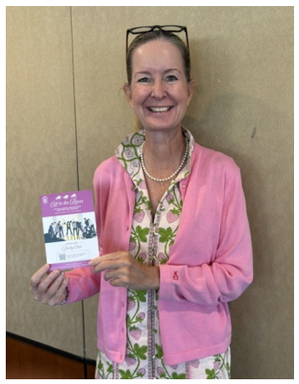
Mike Newcomb, Editor
September17, 2026

EXCHANGE

THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEWPORT HARBOR, CA

Ph: 714-815-9146
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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – We were blessed again to have a buffet luncheon last Thursday. We had a small group join us, hoping that more will be available to attend this week. With a number of members traveling this month, may all be safe and return healthy. **President Leo Fracalosy** opened the meeting with a special prayer. Following the invocation **Leo** lead us in the salute to our Flag. Following the salute **Leo** was asked if anyone had an update of **Michael Gertner**. As most of you know **Mike** had a stroke. Jan, his wife had shared that he was doing well and is involved in physical therapy. We ask all to keep Mike in your prayers and hope for a speedy return to our Thursday luncheons. **Brad Markell** was introduced by **Mitch Mitchell** as a future member and thanked him for all his help on the last Field of Honor program. **Leo** introduced **Kelly Brennan**, Director of Advancement Events at Servite High School. The school will have its 68th annual Fashion Show, Boutique and Luncheon on Sunday, November 15th at the Hilton Anaheim. The purpose of the event will be to raise money to support students with financial help to attend Servite High. Kelly shared that 55% of the students receive assistance to attend.



Kelly Brennan

Week number Two for the Football Pool, **Garrett TeWinkle** filled in for **Mike** as he recovers. **Shirley Lashmett** was first place and **Majorie Davis** pulled up the rear.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Last week on behalf of **Diane Daruty**, who is the Chair of the **Newport Spirit Run, Leo** passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet for this year's event, which will be held on **Sunday, October 18th** asking Club members for a couple hours of participation. If you signed up please remember the date of the **Newport Spirit Run.** The event to a wonderful way to support our community.

Lisa Jelke wanted to remind all that she is the one calling in the lunch count each week. It is important to the club to have an accurate number. She gives Tasha the Coordinator that shares the attendance numbers for all programs at Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club.

Before **Judge Flynn-Peister** gave her presentation, she shared information for anyone interested applying for the 2026-2027 opportunity to serve on the Orange County Grand Jury. The flyer gave a timeline for the process. Information and the application form will be available online, by calling the Grand Jury Hotline, **657-622-6747**. The application deadline is 1/15/2027. The website is **www.ocgrandjury.org**

PROGRAM **Chair Mitch Mitchell** introduced **Judge Flynn-Peister**. Our own **Lisa Jelke** was kind to me and provided the following summary of **Judge Flynn-Peister's** presentation. Prior to the Judge speaking I ask her if she had a summary or could I find her speech online. She said, "Oh no, I will just share". She did a wonderful job with her talk, but I realized that my notes were not wonderful. So a great big thank you to Lisa! I am thankful for our talented retired Court Reporter!

Before taking the bench, **Judge Flynn-Peister** spent more than a decade as a federal prosecutor, where her work included narcotics, violent-crime and gang cases. She was appointed to the Orange County Superior Court in 2012 and since held several leadership positions within the court.



Judge Flynn-Peister & Lisa Jelke

One lesser-known aspect of **Judge Flynn-Peister's** career was her work as an educator. She has taught judicial ethics to judges throughout California and law at several Southern Californian universities.

She currently serves as Assistant Presiding Judge of the Orange County Superior Court for the 2026-2027 term—giving us a wonderful opportunity to hear directly from someone at the highest levels of our local court system.)

Budgetary Constraints

She detailed the significant funding gap facing the court, noting that the most recent of $282 million only covered approximately 82% of necessary funds. To avoid layoffs and furloughs, the court is maintaining a high vacancy rate, which is projected to increase from 7.5% to 8.5% in the coming year.

- **Personnel Costs**: Roughly 85% of the budget is dedicated to salaries and benefits for over 1,600 employees.
- **Judicial Staffing**: The court currently employs 127 judges and has chosen to fund only 17 of its 18 available commissioner positions to same money.
- **Funding Gaps**: While one state-funded judge vacancy will be filled by year-end, local commissioner positions remain unfunded due to budget limitations.

Operational Innovations

To mitigate delays caused by understaffing, the court has implemented several procedural and technological solutions.

- **Informal Discovery Conference**: To address a 300-day wait time for civil motions, the court created an informal discovery calendar at the Costa Mesa complex. This program, utilized by 26 of 30 civil judges, has reduced wait times by 90 days and increased early case settlements.
- **AI Implementation:**

The court uses inhouse developed generative AI tools in a closed environment:

- **Emmy:** A chatbot providing employees with real-time information regarding employment benefits.
- **Eva:** A chatbot assisting courtroom clerks with procedural inquiries to maintain efficiency despite high vacancy rates.
- **CAT:** An AI translation tool used to translate long documents (such as juvenile dependency reports) into Spanish and Vietnamese.
- **Jury Management**: The court transitioned to a call-in system with strict deadlines for judges to request jurors, reducing the public burden and administrative costs.



Leo & Judge Flynn-Peister

- **Collaborative Programs**
- The court maintains a robust system of specialized court designed to reduce recidivism through treatment rather than incarceration.
- **Specialized Courts"** Existing programs include DUI court, drug court, veterans treatment court, mental health courts and Whatever It Takes program for unhoused individuals with substance abuse issues.

THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEWPORT HARBOR
UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	SPEAKER/SUBJECT
Sep 17	Business Meeting/CA Assemblymember Diane Dixon, Candidate for OC Supervisor
Sep 24	Joe Stapleton, NB City Council Candidate
Oct 1	Janice Freshette, Exec Dir. and Founder of Parents Foundation
Oct 8	Lauren Kleinman, Mayor of N.B.
Oct 15	Honors Awards for N.B.P.D. & N.B.F.D.



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 Lisa Jelke 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