David Schapiro, Editor

Date: November 12, 2026

EXCHANGE

THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEWPORT HARBOR, CA

Ph: 949-300-5449
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MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We are experiencing beautiful fall weather in Newport, although there has been coastal flooding due to king tides. We had 25 people in attendance at our luncheon at BCYC, with City Councilmember **Robyn Grant** present as our esteemed guest. **President Leo Fracalosy** started our meeting, asking **Ken Dufour** to give the Invocation. Ken thanked our Heavenly Father for giving us the opportunity to get together, to serve You, our country, and the community in which we live. Leo then led us in the Pledge to Old Glory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – **Claudette Mekalian** relayed **Cynthia Strasmann's** request that anyone who is planning on attending the Holiday Party at the Strasmanns on Saturday, December 5th to please RSVP to her email or to the Evite invitation ASAP…..**Lauretta Stansfield** has made available Emergency Response Forms produced by the N.B. Fire Department which can be filled out and attached to your refrigerator door, giving first responders a heads-up on your medical or physical issues in the event of a medical emergency (i.e., 9-1-1). This would be especially important to those of you who live alone…..**Ross Stewart** announced that there was a FOH Rehab get-together at the N.B. Utility Yard tomorrow (Friday) beginning at 9am. A similar event last week had Leo, Lisa and Ross show up to rehab about 200 flags. Ross is hoping that a larger number of volunteers will show up this time.

FOOTBALL POOLS – **Shirley Lashmett** announced that **Dave Scbapiro** and (for the 2nd time this season) **Lisa Jelke** each won $50 from last week's Football Book…..**Garrett TeWinkle** announced the results of Week #9 of the Football Pool. 6 members picked a low 9 winners, and the Claudette got her $3 back, having the highest tiebreaker number. **Gale Demmer** was the winner for the week with 14 right answers.



Leo and Robyn

ROBYN GRANT, RE-ELECTED TO N.B. CITY COUNCIL – **Diane Daruty** introduced **Robyn Grant**, who attended UCLA as an undergrad followed by USC School of Law. Robyn has been a resident of Newport Beach for over 40 years and has lived within the N.B. district she represents for over 30 of those years. As a member of the City Council, her priorities have included maintaining residential prosperity, transparency with respect to governmental activities, heightened security (police and fire), increasing resident participation in the decision making and activities within the City, and a robust business community.

She has been a strong advocate for the welfare of animals and pets and was instrumental in the development of Newport's first Municipal Animal Shelter. She has been a member of countless committees and organizations throughout the city during her career. Robyn, who has presented to ECNH before, expressed her gratitude for being invited again to speak. She thanked ECNH for the things that we do to improve the lives of the N.B. community. Robyn is in the process of finishing her first 4-year-term on the City Council, and has just been re-elected to a 2nd term, having run unopposed in her District

Robyn distributed copies of the book which she wrote entitled "The Adventures of Officer Bubbles", to promote the Friends of the Newport Beach Animal Shelter (FONBAS). Its mission is to provide a home for any and every animal in the City. Founded in 2017 by a group of community leaders committed to animal needs, the shelter was gifted to the City and continues to work in partnership with the City to ensure that animals receive good homes.

Robyn entertained us with a trivia quiz focusing on the history and activities of the City of Newport Beach. Here are the questions she posed and their correct answers, which are emboldened and in color:

- **What year was the city of Newport Beach incorporated, 1898, 1906 or 1912**?
- **In what year did the Balboa Island Ferry begin operation? 1909, according to Seymour Beek**
- **Which of these famous celebrities did not live in Newport Beach: Shirley Temple, Coby Bryant, or Marilyn Monroe?**
- Which U.S. President officially dedicate Newport Harbor in 1936: Herbert Hoover, FDR, or Harry Truman?
- What was the original purpose of the McFadden Wharf, now known as Newport Pier: a military base, **commercial shipping wharf**, or a fishing tournament venue?
- What N.B. landmark was originally built in 1905 and is still popular today: **Pavilion,** Lido Theater, or Ferry?
- What TV series featured Newport Beach and introduced O.C. nationally: **The OC,** Baywatch or Laguna Beach
- What year did Newport Beach Film Festival launch: 1985, **1999,** or 2008?
- What actress reportedly requested a special Ladies Lounge in the Lido Theater in 1939: **Bette Davis**, Judy Garland, or Elizabeth Taylor?
- How many American Flags are displayed at the Field of Honor? 1776

Ken DuFour won the trivia contest with 9 right answers.

Robyn gave us a brief update of the City Council activities:

- All 4 of the incumbents who were candidates in the current election process were reelected: **Robyn, Joe Stapleton, Lauren Kleiman, and Eric Weigand**
- 3 charter amendments which were certified and eligible did not appear on the ballot: **term limits, district voting (7 districts), and transparency.** A special election will take place sometime next year.
- **Public Safety** – crime prevention (flock cameras, drones), mitigation of rioting which occurred in July 4.
- **Environmental issues**: flooding resulting from high tides which is projected to continue over the Thanksgiving, Christmas holidays; and the use of sandbags to mitigate beach erosion and protect homes.
- The new **Police Headquarters** to replace the old building on Santa Barbara. A committee consisting of 3 Council Members and 4 residents are working together to determine the location of a state-of-the-art facility. In a parallel tract, $1.5 million has been allocated to study putting the facility in the Civic Center Park (the lower part next to City Hall which will fund an environmental review, public relations, and a site plan. (Robyn has voted against this approach. She proposes building the new facility at the present location in Santa Barbara.
- **Dredging** of the harbor, and associated plans which will result in a more navigable harbor.
- **Water self-sufficiency**: N.B. gets practically all of its water from city-owned wells in Fountain Valley; and Robyn expects the City to be 100% self -sufficient within the next 4 years.
- **Financially,** N.B. has a $600 M. budget, with a large reserve and a current $27 M surplus. Of particular importance is N.B.'s pension liability, which is currently about 85% funded. We have been paying down the unfunded portion of this liability at the rate of $40-45M per year.

Robyn discussed residential involvement in City related activities. One residential initiative involves the placement of underground utilities on Balboa Island…..She also addressed the issues involving the housing mandate for the State of California, and the need for N.B. to build 5,000 new dwelling units. Since there isn't enough land in Newport to build horizontally, the only way this can happen is to build vertically, which will change Newport Beach. These units must be built within the borders of our City and cannot be farmed out to other neighboring cities in O.C.

OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

This week's raffle tickets were won by **Gail Demmers** and **Lydia Ledesma-Reese,** who each took home $27.

THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEWPORT HARBOR

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	SPEAKER/SUBJECT
Nov 12	**11:30 AM - One Nation Under God | America250 Celebration | Keynote Speaker, Cory Vigil**
Nov 19	**Business Meeting - No Guests Please**
Nov 26	**Thanksgiving - No Club Meeting**



President
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.org

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

FirstPlace

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

CA/NV District Awards

Outstanding Club Awards
Dare to Dream Award 2026

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

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 Shrine - 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 - TBD
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 - Cynthia Strasmann
Inductions - Past Presidents
Membership Badges - Ken Dufour
New Member Orientation - Sponsors
Recruitment - All Members

YOUTH PROGRAMS - Cynthia Strasmann

Youth of the Year - Lydia Ledesma-Reese
A.C.E. Program - Cynthia Strasmann
Young Citizenship Award - Cynthia Strasmann
Patriotic Art - Cynthia Strasmann
Buddy Bench - Cynthia Strasmann
Freedom's Legacy Student Program - Cynthia Strasmann

PROGRAMS - Mitch Mitchell & Diane Daruty

Meeting Setup …….K Dufour/R Shlemon/M Newcomb

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Media Coverage - Dave Schapiro
Spindrift Editors - D Schapiro/D Daruty/M Newcomb , Roy Shlemon

INVESTMENT - Richard Swinney

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 | 1/00-6/00

Duncan Forgey | 7/05-6/06
Jerry Nininger | 7/09-6/10
Leo Fracalosy | 7/12-6/13
Wally Ziglar | 7/13-6/14
Leo Fracalosy | 7/15-7/16
Richard Swinney | 7/18 - 6/19

Ken Dufour | 7/19-6/20
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
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
Serving with Honor Awards

NOVEMBER
One Nation Under God
Proudly We Hail

DECEMBER
Christmas Party
Families Helping Families

JANUARY
ECNH Birthday

FEBRUARY
Community Service Month

MARCH
National Exchange Birthday
Club Nominations

APRIL
Child Abuse Prevention Month
Club Elections
A.C.E. Awards

MAY
Freedom Shrine Month
GIVEAKIDAFLAGTOWAVE
Citizenship Award
Field of Honor
Patriotic Art Initiative
Youth of the Year Awards

JUNE
Milestones of Freedom
Installation Banquet