



THE DOWNEY KIWANIAN

Serving the Children of the World

May 2026

MAY NEWS

downeykiwanis.org

President's Message

Dear Fellow Kiwanians,

What an incredible month it has been for the Kiwanis Club of Downey! I am filled with gratitude and pride as I reflect on all we have accomplished together in service to our community.

Our Annual Meeting was a wonderful celebration of fellowship and leadership, made even more special by our club earning the prestigious Distinguished Club Designation. This recognition reflects the dedication and service of every member of our Kiwanis family.

We were also honored to welcome our Governor for a successful and inspiring visit. One of the evening's highlights was presenting the Distinguished Service Award to two of our youngest members. Their enthusiasm and servant leadership remind us that the future of Kiwanis is bright.

I was especially moved by this year's Scholarship Banquet — our largest and most attended banquet yet. It was truly heartwarming to celebrate such outstanding students and continue our commitment to supporting the next generation.

Looking ahead, I encourage each of you to join us for our upcoming **Member Guest Day** and bring a friend or potential new member — on us! It's a wonderful opportunity to share the fellowship, purpose, and impact of Kiwanis.

Thank you for your continued dedication and passion for service. Together, we continue to make a meaningful difference in our community.

Yours in Service,
 Phil Requejo
 President

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The Board Member's Message

Brian Tello



Growing up in Downey has always meant a lot to me. As I've gotten older, I've come to appreciate more and more the importance of community involvement, service, and finding ways to give back to the city that helped shape who I am today. One of the most rewarding parts of that journey has been having the opportunity to return to Griffiths Middle School, the same school I attended growing up, and now serve as an advisor for the Builders Club. It's very special to come back in any way I can and support the next generation of students. This year brought both challenges and accomplishments for our Builders Club. While our membership numbers did decrease significantly, our students continued to work hard, stay involved, and represent Griffiths well. Their dedication paid off, as our Builders Club earned recognition in the poster and scrapbook contests, along with receiving Distinguished Club and Distinguished Officer status. We are incredibly proud of the students for their effort, creativity, and perseverance throughout the year. These accomplishments are a reminder that success is not always measured by size, but by the heart, commitment, and character of the people involved.

One of the reasons I became involved as an advisor is because I genuinely wanted to find a way to give back to the community that gave so much to me growing up. I'm definitely not perfect at it, and I'm still learning every day, but I believe there is value in simply showing up, trying to help, and being present for students. Sometimes even small acts of encouragement or support can leave a lasting impact on a young person's confidence and growth.

Another event that always reminds me of the incredible impact Kiwanis has on students is the Scholarship Banquet. It's such a meaningful evening that celebrates hardworking students and their futures, and I feel very lucky and fortunate to be a part of it. Seeing students recognized for their accomplishments and hearing their stories is inspiring, and it reflects what Kiwanis is truly about: investing in people and helping create opportunities for others.

Kiwanis continues to create opportunities for people to serve, mentor, and support their communities in meaningful ways. Whether through youth leadership programs, scholarships, service projects, or community events, Kiwanis consistently demonstrates the power of service, connection, and generosity.

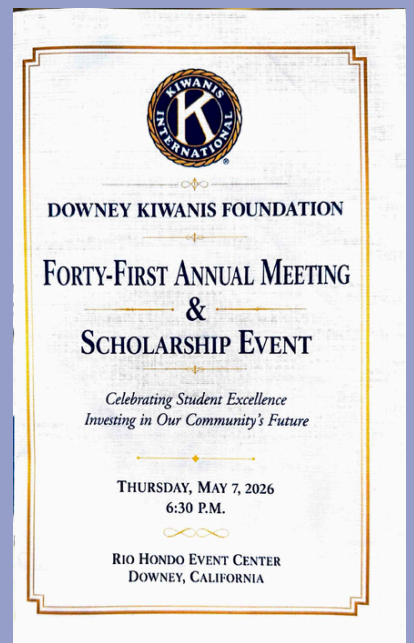
Being involved with Kiwanis has introduced me to incredible people and allowed me to contribute to causes that truly matter. I can't say enough about how incredible this club is and how many genuine, hardworking, and caring people are part of it. There are so many winners and great individuals within Kiwanis who dedicate their time and energy to helping others and improving our community.

I also want to give a very special thank you and recognition to the Sarofeem Family for inviting me to be part of this amazing club. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity, and I appreciate the kindness, encouragement, and example they continue to set through their service and dedication to the community.

I'm grateful to be part of an organization that continues to make such a meaningful difference in Downey, and I look forward to continuing to support our students, schools, and future leaders in any way I can.

Hail Kiwanis!

Brian Tello



Downey
Kiwanis
Foundation
Scholarship
Banquet.



Our Scholarship Banquet was one of those special evenings that stays with you long after it ends. As the largest and most meaningful service event of the Downey Kiwanis Club, we had the incredible privilege of awarding scholarships to an inspiring group of high school seniors — students whose stories reflected perseverance, sacrifice, leadership, compassion, and hope for the future.

Throughout the evening, there were moments of joy, pride, laughter, and even tears. Hearing each student's journey and seeing the overwhelming support from their families, teachers, and community was deeply moving. Many of these young leaders have overcome tremendous challenges while continuing to excel academically, serve others, and dream boldly about what lies ahead.

What made the night so powerful was not just the scholarships themselves, but what they represented: a community believing in its young people and investing in their future. In a world that can often feel uncertain, evenings like this are a reminder that the future is in very capable hands.

To all of the scholarship recipients — congratulations. Your hard work, character, and determination inspired everyone in that room. We are proud of you, we believe in you, and we cannot wait to see the difference you will make in the world.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this unforgettable night possible. The future truly looks bright. ❤️

Kiwanis Cal- Nev-Ha Governor's Visit with Governor Steven Geraci!



What an inspiring evening at the Kiwanis Cal-Nev-Ha Governor's Visit with Governor Steven Geraci.

It was a privilege to come together with so many dedicated Kiwanians from across our local divisions, all united by a shared commitment to service and strengthening our communities. The energy in the room reflected a strong sense of purpose, collaboration, and impact.



Governor Geraci's message was a powerful reminder of why we serve—to lead with intention, uplift others, and create lasting change.

It was especially meaningful to see so many of our members recognized with service awards. Their dedication and contributions truly exemplify the spirit of Kiwanis.

Grateful for the fellowship, leadership, and continued impact of Kiwanis in our region. Looking forward to building on this momentum and continuing to serve with purpose.



Congratulations to Sarah Sarofeem and Sam Sarofeem Jr. on receiving the Distinguished Service Award! 🎉



At the Governor's Visit, the Downey Kiwanis Club proudly recognized Sam Sarofeem Jr. and Sarah Sarofeem with the Distinguished Service Award for their outstanding dedication to community service.

As the youngest members of the club, Sam and Sarah have already made a meaningful impact through their active involvement in club service projects, especially the monthly food distribution at Rancho Hospital. Despite balancing the demands of work and college, they consistently make time to serve others and give back to the community whenever possible.

Their commitment, enthusiasm, and servant leadership reflect the true spirit of Kiwanis, and the club is proud to honor them for their contributions.

The Downey Kiwanis Annual Meeting



The Club gathered for its Annual Meeting to celebrate another successful year of service and to prepare for the year ahead with the installation of new club leadership and the adoption of updated club bylaws.

The evening reflected the club's continued commitment to strengthening its impact in the community through dedicated leadership, collaboration, and service. Members came together to recognize the accomplishments of the past year while looking forward to new opportunities to serve the Downey community and beyond.

A major highlight of the meeting was the official adoption of the club's new bylaws, an important step that modernizes and strengthens the organization's governance structure for the future. The updated bylaws will help guide the club's operations, leadership transitions, and continued growth in the years ahead.

The club also proudly ushered in its officers and board members for the upcoming term:

- President: Adam Dygard
- President-Elect: Art Montoya
- Vice President: Erica Vasquez
- Secretary: Rose Schneeberger
- Assistant Secretary: Stephanie Reynoso
- Treasurer: Leslie Jones
- Assistant Treasurer: Gary Nesbit
- Immediate Past-President: Phil Requejo

Board of Directors

- Doug Hall
- Stephen Chu
- Jason Cierpiszewski
- Antonio Coronel
- Lenet Pacheco

We look forward to another impactful year of serving children and families throughout the community while continuing the Kiwanis mission of improving the world one child and one community at a time.

Distinguished Club Award recipient by the Cal-Ne-Ha Division



The Downey Kiwanis Club has been recognized as a Distinguished Club Award recipient by the Cal-Ne-Ha Division.

This honor reflects the collective dedication of our members to service, leadership, and meaningful community impact. It is a testament to what can be achieved when a group is committed to making a difference.

We would like to extend special recognition to our **Club Secretary, Rose Scheneberger, and Past President, Jesse Padilla**, whose leadership, organization, and commitment were instrumental in achieving this distinction. Your efforts have helped elevate our club and strengthen our mission.

Congratulations to our entire Downey Kiwanis community. We look forward to continuing our work in service and leadership.



We are incredibly proud to share that the Downey Kiwanis Club recently had the honor of presenting the prestigious Kiwanis Hixson's Awards to five outstanding members as part of the Possibility Project.

Phil Requejo, Adam Dygard, Jesse Padilla, Stephanie Reynoso, and Brian Tello.

The Hixson Award is one of the highest recognitions in Kiwanis, celebrating individuals who embody service, leadership, and a deep commitment to improving the lives of others. This year's recipients truly exemplify what it means to live out the Kiwanis mission—serving children and strengthening our community.

Through the Possibility Project, we continue to invest in people who turn compassion into action and vision into impact. These five honorees represent the very best of who we are and what we strive to achieve together.

Congratulations to our award recipients, and thank you for your unwavering dedication to making a difference. The future is brighter because of you.

The Kiwanis Hixson's Awards

Meeting at Rio Hondo Golf Club!



Another great meeting at Rio Hondo Golf Club!

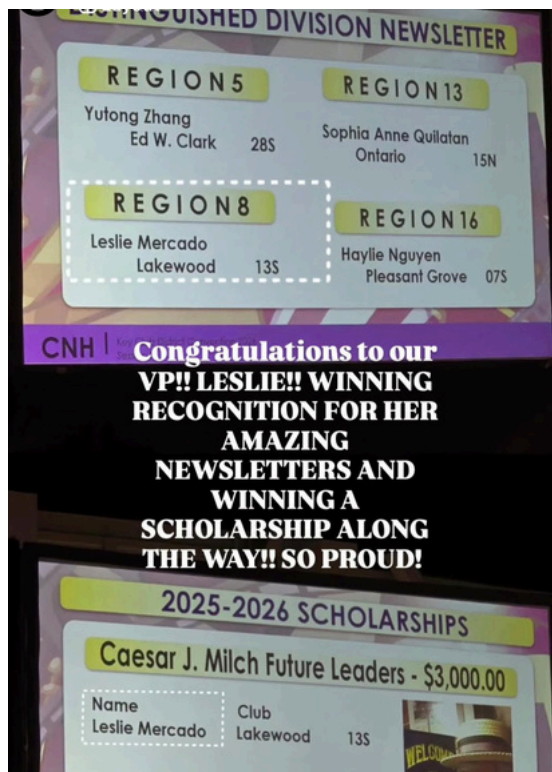


We were honored to be joined by fellow Downey Kiwanians Argentina Davila-Luevano and Angel Luevano. Argentina and Angel shared inspiring insights on the impactful work of the GMA Living Library Foundation, highlighting their mission to advocate for and uplift communities in need.

It's always energizing to come together, learn from one another, and continue finding ways to serve.



Huge congratulations to our Lakewood High School Key Club Vice President, Leslie Mercado, for being recognized at DCON as a Distinguished Newsletter Editor AND for earning a scholarship! 🎉 Her dedication, creativity, and leadership truly shines through everything she does. This recognition is so well deserved we are incredibly proud of her! 🧡💙



Distinguished Newsletter Editor

Roundtable with the Downey Kiwanis Club



Grateful for the continued fellowship, meaningful conversations, and shared commitment to serving our community. And a special highlight celebrating JC Andrade's birthday! 🎂 Wishing you a year filled with success, health, and happiness.

Moments like these remind us why we do what we do. ❤️



Proud to see our incredible group of members serving the Rancho Food Project. This is what service looks like: showing up, giving back, and making a real difference together.

Service isn't just something we talk about—it's something we do.

Downey Kiwanis in full force 💪

Club Officers and Directors 2025-2026



Phil Requejo

President



Adam Dygard

President - Elect



Art Montoya

Vice President



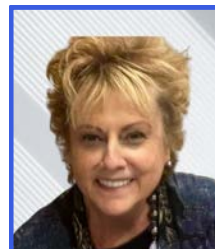
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Erica Vasquez

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

MAY Events

Kiwanis Happy Anniversary

Horacio Ortiz - May 20

Amy Scott - May 21

Lenet Pacheco - May 30

Rose Schneeberger- May 30

Happy Birthday!



Fernando Vasquez- 18 yrs.



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