

# Update



## COMMITTEE OF 300

JULY 2023

### 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jessica Badran**  
President

**Karen Pasion**  
President - Elect

**Derek Brown**  
Past President

**Ted Obole**  
Secretary

**Dale Arakawa**  
Legal Counsel

**Judie Johnsen**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Chris Gehman**  
Race Management Director

**Sandra Ma**  
Press & Media Director

**Cheryl LeMmon**  
Membership Director

**Charlie Aroz**  
Promotions Director

**Anthony Gonzales**  
Community Service Director

**Angela Gehman**  
Activities Director

**Brandon Riddle**  
Paddock Club Director

**Pat Welch**  
Web Developer

**Doreena Daniel**  
Decoration Coordinator

### COMMITTEE OF 300 OF LONG BEACH, INC.

3000 PACIFIC AVE.  
LONG BEACH, CA 90806  
562.981.9200

Phyllis Covey

Welcoming in the 2023-2024 Board of Directors, who are clear about their role and responsibilities to the organization. They know they are there as directors, rather than an executive team, and are committed to fulfilling their duties. There is a comprehensive understanding of the authority that lies with the board. They will delegate effectively with their commitment to the organization with a goal to inspire members to help demonstrate our missions' statement, **"The Committee of 300 provides services to various non-profit organizations in Long Beach and surrounding areas. We recruit, mentor, and coordinate our members, with the anticipated reward of self-fulfillment and a sense of community. Since our inception in 1975, our mission has included strong involvement with the Long Beach Grand Prix,"** along with signifying the strategic direction of the Committee of 300. However, they will also focus on strategy and policy areas, and are confident that the staff have the abilities, aptitudes and entrusted authority needed to ensure operations run smoothly.

We all tend to resist change, nevertheless, studies have shown that a more diverse board makes better long-term decisions. Having fixed terms of office and regular turnover to propose fresh thinking and new opinions and ideas. A regular board turnover is the need for stronger succession planning, but having a balance between fresh, new board members, and our seasoned members who holds the knowledge of the history of the organization. Both are needed for an effective board. The Board of Directors will work as a team and will know what they will need to make decisions and that will ensure information will be presented accurately, and delivered in a timely manner. Without further ado, we present to you our 49th annual **Committee of 300 Board of Directors for 2023 - 2024.**



**Jessica Badran**  
**President**

*Owning a business for 13 years, allows me to travel and create memories and socialize with new individuals. Meeting people improved my ability to interact with others and push myself outside of my comfort zone. Therefore, **five years ago**, I decided to join C300.*

**Karen Pasion**  
**President-Elect**

***Member for 9 years.** I'm a happy grandparent who loves family, friends and the outdoors. Looking forward to a great C300 year ahead.*



# INTRODUCING THE 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Derek Brown**  
**Past President**  
**Member for 25 years.**  
*I enjoy officiating youth sports, particularly football. Volunteering with charitable organizations, gardening, and DIY projects.*



**Judie Johnsen**  
**Chief Financial Officer**  
**Member for 32 years.** *I was looking for friends – as I was new to Long Beach. I now count many of our members – past and present – as good friends. I take pride in saying that over the years I have helped a lot of members, who count me both as a friend and a problem solver.*



**Dale Arakawa**  
**Legal Counsel**  
**Member for 4 years.**  
*Originally from Honolulu, Hawaii, and has lived in California for over 20 years. Hobbies include basketball and running, and an avid sports fan.*



**Ted Obole**  
**Secretary**  
*I started out as just a volunteer for a couple of years, now I've been a member for 8 years. I am 71 years old, retired from Heavy Industrial Electrician.*



**Chris Gehman**  
**Race Management Director**  
**Member for 22 years.** *Interests are long walks, reading a good book and hoping to one day settle down \*\$#@#...!! Oh wait.. Glitch sorry... Actually, I'm a car & bike guy for as long as I can remember, a race fan and I fix things. Also find the road less traveled far more interesting than the 405.*



**Sandra Ma**  
**Press & Media Director**  
**Member for 5 years.** *I have an enjoyment when it comes to cooking, which is also my stress reliver. Being a member and a volunteer gives me a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction.*



**Charlie Aroz**  
**Promotions Director**  
**Member for 2 years.** *"I love working on classic cars, race cars & NASCAR. I enjoy all events with C300 because I can meet gear-heads and Grand Prix patrons."*



**Anthony Gonzales**  
**Community Service Director**  
**Member for 9 years.** *Business owner of SideBangs Salon for 45 years. Father of Five, grandfather of five. I like riding my Harley and hanging out with people. I also enjoy traveling. I joined the Committee of 300 because of the work they do in the city of Long Beach, as well as I enjoy the race weekend.*



**Angela Gehman**  
**Activities Director**  
**Member for 22 years.** *I enjoy the escape of a good movie, either at home in my PJ's or out on the town with friends. My favorite movie quote is: "The universe is a pretty big place...So if it's just us...seems like an awful waste of space, Right?" Jodie Foster, "Contact" 1997.*



**Cheryl LeMmon**  
**Membership Director**  
**Member for 38 years.** *I especially enjoy the functions where we advertise the C300 and the Grand Prix. Any type of meet and greet where we can connect with people is a perfect example of volunteering!!*



**Brandon Riddle**  
**Paddock Club Director**

**Member for 4 years.** I'm proud to serve on the 23'-24' Board of Directors as Club C300 Director I'm excited about this coming year with our new President that exudes **POSITIVITY** and **ENTHUSIASM!** This year is going to be one of the **BEST** years we have ever had! Looking forward to seeing you all very soon.



**Doreena Daniel**  
**Decoration Coordinator**

I was a CV since 2015, but have been officially a **member for 2 years.** I enjoy volunteering, being an "Auntie" to children in my neighborhood, playing the piano, doing puzzles and listening to live music.



**Pat Welch**  
**Web Developer**

**Member for 3 years.** I describe myself as a Community advocate for Downtown Long Beach. I am an active member of the Downtown Residential Council and the Ocean residents Community Association, am Co-Leader of the Beautify Pine gardening project, and participate in many outreach efforts by the City and the Downtown Long Beach Alliance. I also enjoy bike riding and tennis.

**My Fellow Governors:**

The 49th Acura Grand Prix of Long Beach event cycle is already underway. Doreena and I have enjoyed our time with you these past 18 months. Throughout three race weekends, promotions, activities, community service events... Thank you for your active participation. It's time for me to step back now, to allow our next generation of Presidents to assume the mantle of leadership. Harry Saltzgaver recently wrote: **"Perfect is the enemy of good." In other words, you can focus on making something perfect to the point you never get anything done, let alone do something good. The pursuit of perfection becomes an excuse for not completing anything – it's not quite ready yet; I can improve on this with a little more time, etc. But I did learn that endless wordsmithing didn't necessarily improve... and it definitely took away from the time available for the next task.** I can't think of any more valuable advice I would possibly impart upon our 2023-2024 leadership team! While things often weren't smooth this year, we refused to lose sight of our ultimate objectives. Congratulations to our incoming Board of Directors, of which Doreena and I remain members. We've rebuilt our membership back over the 100+ threshold, and this initiative can't stop now. Please continue to encourage our many friends and volunteers to become full C300 Members. There's plenty of opportunity to increase our membership, attracting like-minded individuals interested in the fantastic opportunities we provide. Our revised C300 By-Laws and Mission Statement are now much more reflective of our 501(c)(4) focus. The new Gaucho Beach restaurant will open very soon, so it's imperative that we formulate a strong working relationship with them for our 2024 Club C300 footprint and its amenities. Our foundation for the future is strong. A high bar is set for future Presidents to advance our organization forward. As I've written: "The Committee of 300 is all of us. Hold our leadership team accountable. Our Board serves you, not the other way around. The needs of the many, outweigh the needs of the few, or the one! And, anything worth having is worth sacrificing for." We're looking forward to seeing you at our President's Celebration at the Lions Automobilia Foundation Museum on Saturday, July 15th. We have a very special evening planned for you!

Derek Brown - **Immediate Past President**

**Saturday • July 15th • 6 to 10pm**

**Lions Automobilia Foundation Museum**  
2790 E Del Amo Blvd, Rancho Dominguez, CA 90221

**...takes preserving automotive history to the next level...**

Dinner by Naples Rib Company

Members: \$50 Guest: \$65 • Business / Cocktail Attire

No Host Bar • Beer & Wine

**RSVP by July 10th**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COF49ACAB2AAAF4C43-committee>

Checks to: Committee of 300 (3000 Pacific Ave. Long Beach, CA 90806)  
Credit Card Payments: (562) 981-9200





# welcome

our newest committee members



Susan Bruce  
 Larry Carter  
 Ernie K Grai Chen  
 Brent Cole  
 Rena Collins  
 Biagio Cuomo  
 Chenth Douglass  
 Jim Edwards  
 Jenny Ferguson

Ron Ferguson  
 Kira Gidwani  
 Stephanie Gonzales  
 Neil Hirsch  
 Greg Van Hofwagon  
 Tom Horuath  
 Diny Hyman  
 Michael Johnson  
 Irene De Laserna

Aaron Laverde  
 Peggy LeBrecht  
 Joh Maeinkovich  
 Joe Macias  
 Ramona Marquez  
 Thomas McDaniel  
 Deborah McNamara  
 Robert Myer  
 Delia Arian Nava

Amber Ramirez  
 Marc Ramirez  
 Raymond Sandoval  
 Karen Sanzone  
 Tony Sanzone  
 Nadia Shamma  
 Lance Woods

## JULY 2023

7/08/2023 (SAT)  
 7/15/2023 (SAT)

LEADERSHIP MEETING  
 PRESIDENT'S PARTY

INCOMING DIRECTORS  
 LIONS AUTOMOBILIA MUSEUM

2790 E Del Amo Blvd,  
 Rancho Dominguez, CA 90221  
 6380-A E. PCH HWY, LB 90808  
 El Dorado Park West

7/18/2023 (TUES)  
 7/29/2023 (SAT)

GOVERNORS MEETING  
 ACTIVITIES

JADE RESTAURANT @ 6PM  
 "OLD SCHOOL" PICNIC @11am

**RENEWAL  
 REMINDER**

## Membership Dues

Your annual membership dues are due. Renew your C300 membership to stay connected. Let's keep growing together! We have exciting new activities and community services planned along with new events coming up. We are eager to have your participation in the coming year! Contact the office at (562) 981-9200 to renew.

## C300 Merchandise for Purchase!

Shirts - \$25.00 each ("xx" - \$30.00)  
 Jackets - \$113.00 (add \$5.00 per "x")  
 Caps - \$25.00 (one size fits most)  
 Visors - \$20.00 (one size fits most)  
 Ladies Sunglasses - \$10.00  
 Cold Cups with Logo - \$30.00  
 Coffee Cups - \$ 10.00

Contact - Phyllis (562) 981-9200

## Happy Birthday!

7/11 Lance Woods  
 7/21 Julie Meraz  
 7/30 John Arens Sr.  
 7/30 Juan Sanchez