

### Norwalk Chamber Plans for the Future

The Norwalk Chamber of Commerce held our Annual Planning Meeting on June 27th, at the Southern California Gas Company Energy Resource Center. Board members and Ambassadors were on hand to set the stage for another successful year for the Chamber. Small group discussions were held to determine the strengths; weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) for each area of the Chamber. We also spent time discussing how our Board of Directors and Ambassadors are the bridge between the business community and local elected officials. As a voice for business in matters of government policy both locally and statewide our members are active in both the Regional Chamber Alliance and the Gateway Chamber Alliance. We partner with other local Chambers to bring connecting opportunities to our members while focusing on local economic development. We are a conduit for business to business connections while serving as a resource for the local business community. The Norwalk Chamber has plans in place to continue to create connections for local business through a variety of events. Our networking lunches, leadership breakfast and after hours mixers are all designed to provide face to face opportunities for local business to expand their circle of influence, while provided great information about what is happening in Norwalk.

Check out our Norwalk Chamber website at [www.norwalkchamber.com](http://www.norwalkchamber.com) to find events that work with your schedule. Two of those coming this month are the Annual Business Expo and State of the Nation Luncheon. Each of these provides different opportunities to meet residents, business owners and community stakeholders that can help you with growing and expanding your business. To participate in either of these, please reach out to the Chamber by email [info@norwalkchamber.com](mailto:info@norwalkchamber.com) or by calling the Chamber at 562-404-0909.



Norwalk Chamber Board Members and Ambassadors at the Annual Planning Meeting. (from l to r) Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty, Sue Arthur, Adam Stanchina, DoubleTree Hotel, Joseph Derthick, AFLAC, Tracy Polley, Kelco Sales, Lynda Fisher, Walmart, Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates, Patty Contreras, The Sterling Insurance and Financial Group, Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company, Gregory Padilla, Coast Plaza Hospital, Yovani Flores, US Bank, Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, and in front Chamber President Trisha Gutierrez, QM Fundraising.



Executive Board Members Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates and Yovani Flores, US Bank are sharing their thoughts for the future.



Working together for the future of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce are Board Member Lynda Fisher, Walmart, President Trisha Gutierrez, QM Fundraising, Board Members Julia Emerson, Southern California Gas Company and Gregory Padilla, Coast Plaza Hospital.



Board Members Adam Stanchina, DoubleTree Hotel, Amanda Blanton, F & M Bank and Greg Padilla, Coast Plaza Hospital are providing great ideas for the future.



Board Members Greg Padilla of Coast Plaza Hospital and Joe Derthick of AFLAC, are sworn into office by President Trisha Gutierrez, QM Fundraising.

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce  
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**Norwalk Chamber of Commerce**

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**PRESIDENT  
TRISHA GUTIERREZ**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
EDITOR, NCBC  
CAREN SPILSBURY**

**CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS**

**Tuesday, August 7th  
Norwalk City Council  
Meeting  
6pm @ City Hall**

**Wednesday, August 8th  
Annual Business Expo  
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT  
Norwalk City Hall Lawn  
5pm to 8pm**

**Thursday August 9th  
Annual State of the Nation  
Luncheon  
11:30am to 1pm  
Norwalk Doubletree Hotel**

**Tuesday, August 14th  
Ribbon Cutting  
Athens Services  
10am**

**Wednesday, August 15th  
Service Workshop  
Norwalk Chamber Office  
11:30am**

**Tuesday, August 21st  
Norwalk City Council  
Meeting  
6pm @ City Hall**

**Wednesday, September  
26th  
Leadership Series Breakfast  
Norwalk Arts & Sports  
Complex  
7:30am for Networking  
8am for Breakfast**

**Friday, October 12th  
So Cal Ambassador Rally  
8:30am to 3pm  
Doubletree Hotel**

**Thursday October 18th  
4th Annual Oktoberfest**

**PRESIDENT CIRCLE MEMBERS**

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Store Manager  
Norwalk Walmart

**City of NORWALK**

**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**

**Luxury Inn**  
Narendra R. Bhakta  
562-868-0791  
www.luxuryinnhotel.com/location

**43 Years**

**Vernola's Towing Services**  
Lisa Vernola  
562-864-5800

**37 Years**

**Okimoto's Automotive Center**  
Roy Okimoto  
562-926-7317

**32 Years**

**Sonoco**  
Marie Garnica  
562-921-0881  
marie.garnica@sonoco.com

**14 Years**

**NTMA Training Centers**  
562-921-3722  
http://trainingcenters.org/

**Knights of Columbus**

Norwalk Council 3678  
562-864-9728

**12 Years**

**Northgate Gonzalez Market**  
562-863-8203  
www.northgatemarkets.com

**HUB International Insurance Services Inc.**

Christina Jones  
714-739-3177  
www.hubinternational.com

**8 Years**

**Swift Freight**  
JB  
562-926-0509  
www.swiftcargo.com

**6 Years**

**Advanced Performance Parts**  
Yuri Marquez  
yuri@appincusa.com

**5 Years**

**So-Cal Pizza**  
Ric Ochoa  
562-868-3252  
http://www.scalpizza.com/

**4 Years**

**Mercury Legal Assistance**  
Ana Tornes  
562-868-7744

**2 Years**

**New York Life Insurance**  
Jose Villalobos  
562-291-9082  
jvillaloo@ft.newyorklife.com

**New Members**

**Cruise Planners**

**Anise & Jeannine Jones**  
562-650-8803  
www.artistryoftravel.com

**Leo's Designs**

**Leodina Contreras**  
Los Angeles CA  
323-849-7343  
Leosdesign16@yahoo.com

**Cristina's Precious Flowers & Enchanted Gifts**

**Cristina Villalobos**  
11646 Rosecrans Ave.  
Norwalk CA 90650  
Facebook.com/  
cristinaspreciousflowers

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**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. Cristina Villalobos of Cristina's Precious Flowers & Enchanted Gifts has joined the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. Located at 11646 Rosecrans Blvd in Norwalk, this business has not only flowers but a wonderful variety of gifts for all occasions. If you are looking for a baby shower present, birthday present or just a "because" present, you will find many options at Cristina's. You can find her on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/cristinaspreciousflowers/>.



Cristina Villalobos of Cristina's Precious Flowers & Enchanted Gifts with some of the gifts available in her store.



Karla Butler representing Thompson & Associates receives a 17 year membership renewal plaque from President Trisha.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



We started this year off with a bang with workshops, luncheons and ribbon cuttings. Norwalk Chamber was able to partner with the California Department of Tax and Fees to host a Small Business Tax Seminar right here in Norwalk and free for all to attend. We also helped open the new location for the Armed Forces Recruiting Center by hosting a Ribbon Cutting for the U.S. Army. Then on to our member, Tam's Super Burgers for a great networking lunch. As we move forward into this year, I hope you take advantage of your Norwalk Chamber membership as we provide many different opportunities for you to meet new people and expand your connections in the community.

Our upcoming Annual Business Expo will be one way to do this. On Wednesday, August 8th from 5pm to 8pm, the Business Expo will be on the City Hall Lawn. We are once again partnering with the City of Norwalk Recreation and Park Services for this event. That night will be the last of the Summer Concert Series and will also be National Night Out. Soto will be performing on the center stage and there will be lots of great opportunities to meet the businesses and residents as they attend.

We are once again hosting Congresswoman Linda Sánchez for our Annual State of the Nation Lunch, on Thursday, August 9th at the Doubletree Hotel. Tickets are available for this event for \$30.00 and can be purchased on the Chamber website: [www.norwalkchamber.com](http://www.norwalkchamber.com). Visit our Store to make your purchase.

Moving forward into the year we will be bringing you more opportunities to expand your business network, through After Hours Mixers, Creating Connections Luncheons, Workshops and more! Looking forward to meeting you and seeing you at the next Chamber event.

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

## LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT THROUGH WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

### Small Business Tax Seminar

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the California Department of Tax and Fees (formerly BOE) hosted a Small Business Tax Seminar on Wednesday, July 11th at Norwalk City Hall. This event brought representatives from the Franchise Tax Board, the Internal Revenue Service, Norwalk Chamber and the Department of Tax and Fees to share information with current and potential business owners. Items that were discussed included changes in business tax laws for 2018, types of business ownership and commonly asked questions about filing taxes.

### Service Workshops

Patty Contreras of "The Sterling Insurance and Financial Group" has been providing free service workshop at the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce office all through June and July. These workshops have been to provide answers to questions that you may have about Elder Care, Nursing Homes, Social Security, Medicare, 401K's and more. Using her partners as resources they have been able to steer people in the best direction as they contemplate retiring and being fully prepared financially and medically for those future steps. Be sure and check out the Chamber website for upcoming workshops or email [info@norwalkchamber.com](mailto:info@norwalkchamber.com) to find out when the next series of workshops will be.



Pictured here after an informational workshop are Patty Contreras, The Sterling Insurance and Financial Group, Joshua Arce, American Center for the Aging LP and Ana Tornes, Mercury Legal Assistance.

## U.S. Army Recruiting Center Ribbon Cutting

The U.S. Army Recruiting Center recently moved to 14451 Imperial Hwy, Norwalk CA. To acknowledge this move, the Norwalk Chamber held a Ribbon Cutting Celebration at the new location on July 20th. Many Chamber Board Members and Ambassadors attended this event, along with representatives from our elected officials. Also in attendance were Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez and Council Member Leonard Shryock. Part of the days' festivities including a swearing in ceremony of newly signed up recruits for the U.S. Army. Captain Daniel Conway performed the ceremony while all watched and applauded these future leaders of our Military. We congratulate and thank those who took the oath that day. The center is now open for those individuals who have an interest in serving our Country as part of the United States Army!



Juan Guerrero, Field Representative for Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon presents a certificate of congratulations to SFC Matthew Elizondo.



Board Member Julia Emerson presents a Ribbon Cutting Certificate to Captain Daniel Conway of the United States Army. Pictured next to Captain Conway is SFC Matthew Elizondo.



Presenting a Business Spotlight Certificate from the City of Norwalk. Pictured here are (l to r) Council Member Leonard Shryock, Mayor Jennifer Perez, SFC Matthew Elizondo and Captain Daniel Conway.



Norwalk Chamber Board Members and Ambassadors celebrating with the U.S. Army on their Ribbon Cutting event.



Cutting the Ribbon on the new location for the U.S. Army Recruiting Center.



Captain Daniel Conway with the newly sworn in applicants.



Yahaira Ortiz, representing the 32nd Senate District presents a certificate for the Ribbon Cutting to SFC Matthew Elizondo, Captain Daniel Conway and SSG Anthony D. Ward.



Representing Assembly Member Cristina Garcia is Field Representative Evelyn Nuno, who is presenting a certificate to SFC Matthew Elizondo.



Celebrating with the U.S. Army are Norwalk City Manager Jesus Gomez, City Council Member Leonard Shryock and Mayor Jennifer Perez.



## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### Alba Professional Services/H & R Block

#### John Alba, EA/CAA represents the Norwalk Chamber and H&R Block in Washington D.C.

Our board of director's member John Alba, EA/CAA was honored to be chosen by H&R Block to meet with members of Congress from throughout the country. The reason for the trip was to advocate for minimum professional standards for tax preparers. Unbelievable to most Americans is that there are no minimum standards for tax preparers in almost 40 States in America. Basically in Arizona you can decide that "today I am a tax preparer". No background check or minimum educational training required! California has had this requirement for many years.

John along with other Top Performing H&R Block Franchise Owners was in Washington D.C. for 5 days for training and meetings with members of Congress. John and his team of owners met with Republican and Democratic members of Congress. John's team was given the special privilege to ride the congressional train to travel from the House office to the Senate. They met with Congresswoman Linda Sanchez outside of the Senate chambers. They discussed the issues including the ability to have the IRS turn off the PTIN (Preparer Tax Identity Number) for those unscrupulous preparers. The topic of modernization of contact with the Internal Revenue Service and secure access for professional preparers was also discussed. Congresswoman Sanchez was very receptive to the implementation of these standards and modernization.

John's team of Franchise Owners included both Republican and Democrats. A highlight of their visit to congress was meeting with House Member John Lewis. Congressman Lewis is a Civil Rights icon who marched with Martin Luther King. They were received by Congressman Lewis' Chief of Staff with the disappointing news that Congressman Lewis was not able to make the meeting because he was voting at the time. They were invited into the office of the Congressman and sat at a conference table. They were discussing their agenda with the Chief of Staff when Congressman Lewis opened the office door. An audible gasp was heard from all of the Franchisees. History was walking into the room.

Congressman Lewis was very gracious and listened intently. He agreed wholeheartedly that something needed to be done to protect Taxpayers. We related many stories of how each of us had assisted Taxpayers who had been taken advantage of by unlicensed preparers by either stealing the Taxpayer's identity or preparing returns that were either fraudulent or just poorly prepared costing the taxpayer's thousands of dollars.

After the meeting Congressman Lewis offered to take a group picture. First in his office surrounded by pictures of Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy, Eisenhower and when the Congressman received the Congressional Medal of Honor. He then made the extraordinary gesture of opening the French doors out to his House office balcony to take a photograph with the Capitol dome in the background. A surreal experience and a great honor.

John and his team met with 9 members of Congress and walked almost 6 miles that day traveling from office to office. An extraordinary visit that left John and his team proud of their efforts and hopeful that legislation will eventually be introduced to protect all Taxpayers.

John is an Enrolled Agent with the Internal Revenue Service which allows him to represent clients at audits and the appeal process. 35 years of experience with an award winning staff and a state of the art office located at the corner of Alondra & Pioneer. Open year round a minimum of 6 days per week. Call John today at 562) 868-3518 with any tax issue.



## CalChamber Outlines Positions to Date on November Ballot Propositions

So far, the California Chamber of Commerce has taken positions on six of the 12 propositions that will appear on the November ballot.

Below is a recap of those positions.

Other measures will be considered when the CalChamber Board meets in September.

- **Proposition 3: Initiative Bond Act for Water: Support**

This \$8.877 billion state general obligation bond sponsored by Gerald Meral, director of the Natural Heritage Institute, would finance various infrastructure projects and improvements to water safety and quality, watershed and fisheries, habitat protection programs, water conveyance, groundwater sustainability and storage, and surface water storage and dam repairs.

- **Proposition 5: Protect Proposition 13 Savings: Support**

Sponsored by the California Association of Realtors, the People's Initiative to Protect Proposition 13 Savings allows homeowners over age 55 to transfer their property tax basis to a replacement residence anywhere in the state.

- **Proposition 6: Repeal Gas Tax: Oppose**

The proposition will repeal the CalChamber-supported transportation taxes adopted by the Legislature in 2017 (SB 1), including higher gasoline and diesel excise taxes, a new tax on vehicles and a new tax on zero-emission vehicles. Passage of Proposition 6 will reduce spending on state and local transportation projects by nearly \$5 billion a year, eliminating funds already flowing to cities and counties to fix potholes, make safety improvements, ease traffic congestion, upgrade bridges and improve public transportation.

- **Proposition 8: Price Controls on Private Dialysis Clinics: Oppose**

The United Healthcare Workers is the sponsor of this attempt to set price controls for privately operated kidney dialysis treatment. The measure is intended to create leverage on dialysis clinics to unionize their staff. Its passage will increase costs by shifting dialysis treatments from clinics to more expensive venues, such as emergency rooms or hospitals.

- **Proposition 9: Three States Initiative: Oppose**

Divides California into three new states: Northern California (40 northern and rural counties anchored by the San Francisco Bay Area); California (six central coast counties, including Los Angeles); and Southern California (the 12 remaining southern and San Joaquin Valley counties). Congress would have to approve the formation of the three new states.

- **Proposition 10: Repealing Rent Control Limitations: Oppose**

Misnamed by its tenant advocate supporters as the "Affordable Housing Act," the measure proposes to repeal the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995, which placed limits on locally enacted rent control laws. The measure is sponsored by the president of the Los Angeles AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

#### To Be Considered

Still to be considered by the CalChamber Board are:

- Proposition 1: \$4 billion veterans and affordable housing bond act.
- Proposition 2: Asks voters to ratify the use of revenues being generated by the so-called millionaire's tax approved in 2004 for county mental health programs for permanent housing for the homeless in advance of a \$2 billion bond for that purpose.
- Proposition 4: \$1.5 billion bond for construction, expansion and renovation of children's hospitals.
- Proposition 7: Authorizes Legislature to approve year-round daylight saving time by a two-thirds vote if federal government allows.
- Proposition 11: Requires on-call meal and rest breaks for private sector ambulance employees.
- Proposition 12: Sets new minimum space requirements for veal calves, breeding pigs and egg-laying hens, including cage-free environment for egg-laying hens starting January 1, 2022. Forbids knowing sale of veal, pork or eggs derived from animals not confined in accordance with the requirements.

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