Dave Schapiro, Editor
September24, 2026

EXCHANGE
THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEWPORT HARBOR, CA

Ph: 949-300-5449
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FOH/FIELD OF HONOR MEETING Last week's luncheon was preceded by a combined Field of Honor and FOH Sponsorship Committee Meeting chaired by **Lydia Ledesma-Reese** and **Richard Swinney,** and attended by 12 ECNH members. 250 Sponsorship Packets, including a very professionally produced brochure detailing who we are and what we do, and flyers describing our FOH and outlining sponsorship opportunities for the FOH were assembled at the meeting. **Lydia** commented that, because of the high cost of production, these packets will be available for distribution by our members only to potential sponsors. **Lydia** also has made available a simple introductory script for use by those who might have difficulty approaching potential sponsors and asking for money…..**Marianne Amerine** commented that the FOH is on Facebook and Instagram and that if you use social media, you can input information about the FOH. **Lydia** mentioned that these vehicles will be used to recruit new members…..**Richard Swinney** is looking for chairpersons to oversee both the **Armed Forces Day** and **Memorial Day Ceremonies; George Lesley** and **Mike Newcomb** both indicated that they would be interested. Also **Dave Scbapiro** and **Michael Call** would co-chair the PR Committee for the FOH…..**Richard** stated that we have already received donations, including one from Caymus Vineyards in Rutherford, along with a number of our members who have already contributed. **Ken DuFour** brought up the possibility of having a fireworks display funded by the City associated with the FOH on Memorial Day or Armed Forces Day; **Sara Weber** is investigating….. Other interesting discussions included a flyover on one of the FOH weekends…..**George** has taken on the responsibility of contacting the City Council members to obtain donations and sponsorships and sending invitations to the VIPs…..**Ken** mentioned donating to **Furnishing Hope** as one of our charitable recipients….. **Richard** is asking for any new ideas and activities, i.e. exhibits which are patriotic, which we can display.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – President Leo Fracalosy opened the meeting, and **Ken Dufour** gave the Invocation. **Ken** expressed gratitude to the Lord for allowing us to gather here and for the fellowship that we receive at our EC gatherings; and asked that He continue to give us His blessings. **Leo** led us in the Salute to the Flag….. **Lydia** then outlined the proceedings of our FOH and Sponsorship meeting held previously. She announced that the sponsorship campaign had kicked off today, and packets were distributed to the 24 members in attendance. She encouraged everyone to participate while distributing the costly packets selectively…..**Leo** commented that we are significantly ahead of last year because of the monetary donations of our members to the FOH…..**Richard** gave a lot of credit to **Lydia** and the **Sponsorship Committee** for all their hard work. He mentioned that most of the net proceeds from last year's FOH have gone or will be going to the **Marine 1:1 Foundation** and the **Priority Center**, both organizations of which focus on families in need…..**Mitch Mitchell** introduced our newest member of ECNH, **Kim Granderson**, who presented a few weeks back and who is an executive with the OC Pediatric Research Foundation…..**Claudette Mekalian** reported that **Mike Gertner** is scheduled to be released sometime this weekend from hospitalization secondary to a stroke…..**Dave Schapiro** detailed the upcoming discontinuation of the **Microsoft Publisher program effective 10/1**, which will have a negative impact on our ability to publish the Spindrift. He is planning on investigating alternative programs to continue and may be asking for help.



Representative Diane Dixon

CA ASSEMBLY-MEMBER DIANE DIXON – Introduced by **Diane Daruty**, **Diane Dixon** was elected to represent California's 72nd Assembly District in 2022, She previously served on the N.B. City Council from 2014 through 2022, including 2 terms as Mayor. In just 3 years in Sacramento, she has had 18 bills signed into law by **Governor Newsom**, and was the most successful GOP in this regard in 2025. **Rep. Dixon** is a member of the **Problem Solvers Caucus**, which seeks to set partisan labels aside and provide real solutions for the people of California. She is one of few state legislators with business experience, having worked for over 30 years as a Senior Executive for Avery, a publicly traded company; and has been twice named the OC Business Council's Legislator of the Year. Her priorities include public safety, coastal protection, strengthening the local economy, consumer protection, human trafficking and fighting against Sacramento's overreach. **Diane** is giving up her seat in state government to run for the seat on the **OC Board of Supervisors** against incumbent **Katrina Foley**. **Diane** wasn't originally intending to go to Sacramento, but in the later years of her last City Council period, she objected to Sacramento's mandates regarding housing development in OC, particularly Newport Beach: developers cannot afford to buy land here and build affordable housing, as well as in the cities of Huntington Beach and Laguna Beach. She currently feels that she can be more effective in serving at local government levels…..**Diane** is a candidate for **OC District 5 Supervisor**, which serves a large swath of cities in South OC, from Costa Mesa to Dana Point along with some unincorporated areas…..**Diane** embodies Republican principles including **fiscal responsibility, common sense, economic growth**, and **public safety** (crime prevention and prosecution, effective law enforcement (fully staffed police and sheriff's departments, DAs). She comes back with considerable knowledge of how things get accomplished in Sacramento. She is concerned with the influx of Democratic Socialists who are running for office and their corresponding support by the Democratic Party; the influence of labor unions with respect to unionization of hotels and tourist venues; and the need for economic transparency (i.e., where is the money going?). **Diane** defined the responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors as including development of County real estate; overseeing public safety through the O.C. District Attorney's Office; supervising and funding public transportation (roads and highways) i.e. O.C. Transit Authority; maintaining water systems and infrastructure; and developing a climate action plan, i.e. reduction in use of natural gas and increasing electrification. She stated that we need more balanced political power in the State, and more common sense. ….. **Diane** stated that Prop 40 is bad news because if passed it will give the legislature the power to tax those with lower income levels in the future…..**Diane** advised us to put your voter ballots into designated ballot drop-boxes and not into the U.S. Mail because of the significant delay in which U.S. Mail ballots are counted (if at all!).

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING – This week's raffle tickets were held by **Mitch Mitchell** and **Barbara Kirkham** ($28 ea).

THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEWPORT HARBOR
UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	SPEAKER/SUBJECT
Sep 24	Joe Stapleton, NB City Council Candidate
Oct 1	Janice Freshette, Exec Dir. and Founder of Parents Foundation
Oct 8	Lauren Kleiman, 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