

Women's Leadership Conference

The Norwalk Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Downey Chamber held our inaugural Women's Leadership Conference lunch on September 12th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Downey. This event featured Beatriz Porto's, of the famous Porto's Restaurant family as the keynote speaker along with State Assembly Member Cristina Garcia who provided opening remarks. Well attended by over 65 women business leaders, this kick off for our Women's Leadership Conference event was a great success.

Assembly Member Garcia spoke about the importance of women in the business community, sharing that the percentage of women business owners has increased steadily over the last 11 years by an average of 4.2% each year. Over that same time frame employment for women owned businesses has increased by 21% and total revenue for women owned business has jumped 46% while all businesses as a whole only increased by 36%. The Assembly Member also shared that her staff is available for any support they can provide to all of our business owners.

The Porto's story was shared with the audience first with a video that was put together when the Porto's family was honored with the Elizabeth Burns Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. Rosa (Beatriz's mother) was born on the island of Cuba where she grew up surrounded by the smell of sweet creations made from recipes brought by her mother, who was originally from the Galicia region of Spain. For young Rosa, the kitchen which was always filled with the scents of cinnamon, sugar, and vanilla, was her favorite place to be. Many years later, Rosa's life took an unexpected turn when her beloved Cuba suddenly fell victim to communism. The Porto's made the difficult decision to leave Cuba and as a result, Rosa Porto was immediately fired from her job and Raul Porto Sr. was taken to a labor camp. Out of a job, Rosa relied on her baking skills and began selling cakes out of her house for her neighbors and friends to support her family. Meanwhile, she unknowingly began to build up a great reputation and a loyal customer base. Eventually, the Porto family was granted permission to immigrate to the United States where the next chapter of their family story began.

In 1976, Rosa Porto's opened her first bakery in Echo Park and since that time they have expanded into Downey, Glendale, Buena Park, and more. Plans are in the works for a new location in West Covina and the company currently employs over 1,000 people in these locations. Porto's is also launching a "bake at home" line where you will be able to purchase three of their popular items and bake them in your own home. The family's belief in using quality ingredients, keeping costs reasonable, giving back to their communities and valuing their employees are just some of the reasons the business has continued to be successful. Rosa's three children, Beatriz, Raul Jr. and Margarita have continued the family legacy as they continue to grow their business for the future.

Thank you to Beatriz Porto's and Assembly Member Cristina Garcia for spending time with our women business leaders and helping launch our newly developed Women's Leadership Conference.



Norwalk Chamber members attending the Inaugural Women's Leadership Luncheon.



Helpline Youth Counseling staff at the Women's Leadership Lunch, pictured here are: Gabriela Dheming, Rocio Herrera, Angela Bolton and Renett Baragas.



Ashley Rozatti and Ashley Mejia of Athens Services with speaker Beatriz Porto's.



Getting ready to hear from our speakers at the Women's Leadership Conference, in this group are Teri Bazen, Norwalk La Mirada Plumbing & HVAC, Marjean Clements, SELACO Workforce Development Board and Marisa Perez, Cerritos College Trustee.



Pictured with our speaker are (l to r) Downey Chamber President John Casillas, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Blanca Pacheco, Downey City Council Member, Beatriz Porto's, Norwalk Chamber President, Trisha Gutierrez, QM Fundraising.



Enjoying lunch at the Women's Leadership Conference, Cristina Villalobos, Cristina's Precious Flores and Enchanted Gifts, Ashley Rozatti and Amanda Mejia of Athens Services.

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

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OCTOBER 2018

SAVE THE DATE

**Norwalk La Mirada USD & Little Lake City School
District Candidates Meet & Greet**

**No Cost to
Attend
Refreshments
Provided**



Join Us And Meet the Candidates

**October 30, 2018
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
13200 Clarkdale Ave, Norwalk
Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex**

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

**Norwalk
Chamber of Commerce**

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www.norwalkchamber.com
info@norwalkchamber.com

Facebook:
http://on.fb.me/oB5EUM

**PRESIDENT
TRISHA GUTIERREZ**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDITOR, NCBC
CAREN SPILSBURY**

**CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**

**Wednesday, October 10th
Making Strides for
Breast Cancer Walk**

Cerritos College
3pm to 6pm

**Thursday, October 11th
Patriots Chapel Dedication**

Forest Lawn
4pm to 7pm

**Thursday, October 11th
Multi Chamber
After Hours Mixer**

5pm to 7pm
Farmers & Merchants Bank

**Friday, October 12th
So Cal Ambassador Rally**

8:30am to 3pm
Doubletree Hotel

**Thursday, October 18th
Fall Festival in Oktober**

5:30pm to 10pm
So-Cal Pizza

**Saturday, October 20th
Arturo Sanchez
Halloween Parade**

9am to 1pm

**Wednesday, October 24th
Veterans Scholarship Dinner**

Norwalk Arts & Sports
Complex

**Tuesday, October 30th
School Board Candidates
"Meet & Greet"**

6pm to 8pm
Norwalk Arts & Sports
Complex

**Wednesday, October 31st
"Creating Connections"
Lunch**

Hibachi Grill Buffet
11:45am to 1pm



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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.

43 Years

Norwalk Toyota
Lori D'Alessandro
562-677-1329
www.norwalktoyota.com

29 Years

Norwalk Family Optometry
Dr. John Larcabal
562-868-8233

27 Years

Budget Car Sales & Rentals
Phil Arey
562-407-2800
http://budgetnorwalk.com/

23 Years

**Golden Trowel Norwalk
Masonic Lodge #273**
Mike Winford
562-863-9101

18 Years

Outback Steakhouse
JJ Mastopietro
562-863-8908

15 Years

Kelco Sales
Tracy Polley
562-868-9861

13 Years

Walmart Norwalk
Shylah Ratcliff
www.walmart.com

11 Years

**Norwalk Community
Coordinating Council**
Gordon Stefenhagen
www.nccconline.us

8 Years

Starbucks Coffee
11790 Firestone Blvd.
562-863-7138

5 Years

Bill's Barber Shop
Dave Rosa
562-802-1218

4 Years

Paramount Global Services
Shim Santos
716-903-040

2 Years

**Door of Hope
Youth and Family Resources**
Mercedes Quintanilla
562-972-1927

Hibachi Grill Buffet

Jian Huang
562-929-2111

New Members

TeamLogic IT
Regis Pei
17316 Edwards Rd. Suite B235
Cerritos CA 90701
562-264-9688
rpei@teamlogicit.com

Kiwanis Club of Norwalk
Jack Miranda – Club Coach
14783 Carmenita Rd
Norwalk CA 90650
714-515-0314
kiwanisnorwalk@gmail.com

New Members & Renewals

A Kiwanis Club is coming to Norwalk! Our newest Norwalk Chamber Member, the Norwalk Kiwanis Club is starting up now. This organizations mission is "Kiwanis empowers communities to improve the world by making lasting differences in the lives of children." They are seeking community members who want to get involved in local programs and projects that help children. If you are interested in finding out more about this new club, you can contact Club Coach Jack Miranda at 714-515-0314 or by email to kiwanisnorwalk@gmail.com.

Norwalk Chamber new member TeamLogic IT and owner Regis Pei have already gotten to work helping with computer issues. After attending the After Hours Networking Mixer, Regis connected with another member to fix a problem with their computer the very next day. When you attend events and make those connections you sometimes find that you immediately have new customers, and this was one of those times. TeamLogic IT provides IT solutions, Managed IT services, consulting and more. They can assess your network for cybersecurity threats, and identify the best technology path for your business. Contact Regis at 562-263-9688 or by email rpei@teamlogicit.com to get started with all of your technology needs!

Our members come from many different segments of the business community and their diversity is what keeps our Chamber moving forward. Thank you to all who renewed their members in the month of September for the Norwalk Chamber.



New Member TeamLogic IT, Regis Pei is presented with his new member plaque by President Trisha Gutierrez



President Trisha Gutierrez presents a membership renewal plaque to Rich LeGaspi of TNT Fireworks.



Our host for the After Hours Mixer, Phil Arey of Budget Car Sales & Rentals receives his membership renewal plaque from President Trisha Gutierrez, QM Fundraising.

Stater Bros. Honors over 275 Safe Drivers 10 with over 1 Million Safe Driving Miles at 34th Annual Driver's Safety Awards Breakfast

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA (Sept. 13, 2018) – Stater Bros. Markets is proudly celebrating 82 years of serving southern California families and part of that celebration includes honoring the **275 Truck Drivers** responsible for safely transporting the best and freshest quality merchandise from the company's state-of-the-art distribution center to your local Stater Bros. supermarket.

The 34th Annual Driver's Safety Awards Breakfast was held earlier this year at the Riverside Convention Center. At the breakfast, NINE (9) Drivers were recognized for earning the **"ONE MILLION MILES SAFE DRIVING"** award and ONE (1) Driver was recognized for earning the **"TWO MILLION MILES SAFE DRIVING"** award. To receive these prestigious awards, Stater Bros. Drivers must maintain a record of 15-years of safe driving without a single accident or citation for One Million Miles and 30-years of safe driving without a single accident or citation for the Two Million Mile award. Award recipients are presented with special "Million Mile" jackets and caps to acknowledge their dedication and commitment to road safety.

To date, there are over 156 current and retired "Family" members that have earned the High Honor of **"ONE MILLION MILES SAFE DRIVING"** award and 25 current and retired "Family" members that have earned the **"TWO MILLION MILES SAFE DRIVING"** award.

"I am so proud of the professionalism our Drivers demonstrate daily," stated **Stater Bros. CEO Pete Van Helden**. "Their professionalism not only contributes to the Company's success but to the safety of the communities we serve." Van Helden concluded.

Stater Bros. Markets was founded in 1936 in Yucaipa, California, and has grown steadily through the years to become the largest privately owned supermarket chain in Southern California. The Company currently operates 171 supermarkets, and there are approximately 18,000 members of the Stater Bros. Supermarket Family. Since 2008, Stater Bros. Markets and Stater Bros. Charities have contributed more than \$80 million in food and funds to local Southern California communities. For more information, visit www.staterbros.com.

STATER BROS MARKETS – CELEBRATING 82 YEARS OF SERVING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FAMILIES

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



October is upon us, WOW! The Chamber of Commerce for Norwalk is working and building a great calendar line-up of events to benefit the community and members in many ways. The Ambassador Rally to be held at the DoubleTree Hotel is a great day of learning as we are all ambassadors for our Companies and Organizations we belong to and so much more. The speakers are going to be phenomenal with a slate of topics that will benefit all who attend.

We will have some fun at the Fall Festival in October so you will need to get your tickets early as we are going to fill So Cal Pizza Restaurant with Games, Fun and lots of people. Contact the Chamber office (562-404-0909 or info@norwalkchamber.com) or stop in at So Cal Pizza (12253 Imperial Hwy, Norwalk) to purchase your tickets. You will have refreshments, a Souvenir glass and so much more. Hope to see you all at the Arturo Sanchez Sr. Halloween Parade on the 20th, started at 11am on Norwalk Blvd and Mapledale Ave.

Attend our "Creating Connections" Luncheon to build those business connections! This will be held at Hibachi Grill Buffet for lunch and is a great way to casually come together and build those leads. For families the City of Norwalk has a great Halloween Festival on City Hall Lawn. This family friendly event will be on October 31st, from 6pm to 9pm.

So October is here and there are many ways to connect to your business community through the different events coming your way.

Hope to see you around town,

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

Ribbon Cutting at Cristina's Precious Flowers & Enchanted Gifts

Celebrating with our new member, Cristina's Precious Flowers and Enchanted Gifts, the Norwalk Chamber held a one year anniversary celebration with a ribbon cutting event held on Friday, September 14th. Members and guests who attended were able to see all of the wonderful gifts that Cristina has in her store while enjoying refreshments and finding out more about the business. After presentations of certificates of congratulations were made everyone stepped out to the front of the business for the ribbon cutting ceremony. If you have not visited Cristina's business yet, be sure and stop in and pick up a gift for a friend or loved one. There are so many different things that you can pick from, including flowers!



Helping celebrate the one year anniversary are (l to r) Board Members Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty and Amanda Blanton, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Ambassador Sue Arthur, Chamber President Trisha Gutierrez, QM Fundraising and business owner Cristina Villalobos.



Field Director Ivan Sulic of Supervisor Janice Hahn's office is on hand to provide a beautiful scroll to Cristina Villalobos celebrating her one year anniversary.



Executive Board Member Amanda Blanton of Farmers & Merchants Bank presents Cristina with a certificate of congratulations from the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce.



Taking time to look around and see all of the gifts are Jim Jimenez, City of Norwalk, Norwalk City Council Member Tony Ayala, and Field Director Juan Guerrero from Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon's office.



Norwalk City Council Member Tony Ayala presents a business spotlight award to Cristina Villalobos.



Juan Guerrero of State Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon's office presents a congratulations certificate to Cristina.



Cutting the Ribbon in front of Cristina's store to celebrate their one year anniversary.



Representing Assembly Member Cristina Garcia, Christopher Craig presents a congratulation certificate to Cristina's Precious Flowers & Enchanted Gifts.

Networking in Norwalk

Budget Car Sales & Rentals were the host of the Chamber's After Hours Networking Mixer in September. Many new faces attended this event, including new members Regis Pei of TeamLogic IT, Angie Espinoza of Alpha Business Services and Cristina Villalobos of Cristina's Precious Flowers. Business cards were exchanged while enjoying the refreshments provided by So-Cal Pizza. Special thanks go out to Phil Arey and his staff of Budget Rental Cars for hosting the Norwalk Chamber members!



First arrivals to the After Hours Mixer, including Chamber President Trisha Gutierrez, Vice Mayor Margarita Rios and owner Phil Arey.



Getting to know each other are guest Jorge Tirado, Ana Valencia, NLMUSD School Board, and Chamber Board Member Rich LeGaspi, TNT Fireworks.



Pictured in this photo are Norwalk Chamber President Trisha Gutierrez of QM Fundraising, Chamber Board Member Jose Rios, Berkshire Hathaway, City of Norwalk Vice Mayor, Margarita Rios, Host Phil Arey, owner of Budget Car Sales & Rentals, Ambassadors Sue Arthur and Craig Wicks.



Relaxing at the end of the networking mixer are many Chamber members and guests.

Members in the News

50 Years in Business

Norwalk Chamber member, Nationwide Environmental Services was recognized by the City of Norwalk on their 50th Anniversary as a business, with 35 of those years here in Norwalk. Owner Joe Samuelian was present with many of his family members at the City Council meeting on September 18th to receive a plaque celebrating this achievement. Vanessa Delgado, State Senator for the 32nd District and Ivan Sulic of Supervisor Janice Hahn's office also made presentations to Nationwide Environmental that evening. Congratulations to Joe and his entire family on this great achievement!



Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez and City Council present a plaque to Nationwide Environmental Services owner Joe Samuelian and his family, celebrating 50 years in business.



Pictured with Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez are Janis Gutierrez and her family along with Norwalk La Mirada School Board members Norma Amezcua and Jude Cazares.

Each Norwalk City Council meeting, a student from one of the local schools is invited to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the Council meeting. Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District student Janis Gutierrez of D.D. Johnston Elementary School was at the September 18th meeting to lead the Pledge. This experience allows students to have an opportunity to speak in public and gain a valuable lesson on civic involvement, which are important lessons for today's youth to have. We applaud the City of Norwalk for providing this opportunity to our local students.

City of Norwalk Welcomes new Paramedic Unit

The City of Norwalk welcomed a new paramedic unit to Fire Station 115 with a ribbon cutting celebration and open house at the Fire Station on Monday September 10th. Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez was the MC for the event and shared her thoughts with the attendees before introducing Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn and Los Angeles County Fire Chief Darryl Osby. Many were on hand to hear about the new unit and then went across the street for a visit to the firehouse that this new unit will be placed at. Also visiting Norwalk that day we the County Mobile Stroke Unit and the team that rides along with that unit. The Ribbon Cutting event was hosted by Dr. Jose Fierro and Cerritos College.



Posing with the new Paramedic Unit are (l to r) Norwalk City Council Member Tony Ayala, Norwalk City Manager, Jesus Gomez, Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, President Cerritos College Dr. Jose Fierro, Norwalk Mayor Jennifer Perez and Los Angeles County Fire Chief, Darryl Osby



Getting ready to cut the ribbon and welcome the new Paramedic Unit.



Visiting Station 115 and getting to meet the Fire Fighters who work daily to protect the City of Norwalk.



City of Norwalk thanking Supervisor Janice Hahn for Los Angeles County support in bringing this new unit to Norwalk.



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FALL FESTIVAL

4th Annual Norwalk Chamber FALL FESTIVAL IN OKTOBER
 October 18th, 2018

\$45.00 PER PERSON
 "GROUP SPECIAL" BUY 4 OR MORE AND TICKETS ARE ONLY \$40.00
 21 & Older only!

SUPPORT THE NORWALK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT THIS ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT!
 THE CHAMBER SUPPORTS LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS SUCH AS ANGEL TREE, TAP, AND HELPLINE YOUTH COUNSELING.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 2018
 5:30 PM TO 10:00 PM (LAST CALL 9:30PM)

SO-CAL PIZZA
 12253 Imperial Hwy., NORWALK CA
 TO RSVP AND PURCHASE TICKETS
 CALL 562-404-0909 or Visit: norwalkchamber.com

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