



## THE DOWNEY KIWANIAN

Serving the Children of the World

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### President's Message

Dear Kiwanians,

February was a wonderful month filled with service, fellowship, and meaningful impact. I encourage you to read through this issue of The Downey Kiwanian and take pride in the many activities and accomplishments made possible by your dedication.

March is an especially important month for our club as we prepare for our biggest fundraiser of the year—Roaring 20s Casino Night. This event plays a vital role in funding our scholarships, youth programs, and community service projects. I encourage every member to attend, bring friends, and invite potential future members. It's not only a fun evening—it's an opportunity to grow our impact and our Kiwanis family.

We need your help. We are asking for either a sponsorship or donated item(s) for our silent and live auctions to ensure we have a successful event.

I'd also like to highlight the excellent article written by none other than the illustrious Stephen Chu. Be sure to give it a read—it's a true highlight of this issue.

Thank you for your continued commitment to serving our community. I look forward to seeing you at Casino Night!

Yours in service,  
Phil Requejo  
President



# WHY PICKLEBALLS WORKS- What Kiwanis Can Learn From It



by: Stephen Chu

Over the last several years, pickleball has gone from a niche pastime to one of the fastest-growing sports in the country. Courts are full, leagues are expanding, and people of all ages are picking up paddles for the first time. What makes pickleball interesting is not just that it became popular, but why it did.

Pickleball succeeds because it is accessible. You do not need years of experience, elite athleticism, or expensive equipment to play. You can learn the basics quickly, start enjoying the game almost immediately, and improve simply by showing up. It is social, unintimidating, and fun—yet competitive enough to keep people engaged. Most importantly, it invites participation rather than perfection.



Kiwanis, at its core, is built on many of the same principles.

Kiwanis exists to serve children and strengthen communities. It offers leadership opportunities, hands-on service, fellowship, and the chance to make a tangible difference close to home. Like pickleball, Kiwanis does not require you to be an expert on day one. You do not need to know all the acronyms, understand every program, or commit unlimited time to get started. You simply need to show up.

Where pickleball courts thrive is where people feel welcome to learn as they go. The same is true for strong Kiwanis clubs. Members who ask questions, try new things, volunteer for small roles, and gradually take on more responsibility are the ones who find the most value—and have the most fun along the way.

Pickleball players get better by practicing. They play regularly, learn the rules, watch others who are more experienced, and improve through repetition. Kiwanis works the same way. The more you attend meetings, participate in service projects, and engage with fellow members, the more meaningful the experience becomes. What can feel unfamiliar at first quickly becomes comfortable, and then rewarding.

There is also an element of joy that cannot be overlooked. People play pickleball because they enjoy it. They laugh, compete, and connect. Kiwanis should be no different. Service is serious work, but it should also be energizing. When members are engaged, supported, and encouraged to participate, the club becomes a place people want to be—not just a place they feel obligated to attend.

## **The call to action is simple:**

If you are a Kiwanian, be an active one. Learn more about what we do. Show up to meetings and service projects. Ask questions. Volunteer to help. Treat Kiwanis the way pickleball players treat the court—by participating, practicing, and enjoying the experience.

Popularity does not come from perfection. It comes from participation. And like pickleball, Kiwanis grows stronger when more people step in, pick up a paddle, and join the game.

# 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](mailto: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!



**AZAR EVENT CENTER**  
**12215 SLAUSON AVE,**  
**SANTA FE SPRINGS CA 90670**  
**FRIDAY MARCH 20, 2026**  
**ROARING 20'S ATTIRE**  
**6PM-10PM**



The purpose of this event is to raise funds to support KIWIN'S Club and Key Clubs which provide leadership training skills for Kiwanis Youth Clubs in Downey, Lakewood, and Pico Rivera; the Kiwanis International Possibility Project; and several local community service projects. Follow us on



Dear Friends of Kiwanis Club of Downey,

The Downey Kiwanis "Roaring 20s" Casino Night will take place on March 20, 2026. We need your help!! We are asking for either a Sponsorship or Donated Item(s) for our Silent and Live Auctions to ensure we have a successful event. The evening includes a delicious buffet, chips to play at casino tables and a no-host bar. A DJ will be playing throughout the night, and an MC will be hosting the evening. Please consider selecting a sponsorship, donating an item for the auction, or purchasing a business ad for the program book.

**Sponsorship Levels:**



- Art Deco \$500 or more
- Spirit of St. Louis \$400-\$499
- Jazz Cat \$300-\$399
- Eight Ball \$200-\$299
- Speakeasy Operator \$100- \$199

**Silent/Live Auction Items needed:**



- Vacation/Timeshare week or travel accommodations for a weekend stay or Golf Package at a resort
- Gift baskets, i.e., wine, sports, event tickets, games/kid activity, for pets, theme park tickets, etc.
- Dinner packages for 2, 4, 6 or 10
- Electric Bike, Scooter, or exercise equipment

**Business Ad:**

- Full page \$100
- Half page \$50

Recognition will be given for those who contribute or donate an item in our event program. So, if you can assist us, please let us know by February 15 or sooner. This will give us time to include you in the program book.

Please contact Rose Schneeberger at [rschneeberger5@gmail.com](mailto:rschneeberger5@gmail.com) if you wish to participate. Thank you for your consideration and support!

## LA 2028 Olympic Ticket Presale & Lottery Process

A huge thank you to our very own President-Elect, Adam Dygard, for an outstanding presentation on the LA2028 Olympic ticket presale and lottery process. 🇺🇸🇯🇵

Adam broke down the details, shared insider tips, and offered thoughtful recommendations on how to navigate the system – insights that were truly priceless. With so much excitement building around LA2028, having clear, practical guidance makes all the difference.

We're grateful for Adam's leadership and for equipping our members with the knowledge to be ready for this once-in-a-generation event right here in our backyard! 🇺🇸🔥



### Member Highlight: Adam Dygard – President-Elect, Downey Kiwanis

We're proud to shine the spotlight on Adam Dygard, our President-Elect and a true servant leader within Downey Kiwanis!

Adam serves as the General Manager at 1st Choice Lending in Downey, bringing with him a diverse professional background in sales, marketing, logistics,

and retail/CPG. His depth of experience shows in everything he does – strategic, thoughtful, and always results-driven

But what truly sets Adam apart is his heart for service and leadership. He is always willing to go the extra mile to get the job done. From managing our club website to serving as Program Chair, one of the most important roles in ensuring the success and vibrancy of our meetings. Adam consistently steps up with excellence and dedication.

His commitment, reliability, and positive spirit make a lasting impact on our club and community.

Hooray for Adam! We are excited and confident as we look ahead to his leadership as the next President of Downey Kiwanis. The future is bright!



## Food Distribution

Another bright and beautiful day at Rancho Los Amigos supporting our community through food distribution with the amazing Downey Kiwanis team 🌞💙

Grateful to be joined by our friend Gema Vega from @southgatekiwanis — thank you for showing up and serving alongside us! There's nothing better than neighbors helping neighbors and making a tangible difference together.

Service in action. Community in motion. 🍏🍎🥕



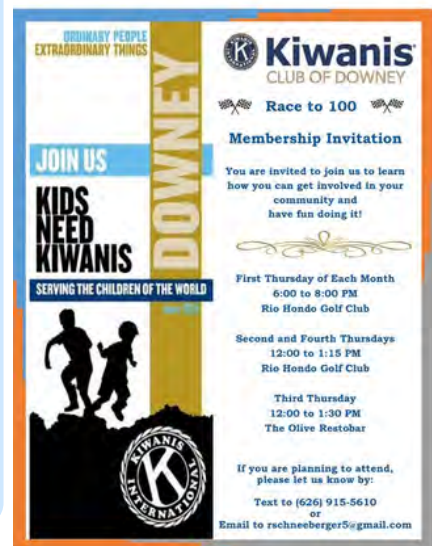
## Downey Kiwanis Club Luncheon

Rain or shine, we're serving up community, connection, and a great lunch! 🍴🌧️

Join us at the Downey Kiwanis Club Luncheon and discover how you can make a difference right here in our community—while having fun doing it! 💙🌟

📍 **Rio Hondo Golf Club**  
📅 2nd & 4th Thursdays | 12:00–1:15 PM  
📅 3rd Thursday | 12:00–1:30 PM (The Olive Restobar)

Let's build friendships, serve local kids, and grow together. See you there! 🤝



## A Lovely Valentine's Noon Program

What a truly special Valentine's Program at today's noon meeting of the Downey Kiwanis Club made even more meaningful with the wonderful presence of our friends from the Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis Club.

What made this gathering unforgettable was being treated to an intimate concert performance by none other than Steve Roberson, the award-winning songwriter and performer. Once again, he gifted us an incredible musical experience that touched every heart in the room. 🎵❤️

This long-running Valentine's tradition never fails to bring emotional joy, connection, and a reminder of what community is all about.

Just another example of ordinary people doing extraordinary things together.



## Kiwanis Night Meeting - SLP Takeover

It was an exciting and fun-filled takeover by the amazing Downey High Key Club and the KIWIN'S Club of Downey High! 💙💛

These incredible high school leaders brought the energy AND the sweets — raising over \$300 each through a delicious baked goods auction! 🍰🍪🥞

From tasty treats to big hearts for service, the future is looking so bright for these students. 🌟 We are beyond proud of their dedication, creativity, and passion for giving back to the community.

Keep shining, future leaders! 🌟🌟



## Member Spotlight: Stephanie Reynoso

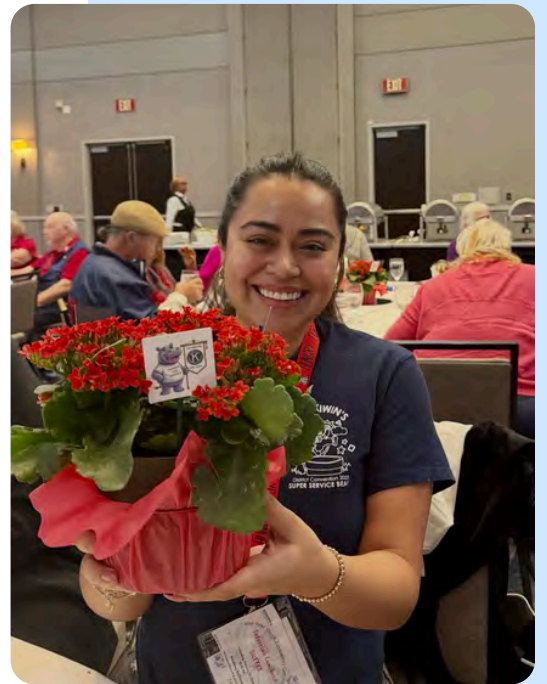
We're proud to recognize Stephanie Reynoso, a local business owner/realtor who cares deeply about making a difference in our community. ❤️

Stephanie's passion for youth leadership and service shines through her work as the Downey KIWIN'S Club Advisor. This year has been a huge milestone for the club – growing from fewer than 10 members last year to an all-time high of 36 students! 🎉

Stephanie joined Kiwanis to connect with other service-driven leaders, support meaningful local projects, and most importantly, mentor and inspire young people.

🗣️ “Being part of an organization rooted in service, leadership, and personal growth has been incredibly fulfilling for me. Watching students find their voice, step into leadership roles, and grow in confidence reminds me that the work we do truly matters.”

Thank you, Stephanie, for your dedication and heart for service!



## Cal-Ne-Ha Mid Year South Educational Conference

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.





## Officers and Directors

### 2025 - 2026 Club Officers

**Phil Requejo**  
President



**Adam Dygard**  
President - Elect



**Art Montoya**  
Vice President



**Rose Schneeberger**  
Secretary



**Erica Vasquez**  
Assistant Secretary



**Leslie Jones**  
Treasurer



**Gary Nesbit**  
Assistant Treasurer



**Jesse Padilla**  
Immediate Past President



### Board Members

**Stephen Chu**



**Jason Cierpiszewski**



**Stephanie Reynoso**



**Amy Scott**



**Brian Tello**



Phil Requejo



Adam Dygard



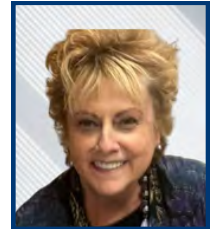
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Art Montoya



Rose Schneeberger



Leslie Jones



Erica Vasquez



Gary Nesbit



Stephen Chu



Jason Cierpiszewski



Stephanie Reynoso



Amy Scott



Brian Tello

# MARCH

## Events



### Kiwanis Anniversaries

Chris Greenbeck - 51 years

Jason Cierpiszewski - 18 yrs

Donna Vasquez - 16 yrs

Blanca Pacheco - 14 yrs

Mariana Pacheco - 14 yrs

Arlene Vasquez - 8 yrs

Deanne Sharp - 6 yrs.



### Kiwanis Birthdays

Richard Lehn - March 13

John O'Neal - March 15

Jesse Padilla March 15

Roy Jimenez - March 26

Diana Padilla - March 29



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