



THE DOWNEY KIWANIAN

Serving the Children of the World

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President's Message



A Strong Start to the New Year with Downey Kiwanis

Dear Fellow Kiwanians and Friends,

January was a strong and energizing start to the year for the Downey Kiwanis Club. We proudly supported our SLP clubs, volunteered at the Rancho Food Drive, and had members attend the Mid-Year District Convention—each activity reinforcing our commitment to service, leadership, and growth. We were also excited to welcome several new members into our club, strengthening our Kiwanis family and expanding our ability to serve.

That momentum continues into February, with upcoming student club takeover, a special Valentine's Lunch program by our fellow Kiwanian and his legendary guitar Steve Roberson, and several community events that promise to keep us busy, visible, and impactful.

Thank you to all our members for your dedication and enthusiasm. I look forward to seeing and talking to you at our next meetings and events!

In service,
Phil Requejo
Kiwaniis Club of Downey



A Message from Board Member – Stephanie Reynoso



February is shaping up to be an exciting and meaningful month for our Kiwanis family. One of the highlights this month is our Student Takeover Fundraiser on February 5, where students from Downey High School Key Club and KIWIN'S will be stepping up in a big way. Our students will be auctioning off baked goods they've prepared themselves, giving them hands-on experience in leadership, teamwork, and community service.

This fundraiser isn't just about raising money, it's about empowering our students to take ownership, build confidence, and see the impact they can make when they work together. We're incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and dedication, and we're grateful to everyone who continues to support these youth-led efforts.

Additionally, this year has also been a milestone year for the club I advise Downey KIWIN'S.

Just last year, we had fewer than 10 members, and today we are celebrating an all-time high in membership with 36 students.

Watching this growth has been incredibly rewarding. It reflects not only the hard work of our students, but also the strong support and mentorship provided by Kiwanis members. Seeing young people feel welcomed, valued, and excited to participate reminds us why youth leadership is at the heart of what we do.

Mid-Year Convention: Learning, Inspiration, and New Ideas

I also had the opportunity to attend the Mid-Year Convention, which was quite inspiring. The seminars covered a wide range of topics—from youth protection and leadership development to mental health initiatives, club growth strategies, and even the use of artificial intelligence and social media to strengthen our clubs.

One of the biggest takeaways was the importance of connection and adaptability, meeting people where they are, supporting one another, and finding new ways to keep Kiwanis relevant, welcoming, and impactful. I came back with fresh ideas, renewed motivation, and a deeper appreciation for the work Kiwanis does at every level.

Why I Joined Kiwanis

I joined Kiwanis because I wanted to make a real difference in my community. I wanted to meet passionate, service-driven people, participate in meaningful local projects, and most importantly, be a mentor and positive influence for young students.

Kiwanis has given me all of that and more. Being part of an organization that believes in service, leadership, and growth—both personal has been incredibly fulfilling. Watching students find their voice, build confidence, and step into leadership roles is a reminder that the work we do truly matters.

As we move through February, I'm grateful to be part of a club that continues to grow, give back, and invest in the future. Thank you to everyone who makes Kiwanis such a special community.



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www.kiwaniis.org

Downey Kiwanis Club

KEY CLUB & KIWIN'S MEETING TAKEOVER!

FUNDRAISER!

Date: February 5, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m. | Location: Rio Hondo Event Center in Downey

SUPPORT OUR STUDENT LEADERS!

Join us as Key Club & KIWIN'S take over the meeting to raise funds for our youth programs!

Bring cash to purchase goodies and treats from the auctions.

The poster features a vibrant blue sky background with falling confetti and money. It includes a calendar icon, a location pin icon, and a thermometer icon. A cartoon girl is shown shouting into a megaphone.





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Join Downey Kiwanis For A

Valentine's → ← Lunch

Thursday, February 12, 2026 • Noon
Rio Hondo Golf Club

Bring your valentine to hear
Steve Roberson
& His Legendary Guitar





Save the Date! Roaring '20s Casino Night Returns!



Get ready to step back in time for a glamorous evening of fun, friendship, and fundraising! The Downey Kiwanis Club invites you to mark your calendars for **Friday, March 20, 2026**, as we host our spectacular Roaring '20s Casino Night at the beautiful Azar Event Center in Santa Fe Springs

This much-anticipated celebration promises to be a night to remember — with casino-style gaming, music, great food, and a festive 1920s flair! Whether you're rolling the dice for a good cause or just there to enjoy the music and company, every moment will help support Kiwanis' ongoing mission to serve children and strengthen our Downey community.

A Night of Purpose and Celebration

All proceeds from the Roaring '20s Casino Night will benefit Downey Kiwanis Club projects, helping fund our sponsored student programs and support many initiatives that change lives every day. By joining us, you're not just having fun — you're investing in the future of our community's children.

Event Details

Date: Friday, March 20, 2026
Location: Azar Event Center
Santa Fe Springs, CA
Theme: Roaring '20s Casino Night

How You Can Get Involved

- Save the Date and Spread the Word! Tell friends, family, and colleagues.
- **Sponsorship Opportunities and Tickets are now available.**
- Please contact **Rose** - rschneeberger5@gmail.com
- Dress the Part! Don your best 1920s attire and join the fun in style.

This is more than an event — it's a celebration of service, friendship, and possibility. Together, we'll make a difference while having an unforgettable night of glitz and giving.

Let's make it a roaring success — one spin, one laugh, and one good deed at a time!



Welcoming John O'Neal ❤️

John comes to us with deep faith, genuine humility, and a strong heart for service. He learned about Downey Kiwanis from a fellow Kiwanian while spending time at a local Downey park with his wife and son, a true reminder that community starts with connection.

We're grateful to have him alongside us as we continue serving and making a difference together. Welcome to the Kiwanis family, John! 🍷🌟



Leadership Program Parent's Night

We welcomed the parents of our amazing Key Club and KIWIN'S members to share more about the programs their young leaders are a part of, the upcoming conventions, and our Youth Protection Guidelines that ensure every student's safety.

So proud of the two incredible young ladies who represented Downey KIWIN'S and Downey Key Club with confidence, passion, and leadership. Their dedication reminds us why we do what we do. Empowering the next generation to serve, lead, and shine.





Downey High KIWIN'S

So proud of our incredible KIWIN'S students for showing up with heart, leadership, and true service spirit. 💕💕

From community projects to spirit battles, these students continue to shine and represent Downey with dedication, kindness, and a commitment to making a difference. Their energy, teamwork, and passion for serving others truly embodies what it means to be part of the Diamond Division.

A special shoutout to their amazing advisors, who continue to guide, support, and cheer them on every step of the way. Your leadership makes all the difference and helps these students shine even brighter. 💕🙌

Here's to our future leaders, THANK YOU for inspiring us and carrying the Downey legacy with pride. Keep shining, KIWIN'S! ✨



Member Spotlight: Sarah & Sam Sarofeem, Jr. ✨



This month, the Downey Kiwanis Club is proud to spotlight two of our next-generation members who are already making a tremendous impact on our community Sarah and Sam Sarofeem Jr.. As the passionate proprietors of [@one12cafe](#), Sarah and Sam have created more than just a neighborhood gathering place In just one year since opening, they've built a business that reflects the heart, diversity, and entrepreneurial spirit of Downey.

Last night's ribbon cutting and open house was a true celebration, attended by city dignitaries, fellow Kiwanis members, and community supporters. As our Mayor so perfectly said: "The success of Sarah and Sam is a success for Downey."

We are incredibly proud to have Sarah and Sam Jr. as Kiwanis members and grateful for the energy, leadership, and service they bring not only through Kiwanis, but through their commitment to our city every day.

Here's to continued growth, service, and success! 🍷✨



Downey Kiwanis of the Year Award to Howard Friedman 🎉

For his unwavering service, dedication, and heart for both the club and the Kiwanis organization, Howard truly embodies what it means to serve. No matter the challenges he's faced, Howard shows up with consistency, commitment, and a positive spirit that inspires everyone around him.



Honestly, he takes all of our excuses away 🙌👏

Thank you, Howard, for leading by example and reminding us what service above self really looks like. This recognition is more than deserved! ❤️



Good Food, Great Company, Stronger Community ☀️

What a great day made even better by sharing lunch with fellow Downey Kiwanis members and wonderful guests! 🌞🍴

We were thrilled to welcome Argentina and Angel, fellow Kiwanians coming from the Kiwanis Club of Antioch.





Thursday's Kiwanis Club Meeting Spotlight

We were honored to hear from Donald P. Williams III, Founder & Director of the D.A.D. Project, who shared the powerful work they're doing to strengthen families, uplift fathers, and positively impact children and communities.

As Donald reminded us:

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

That message deeply resonates with Kiwanis, whose mission—serving the children of the world—aligns so closely with the D.A.D. Project's commitment to early intervention, mentorship, and intentional father engagement. When organizations with shared values come together, the impact multiplies.

Thank you, Donald, for inspiring us and for the vital work you're leading every day. 🤝🌍



Welcome Janie Heinrich, Founder & CEO of Mobility Service Dogs



Janie's work is changing lives by pairing highly trained service poodles with individuals who need greater independence, confidence, and support. ❤️ The impact of her mission is truly inspiring, and we're grateful for the chance to learn from her and celebrate the incredible bond between people and their service dogs.

Thank you, Janie, for the work you do and for sharing your story with us!



Key Club Winter Rally South at Six Flags Magic Mountain! ❤️?

What a day!! From nonstop rides to powerful rallies and LOUD cheers, the energy was unreal! 🙌🔥

Huge shoutout to our Downey Kiwanis Club members for chaperoning and supporting our amazing Key Clubbers ❤️ It was incredible seeing students from all schools come together, show spirit, and celebrate service and leadership!



The KIWIN'S Diamond Division

The KIWIN'S Diamond Division KIWI Fest
West Covina (January 11, 2026)



The KIWIN'S
Diamond Division
KIWI Fest Conclave
(January 25, 2026)



The KIWIN'S Diamond Division came together at the Diamond Division Conclave to elect next year's club officers at the Lomita Kiwanis Hall on January 25, 2026. Proud to support another student-led service club of Cal-Nev-Ha, sponsored by our local Kiwanis Clubs. Leadership, service, and fellowship on full display—what an eventful week for Kiwanis! ❤️🙌☀️



Volunteering with the Downey Kiwanis 🌞💙

We were honored to serve the patients and families of Rancho Los Amigos and spend time giving back to such an incredible community. Days like this remind us how powerful service and connection can be.

Want to make a difference with us? Join us at our next volunteer event, more smiles, more service, more heart. 🍌🌟



Cal-Ne-Ha Mid Year South Educational Conference

Learning, Leadership, and Kiwanis Fellowship at MYS The Mid-Year South District Convention was a full and rewarding day dedicated to learning, connection, and strengthening our Kiwanis impact —and Downey, Kiwanis showed up in a big way. We were proud to have 13 Downey Kiwanians spend the entire day at the Cal-Ne-Ha Mid-Year South (MYS) fully engaged and eager to grow.

The convention offered valuable sessions focused on how to effectively manage and grow a Kiwanis club, ensuring long-term sustainability and member

engagement. Attendees also explored how to better leverage social media and emerging tools like AI to tell our Kiwanis story, reach new audiences, and support club operations. Just as important were sessions centered on keeping our children safe, reinforcing one of Kiwanis' most important commitments.

Beyond the workshops, MYS provided time to connect with fellow Kiwanians from across the South District, share ideas, and return home energized with new perspectives and practical tools.

A big thank-you to everyone who attended and represented Downey Kiwanis so well. Your dedication to learning and leadership helps ensure our club continues to thrive and serve our community effectively.





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President



Adam Dygard
President - Elect



Art Montoya
Vice President



Rose Schneeberger
Secretary



Erica Vasquez
Assistant Secretary



Leslie Jones
Treasurer



Gary Nesbit
Assistant Treasurer



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Immediate Past President



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Jason Cierpiszewski



Stephanie Reynoso



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Brian Tello



2025-2026 Officers and Directors



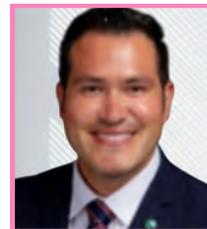
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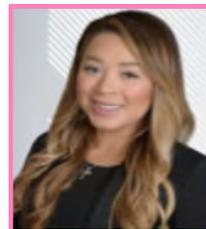
Art Montoya



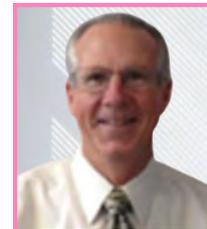
Rose Schneeberger



Leslie Jones



Erica Vasquez



Gary Nesbit



Stephen Chu



Jason Cierpiszewski



Stephanie Reynoso



Amy Scott



Brian Tello



♥ FEBRUARY ♥ Events



Kiwanis Anniversaries

- Roy Jimenez - 27 years
- Tom Houts - 20 years
- Susan Robison - 13 years
- Rene Curiel - 2 years
- Tamara Vartanian - 2 years
- Vito Bello - 2 years
- Sonia Moran - 2 years
- Luis Moran - 2 years

Birthdays

- Wayne Shannon - Feb 9
- Jennifer Stanley Feb 9
- Connie Quintero Feb 15
- Tamara Vartenian Feb 17

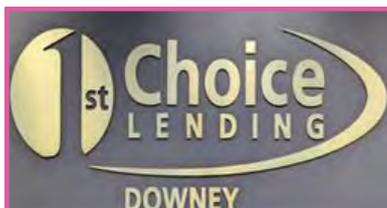




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562.472.6604
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CENTURY 21
Allstars
9155 Telegraph Rd. Rice Rivera,
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IRE: #0203392

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