

To All Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce Members:

According to our by-laws, the Chamber must present to the entire membership the slate of candidates nominated to fill vacancies on our Board of Directors. The by-laws state:

D. Nominations by Petition. Additional names of candidates for Directors can be nominated by petition bearing the genuine signatures of at least twenty-five (25) qualified members of the Chamber. Such petition shall be filed with the Nominating Committee within ten (10) days after notice has been given of the names of those nominated. The determination of the Nominating Committee as to the legality of the petition(s) shall be final.

E. Determination. If no petition is filed within the designated period, the nominations shall be closed and the nominated slate of candidates shall be declared elected by the Board of Directors at their regular February Board Meeting.

If a legal petition shall present additional candidates, the names of all candidates shall be arranged on a ballot in alphabetical order. Instructions will be to vote for candidates to fill the exact number of vacancies. The Executive Director shall mail this ballot to all active members at least 15 days before the regular Board Meeting in March.

The ballots shall be marked in accordance with instructions printed on the ballot and returned to the Chamber office within ten days. The Board of Directors shall at their regular March Board meeting declare the candidates with the greatest number of votes elected.

Board of Director Nominees 2024-2025

Current board members up for renewal of their 2-year term:

Gregg Durkee, Kaiser Permanente
Paul Hernandez, State Farm Insurance
Meri Rama, Century 21 Cornerstone/Focus Escrow
Curt Skotnicki, YMCA of Greater Whittier

New board candidates (elected to 2-year term: April 2024 – March 2025):

Jessica Alvarenga, Athens Services
John Bogdanov, Telworx
Marc Patterson, East Whittier City School District
Michael Seril, Michael Seril Fitness Studio

Jessica Alvarenga Athens Services

Jessica Alvarenga is the Director of Government Affairs at Athens Services. Jessica enjoys getting to work with various cities throughout the San Gabriel Valley, where she calls home. Jessica holds a B.A. in Political Science and Urban and Regional Studies from the University of California Los Angeles – she is a proud Bruin! In her free time, she enjoys staying active, salsa dancing, and spending time with family.

John Bogdanov TelWorx

Since joining TelWorx at the end of 2014, John has traveled a winding journey during which he has grown from a would-be lone wolf to embracing the support of the teams at TelWorx. Within those twists and turns have been many experiences and lessons John now draws regularly on. He has walked in the shoes of a small business owner, owning a residential assisted living home. He has experienced real estate investing and syndication. Embracing the idea that teaching is the best way to learn, he has taken advantage of the

opportunity to learn and teach memory skills to an international audience, as well as financial literacy at USC. Understanding the importance of personal development, John has leveraged the opportunity to be part of a collaboration which has made him an Amazon #1 best-selling author. Most recently, he has been studying how the methods and techniques used by hostage negotiators can be applied to his daily interactions.

All of these experiences allow John to engage with his clients from different perspectives than that of simply a channel agent. Even more, they allow him to demonstrate his understanding of his clients' perspectives, to articulate the world the way they see it.

The journey led to John making Whittier his home in 2016 and joining the Chamber to represent Telworx in 2018. He has enjoyed serving the Chamber and its membership as an ambassador as well as through participation in several committees including Hathaway and Silver Shield. Outside of Chamber activities, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, serving as a board member of University of Southern California Marshall Alumni Association, and occasionally sneaking in a round of golf.

Marc Patterson

East Whittier City School District

Marc Patterson was born and raised in Whittier. Marc is now in his seventh year as the Superintendent of the East Whittier City School District which serves 7,800 students from Transitional Kindergarten to 8th Grade. He is extremely proud of the 1,200 employees who serve these amazing students and their families. EWCS D is committed to preparing every one of the 7,800 students in the district to be 21st century learners. While the district has the highest test scores in the surrounding area, Marc is especially proud of the district's focus on ensuring that all students have access to high quality programs beyond the traditional curriculum. The district is in its second year of offering their Broad Course of Study Program. This program provides Art, Music, Engineering/Robotics, and Physical Education classes, by credentialed teachers to all elementary school students. In addition to this, EWCS D has an extensive after school program where students from across the district can participate in school sponsored clubs, activities, or be a part of their district wide Dance and Coding program. To support this program, the District has created partnerships with a number of Chamber partners to deliver these opportunities.

In his spare time, Marc loves to go to country concerts, relax and watch his sophomore son Jack play on his varsity lacrosse team. Marc would love the opportunity to serve on the Board to develop even closer ties with the larger Whittier community and Chamber.

Michael Seril

Michael Seril Fitness Studio

Michael Seril was born in the Philippines but hit the ground running in the USA in '85, choosing the serene charm of Lancaster, CA, as his home base. The story takes a turn towards athleticism with Mike dominating varsity sports – basketball, football, wrestling, and volleyball. This early sporting chapter sparked a lasting love for fitness that has become a cornerstone of what he does.

In 1999, Mike earned his degree in Kinesiology Exercise Science, and completed his Master's in 2001 from Cal State University Northridge. While navigating the academic hustle, Mike also began personal training at a private studio in Tarzana.

In 2006, Mike was awarded the highly prestigious NSCA (National Strength & Conditioning Association) Personal Trainer of the Year, a national award given to one personal trainer throughout the country. Not just confined to gym walls, Mike also has been recognized and published in over 120 fitness articles including, Men's Health, Shape, Muscle & Fitness, NY Times, Washington Post and Reuters Media Company. But it's not

all about sets and reps. In 2005, MSF Studio was founded in Whittier and in 2006 Channel 7 News honored Mike with the Jefferson Award for commendable community service.

Mike contributes countless hours towards community service and support for non-profits, including the Boys and Girls Clubs, The Whole Child, The Whittier Community Foundation, Interfaith Food Center, Los Nietos Educational Foundation, CHOC, the Whittier Chamber of Commerce, and many more.

In his free time, Mike enjoys mountain biking, golf, and strolls with his furbaby Eva "Da Diva" Seril. Beyond fitness, Mike Seril's journey is a lifestyle story, inspiring others to break a sweat, give back, and make a lasting impact.