Diane Daruty, Editor
September 10, 2026

EXCHANGE
THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEWPORT HARBOR, CA

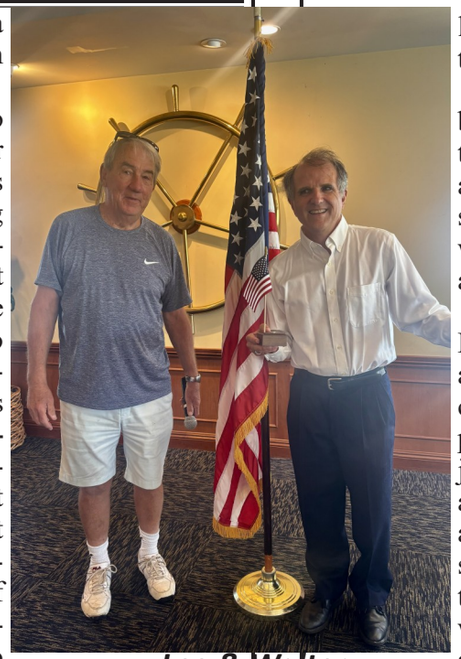
Ph: 949-322-7949
Vol. 76, No. 10

MEETING President **Leo Fracalosy** opened. **Marianne Amerine** read a prayer authored by **Leo**. **Leo** led the Pledge.

PROGRAM **Diane Daruty** introduced **Walter Stahr**, candidate for Newport City Council. **Walter's** parents, who were active in the Girl Scouts, Pacific Symphony, South Coast Repertory, and Newport's Central Library, were 2016's Newport Beach Citizens of the Year. Continuing in their tradition, **Walter** serves on the Boards of the Pacific Symphony and Newport's Library Foundation. He received an undergraduate degree in political science from Stanford, a juris doctorate from Harvard, and a master's in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He practiced law more than two decades with an international law firm and later for the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission and for Fidelity Investments in Asia. In his second career, **Walter** has authored biographies of American leaders including William H. Seward and Edwin Stanton, influential members of President Lincoln's cabinet, Salmon P. Chase, Treasury Secretary under Lincoln, John Jay, a Founding Father, and most recently, William Howard Taft, President and Supreme Court Chief Justice. **Walter** appeared to discuss his candidacy and his book on Taft.

If elected to City Council, **Walter** seeks to prevent construction of a new police department at the park adjacent to Newport's Civic Center. He believes that many Newport citizens strongly oppose this because they want to save the park and to prevent a jail located so close to Civic Center. Nevertheless, in his view, the current Council is proceeding full speed ahead with the project, even approving a public relations campaign supporting it.

Walter is committed to being a Council Member who listens to residents and explains the reasoning behind his votes. He expressed disappointment with **Erik Weigand,** the Council Member who **Walter** is running to replace, claiming **Erik** does not listen to citizens. **Walter** criticized **Erik** for allegedly telling citizens at a Council meeting that they were wasting Council's time, he was tired of the same people complaining, and he wanted to hear from others in the community. **Walter** also disparaged **Erik** for being one of four council members who, without explanation, voted to delay a citizen vote on three ballot measures until 2028.

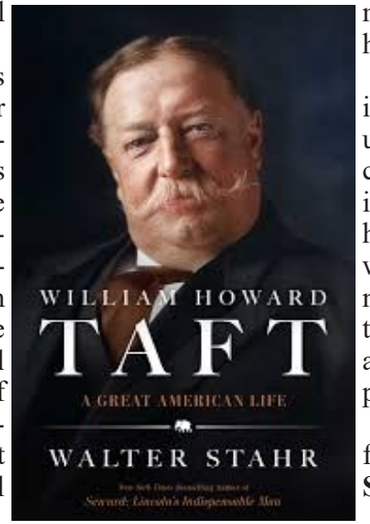


Leo & Walter

Walter addressed the problems that occurred on July 4th at Newport Peninsula. Although the police made 400 arrests, he questioned the outcome of most of them. He suspects that the vast majority were for minor offenses and that 50 or less resulted in criminal charges. He is also concerned with those who acted criminally but who were not arrested. If elected, he would propose an independent consultant analyze what the police knew about what was brewing in social media that day, what they did about it, and whether their actions adequately addressed the situation. **Walter** acknowledged that this 4th of July was particularly difficult for law enforcement as it was on a Saturday, making for a long weekend and more persons traveling to Newport to celebrate.

Walter discussed his recent book about William Howard Taft that is currently available on Amazon. It will be available in book stores on November 10th and he will give a presentation that day about it at Witte Hall.

Most know Taft as President. But before his presidency, he was a prosecutor and state and federal court judge; afterwards, a Supreme Court Chief Justice. Taft's judicial experience equipped him as President to approach issues analytically and to consider all sides. He sought to avoid war and to honor the Constitution. He worked closely with Congress and was willing to work with Republicans and Democrats. Taft was an advocate of the predecessor of NAFTA and almost succeeded until Canada rejected it.



Walter counts Taft as one of history's top four Supreme Court Chief Justices. He considers Taft's leadership in giving the Court control over its calendar as his most significant contribution. When Taft joined the Supreme Court, it was hearing all appeals, with an average of two to three years to resolve each one. The Court was buried in many small and not very meaningful cases, for example those that only made their way to it because the plaintiffs and defendants resided in different states. Taft recognized the significance of the Court's role and that it was vital that it focus on cases where the outcomes would establish meaningful precedents. Working with the Justice Department and drawing upon on his relationships in Congress, he was pivotal in the passage of the Judges' Bill of 1925. This bill gave the Supreme Court discretionary control over its caseload by largely eliminating mandatory appeals.

As Chief Justice, Taft essentially selected new justices. This was useful in gaining support for a dedicated home for the Court. When Taft first arrived, the justices had very little office space and most of them worked at home. This was not only inconvenient, but it also prevented the justices from conferring on cases. Once Taft gained a majority of justices in favor of a new building, the land was obtained and the building design confirmed. Although he did not live to see the completed structure, a model of it was displayed next to his casket at his funeral.

Perhaps a less significant but interesting fact was Taft's stature. By the end of his presidency, he weighed 350 pounds making him the largest president in history. To his credit, working with his doctor to improve his nutrition and add exercise, between the end of his presidency and his death, he lost 100 pounds.

Walter drew the winning raffle ticket. **Lisa Jelke** and **Dave Schapiro** each won $25.

THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEWPORT HARBOR
UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	SPEAKER/SUBJECT
Sept 10	Judge Terri Flynn-Peister, Insight into the OC Court system
Sept 17	CA Assemblymember Diane Dixon



Pres. Leo Fracalosy

Lunch will be served at next Thursday's meeting at 12:20 p.m. You will be emailed an invitation before the meeting. Please notify Leo Fracalosy by Sunday evening if you are planning on attending.

Please visit our website

www.exchangeclubofnewportharbor.com

Spindrift

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

Multiple Outstanding Club Awards
California/Nevada District

OFFICERS

President	Leo Fracalosy
President Elect	Richard Swinney
Vice President, Programs	Mitch Mitchell
Secretary	Lisa Jelke
Treasurer	George Lesley
Immediate Past President	Ross Stewart

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

One Year Term	Two Year Term
Marianne Amerine	Barbara Kirkham
Michael Newcomb	Gina Lesley
Lauretta Stansfield	Claudette Mekalian

AMERICANISM ..... TBD
- Field of Honor ..... Richard Swinney
- Freedom Shrines ..... Gale Demmer
- Proudly We Hail ..... George Lesley

COMMUNITY SERVICE ..... Leo Fracalosy
- John Crean Book of Golden Deeds ..... Garry TeWinkle
- Crime Prevention ..... TBD
- Fire Prevention ..... Jerry Strom
- Service to Seniors ..... Ed Romeo
- Adopt a Family ..... TBD
- Child Abuse Prevention ..... Richard Swinney

FUNDRAISING ..... Ken Dufour / George Lesley
- Movie Benefit ..... George Lesley
- Budget Committee ..... George Lesley/ Ken DuFour
- Sports Books .....
- Football Pool ..... Mike Gertner

SOCIAL COMMITTEE ..... TBD
- Birthday Recognition ..... Fran Murphy
- Christmas ..... Cynthia Strasmann
- Member Welfare ..... TBD
- Social Events/Fellowship ..... TBD

MEMBERSHIP ..... TBD
- Education ..... Mike Gertner
- Club Roster ..... TBD
- Inductions ..... Past Presidents
- Membership Badges ..... Ken Dufour
- New Member Orientation ..... Sponsors
- Recruitment ..... All Members

YOUTH PROGRAMS ..... Cynthia Strasmann
- Youth of the Year ..... TBD
- A.C.E. Program ..... Cynthia Strasmann
- Young Citizenship Award ..... Cynthia Strasmann
- Patriotic Art ..... Cynthia Strasmann
- Buddy Bench ..... Cynthia Strasmann

PROGRAMS ..... Mitch Mitchell / Diane Daruty
- Meeting Setup ..... K Dufour/R Shlemon/M Newcomb

PUBLIC RELATIONS ..... TBD
- Media Coverage ..... Dave Schapiro
- Spindrift Editors: ..... D Schapiro/D Daruty/M Newcomb

INVESTMENT ..... Richard Swinney

ACTIVE PAST PRESIDENTS

Mike Gertner	CDM Club 67-68	Wally Ziglar	7/13-6/14
Mike Gertner	9/78-8/79	Leo Fracalosy	7/15-7/16
Garry TeWinkle	9/79-8/80	Ken Dufour	7/17-6/18
Mitch Mitchell	9/83-8/84	Richard Swinney	7/18-6/19
W.C. Fox	9/91-9/92	Ken Dufour	7/19-6/20
George Lesley	9/93-8/94	George Lesley	7/20-6/21
W.C. Fox	1/00-6/00	Mike Gertner	7/21-6/22
Duncan Forgey	7/05-6/06	Ken Dufour	7/22-6/23
Jerry Nininger	7/09-6/10	Shirley Lashmett	7/23-6/24
Dr. Bob Wood	7/11-6/12	Roy Shlemon	7/24-6/25
Leo Fracalosy	7/12-6/13	Ross Stewart	7/25-6/26

ANNUAL ACTIVITY CALENDAR

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

JANUARY
ECNH Birthday
Education Meeting

FEBRUARY
Community Service Month

MARCH
National Exchange Birthday
Club Nominations

APRIL
Child Abuse Prevention Month
Club Elections
A.C.E. Awards
Youth of the Year Awards

MAY
Freedom Shrine Month
GIVEAKIDAFLAGTOWAVE
Young Citizenship Award
Field of Honor

JUNE
Milestones of Freedom
Installation Banquet
District Convention