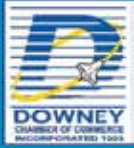


Downey Business



February 2018 • Volume 46, No. 2

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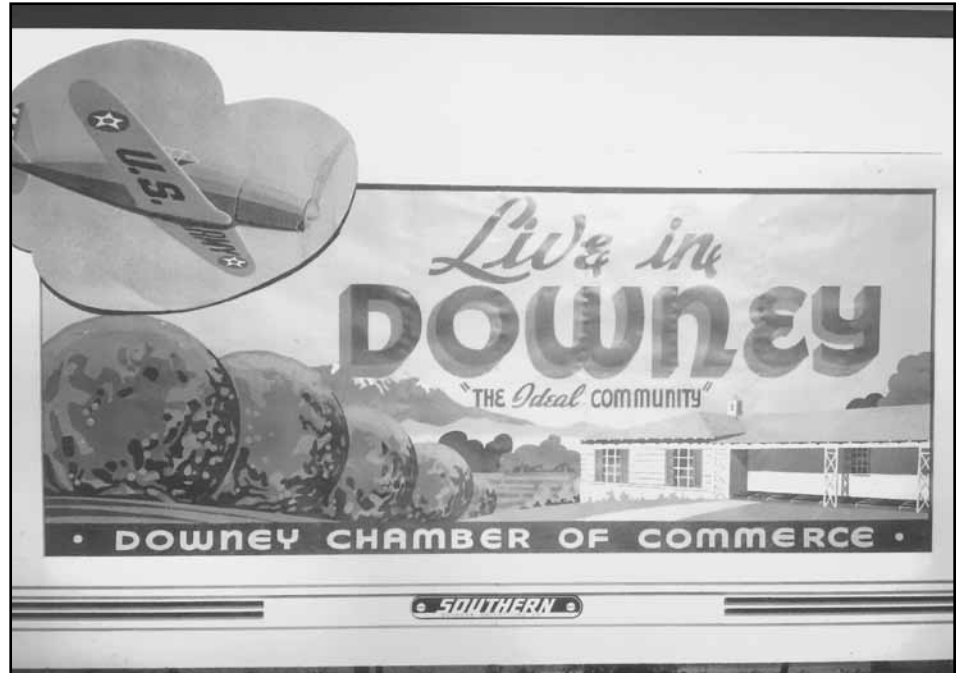
Official Publication of the Downey Chamber of Commerce

Downey Chamber of Commerce Celebrating 115 Years

This is an exciting year for the Chamber as we celebrate 115 years of service to the Business Community of Downey. We thought it would be fun to share photos archived at the office and we will continue to showcase what the Chamber has been doing since 1903!!



50's screen sensation, Jayne Mansfield adds Hollywood glamour to the ground breaking of the "new" Chamber location on Brookshire Ave.



"Live in Downey." "The Ideal Community." The Downey Chamber has continually promoted the value of living and doing business in Downey!



Just like we did for the Chamber remodel during 2017, our Chamber members came together in the 50's to "spruce the Chamber up!"



Firestone and Downey Ave in the early 60's.



The Chamber and the Rio Hondo Country Club worked closely together even in 1933!



The first (and maybe last) Downey Chamber of Commerce Band in 1925.

Downey Business

--STAFF--

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

DOWNEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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www.downeychamber.com

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

Message from the President



Hi Everyone!! I hope you all had a great January and that your resolutions are still going strong in the New Year!!

I've been thinking a lot about the resolutions I made last July as I became Chamber President. The most important one by far was to help continue the great relationship between Downey business and the residents of Downey.

If you own a Downey Business, I greatly encourage you to get involved. You can start with the Chamber, but there are also many other organizations that can use your help. Reaching out to other Chamber members is a great way to spread the word about your company. As someone that has worked here for many years, Downey has provided me a second home. Encouraging others to get involved in my "second" home has been one of my favorite activities!!

One good example of this cooperation between Chamber members is happening with Downey Adult School and Gallatin Dental. These two members formed a partnership when the Adult School was looking for help in creating a Dental School facility and Gallatin Dental is always trying to find the best educated students for their practice. Together these two organizations worked as a team to set up a wonderful learning facility and create job placement opportunities. The benefit to the students and to the Community makes me very proud, not only because I work for Gallatin Dental, but as Chamber President, this is the type of "Resolution" I hope all our members could be a part of.

As 2018 continues, I encourage Downey businesses to volunteer or create a host event where you can reach out to the community. Everyone here at the Chamber would enjoy helping to create your event. Our job is to get the word out, not only about us, but to feature your business as well. Together we can keep our Community as strong as ever!!

-- Joanna Peterson, President
Downey Chamber of Commerce

Calendar of Events

Monday, February 12 @ 4pm
Street Faire Committee Meeting
11131 Brookshire Avenue

Tuesday, February 13 @ 6:30pm
City Council Meeting
City Hall Council Chamber

Wednesday, February 14 @
11:30am-1pm
Women In Business
Topic: Estate Planning Speaker Carrie Uva
Location: Frantones Restaurant 10808 Alondra Blvd., Cerritos

Wednesday, February 21 @ Noon
Ambassador Committee Meeting
Downey Pizza Company
9026 Florence Ave., Downey

Monday, February 26 @ Noon
Board of Directors Meeting
City Hall Council Chamber

Tuesday, February 27 @ 6:30pm
City Council Meeting
City Hall Council Chamber

Wednesday, February 28 @ Noon
Anniversary Luncheon
Embassy Suites (Regency Room)
8425 Firestone Blvd., Downey
Reservations \$40

Rep. Roybal-Allard takes part in Downey TLC Family Resource Center Meeting

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard took part in a Collaborative Meeting at the Downey TLC Family Resource Center to discuss the upcoming 2020 Census. She spoke at the meeting about her work as a US Congresswoman, including on the Appropriations Committee, as the lead House Democrat on the Dream Act and as a supporter of DACA recipients. The Congresswoman thanked the TLC staff for all their hard work within the School District and the Community. The discussion included the importance of the upcoming 2020 US Census and the need to make sure the Census gives a full and fair count of those who live in our communities.



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (third from left) meets with other Collaborative Meeting participants, including (left to right) TLC Coordinator Luz Perez, TLC Assistant Olivia Gutierrez, Downey School Board Member Nancy Swenson, Parks and Recreation Director Pamela Passow, and the meetings guest speaker Stephanie Molen, Director of Partnerships at the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking.

Executive Director’s Message



The Chamber is really planning many things for the upcoming late winter/ early Spring season. One of my favorite annual events is The Anniversary Luncheon that will be held on February 28 at the Embassy Suites. What makes this such a special time for the Chamber is that we get a chance to recognize companies along with so many of the business leaders that volunteer and assist the Chamber with all the events that we work on throughout last year.

At the luncheon we will announce the small business and the large business of the year. This is such an honor for the Chamber to show appreciation to these deserving companies. Also, we acknowledge all those businesses that are celebrating a significant anniversary with our organization. This year we have one of our Banks celebrating 60 years with the Chamber!! The Chamber will also honor our Director of the Year, the Ambassador of the Year, and our Volunteer of the Year. It is a wonderful afternoon when we get to tell so many of those members how important they are to us and we could not be successful without them!

Please check our website or Facebook page for all the upcoming events. The Anniversary Lunch, The State of the City Lunch, and of course all the planning for the upcoming Street Faire. These are great chances for business networking, seeing old business friends and meet some “new folks”! You never know when or where you are going to meet your future big client or that person who can help take your business to the next level! Could be at our next event, hope to see you there.

-- Michael Calvert, Executive Director
Downey Chamber of Commerce



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* "Poor Nutrition Increases Sickness Absence 50%," Workplace Savings and Benefits, accessed October 22, 2012.

Members in the News



The Downey Lion’s Club held their annual speech contest where local high school students compete for College Scholarships. This year’s panel of judges were made up of Chamber Member and City Council Woman Blanca Pacheco, Event Chair and Chamber President Joanna Peterson, Mayor Sean Ashton, and Chamber Executive Director, Michael Calvert. In the front row are the three contestants that spoke on the topic of Ethics and Integrity.



It looks like almost all of Downey got together at Downey First Baptist Church to participate in L.A. County’s annual Homeless Count. This is an important step to help our City get needed resources to help with this part of our population. Chamber Members joined County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard along with Mayor Sean Ashton, Mayor Pro-Tem Rick Rodriquez, and Council Members Alex Saab, Blanca Pacheco, and Fernando Vasquez.

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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.

70 Years

Andrew Rancho Del Norte
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Downey Plumbing, Heating
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Pina Pizza House

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Pacific Western Bank

33 Years

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Inc.

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SELACO - WIB

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26 Years

Best Western Norwalk Inn

23 Years

Exchange Club Family
Support Center

20 Years

Piazza McDonalds

17 Years

Tulaphorn, Inc./dba
McDonald's

15 Years

Norm's Restaurant

8 Years

Porto's Bakery
Makarma Travel
Farmers Insurance District
Office - Corral

5 Years

Henry Huen

4 Years

Pacheco Realty & Associates

3 Years

Narai Thai Cuisine
Vallarta Supermarkets
Eipros

2 Years

Bar Louie
Intero Real Estate Service
Ku'uip 'O Hula
Luis Butcher Shop
State Farm Insurance - E.
Sanchez
Yogurtland

Ambassador Profile



This month's Ambassador Profile is Troy Busher. Troy is an amazing representative who works with PIH Health as a Facility Manager. He has been with PIH for over 7 years after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministry at BIOLA University. Busher is continuing his education with his current Master's studies at Talbot University.

Born in Oxnard, Troy is currently single but maybe not for long - we will be checking with Brooke Rose for an update. He enjoys anything outdoors, camping, off-roading, and shooting sports. Along with being active in the outdoors, his favorite book is "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis and his favorite movie is "Shawshank Redemption".

"Easy things are easy. Hard things are hard so do the hard things in life and get good at it!" is a favorite philosophy of Troy's. Having a million dollars would only allow Busher to quit work, finish his Doctorate Degree and then use the remaining funds to make a difference in the World. Troy feels a strong connection with Southern California. If he could live anywhere, he would split his time between the beach and the mountains, but both locations would be very nearby.

Troy has been a very active member of our Ambassador group. He attends the monthly luncheon, ribbon cuttings, and is a big help to everyone here in the office. His involvement in the Chamber and Ambassador Group is based on Troy's wanting to make a difference in our community. He enjoys partnering with the other Ambassadors and giving back to all businesses that support PIH. He is also a great steward and promotes Downey at every opportunity.

Troy credits his parents as the people who have had the most impact on his life and enjoys the positive influences from Sandy and best friends Tommy, Norm, and Paul. He believes that you should live everyday as if it were your last and try and leave blessings to those around you. Thank you Troy for all your hard work and keeping the Chamber connected with our valuable partner PIH Health.

Welcome 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.

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James West,
General Manager
www.mimiscafe.com
8455 Firestone Blvd.
Downey CA 90240
(562) 862-2828

Energy Consulting Group
Devlin Duarte, Chairman
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Downey, CA 90241
(866) 209-9970

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US Computek Ribbon Cutting

Everyone gathered at the ribbon cutting for the Chamber's newest member US Computek. Located at 10238 Lakewood Blvd, the company has been open since 2010 and does work with low voltage wiring installation. The Owner, Humberto Correa, explained that they specialize in network infrastructure, fiber and telephone wireless access points. They work with only commercial clients and they enjoy working with small companies along with Fortune 500 clients.

Refreshments were provided by Green Olive and everyone in attendance enjoyed a wonderful event.

US Computek is open between the hours of 8 to 5 and you can follow them on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/uscomputek/>



"WELCOME TO THE DOWNEY CHAMBER!" Coming together to welcome US Computek. com to the Chamber are members of the City Council, Chamber Officers and Directors, along with many happy US Computek clients.



The Chamber Board of Director and Chamber Ambassadors came out to support our new member US Computek. Saying "Best of Luck" are Jeannie woods of Albertson's Market, Rain Neg of Epros, Maria Fernandez of Sunrise Realty, Ryan Smith of US Computek, Joanna Peterson of Gallatin Dental, and City Councilman Rick Rodriquez.



The team from US Computek welcomed the Chamber to their North Downey location. A big THANK YOU to Humberto Correa and staff for creating such an excellent event!!

Introducing Bataré, The First Rock N’ Roll Taiko Drumming Show Live on Stage

Performs at the La Mirada Theatre on February 24th, 2018



Bataré, an all new live show introducing audiences to a world of modernized Taiko drumming, will perform at the La Mirada Theatre on February 24th, 2018 at 8:00pm. Eleven performers including an orchestral string section consisting of award winning Juilliard Cellist, Eru Matsumoto, and accomplished Carnegie Mellon University graduate Isabella Weiss, bring a fresh approach to musical theatre while accomplishing extraordinary physical feats and demonstrating extreme technical command over drums that tower above the audience. Similar to the genre-breaking productions Cirque du Soleil and Blue Man Group, Bataré bolsters a kinetic and breath-taking live show. Characters discover a new world where they leave their indelible mark on it forever.

La Mirada Theatre Box Office: 714-994-6310 / www.LaMiradaTheatre.com

“Bataré is a must-see show for a new century,” Nick Wylie, Executive Producer of Bataré. “This is a never-before-seen blend of adrenaline, drumming, elegant choreography, captivating storytelling, and an orchestral approach to rock ‘n’ roll, live on stage.” Bataré’s creative team of composers and prodigious melodists have attracted a cast of top flight international talent to deliver an extraordinary performance.

The cast includes a diverse mix of Taiko drummers and percussion masters; alumni from Berklee College of Music in Boston and Musician’s Institute in Los Angeles, an accomplished Japanese born composer and performer noted for her work in multiple award winning percussion shows, including TAP DOGS, a music therapist from Los Angeles, CA and a professional percussionist originally from Guam. All come together on stage for a show that goes the extra mile.

“Bataré is something that’s never been done before on stage, and it’s wild!” says Jay, a Blue Man Group alumni.

For more information and performance schedule, visit TetsuProductions.com

###

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Jumping rope	10 min - 30 min
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Breathing	5 min - 15 min
Art class	3 hours
Basketball	30 min - 1 hour

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Women in Business

January's meeting of the Women in Business group was dedicated to getting prepared for the upcoming tax season. We were fortunate enough to welcome John Alba of H & R Block as he reviewed the new tax laws which will affect us in 2018 and 2019. He also provided the audience with wonderful tips on getting our tax information in order and recommended you make an appointment to visit our tax preparer as soon as possible. Thank you to Frantones in Norwalk/Cerritos who served an amazing luncheon!! As always, the food was wonderful and their staff can only be described as, "the best"!!



Enjoying their Frantones meal are Karina Veliz of Veliz Empire Realty and Crystal Hayes Hall of My Legal Team.



Wondering if this business lunch is tax deductible are Amanda Blanton of Farmers & Merchants Bank, Holly Noble of 4 the Love of Horses, Jazmin Gomez of the Downey/Norwalk Patriot, and our guest speaker John Alba of H & R Block.



Here's a very happy and "tax informed" group!! Thank you Frantones for a wonderful lunch and also a big "Thank you for getting us ready for tax season," to John Alba and H & R Block.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Lunch & Learn

Wednesday, February 14th, 2018
11:30-12:00 Networking
12:00-1:00 Lunch and Presentation

Location:
Frantones in Cerritos: 10808 Alondra Blvd.

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We will have networking and a speaker who will talk about Estate Planning.

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High Times at Work? A Refresher for Employers on Marijuana Use by Employees



In 2016, California voters narrowly passed Proposition 64, which legalized the recreational use of marijuana. This law does not prevent private or public employers from having or enforcing workplace policies addressing the use or presence of drugs in an employee's system, such as marijuana. However, under federal law, marijuana use has remained illegal since 1970 under the Controlled Substances Act.

Just a few days into 2018, Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued a memorandum rescinding an Obama-era memorandum that took the position that the federal government would not prosecute marijuana users in states in which the substance had been legalized. Sessions' memorandum prompts a quick refresher on the issue because it declares open season on recreational marijuana users for federal prosecutors, regardless of state law.

What Does Session's Recent Memorandum Mean for Employers?

Not too much. Sessions' memorandum simply makes clear that federal prosecutors can exercise their discretion when to prosecute marijuana users under federal law, despite state laws legalizing the substance. The renewed ability to do so will likely not lead to a significant increase in the number of marijuana related prosecutions. However, employers will do well to keep themselves up to date on this ever changing issue and consult with employment counsel for advice.

What Action Can Employers Take to Insulate Their Workplace from Legal Use of Marijuana?

Because marijuana is legal for recreational purposes in California, employers cannot prevent employees from using marijuana by saying such conduct is against state law. However, as briefly mentioned above, employers are not prevented from maintaining and enforcing zero tolerance policies against the manufacture, cultivation, distribution, possession or use of illegal drugs. The leeway granted by Proposition 64 allows employers to continue to maintain drug-free workplace policies. Thus, employers can also prohibit the use of marijuana by employees while on the employer's premises and while performing their work duties while away from the employer's premises. An employer's premises includes its parking lot and grounds.

Employers do not have to stop there. They may want to consider including language in their drug policies that prevent employees from coming to work with marijuana, or more precisely, THC, in their system. By framing the policy to prohibit marijuana from being in one's system, employers can avoid the uncertainty that arises when a policy simply prohibits being "under the influence of marijuana." Whether one is under the influence is subjective and difficult to determine. However, a drug test can objectively determine whether marijuana is in an employee's system.

How Can an Employer Determine if An Employee Has Marijuana in His or Her System?

Employers have the right to subject applicants and employees to drug testing. In California, employers can require applicants to submit to drug testing as a condition of employment. After this point, employers can lawfully require an employee to be drug tested if the employer has "reasonable suspicion" of drug use. Reasonable suspicion may arise based on a supervisor's observation, changes in an employee's behavior, or even after a work-related accident. Be careful. An accident only gives an employer reasonable suspicion if the accident could have been caused by drug use. Random testing is permitted for employees covered by the United States Department of Transportation's drug testing regulations.

Putting it All Together

Recreational use of marijuana is now legal in California. However, it remains illegal under federal law. The federal government has re-upped its hostile position toward recreational marijuana use.

California employers are free to maintain and enforce zero tolerance drug policies that prohibit even legal marijuana use. However, because marijuana remains in a person's system for a much longer period of time than alcohol, employers should take the time to consider to what extent marijuana use will be prohibited. Employers may want to consider their business needs, the preferences of consumers, the ability to find and retain talent, and any applicable state or federal law on the issue.

Colin P. Calvert is a partner in the Irvine, California office of the labor and employment law firm Fisher Phillips. 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.



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Anniversary Luncheon

Wednesday, February 28th, 2018

You are invited to our Annual Anniversary Luncheon
to honor our members celebrating special anniversaries.

Location:
Embassy Suites by Hilton-Downey 8425 Firestone Blvd.
Downey, Ca 90241

Time: 12:00 Noon
In: The Regency Room

Reservations: \$40

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11131 Brookshire Ave., Downey, CA 90241
562.923.2191 www.DowneyChamber.com



STREET FAIRE
SATURDAY,
MAY 5TH, 2018

time to be determined.

The Downey Street Faire has been a staple of fun faire in the community for over 20 years. There will be live entertainment and booths galore! From business booths, food booths, craft booths, to informational booths and fun for the whole family. Please save the date and add it to your calendar today! On Brookshire between Firestone and 5th.

Downey Chamber of Commerce Street Faire

Lots of fun and food booths. Bring your appetite.

Live Entertainment!

Crafters paradise!

Vendors from the community and so much more!



For more information please call (562) 923-2191
Or email leti@downeychamber.com

Ruby's Ribbon Cutting

Looking for a fun, easy location with great food and a wonderful staff....then head over to Ruby's Diner! January 22nd at 9 a.m. the Chamber headed over to Ruby's for a ribbon cutting and an amazing breakfast. Ruby's is located in the Promenade Center right next door to Cinemark.



9 a.m. and the coffee is hot and delicious! Mayor Pro-Tem Rick Rodriguez pours a cup for the Chamber's President Elect, John Casillas of Farmers and Merchants Bank along with Joanna Peterson, Chamber President, Gallatin Dental.



A large group from the City Council, Chamber Directors, Ambassadors, and members were on hand as the red ribbon was cut. Thank you Edgar, the General Manager, Assistant Manager Daniel and owner Abraham.



For Immediate Release

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Contact: Rachel Yang
Business Engagement Specialist
SELACO WDB
800-481-6555
rachely@selaco.com

Build Your Business at the BRC!




Cerritos, CA - Are you looking for a professional setting to work from and collaborate with other business professionals? Come check out the Business Resource Connection (BRC) at SELACO WDB! Whether you are a startup business, a freelancer, or an out of town guest working remotely, the BRC is a fully equipped space for your business endeavors. In addition to high speed internet, Wi-Fi, printing, and scanning, the BRC offers individualized and group workspaces, a small conference area, and an extensive catalog of local business resources and tools to enhance your business performance and meet your business' needs. From connecting you to training programs and economic development information, to assisting you with business licensing, permits, and forms, our business services team is here to help you boost your business and build your brand! All of the resources offered by the BRC are completely free of charge. Workspaces are allocated on a reservation basis, or first-come, first-served if spaces are vacant.

We especially encourage all business owners with disabilities (workspaces are ADA accessible), military veterans, youth, and low income community members to connect with us and utilize all that the Business Resource Connection has to offer. Available services include workshops, Roundtable Discussions, Meet & Greets, SCORE mentorship, and assistance with marketing ideas.

SCORE Mentor, Jim DiRosa is available every other Thursday by appointment for free business consulting, education, and mentoring. Schedule an appointment by visiting www.score114.org or calling SCORE at 714-550-7369.

The BRC is open Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm. For specific information about how the BRC can assist your business, or to reserve your business workspace, please contact Rachel Yang at 562-402-9336 ext. 1221 or rachely@selaco.com. Also check out our website for current news and events at www.selaco.com.



SAVE THE DATE

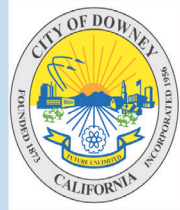
2018

STATE OF THE CITY

Rio Hondo Golf Course



10627 Old River School Rd.,
Downey, CA 90241


Cost \$45



Monday, March,
26th, 2018
at 12:00 Noon

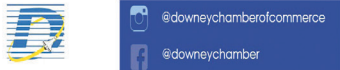
OFFICIAL FLYERS TO FOLLOW





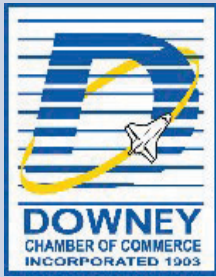
For more information or to register, go online to downeychamber.org or call (562) 923-2191

Downey Chamber of Commerce • 11131 Brookshire Ave. • Downey, CA 90241



Let's Do Lunch

January's Let's Do Lunch was held in the Garden Room of Mimi's Restaurant. A large crowd of nearly 40 members and guests enjoyed the hospitality of Sales Manager Sol Perez. The menu was well prepared, giving us the choice between salads, wraps and sandwiches. Though Mimi's has been a Chamber member for many years, it was really great have a function there and hear about the upcoming remodel of the restaurant. Thank you Alyson Roepke and Chris Taylor of Rock & Brews, Blanca Rochin of Downey, Daniel Barillas of Soul Precision Fitness, Mike and Christine Murray of Grocery Outlet, Troy Busher of PIH Health, and Cindy Kovach for attending and supporting this event.



The Mission of The Downey Chamber of Commerce is to advocate and support a healthy and profitable business environment which improves the quality of life!