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www.downeychamber.org
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Women in Leadership

The Downey and Norwalk Chambers of Commerce held the first, of hopefully many, Women in Leadership Conferences at the Embassy Suites in Downey. The luncheon held on September 12th featured opening remarks by Assembly Woman Christina Garcia and Beatriz Porto of Porto's Bakery as the keynote speaker. The event could not have been better!! Assembly Woman Garcia was very insightful and shared stories of her youth which shaped her love of government and no one can match the love and enthusiasm that Betty showed when speaking of her business and her family.

The City of Downey is so lucky to have wonderful examples of Women in Leadership. Blanca Pacheco attended our luncheon and lead our diners in the Pledge to our Flag. What was so impressive was the number of women attending that belong to multiple service organizations. So many people doing wonderful work in our community. Thank you, Tatiana Paton, and to her wonderful event staff at the Embassy Suites, a Hilton Property. Isela, Marcella, Rudy and Ramon did an amazing job in taking care of all our special guests.



The Chamber came out in great numbers to support this new event. Showing the love to our fabulous speakers are Chamber Members Cindy Kovach of US Bank, Daniel Andrade of Beautiful Homes Realty, Chamber President John Casillas of Framers and Merchants Bank, Downey City Council Member Blanca Pacheco, Keynote Speaker Betty Porto of Porto's Bakery, Marianna Pacheco of Downey Adult School, Shelia Tetangco-Bartolone of Financial Partners Credit Union, Joanna Peterson of Gallatin Dental Group, Carrie Uva, Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate, and Linda Gomez of MR and Associates.



The Chamber "Ladies of Leadership" take a moment to thank Tatiana Paton (far right) the head of the Special Events Team at the Embassy Suites. Telling her how wonderful the meal and service was are Blanca Pacheco of the Downey City Council, Shelia Tetangco-Bartolone, Joanna Peterson, and Cindy Kovach.

Downey Business

--STAFF--

Michael Calvert, Executive Director Sarah Sellers, Administrative Assistant Leticia Arriaga, Events Coordinator

DOWNEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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The board of directors meets at the chamber office on the third Monday of each month at 12:00 noon.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, October 9 @ 6:30 pm City Council Meeting City Hall Council Chamber

> Thursday, October 11 @ 5:30 pm-7:30 pm Multi-Chamber Mixer

Location: Farmers & Merchant Bank 9001 Firestone Blvd. Downey RSVP by: Thursday, October 4th to Amanda.Blanton@FMB.com

Friday, October 12 @ 9:00 am-3:00 pm Board of Directors Retreat Location: Financial Partners Credit Union 7800 Imperial Hwy, Downey

Monday, October 15 @ 4:00 pm Christmas Parade Committee Meeting Location: Downey Chamber of Commerce, 11131 Brookshire Ave., Downey,

Wednesday, October 17 @ 12:00 pm Ambassador Committee Meeting Location: BRB 1140 Downey Ave., Downey

> Tuesday, October 23 @ 6:30 pm City Council Meeting City Hall Council Chamber

Monday, October 29 @ 4:00 pm Christmas Parade Committee Meeting Location: Downey Chamber of Commerce, 11131 Brookshire Ave. Downey,

Thursday, October 30 @ 3:30 pm Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Anniversary Celebration

Trading Post: 9956 Lakewood Blvd, Downey

Wednesday, October 31 @ 12:00 pm City Affairs

Topic: Going Green Speaker: Ronald Long of Sunrun Location: Downey Chamber of Commerce 11131 Brookshire Ave., Downey

President's Message



November 6th is election day! The Downey Chamber would like to definitely encourage all our members and supporters to please get out and vote. Some important dates to know: the last day to register to vote is October 22, if you are filing an absentee ballot, you must postmark your ballot 7 days prior to election day.

Though it is a mid-term election, in California we are elected a new Governor, a new Lieutenant Governor, and a Senate race will be determined.

Also, our representative to Congress is up for election. More importantly, here in Downey, we will be electing our new State Senator and there is a race for our local Assembly Member. In the Downey, District 4 they are electing a new City Council Member and District 3 is voting for a new School Board Representative. But you all know that due to the numerous signs that are on most of the lawns in the neighborhoods.

The Chamber is very fortunate to have a great working relationship with all the elected officials we interact with. They support our events, provide exciting recognition for our members and local business, and work with us on so many of our charitable endeavors. This is why the Chamber is such a supporter of the elective process. So please help us out, please vote and consider your candidates commitment to our community. I know I'm excited for the results!!

-- John F Casillas, President Downey Chamber of Commerce

INCREASE YOUR EXPOSURE!

Advertise in Downey Business, the official publication of the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

Circulation 25,000. Call Jazmin at (562) 904-3668.

Downey Symphony Kicks Off Season with Latin Music



The Downey Symphony kicks off its historic 60th season with a very special concert on Saturday, October 20. The concert salutes Downey's rich and diverse Latin community. Music by the Cuban composer Ernesto Lecuona, by the Argentine Alberto Ginastera, and everybody's favorite Ravel's "Bolero" is on the program. And the Symphony is flying the distinguished Spanish composer Oscar Navarro to Downey to be present for the American premiere of his new clarinet concerto, performed by the virtuoso Belgian clarinetist David Van Maele.

Navarro dedicated his "Downey Overture" to the Orchestra, which performed its world premiere in 2011. The piece has

since been performed across the United States and in Europe, spreading Downey's fame as a home for culture and the arts. The "Overture" will lead off the evening's program.

An exhibit of work by local artists will be presented in the Downey Theatre lobby in partnership with the Downey Arts Coalition. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Music Director Sharon Lavery will talk with Navarro at 7:15 pm, and the concert begins at 8 pm. A complimentary champagne reception follows the concert so that all patrons can join in celebrating the Symphony's 60th season, mingle with friends, neighbors, and family, and meet the composer, Maestra Lavery, and Orchestra musicians.

Tickets are on sale at the Downey Theatre Box Office in person or by phone at (562) 861-8211, 11-5 T-F, or on line at www.downeysymphony.org. Tickets are only \$35 or \$30 (depending on seating area), and student tickets are \$10. Free parking adjacent to Theatre. Don't miss this great evening with your very own Downey Symphony!

Executive Director's Message



TRICK OR TREAT!!! Okay, we have a few weeks left, but it's always fun to say. But October is very important in many ways. On October 10th, I have the distinct honor of being installed as President of the Downey Kiwanis Club, the Los Amigos Chapter. This service organization has been around for decades and has served the community by supporting countless charities. But most importantly, Kiwanis is about making life better for local children. Thousands of dollars are donated to high school seniors and assist them with realizing their college dreams. I want to thank the men and women who had the faith in me to not "mess this up" and I promise to do my best!!"

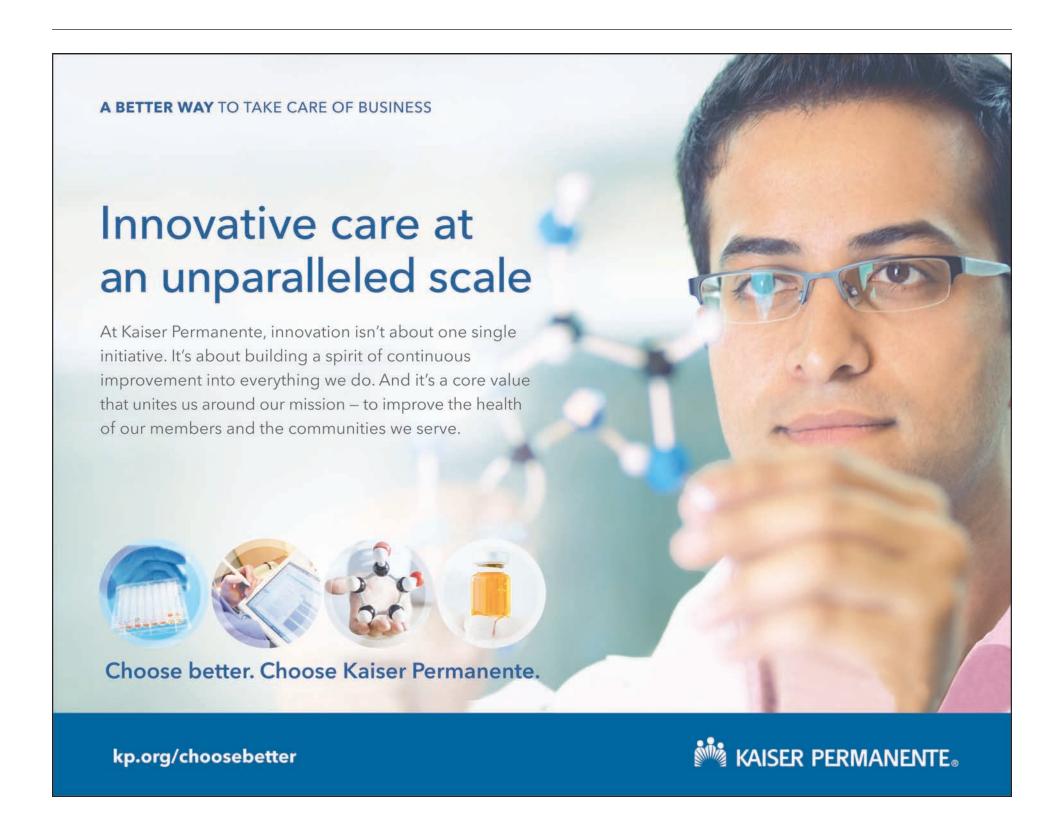
There are so many things happening in Downey during the month of October! The Dia De Los Muertos festival is on October 29 at the Downey Theater. Free admission, free parking and the Downey Chamber will have a booth so please come by and say "Hello"! The Parks and Recreation Department will again hold the Downey Pumpkin

Patch and Halloween Carnival at Apollo Park on October 31st from 5 to 9 p.m. This event has a Pet Costume Contest, a Human Costume Contest a Glow Walk along with free games and some free treats/food as well. This is a wonderful family event and I know the kids really look forward to it.

The last thing I want to mention is that the Chamber held the first, of hopefully many, Women in Leadership Conference. The event was held at the Embassy Suites with California Assembly Women, Christina Garcia, and Porto's owner, Betty Porto as the keynote speakers. You can see by the photos on the front page it was a great event which we will repeat in January. So please watch for information on our website and Facebook Page.

Have a great start to Fall and TRICK OR TREAT!!!

-- Michael Calvert, Executive Director Downey Chamber of Commerce



Body Soul Elite Ribbon Cutting

Looking to improve your mind, body, and spirit? Look no further than the newest fitness location in Downey, Body Soul Elite located at 8214 Phlox Street. Daniel Barillas is the owner/trainer and brings his new approach to fitness supporting not only the body, but also attending to your mental and emotional states as well. His classes are effective and gets you on a routine that will improve your overall condition. Body Soul Elite reaches out to clients located in Paramount as well. It was a special event that which brought out the Executive Director and President of the Paramount Chamber. Daniel has been a Downey Chamber Ambassador for a few years now and it is wonderful that we can now support his amazing new location!!



Let's get ready to EXERCISE!!! It's all smiles from the many Chamber Directors, Ambassadors and other Downey well wishers at the opening of Body and Soul Elite! Helping Daniel Barillas, owner/trainer (center, with scissors) are Paramount Chamber President Jon Tanklage, Paramount Chamber Executive Director Kyle Miller, Downey Chamber President, John Casillas of Farmers and Merchants Bank, Downey Chamber Immediate Past President, Joanna Peterson of Gallatin Dental, Downey Chamber Board Treasurer, David Gafin and former Chamber President, Michael Murray.

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Congratulations and Thank You!

The following businesses have celebrated another year as members of the Downey Chamber of Commerce. Businesses listed are those that renewed last month and are marking another year with us. This is a monthly feature of Downey Business. All members will be recognized during the course of a year. The Downey Chamber thanks you for your support.

57 Years

Downey Escrow Co.

32 Years
Soroptimist International of

Downey

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Agency, L.L.C.

12 Years
Association of Los Angeles
County School Administrators

36 Years

Century 21-Home & Investment

24 Hour Real Estate

27 Years Penske Toyota 15 Years

Southland Credit Union

<u> 6 Years</u>

rean c

Chirco Heating & Air Conditioning

36 Years

Keep Downey Beautiful

<u>25 Years</u>

14 Years

Water Replenishment <u>6 Years</u>

District

West Downey Plaza

<u>34 Years</u>

25 Years Crystal Properties

14 Years

<u> 5 Years</u>

Albertsons Downey Unified School

District

New Members

You have just joined the most prestigious business organization in the Mid-Cities area. We are happy with your decision to do so and welcome you! There are many benefits to being a member of the Downey Chamber of Commerce, chief among them networking, advertising opportunities, seminars, legislative advocacy, and community recognition. Attention, established members! Send a note or stop by and say hello to these new members. You both will be glad you did.

Brian Heyman (Associate Member) Downey, CA 90241

Larry McGrew Construction

Downey Exterminators
www.downeyexteminators.com
Javier Munoz, Owner
9730 Washburn Rd
Downey, CA 90241
(562)401-5000

Macy's
www.Macys.com
Daisy Velasco, V.P. Store
Manager
400 Stonewood Street
Downey, CA 90241
(562)862-2880

Lifetime Members

Steve Allen

Diane Boggs

Dominick DiMario

Maria Larkin

Susan Nordin

Meredith Perkins

Jim Reynolds

Mary Stauffer

David R. Gafin

Thank you for your continued participation and support!

-The Downey Chamber of Commerce-

Ambassador Profile



For the month of October, we are featuring Ana Fuentes who is a Personal Banking Officer with Financial Partners Credit Union. Ana works at the Gateway Office located at the corner of Firestone Blvd. and Downey Ave. Fuentes has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with and emphasis in Finance from Cal State University of Northridge. Her 11 years background in financial services makes her the perfect candidate to process your home, auto, or personal loans. She is also proficient in handling your deposit and credit card needs. Additionally, she also holds her real estate license from Cerritos College and is a Notary Public.

As proud as Ana is of her professional accomplishments, her heart belongs to her 3 beautiful children. Isabella who is 10, Alexandria who is 9, and Isaiah who is 3 are really the focus of her life. The two older girls are students in the Downey Unified School District. "Coming from El Salvador, I learned that spending time with family is what's really important!" Ana also likes to travel, going to movies, and theme parks with her children.

When asked about her favorite part of being an Ambassador, Ana answered "it's the networking opportunities and expanding her influence in the Downey Business Community. Her goal is to build lasting relationships with Chamber Members, business owners and their employees. With a product line serving both business and personal clients' needs Ana is a natural at putting together a great financial plan.

Ana enjoys romance movies and if she won a million dollars she would travel the world and help people in need. Her favorite quote is "Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty and persistence" words spoken by Colin Powell. The person who has impacted her life the most would be her Grandmother. Ana explains that she raised her and showed her the moral values and principles which has shaped her into the person she is today. To sum up Ana in just one sentence would come from her own personal philosophy, "Always give the best of your abilities and be open to change." Thank you Ana Fuentes for serving as a Chamber Ambassador!!

Chamber on the Town



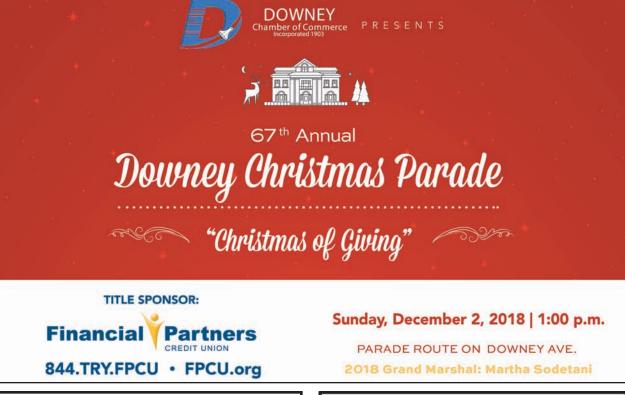
Has it been one year already?!?! Enjoying the One Year Anniversary Event at Rock & Brew in Stonewood Center are Chamber President John Casillas, Immediate Past President, Joanna Peterson, Rock & Brew's General Manager, T.J. Cannon and Chamber Board Member Mariana Pacheco.



Thanking Portos Owner, Betty Porto (second from right) for giving such an inspiring presentation are Women Leaders from Financial Partners Credit Union, Natalie Mattison, Marita Villarreal and Sheila Tetango-Bartolone.











Service Animals at Work: Know the Rules or it Might Come Back to Bite You!



Service animals occupy an important place in society. These companions help employees with a wide range of challenges to thrive at work. However, like most areas in the workplace, service animals are governed by complicated federal and state regulatory schemes. It is critical for employers to understand these rules, both for their own benefit and for their employee's welfare. When in doubt, employers should always follow the law, federal or state, that provides greater protection to the employee.

Federal Law: Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") is the federal statute governing service animals. The most common type of service animal is man's best friend, a dog. However, miniature horses can qualify as service animals as well. The service animal must have been trained to do specific work that helps the disabled person. This help can come in a wide variety of ways, including: warning about high or low blood sugar levels, detecting seizures, or helping a visually impaired person navigate. The service animal's work must be directly related to the person's disability. For example, a dog could be trained to help pull a disabled employee's wheelchair.

The use of service animals does not end at physical disabilities. For example, a dog can learn to sense when a person is having a panic attack and to take action to comfort that person. However, the dog must be trained to take some specific action to combat the panic attack. If the dog only provides a general sense of comfort it may qualify as an emotional support animal instead. Emotional support animals fall outside the protections of the ADA and employers are not required to accommodate them under Federal law.

Employers must make reasonable accommodations for employees' disabilities, so long as doing so does not create an undue burden on the employer. Allowing service animals on company property is generally considered a reasonable accommodation. However, the reality is that the function and purpose of certain types of workplaces can make it difficult to provide accommodations to an employee in the form of a service animal. Consider a laboratory that requires the maintenance of a sterile environment as an example. This fundamental characteristic of the workplace can make having a service animal onsite an undue burden. Service animals can also be excluded if their presence fundamentally alters the goods or services offered to the public.

Employees shoulder some of the burden as well. The employee must always have control of the service animal. Employers and fellow employees are not required to endure unacceptable behavior for service animals, such as loud uncontrollable barking, aggressive outbursts, or a service animal that is not housebroken. The employee is also solely responsible for caring for the service animal, and must ensure that the animal has all of its required vaccinations.

California Law: Fair Employment and Housing Act

The Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA") governs service animals in California. The FEHA's protections are similar to the ADA. However, they are broader in some respects. The main difference between the two laws concerns support animals.

An assistive animal, as it is called under the FEHA, includes every kind of animal governed by the ADA. However, the FEHA may force employers to accommodate support animals as well. Support animals provide emotional, cognitive, or other similar support to a disabled person. Unlike a service animal under the ADA, a support animal is not required to be trained to undertake some specific action.

Whether an employer has to allow a support animal on the property as a reasonable accommodation is determined on a case by case basis. The employer and the employee seeking the accommodation must engage in an interactive process to determine if a support animal is needed. Prior to allowing a support animal into the workplace as a reasonable accommodation, the employer can require the employee to provide a letter from the employee's healthcare provider explaining the employee's disability and why the employee needs a support animal. An annual recertification stating that the employee still needs the support animal can be required by the employer. The employer can also seek assurances that the support animal is free of offensive odors, has behavior that is appropriate for the workplace, and does not endanger the health or safety of anyone at work.

Conclusion

It is essential for companies to understand and follow the rules concerning service and support animals. These wonderful animals allow disabled employees to excel at work, and are a valuable member of any company's team. Understanding both the federal and state requirements will ensure that an employer is complying with the law and providing a supportive environment for all employees. Consult your employment counsel for assistance navigating the requirements of the ADA and the FEHA so the law does not take a bite out of your business.

Colin P. Calvert is a partner in the Irvine, California office of the labor and employment law firm Fisher & Phillips LLP. Please do not hesitate to contact him if you have any questions or seek additional information. Mr. Calvert may be reached at (949) 798-2160.



In honor of Mr. Ken Thompson



A great memory of the Rock & Brew Grand Opening and ribbon cutting was this picture of WW2 Veteran Mr. Ken Thompson who was honored by KISS Band members Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley. Also being a band "groupie" is Ken's daughter Kathy Thompson Broy. Ken passed away earlier this year at the age of 101, but on this day he was rocking it with KISS and we here at the Chamber really miss having him at our events.



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