



# THE DOWNEY KIWANIAN

Serving the Children of the World  
www.kiwanis.org

April 2026

# APRIL NEWS

[downeykiwanis.org](http://downeykiwanis.org)

## President's Message



Dear Kiwanians,

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the Kiwanis year. As we continue this year, I'm proud to share that the state of our club is strong, stable, and growing. Over the past several months, we have continued to deliver meaningful impact in our community—supporting local youth through scholarships, strengthening partnerships with organizations across Downey, and showing up consistently through service projects that meet real needs. Our fundraising efforts reached new heights, our commitment to the Kiwanis Children's Fund elevated us to Impact Club status, and our membership is steadily approaching new milestones. Just as important, our financial health remains solid, ensuring we can sustain and expand our work with confidence and accountability. These achievements reflect not just activity, but purpose—an ongoing commitment to serving children and families in ways that truly matter.

At the same time, we recognize the challenges ahead—maintaining strong member engagement, increasing participation, and responding to growing community needs. These are not obstacles, but opportunities to be more intentional, innovative, and united in our efforts. Looking forward, our focus is clear: continue building an engaged and service-driven membership, expand our community impact where it is needed most, and invest deeply in youth leadership programs that shape the next generation. The future of our club will be defined not by any one individual, but by all of us—showing up, stepping in, and working together. Because of your commitment and belief in our mission, I am confident that the future of our club is not only bright, but powerful.

Yours in Service,  
Phil Requejo  
President

## CONTENTS

<b>Board Member's Message - Amy Scott</b>		<b><u>Governor's Visit</u></b>
<b>Roaring 20's Casino Night</b>	<b>Member Spotlight: Erica Vasquez</b>	<b><u>Race to 100</u></b>
<b><u>Sweet Success at the Kiwanis Meeting</u></b>	<b>A Meeting Full of Purpose and Impact</b>	<b>Club Officers and Directors 2025-2026</b>
<b>Key Club Takeover a Big Success</b>	<b>Building Opportunities Through Connection</b>	<b>Upcoming Events</b>
<b><u>Mission: Service Possible</u></b>	<b>Welcoming New Members to the Kiwanis Family</b>	<b><u>Sponsors</u></b>





# Board Member's Message - Amy Scott



The Arc Los Angeles and Orange Counties has been a business member of the Kiwanis Club of Downey for numerous years. For the last 4 years, I have had the privilege of representing The Arc as I attend and participate in Kiwanis. I have found the experience to be a fulfilling one, and I look forward to many more years in this role.

When I look around The Arc, I see reminders everywhere of the years of dynamic support from the Kiwanis Club and the Kiwanis Foundation.

Participants at The Arc enjoy community outings multiple times a week,

experiencing museums, parks, movies, and other adventures. Many of the minivans used to facilitate these outings were purchased through grants from Kiwanis and the Foundation.

This past month, as an effort to increase our visibility in the community, all of the vans have been branded with The Arc logo and a prominent "Powered by Downey Kiwanis Foundation" logo on the back window. Hopefully you'll see our participants around the community. If you do, be sure to say Hi!

I see the Reagan Events Center, newly remodeled two years ago to better serve the Downey community. At a time when The Arc was in the midst of financial challenges and the future was uncertain, the Kiwanis Foundation believed in the work we do and invested in the renovation and vision The Arc leadership had for updating the building.

In the Creative Arts classroom, participants received new art tables that meet their ergonomic and creative needs better than the flat folding tables they had been using. Culinary Arts had been making do with a single fryer and no working ice maker. In December, a double fryer and full ice maker were purchased with a grant from the Kiwanis Foundation.

Holiday tradition at The Arc includes a gift exchange among the participants. The gift exchange has always been funded by The Arc, limiting the budget to a small amount of cash for each participant. This past December, The Kiwanis Foundation sponsored the gift exchange and doubled what The Arc is typically able to afford. The experience of shopping for friends, selecting the perfect gift for each one, wrapping the gifts, and exchanging the gifts is something we may take for granted. But these activities build cherished and lasting memories for The Arc's participants. The generosity of Kiwanis made the experience even more fulfilling, as each participant could choose gifts for all their friends and weren't limited to treating one or two.

The enduring partnership between Kiwanis and The Arc powerfully exemplifies the ways service and advocacy can come together to create lasting change for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). I'm honored to serve alongside each of you and call myself a Kiwanian. Kiwanis truly makes a difference!





# Roaring 20's Casino Night



What an unforgettable evening at our BIGGEST fundraiser of the year for the Downey Kiwanis Club! From the glitz and glam to the high-stakes tables, this year's event truly outdid them all.

Thanks to our incredible community, generous sponsors, and everyone who came out to support, we made this our best Casino Night yet! Every chip played and every bid placed helps us continue making a difference for children and families in our community.

We're already counting down to next year... but wow, this one will be hard to beat!



# Lakewood Key Club and El Rancho Key Club



Huge shoutout to the amazing Key Clubbers from Lakewood High School and El Rancho High School for an incredible meeting takeover at the Downey Kiwanis Club!

Both clubs brought energy, leadership, and plenty of delicious treats to share. During the meeting, each club held a baked goods auction filled with homemade goodies that had everyone bidding enthusiastically. Thanks to the generosity of our Kiwanis members, each club raised over \$400 to support their trip to the upcoming Key Club District Convention!

We are so proud to support these outstanding young leaders and can't wait to see all the great things they accomplish at DCON.

## Mission: Service Possible



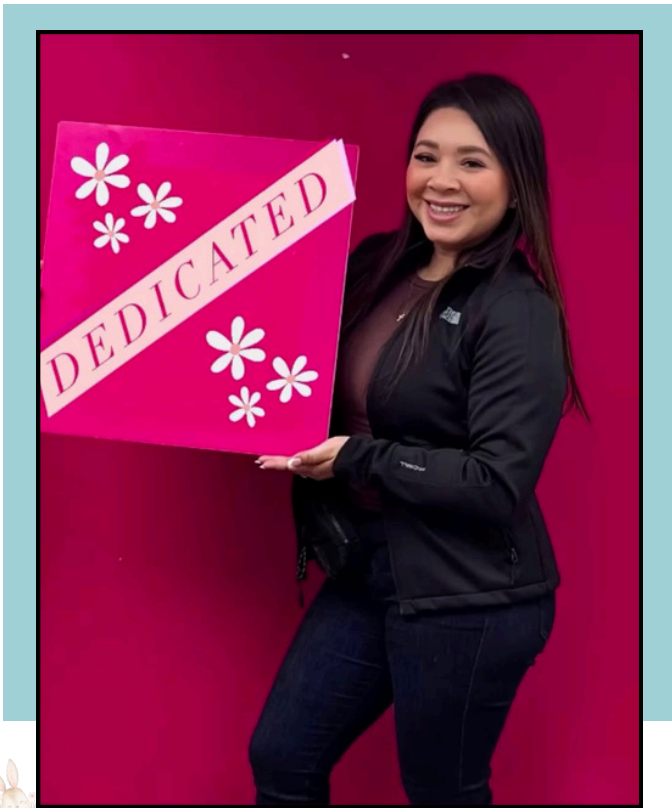
Last month at the CNH KIWIN'S District Convention at the LAX Marriott was nothing short of inspiring. Watching our KIWIN'S clubs come together, full of passion, leadership, and heart for service. Reminds me why I love what I do.

From impactful workshops to unforgettable moments of connection, these students continue to show that service truly is possible when we lead with purpose.

So proud to serve as an advisor and to support the next generation of leaders who are already making a difference in our communities

Here's to growth, service, and continuing to build something bigger than ourselves.

## Member Spotlight: Erica Vasquez



This week we proudly spotlight Erica Vasquez, Assistant Secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Downey and Service Leadership Advisor for the KIWIN'S club at Downey High School.

Erica embodies the true spirit of service. With a heart dedicated to giving back, she has become a passionate advocate for youth leadership and community impact. While balancing a demanding professional career, family life, and volunteer commitments, Erica remains deeply invested in strengthening the mission of Kiwanis and uplifting the next generation of leaders.

Over the past few years, Erica has played an active role in the club's Casino Night, one of Downey Kiwanis' signature fundraising events that helps support programs and initiatives of benefiting local youth. Her commitment also extends to the Kiwanis Scholarship Committee where she works alongside

fellow members to help recognize and support outstanding students pursuing their educational dreams.

As a Service Leadership Advisor, Erica mentors and guides high school students, encouraging them to lead with compassion, integrity, and a strong sense of community responsibility. She believes that investing in young leaders today helps create stronger communities tomorrow.

For Erica, service is more than a role, it is a lifelong commitment. Her leadership, dedication, and passion continue to inspire those around her and make a meaningful impact throughout the Downey community.

“Lead with heart. Serve with purpose. Inspire change.”

# A Meeting Full of Purpose and Impact



We had an inspiring Downey Kiwanis Noon meeting!

A big thank you to Kristy Armas and Marlena Martin from Union Rescue Mission for sharing the incredible impact they're making in our community—bringing hope, support, and transformation to those who need it most.

We also had the pleasure of learning more about the Woman of Achievement Pageant, a program that uplifts and empowers women to grow in confidence, leadership, and purpose.

Grateful for meaningful conversations, powerful stories, and the opportunity to serve together.

## Building Opportunities Through Connection



We had a wonderful time at the Downey Kiwanis noon program welcoming Carol Bejarano, Program Lead for the Career Development Program at The Arc of Los Angeles & Orange Counties ([@thearclaoc](#)).

Carol and her team joined us not only to share about the incredible work The Arc is doing to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through career development and community inclusion but also to share a meal with program participants. Moments like these remind us how powerful connection, opportunity, and community can be.

Thank you, Carol, for your leadership and for inspiring us with the important work you and The Arc are doing across our region. We're grateful you could spend time with us!

# Welcoming New Members to the Kiwanis Family



The Downey Kiwanis Club recently welcomed three new members into our Kiwanis family.

Congratulations to Marisol Alarid, Argentina Davila Luevano, and Angel Godinez Luevano, who were officially inducted during our meeting at the Arc Los Angeles and Orange Counties Reagan Center.

Each new member strengthens our mission to serve children and families in our community. We look forward to the ideas, passion, and leadership they will bring as we continue making a positive impact together. Please join us in giving them a warm Kiwanis welcome.



## Race to 100


Don't forget to join us too for lunch!

JOIN US

KIDS NEED KIWANIS

SERVING THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD



Kiwanis

CLUB OF DOWNEY

Race to 100

Membership Invitation

You are invited to join us to learn how you can get involved in your community and have fun doing it!

---

First Thursday of Each Month  
6:00 to 8:00 PM  
Rio Hondo Golf Club

Second and Fourth Thursdays  
12:00 to 1:15 PM  
Rio Hondo Golf Club

Third Thursday  
12:00 to 1:30 PM  
The Olive Restobar

If you are planning to attend, please let us know by:

Text to (626) 915-5610  
or  
Email to [rschneeberger5@gmail.com](mailto:rschneeberger5@gmail.com)

## Governor's Visit



2025-2026 Divisions 13 & 19  
Official Governor's Visit

Celebrate the Bloat

Join Us!!



Steven Geraci 2025-2026  
Kiwanis Cal-Neve-Ha District Governor

Sunday, May 3, 2026

The Reagan Center at the ARC  
12049 Woodruff Ave., Downey, CA 90241

3:00 p.m. Governor/Presidents Meeting  
4:15 to 6:15 p.m. Dinner/Program

RSVP By April 27: [Division 13 - Douglas Hall](mailto:Division 13 - Douglas Hall)  
[Hall.douglas48@aol.com](mailto:Hall.douglas48@aol.com)

[Division 19 - Joni Ackerman](mailto:Division 19 - Joni Ackerman)  
[jonackerman19@gmail.com](mailto:jonackerman19@gmail.com)

Attire - Kiwanis Casual or Red - \$40 Per Person

# Club Officers and Directors 2025-2026



**Phil Requejo**

President



**Adam Dygard**

President - Elect



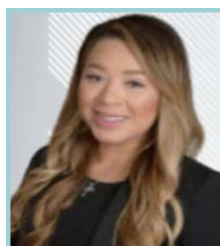
**Art Montoya**

Vice President



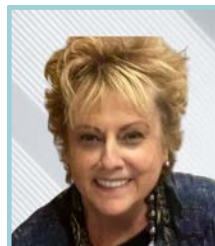
**Rose Schneeberger**

Secretary



**Erica Vasquez**

Asst. Secretary



**Leslie Jones**

Treasurer



**Gary Nesbit**

Asst. Treasurer



**Jesse Padilla**

Immediate Past President



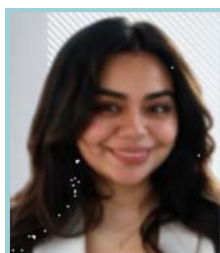
**Stephen Chu**

Board Member



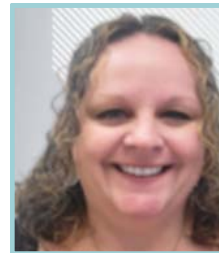
**Jason Cierpiszewski**

Board Member



**Stephanie Reynoso**

Board Member



**Amy Scott**

Board Member



**Brian Tello**

Board Member

# APRIL *Events*

## Kiwanis Anniversaries

Ed Schneeberger- 48 yrs

Alex Torres- 5 yrs

Lee Powell - 36 yrs

Steph Vasquez - 3 yrs

Susana Aguilera- 20 yrs

Maria Hernandez- 1 yr

Rain Nega- 1 yr

## Kiwanis Birthdays

Olga Rojas - April 3

JC Andrade - April 6

Susan Robison- April 11

Gary Nesbit - April 12

Blanca Pacheco- April 17

Stephen Chu- April 21

Susana Aguilera- April 22

# Proud Sponsors of the Downey Kiwanis Club Website



**CENTURY 21** JASON CIERPISZEWSKI  
Peak REALTOR®

C: 310.435.1780  
jasonsell54u@century21.com  
DRE# 01448917



CENTURY 21 My Real Estate Company

**State Farm**

Efferem Sanchez, Agent  
12327 Woodruff Avenue  
Downey, CA 90241-5628  
Bus 562 803 9777  
Fax 562 803 0308  
insure@esanchez.net



Insurance License #0C69600  
*The greatest compliment you can give is a referral.*

**ONE TWELVE** 8830 Apollo Way  
Suite 112  
Downey Ca 90242

CAFFE



**PRIMERICA**

We want to help you & your family have a better financial future!

Let us show you how to:

- Begin funding your Child's Education
- Start saving for Retirement (401k, 401K, IRA)
- Save on your Life, Auto & Home Insurance
- Become Debt Free
- Take advantage of our BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY!

Would you like to get more information?  
Call to make an appointment....

DIANA & JESSE PAHLLA  
Regional Vice Presidents  
Primerica Financial Services



Downey, CA 90241  
Diana's Cell: (562) 215-1948  
Jesse's Cell: (562) 413-8238  
Office No.: (562) 981-0099  
Insurance License # 0C35208 / 0C28581

A Registered Representative of PFS Investments

**F.M. BANK** WHITE-GLOVE SERVICE.  
STRONG LIQUIDITY.  
Some things will always be.

**ROBERT F. JACOBS & ASSOCIATES**  
IMMIGRATION & CRIMINAL LAWYERS

**ROBERT F. JACOBS**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW / ABOGADO

CERTIFIED SPECIALIST IN IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY LAW  
BY THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

631 IMPERIAL HIGHWAY PH: (562) 462-1111  
SUITE A-113 FAX: (562) 462-1111  
DOWNEY, CA 90241 HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

**Amigos Nursery LLC**  
"LA's Green Heart"



**The Reagan** EVENT CENTER

Looking for a hall? Give us a call!  
Explore our beautiful venue and envision hosting your next special event here!

- Corporate Events & Meetings
- Quinceañeras
- Weddings
- Celebrations of Life
- Baby Showers
- Dinners & Galas
- Seating for 175+ guests
- Event Catering Available!!!



**TLD** LAW

Roy J. Jimenez Partner  
P. 562.923.0971 | D. 562.283.2335 | F. 866.831.7302  
3900 Kilroy Airport Way Suite 240, Long Beach, CA, 90806  
[www.tldlaw.com](http://www.tldlaw.com) f t in  
TREDWAY LUMSDAINE & DOYLE LLP



STEPHANIE REYNOSO  
CALIFORNIA REALTOR®

562.472.6604  
StephanieReynosoRealty@gmail.com



**CENTURY 21** Allstars  
9155 Telegraph Rd, Pico Rivera, CA 90660 DRE #0215392

Your Ad Here  
Rose Schneeberger  
rschneeberger5@gmail.com