www.norwalkchamber.com

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# 95th Annual Awards & Installation Luncheon

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce celebrated 95 years of serving the local business community at the Annual Awards & Installation Luncheon on June 13th. This event celebrates local business and community stakeholders who contribute to local economic growth and sustainability through volunteerism and involvement. The areas of recognition are Volunteer of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, Business of the Year and our President's Award. This year the Chamber recognized outstanding businesses in three different categories, based on business employee size, economic achievements, community and Chamber support.

The 2018 Volunteer of the Year was Susan Arthur, who serves on the Ambassador Committee and helps with every Chamber activity. She has spent countless hours securing sponsorships for events, helped set up and take down for every event, attended workshops, lunches and breakfasts meeting and more. Sue is a great example of what Volunteerism really is. Our 2018 Ambassador of the year is Amanda Blanton of Farmers & Merchants Bank. Amanda joined the Ambassador Team right after becoming a Chamber member and is a leader in this group. In addition to her Ambassador responsibilities she is also on the Event Committee and active in Women in Business. For the Business of the Year category, President Yovani Flores felt that there were many outstanding businesses this last year so she followed the Small Business Administration (SBA) categories and recognized Business of the Year in small, mid sized and large business categories. Our Small Business of the Year is Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning. This business is celebrating over 60 years here in Norwalk and 54 years as a Norwalk Chamber member. Owner Don Skala supports not only the Norwalk Chamber but many other nonprofit organizations locally with water donations and more. The mid sized Business of the Year is Coast Plaza Hospital. They have been recognized because of their innovation in bringing new services to the Norwalk Community, their ongoing sponsorship of the Norwalk Chamber and their additional community partnerships. Opening their new wound care center and achieving certification as a primary stroke center by the American Heart Association to better serve the Norwalk Community were a few of the reasons that they received this award. In the large business category, this year's Business of the Year is Norwalk Walmart, and store manager Shylah Ratcliff. Walmart not only provides ongoing support to the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, they also support the City of Norwalk, Norwalk clubs and organizations, local schools and more. They are a President's Circle sponsor for the Chamber, are a sponsor for many Chamber events, they provide jobs for local residents, and bring much needed sales tax revenue to the City of Norwalk. All of these businesses are community partners for many local clubs, organizations, schools, and the entire city. Our Presidents award is given out annually by the President to a Chamber or Community member who has been invaluable to the President during their term of office. Each president has their own opportunity to recognize that one person who stood out and provided support to the President throughout their year. This year's President's Award was presented to Board Member Gordon Stefenhagen of Norwalk Realty by President Yovani who thanked him for all of the times he said "yes" when asked to step up and take on an activity or challenge for the Chamber. Lastly our outgoing Board Member Francella Aguilar of Republic Services was presented with plaques and certificates for her service to the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and the community over the last five years.

Each of the honorees was presented with certificates of appreciation and plaques from the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, the City of Norwalk, Congresswoman Linda Sànchez, Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon and Assembly Member Cristina Garcia.

After the Awards ceremony, the Board of Directors and new President were sworn into office by Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez. The ongoing theme of the event was "Building for the Future" and we look forward to this upcoming year with new President Trisha Gutierrez of QM Fundraising and her Board as they build the future of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. Thank you to Toni Grijalva of Cerritos College for serving as our MC for the Installation Luncheon, and special thanks to the Installation Committee, Yovani Flores, Trisha Gutierrez and Theresa Bazen for putting on a great event. Additional thanks go out to Bruce's Prime Ribs and owner Jeannie Mayer for a great lunch!



Ambassadors, MC Toni Grijalva, Norwalk Hospital. Pictured here are Norwalk Mayor Mayor Jennifer Perez as they get ready to Jennifer Perez, Evelyn Nuno, Field Rep for Gold Sponsor Rose Hills Memorial Park is Attending the luncheon from the City of "Build for the Future" of the Norwalk Chamber Assembly Member Cristina Garcia, Amie set to network with other Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.



Silver Sponsor Farmers & Merchants Bank attending the Annual Awards & Installation New Board Member Amanda Blanton of F & M Bank and Ambassador Jessica of J & N Nut Products are pictured here with the F & M Bank group.



Volunteer of the Year Sue Arthur. Pictured with her are Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, Evelyn Nuno, Field Rep for Assembly Member Cristina Garcia, Sue Arthur, Field Rep for Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon, Albert Ruiz, President Yovani Flores and 2017 Volunteer of the Year Trisha Gutierrez.



President Yovani Flores, US Bank, presents Incoming President Trisha Gutierrez is Francella Aguilar of Republic Services with presented with a very special building hat her outgoing Board Member plaques and certificates.

14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

**Norwalk Chamber of Commerce** 

Norwalk Chamber Board of Directors, Midsized Business of the Year, Coast Plaza Albert Ruiz, President Yovani Flores.



Large Business of the Year, Norwalk Walmart. Pictured here are Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, Evelyn Nuno, Field Rep for Assembly Member Cristina Garcia, Shylah Ratcliff, Store Manager Norwalk Walmart, Field Rep for Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon, Albert Ruiz, President Yovani Flores.



Gold Sponsor US Bank table hosted by President Yovani Flores. Sitting with here are (I to r) Miya Walker, Cerritos College, Dr. Jose Fierro, President Cerritos College, MC Toni Grijalva, Cerritos College, US Bank members Sandra Picasso, Erika Yanez, Esther **Brickman, President Yovani Flores and Rafael** Rodriguez of Rose Hills Memorial Park.



from Teri Bazen of Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing.

PRESORTED STD **U.S. POSTAGE PAID** SANTA FE SPRINGS, CA **PERMIT NO. 1000** 



Boersma, Coast Plaza Hospital, Field Rep members while enjoying their lunch at the for Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon, Annual Awards and Installation. Attending Gonzalez, Beatriz Brozovic, Marco Saldeco, City Manager, Jesus Gomez. Victor Perez, Bill Collins, Dawn Fernandez, and Patricia Pescina.



Stefenhagen of Norwalk Realty. Pictured Member Cristina Garcia's office, Ambassador here are Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, Teri Bazen, Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing, and Evelyn Nuno, Field Rep for Assembly Member Don Skala, Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing. Cristina Garcia, President Yovani Flores, Gordon Stefenhagen, Field Rep for Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon, Albert Ruiz and MC Toni Grijalva of Cerritos College.



Ambassador of the Year, Amanda Blanton, Small Business of the Year, Norwalk La Mirada Ambassador of the Year, Amie Boersma.



festivities the day's Ambassadors Jennifer Pedroza and Christina DoubleTree by Hilton, Norwalk Los Angeles. Rios, Berkshire Hathaway.



Norwalk are Executive Director of Regional Transportation, James Parker, Ruby Picon, Adriana Figueroa, Norwalk Mayor Jennifer the event with Rafael Rodriguez are Ivette Perez, Norwalk Vice Mayor Margarita Rios and



Getting ready for the festivities are: Silver Sponsor & Board Member Gordon Stefenhagen, Marilee Stefenhagen, Norwalk Soroptimist, Paul Weldon, City of Norwalk Evan Kam and Albert Ruiz, of Assembly Majority Leader Ian President's Award was given to Gordon Calderon's office, Evelyn Nuno of Assembly



Farmers & Merchants Bank. Pictured with Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning. her are Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez, Evelyn Pictured here are Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Nuno, Field Rep for Assembly Member Perez, Evelyn Nuno, Field Rep for Assembly Cristina Garcia, Amanda Blanton, Field Rep Member Cristina Garcia, Don Skala, Owner for Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon, of NLM Plumbing & HVAC, Field Rep for Albert Ruiz, President Yovani Flores and 2017 Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon, Albert Ruiz, Past President Yovani Flores.



Fortune, DoubleTree by Hilton, Norwalk Enjoying the hospitality of Gold Sponsor Los Angeles, Ambassador Eduardo Mejia, Southern California Edison are Little Lake City El Clasificado, Board Member Karla Butler, School Board Vice President Dora Sandoval, Thompson & Associates, Board Member Gary Dean Lockwood, Su Casa, Superintendent Little Murphy, Norwalk Florist, Ambassador Richard Lake City School District Dr. William Crean, Sneed, Norwalk Records, Stacy Rancharan, Past President Francella Aguilar, Republic DoubleTree by Hilton, Norwalk Los Angeles Services, Ambassador Amie Boersma, Coast and new President Elect, Adam Stanchina, Plaza Hospital and new Board Member Jose

Shylah Ratcliff

Store Manager Norwalk Walmart

NORWALK CHAMBER
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# Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

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PRESIDENT
TRISHA GUTIERREZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDITOR, NCBC
CAREN SPILSBURY

PUBLICATION SPONSOR REPUBLIC SERVICES

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Wednesday, July 11th Small Business Tax Seminar

8:30am to 12:30pm Norwalk City Hall 12700 Norwalk Blvd. Norwalk CA

#### Thursday, July 12th Service Workshop

Long-Term Care/
Nursing Homes/
Accessing Caregivers
12noon to 1pm
Norwalk Chamber Office
14783 Carmenita Rd.

## Friday, July 20th Ribbon Cutting Event

U.S. Army Recruiting Center
12251 Imperial Hwy
Norwalk CA
10am to 11am

#### Tuesday, July 24th Service Workshop

Self-Funding your own 401(k)
Pension/SEP/IRA
12noon to 1pm
Norwalk Chamber Office
14783 Carmenita Rd.
Norwalk CA

# Thursday, July 26th LA's Largest Mixer

Pasadena Convention Center 4pm to 8pm

## Tuesday, July 31st Creating Connections Lunch

11:45am to 1pm
Tam's Super Burgers
11700 Rosecrans Ave
Norwalk CA

## Wednesday, August 8th Annual Business Expo

Norwalk City Hall Lawn 5pm to 8pm

## SAVE THE DATE

Thursday August 9th
Annual State of the Nation
Luncheon

Thursday October 18th 4th Annual Oktoberfest





Nationwide

Services

Environ<u>mental</u>

# **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.

#### 26 Years Su Casa Ending Domestic Violence

Anna Conti 562-519-8597 www.sucasadv.org

#### **Healthfirst Medical Group**

Alex Saulas 562-926-3440 www.healthfirstmedical.net

#### 25 Years Atkinson, Andelson, Lova, F

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
James Romo

sames Romo 562-653-3200 www.aalrr.com

# 23 Years ABC Unified School District

Dr. Mary Sieu 562-926-5566 www.abcusd.k12.ca.us

#### **Diana's Restaurant**

Alma Meza 562-926-5802 www.dianas.net

#### **De Jon Enterprises**

Aaron Briones 714-827-3730

# 21 Years Juan Great Fiesta

Robert Blake 562-945-1785 www.juangreatfiesta.com

# 19 Years Villa Elena Healthcare Center

Juan Javier 562-868-0591 www.villaelenahealthcare.com

#### **Norwalk Printing & Graphics**

Steven Ives 562-864-3216 norwalk.ive@verizon.net

#### **John's Sweeper Repairs**

John Ozonian 562-860-0604 info@nes-sweeping.com

# 13 Years Small Business Development Center

Bradley Pollak
562-938-5100
www.longbeachsbdc.org

## **New Members**

# American Center for the Aging, LP Joshua Arce

215 N. Marengo Ave, Third Floor Pasadena CA 91101 888-503-9808 www.AmericanCenterForAging.com

#### Athens Services Ashley Rozatti

5355 Vincent Ave. Irwindale CA 91706 888-336-6100 ARozatti@AthensServices.com

www.athensservices.com

### Century 21 Allstars Hector Benavidez

9155 Telegraph Rd. Pico Rivera CA 90660 323-702-5722 www.hectorbenavidez.com

#### Elite One Mortgage Milton Estrada

10542 Calle Lee Suite 102 Los Alamitos CA 90720 714-820-4030 www.eliteonemortgage@outlook.com miltonestrada@outlook.com

# Want to Boost Your Companies Exposure? Like Us on Facebook



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~

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello from your newly installed President for the 2018 – 2019 year. I am looking forward to building a great future with our members for this upcoming year. Together we can provide valuable learning opportunities through our Leadership Series and other workshops. We can continue to create more connections for our members with exposure to the community and businesses through our lunches and events. We can advocate for you through our legislative alliances and opportunities to hear from our elected representatives on the national and state level.

This year Norwalk Chamber is the host of the 2018 Ambassador Rally which will bring together leaders from our Chamber and Chambers throughout Southern California for a day of networking and workshops. If you are interested in finding out how to increase your visibility in the community, this would be a

Norwalk is the "Keystone" City, as we are located centrally with freeway access from both Los Angeles and Orange Counties. This creates opportunities for connecting with many potential clients. We are also the home to offices for

great event to attend. Additional information will be coming, but save the date of October 12th for the Rally.

Counties. This creates opportunities for connecting with many potential clients. We are also the home to offices for Los Angeles County Supervisor, Janice Hahn, Congresswoman Linda Sànchez, County libraries and the County courthouse.

To better support our businesses and community we are developing a scholarship program for both Chamber businesses and local students which you will hear more about as we move forward. We hope to see you at our upcoming Business Expo which is scheduled for Wednesday, August 8th at the Norwalk City Hall Lawn in conjunction with National Night Out. Can't make that event there will be others! Look for our 4th Annual Oktoberfest on October 18th at So-Cal Pizza or the Holiday Mixer.

I am hoping to meet you all during this year and share with you our vision of Building our Future!

Sincerely, Trisha Gutierrez 2018-19 President Norwalk Chamber of Commerce QM Fundraising

# **NORWALK HAPPENINGS**

# **Growth & Building for the Norwalk Chamber**

Growing the membership of the Norwalk Chamber creates the opportunity for our members to build for their future by gaining new connections. The Norwalk Chamber is proud to welcome the following new members who received their membership plaque at the recent Installation Luncheon.



Benavidez of Century 21 plaque Allstars.



from Trisha Gutierrez, Fundraising.



member Joshua Arce of American President Trisha Gutierrez, Dora QM Cerritos College.



Norwalk Bruce's Sandoval, plaque from new President Center for the Aging, LP, QM Fundraising presents a Lions Club receives their 31 Trisha Gutierrez is Hector receives his new member 27 year renewal plaque to year membership renewal year membership renewal President Dr. Jose Fierro, President of plague from President Trisha plague. Gutierrez.



recognized with their 38

# **Labor Law Corner**

## Workers' Comp Doctor Not Final Say on Employee's Condition

One of my employees has been out on a leave of absence due to a work-related injury for almost a year now. My workers' compensation insurance company's claims handler recently told me that the employee had a "QME" and that the doctor is reporting that the employee's condition is "permanent and stationary" and that his physical limitations are so great that he can never return to his previous job. Is it OK if I terminate this employee since he can no longer do his job?

It would be extremely risky for you to terminate the employee at this juncture. Even though your insurance company's doctor deems the employee's condition as "permanent and stationary" for purposes of workers' compensation, you can terminate the employee only if there is no way to reasonably accommodate the limitations that the employee may have.

#### **Qualified Medical Evaluation**

You need to understand that in the workers' compensation system, a "QME" (qualified medical evaluation) is a medical examination performed by a doctor chosen by your insurance company.

Just because your insurance company's doctor says the employee's condition is "permanent and stationary" doesn't necessarily mean that the condition is "permanent and stationary" in the eyes of the law.

The employee's condition (in the workers' compensation system) is not truly permanent and stationary until either both parties agree to the status, or the judge from the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board issues a ruling stating that the condition is permanent and stationary.

## **Retaliation Claim**

If you were to terminate the employee based solely upon the opinion of your insurance company's doctor, you could be leaving yourself open to a claim of retaliation and/or discrimination under Labor Code Section 132(a).

If a workers' compensation judge were to rule that the employee's condition was not permanent and stationary at the time of the termination and that his condition improved to a point that he could have performed his previous job, with or without an accommodation, you could be held liable for a fine of up to \$10,000, plus back wages for the employee.

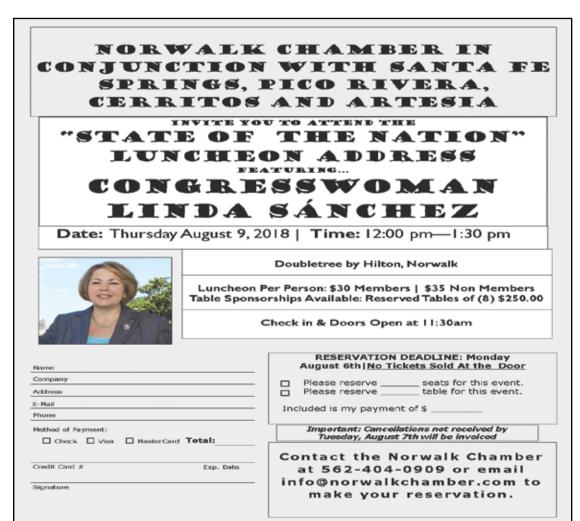
In a situation like this, it is always best to consult with your legal counsel before terminating an employee on a protected leave of absence.

Column based on questions asked by callers on the Labor Law Helpline, a service to California Chamber of Commerce preferred and executive members. For expert explanations of labor laws and Cal/OSHA regulations, not legal counsel for specific situations, call (800) 348-2262 or submit your question at www.hrcalifornia.com.

Staff Contact: David Leporiere

## **About David Leporiere**

David Leporiere joined the CalChamber in 2014 and currently serves as an HR adviser. Specializing in employment and labor law on behalf of businesses and business owners, he also has provided training for employers on a wide variety of employment-related topics, including discrimination, harassment, wage and hour, and leave laws and regulations. He holds a J.D. from the University of California, Davis.





# **MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

## **Norwalk Lions Club recognizes Outstanding Teachers and Public Safety Officers at Annual Banquet**

The Norwalk Lions Club held their Awards and Installation Banquet on May 31st where they recognized Teacher of the Year for Norwalk La Mirada USD and Little Lake City School District. Also recognized were the Detective of the Year and the Sheriff of the Year. The Lions Club presented their club awards of Lion of the Year, the Crystal Award and the Melvin Jones Award.



Receiving the Melvin Jones Award from the Norwalk Lions Club are (I to r) Anthony Garcia, 1st Vice President, Marcus Gomez, Lion Member and 2017-2018 Melvin Jones Award Norwalk Lions Past President Recipient, Nicky McLean, Club Secretary, President Dora Lynda Fisher receives a Sandoval, Don Valenzuela, 1st Year Director, Norma Amezcua, special thank you from Lions 2nd Vice President, Lenora Perri, Downey Lions Club and President Dora Sandoval. John Layton Jr., Lions Member.



## Norwalk Coffee with a Cop

The City of Norwalk held their quarterly Coffee with a Cop at Ella's Café (formerly Pepe Jones) on June 7th. This event is designed to bring together Law Enforcement, Public Safety and community stake holders to find out what issues residents and businesses are facing and to hear what steps are being taken by the City of Norwalk and their partners to keep the City of Norwalk a great place to live, work and play.



Enjoying coffee and conversation are Ambassadors Sue Serving Arthur and Richard Sneed, and City of Norwalk Deputy City attendees is Jane Kim of Ella's Manager Kevin Gano.



## **City of Norwalk Summer Concerts on the Lawn**

The City of Norwalk Summer Concert series has started, with free Cerritos College has kicked off their entertainment every Wednesday through August 8th. The City has started a Alumni Association by holding an new campaign to help build healthier citizens named "Rethink your Drink." They are asking participants to commit to drinking water or unsweetened 21st at the Automotive Partners beverages instead of sugary drinks and to sign a commitment to keep track building at the college. The newly of what you are drinking each week. Providing bottles of water to those who launched Cerritos College Alumni signed the commitment and a hand out so that you can actually see how much sugar there is in each type of drink, Norwalk is working towards a healthier community. Visit their booth at an upcoming concert to sign your commitment and participate in their campaign.







with TAP (Teen Alliance Program) volunteers Kearns with Christopher Ponce supporting the

# **Cerritos College holds Inaugural Alumni Mixer**

inaugural mixer on Thursday, June Associations mission is to build and strengthen the connection with their graduates, former students, the rest of the community by creating a life-long sense of pride, loyalty, and support of the College through programs, events, and services. Their concept of alumni is inclusive. Cerritos College has many pathways to student success and the Alumni Association reflects their diversity. To find out more about the alumni program visit

https://bit.ly/2tDnMa2 to find out additional details.



Cerritos College President Dr. Jose Fierro is pictured with Cerritos College Alumni and Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez.

- 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** 





