chamber Ambassador Jose Villalobos of New York Life Insurance**

Jose Villalobos started his career as an agent with New York Life early in 2017 after having graduated from California State University, Los Angeles. He finished his undergraduate studies with a Bachelor of Science in Business with an option in Entrepreneurship, and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature & Language.

Shortly after beginning his transition to the financial services industry, Jose began finding success within his community and the surrounding areas throughout all of Los Angeles County, specifically amongst young families and other successful professionals. He developed a local presence by visiting many business owners and by becoming an ambassador of his local Chamber of Commerce in Norwalk, California.

A driving factor behind Jose's early success is his understanding of the importance to work with those who need financial planning the most, in other words those who do not know who to turn to or where to begin. With strategic marketing and an unparalleled effort, Jose has come to be known amongst his peers as a reliable and trustworthy source for financial information and comprehensive planning.

In addition to this, he believes that the outstanding reputation of the prestigious company that is New York Life coupled with his own work ethic and willingness to help others are what will propel him to a level of significance and success to become one of the premier financial planners in due course. The key to helping others plan for their financial futures is to find out what motivates them to work as hard as they do and to know what their goals are for their families and as well as for themselves. This is perhaps the most principal factor that goes into Jose's planning process with each individual client.

The areas that Jose has chosen to grow his expertise in are: Retirement Planning, Investing, College Planning, and of course, Life Insurance.

## CERRITOS COLLEGE HOSTS FESTIVAL OF ASIAN CULTURES

Cerritos College held a Festival of Asian Cultures to celebrate the many different songs and dances of different countries throughout Asia. Guests were able to hear music and see dances from China, Japan, India, Vietnam, Korea and more. Those that attended were treated to lunch from these different cultures along with visiting the many booths that provided more information about the different cultures. The last part of the entertainment was a traditional Lion Dance which kept the crowd entertained. Thank you to the college for providing this type of activity for the community to get involved with.



Norwalk Chamber Board Member Joe Derthick of AFLAC is on hand to man the Chamber booth at the Cerritos College Festival of Asian Cultures.



Here Dr. Shin Liu of the Cerritos College Board of Trustees and College President Dr. Jose Fierro provide gifts to the Lions, which is a traditional dance from China.

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<p><b>TASTE</b></p> <p>Taste delicious hors d'oeuvres from local food vendors</p>	<p><b>RECONNECT</b></p> <p>Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. Don't forget business cards!</p>	<p><b>SHOP</b></p> <p>Shop hundreds of silent auction items</p>



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## Leadership Series: Earthquake Preparedness for Businesses

**This seminar is presented on behalf of the California Earthquake Authority and will address preparing and recovery steps following a natural disaster.**

**Where: Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex**  
 13200 Clarkdale Ave Norwalk CA

**When: Wednesday, May 23rd, 2018**  
 7:30am - 8:00am Networking  
 8:00am - 9:00am Breakfast & Workshop

**Cost: Members \$15.00 Non Members \$25.00**

**RSVP to [info@norwalkchamber.com](mailto:info@norwalkchamber.com) or (562) 404-0909**

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