Dave Schapiro, Editor
October 1, 2026

EXCHANGE
THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEWPORT HARBOR, CA

Ph: 949-300-5449
Vol. 76, No. 13

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – It was an overcast and comparatively cool day at BCYC when we arrived at noon. Our meeting and luncheon were held, as usual, in the banquet room. 24 people were in attendance, including our speaker, **Newport Beach City Councilman Joe Stapleton**. In addition, **George Lesley** introduced his honored guest, **John Morgan**, who volunteered his time at the Field of Honor this year and is planning on joining the Club. **President Leo Fracalosy** opened the meeting, asking **Ken DuFour** to give the Invocation, He thanked Our Lord for the blessings He has given us, and requested that He continue to help our Club leaders to do greater things for our community. **Leo** then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. A buffet lunch was served, consisting of salads, chicken and gravy, and sausage with peppers & onions. Yummy!

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Shirley Lashmett announced that **Lisa Jelke** was a winner of last week's Football Pool, and she won $50…..**Michael Call** distributed invitations for a Veterans Day Community Celebration to be held on Saturday, November 14 from noon to 3pm at the OC Fair and Events Center, Heroes Hall/ Plaza Pacifica. The celebration honors those who served and will include exhibits, activities, and booths manned by organizations furnishing veterans' resources. ECNH will have a booth there, and **Michael** passed out a sign-up sheet asking members to volunteer for a few hours at the event. Please contact **Michael** if you would like to participate; the sign-up sheet will be available at future meetings…..**Ken Dufour** reported that, after being discharged from the hospital last week, **Mike Gertner** was readmitted with pneumonia which was probably hospital-acquired. His wife, **Jan**, said that he spent a few days in the ICU, and was then transferred to a private room.

N.B. CITY COUNCILMAN JOE STAPLETON – **Diane Daruty** introduced Joe as one of the Councilmembers that she has been especially close to while working with the City for the Spirit Run. She describes **Joe** as a hard worker who has been active on the boards of a number of foundations and committees, including the Finance Committee for the City, and on the Harbor Commission, and who shows up for all the city-sponsored events. **Joe** enjoys his work with the City: he was Mayor last year, and for that 12-month period he and his wife did not have one dinner together! He'd leave the house at 5:30 every morning and wouldn't get home until 9:30 pm every evening of the week. **Joe** considers N.B. to be the greatest city in the world and considered it an honor being its Mayor. He pointed out some of those venues and events that make N.B. unique: Balboa Island, the Ferry, the FOH at Castaways, and the American Legion Post on July 4th. While in office, he paddled 30 miles from Catalina, raising $450,000 for the **Ben Carlson Foundation**…..**Joe** is in private practice with 2 other partners at Spinnaker Investment Group, specializing in financial, estate and retirement planning. He graduated from the University of Arizona and moved 20 years ago to an apartment complex at Bison and MacArthur in N.B.. For the last 4 years on the City Council, he ran on a platform of "Keeping Newport Newport". The biggest issue he faced after he took office in December, 2022 was homelessness, when there were 94 homeless people; now there are 6. Other significant accomplishments while he was in office included the following:



Joe Stapleton and Leo Fracalosy

Fully funded police, fire and lifeguard departments. The City has 154 sworn police officers. NB have increased retention of police officers with pay, with one of the highest paid police departments in the County.

Completion of the Ben Carlson Jr. Lifeguard Building on the Beach..

Current dredging and removal of 900,000 cubic yards of sediment from the channels of Newport Harbor to improve water quality and access to the Harbor. The cost of this project was shared with the Federal government who funded $10 M matched by $10M from the City budget. The project is 6 months ahead of schedule we have spent $14 of the allotted $20 M.

Joe elaborated on a number of other issues including:

The loss of beaches due to erosion. A question arose as to why the sediment dredged from the harbor which is currently being dumped back into the ocean is not being used to replenish the sand lost on the beaches. **Joe** answered that the sediment is mud and clay and is not suitable and is incompatible with beach sand. The sand accumulating from the outlets from the rivers is more suitable for our beaches. Because of the current storms which are responsible for beach erosion, the City has delayed replenishment until after the storm season is over.

Water independence. (NB does not purchase water from the State nor do we get water from the Aqueduct. We get 85% of our drinking water from ground water obtained from 2 wells which are owned by the City of Newport Beach in Fountain Valley. This underground water is replenished by pumping filtered (reverse osmosis) and sanitized sewage water back into the ground.

His role on the Finance Committee; he mentioned that our pension is 90% funded. Right now we are paying $45M a year towards paying off any unfunded liabilities and expect it to be paid off in the next 3 years. We currently have a balanced budget with a $21M surplus.

With respect to **safety and security**, crime has gone down 12% this year.

Castaways Park: The City is working on improving the land on PCH adjacent to Castaways Park which is currently used for storage of heavy equipment, and an extension of the park there, which may include coffee shops, etc. is proposed.

The Balboa Peninsula Free Trolley which is funded by the OCTA; currently there are 33,000 people who have used the trolleys for transportation instead of using their cars and dealing with traffic and parking around Fashion Island , PCH, and Lido Peninsula.

New N.B. Police Station: **Joe** has been in favor of having a public committee which will have input on the use of public land to build a new police station: we need to have a more modern facility to keep up with current technology. Other locations are being considered at the present time rather than the park.

Flock cameras, i.e. license plate reading cameras, which record the license plates of every car which is driven into the City. The police have been able to make several felony arrests as a result of this technology.

July 4th Riot: Joe admitted that the City was unprepared for it: 415 people were arrested, 97% were from out of town and 50% were from Arizona. The City Police Dept. was undermanned on that day, partly because a number of officers didn't report to work.

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING – This week's raffle tickets were held by our honored guest **John Morgan** and **Lisa Jelke** ($28).,

THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEWPORT HARBOR
UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	SPEAKER/SUBJECT
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