Mike Newcomb, Editor October 30, 2025



Ph: 714 815-9146 Vol. 75, No. 17

MEETING President Ross Stewart opened the meeting. Ken Dufour gave the invocation reminding us of our responsibilities personally and as an Exchange Club. Ed Romeo led us in the Pledge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... **SHIRLEY LASHMETT** asked what members will be attending the Golf Tournament for the Big Drawing? Mitch Mitchell gave us the weekly count down to Ed Romeo's 100th Birthday. Mitch also introduced our guest speaker, Will O'Neill, Chairman of the Republican Party of Orange County, previous Mayor of Newport Beach and past member of our Exchange Club. Will stated in the beginning of his presentation that he does not support the Proposition, but said he would provide us with the basic argument for Prop 50 as well. Chairman O'Neill mentioned that various websites presented the pros and cons of Prop 50. Will gave us a number of reasons for Republicans to vote against the proposition: *Prop 50's special election will cost taxpayers nearly \$300 million while California is facing a \$20 billion deficit..... *Instead of funding key priorities like public safety and emergency response, Gavin Newsom and the State Legislature are wasting hundreds of millions on dollars on a partisan special election to help elect more Democrats*Prop 50 will override the maps created by the voterapproved independent California Citizens Redistricting Commission, which aims to preserve communities of interest, in favor of partisan districts drafted secretly by politicians.*Statewide, these new maps will divide counties 114 times and

cities 141 times—including many Latino, Asian and Black communities who fought to stay unified in the same district. Newport would be divided in half. The northern half along with Huntington Beach would join Long Beach to change our community to a strong "blue" Congressional district. The southern half along with Laguna Beach would be connected "blue" communities with more south.....*Prop 50 dilutes community representation and silences voter's voices benefit a few politi-



Chairman Will O'Neill

cians.....*Approving Prop 50 puts the State Legislature in charge of drawing on Calfornia's congressional maps.....*We should maintain California's gold standard for fair redistricting and lead the country in showing that independent, citizen-led redistricting is the better path forward.

Dwight Williams, President of the California Senior Alliance stated, "The independent redistricting process has helped ensure that diverse communities across California can advocate effectively for their needs. Prop 50 discards that progress by merging urban ethnic neighborhoods with far-flung rural areas that have little in common, protecting politicians at the expense of real representation." The Democrats favor Prop 50, arguments for are posted on their "Yes on Prop 50" webpage:

*It levels the playing field to make sure the 2026 midterm elections are conducted



George Lesley, "Chairman O'Neill, I have one more question."

on a level playing field without an unfair advantage for Republicans..... *Commits to fair redistricting, reaffirming California's commitment to independent redistricting and calls for a nationwide commitment to fair and impartial maps.....*Puts the power in the hands of the people of California, not backroom politicians, to approve emergency congressional district maps in response to Trump's election rigging scheme....*Is fair and proportional by providing emergency maps only because Republicans moved forward with their power grab.....*These maps expire in 2030. Prop 50 preserves California's award-winning redistricting reforms and reaffirms the California Redistricting Commission's authority to draw congressional districts after the next census.

Chairman O'Neill reminded all to vote and encouraged everyone they know to

also vote. He pointed out that the Republicans do not turn out in great numbers for non-national elections and that Democrats do. The presentation ended as Will answered questions from the members. Craig Boardman asked more details about the cost of this election. Will shared that this election was the 2nd most expensive election in the State. Mitch Mitchell was interested in the statement about Orange County becoming "purple'. Will stated that Governor Brown predicted that the Irvine University of California, Irvine would eventually impact the "color"

of Orange County.

THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEWPORT HARBOR UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE SPEAKER/SUBJECT

Oct 30 Chris Epting **Seymour Beek** Nov 6

Nov 13 CA State Representative Diane Dixon

Nov 20 Business Meeting

Nov 27 NO MEETING—Happy Thanksgiving!

The next meeting will be held at the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club. Lunch will be served at 12:20 p.m. You will be emailed an invitation before the pres. Ross Stewart meeting. Please notify Ross Stewart by Sunday

evening if you are planning on attending.



Please visit our website www.exchangeclubofnewportharbor.com



EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEWPORT HARBOR

Box 1022, Newport Beach, CA 92659-0022

Newport's First Service Club, 1926 * Re- Chartered January 18, 1959 National Club Achievement Award 2009 * National Service Award 2001, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2011 National Big E Award 17 Years * District Best Club Newsletter Award 2001-2006, 2009, 2010, 2011 National Club Membership Achievement Award 2005, 2009 National Excellence Award 2009



National Awards

First Place

Best Club Bulletin Editor, 2001 Best Club Web Video 2011 Best Club Public Relations 2017

Meets at Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club 1601 Bayside Drive, Corona del Mar Thursdays 12 Noon





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Birthday Recognition	

rt	MEMBERSHIP	
D	Education	
er	Club Roster	
y	Inductions	Past Presidents
	Membership Badges	Ken Dufour
У	New Member Orientation	
e	Recruitment	All Members
D		
n	YOUTH PROGRAMS	
0	Youth of the Year	
D	A.C.E. Program	Cynthia Strasmann
y	Young Citizenship Award	Cynthia Strasmann
n i	Patriotic Art	
y	Buddy Bench	Cynthia Strasmann
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ir	PROGRAMS Mitch N	
	Meeting SetupK Dufour/R	Shlemon/M Newcomb
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	PUBLIC RELATIONS	
)	Media Coverage	Dave Schapiro
y	Spindrift Editors:D Schapiro	D/D Daruty/M Newcomb
n	INVESTMENT	Richard Swinney
))	HOSPITALITY	Shirley Lashmett
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ACTIVE PAST PRESIDENTS

Mike Gertner	CDM Club 67-68
Mike Gertner	9/78-8/79
Garry TeWinkle	9/79-8/80
Mitch Mitchell	9/83-8/84
W.C. Fox	9/91-9/92
George Lesley	9/93-8/94
W.C. Fox	
Duncan Forgey	7/05-6/06

•	I REGIDENTO	
	Leo Fracalosy	7/12-6/13
	Wally Ziglar	7/13-6/14
	Leo Fracalosy	7/15-7/16
	Ken Dufour	7/17-6/18
	Richard Swinney	7/18-6/19
	Ken Dufour	
	George Lesley	7/20-6/21
	Mike Gertner	7/21-6/22
	Ken Dufour	7/22-6/23
	Shirley Lashmett	7/23-6/24
	Roy Shlemon	7/24-6/25

JULY

National Convention Membership Drive

AUGUST

Membership Drive Installation 29th

SEPTEMBER

Sports Books Membership Drive

OCTOBER

Crime Prevention Month

NOVEMBER

One Nation Under God Proudly We Hail Movie Benefit

DECEMBER

Christmas Party Santa School Program Families Helping Families

ANNUAL ACTIVITY CALENDAR JANUARY

ECNH Birthday Education Meeting

FFBRUARY

Community Service Month

National Exchange Birthday **Club Nominations**

Child Abuse Prevention Month Club Elections

A.C.E. Awards Youth of the Year Awards Freedom Shrine Month **GIVEAKIDAFLAGTOWAVE** Young Citizenship Award Field of Honor

Milestones of Freedom Installation Banquet District Convention