

# SEABREEZE

THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291



Dear Reader,

This edition of the SeaBreeze was in final production just as the current health crisis hit. We feel it is important to pass it along to you in "as written" form with articles and information from early March.

Please disregard the planned activities. They are all on hold. We hope to get back to full normal operations as soon as possible after the crisis passes.

Jon Reynolds  
Commander  
Newport Harbor Post 291  
of the American Legion

**MARCH 2020 - SPRING AT POST 291**

# THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291

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### SEABREEZE

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### AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291

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## From your Commander Jon Reynolds



Jon Reynolds

### New Features in this Issue

This issue of the Sea Breeze features brief articles by Post Officers who perform extremely important duties for the Post.

- Adjutant Mike Berdine
- First Vice Commander Bob Brennan
- Second Vice Commander Anthony Morales
- Historian Rich Frauentzimmer
- Sergeant at Arms Bob Grundmeyer
- Chaplain Ken Wilson

These Officers' articles summarize essential tasks they perform for the Post and the Executive Board. The Adjutant is an appointed position, and this Post member is kind of the "Executive Officer" along with recording minutes for E-Board and General Membership meetings, chairing the House Committee, and serving on the Finance Committee. The First Vice Commander is an elected position, and this Post member is primarily responsible for Post membership — renewals, recruiting, meeting annual goals, etc. — but who also represents Post 291 by coordinating with and attending meetings of District 29, Area 5, and Department of California. The Second Vice Commander is also an elected position, and this Post member focuses on Post social activities, entertainment (bands, etc.), and other assigned tasks. The Historian is another elected position, and this Post member has the responsibility of recording Post activities and maintaining a permanent record — both photographic and written — of these activities. The Sergeant at Arms is still another elected position, and this Post member maintains order at Post E-Board and General Membership meetings and develops the monthly Officer of the Day (OD) schedule, in which all Post Officers take turns serving as

## The American Legion Newport Harbor Post 291 Family



AL POST 291



ALA UNIT 291



SAL SQUADRON 291



ALYC

OD on busy days at the Post. The Chaplain is an elected position, and this Post member has responsibility for the spiritual welfare of Post members and provides spiritual guidance and counseling.

## Election Season at Post 291

Once again Post 291 is into another election season for Post Officers. Post 291 Bylaws, Article 7.5. (accessible on the Post 291 website), prescribes the process for the annual election of officers. At the General Membership Meeting (GMM) on Wednesday 12 February 2020, the Election Committee for 2020 was approved. At its meeting on Thursday 5 March 2020, the Executive Board approved the Election Rules for 2020 and the Campaign Rules for 2020. These documents are also available to view and to download from the Post 291 website. Here is the schedule for this year's election process.

- Election Committee appointed and approved.  
GMM, Wednesday 12 February
- First Nominations.  
GMM, Wednesday 11 March
- Second (and Final) Nominations.  
GMM, Wednesday 8 April
- Election.  
GMM, Wednesday 13 May

For those Post members who may be less familiar with the officer positions to be elected each year, Post 291 Bylaws, Article 7, describes them in detail. There are 18 members of the Executive Board, of whom 15 are elected, and three are appointed by the Commander. Of the 15 elected, only ten are elected in any one year, since the six Members at Large are on three-year terms and only two are up for election each year; and the Junior Past Commander, although having been previously elected, does not run for election. The ten officer positions to be elected each year, therefore, are:

- Commander
- First Vice Commander
- Second Vice Commander
- Third Vice Commander
- Finance Officer
- Historian
- Sergeant at Arms
- Chaplain
- Member at Large
- Member at Large

The names of all nominated candidates will be shown on the Post 291 website. Voting will be held in the Fireside Room, and Post 291 members may vote anytime between the hours of 12:00 noon to 7:00 pm on Wednesday 13 May. — And all Post 291 members are especially encouraged to come to the Post and vote on Wednesday 13 May. It's your Post — and it's essential that it maintains

strong leadership and management to be able to continue to provide this wonderful venue and to fully serve our military veteran members and their families.

## Membership

### Events and Activities

It's great to see so many members visiting and using the Post. Two exceptionally well attended — and well organized and managed — events were held in February, and both fully sold out. The annual Sweethearts Ball fundraiser put on by the Auxiliary on Saturday 15 February was an outstanding event and a fundraising success. Then, a new kind of event, the Leap Year Party, was set up and held by the Post on Saturday 29 February — with a “dueling pianos” couple who presented an incredibly entertaining program with a wide variety of great piano and vocal music for both dancing and listening. — And with the overwhelming popularity of these kinds of events with our Post members, it's especially important that you watch for others coming up by checking the Post website calendar and making your reservations early.

Coming up in March is St. Patrick's Day on Tuesday 17 March — and excellent entertainment (along with traditional St. Patrick's Day food and beverages) will be featured.

Later in March is the Post's annual tribute to our Vietnam veterans. The Vietnam Welcome Home Party is planned for the evening of Saturday 28 March. As part of a bigger weekend, the Swift Boat PCF 816 will arrive at the Post Guest Dock on Thursday 26 March and will be available for tours through the weekend. Mike Schubert is again skillfully chairing this whole effort and set of activities.

Then the following month is Easter on Sunday 12 April, with the traditional outstanding Easter Brunch presented by Food and Beverage Manager Dennis Fitzpatrick and Chef and Kitchen Manager Ulises Dominquez. — This is another great Post event not to be missed by members and their families.

### Donations and Outreach

Service Officer Chase Wickersham continues to provide much needed support to highly deserving military veterans throughout the Orange County area. More about these efforts is further described by him in this issue of the Sea Breeze.

### Management and Governance

Upon the recommendation of the Audit Committee as result of its comprehensive review, the Executive Board

approved the appointment of the firm of Armstrong/Robataille/Riegle as the Post's designated insurance broker. And following further analysis, assessment, and recommendations by Armstrong/Robataille/Riegle, the Executive Board approved the selection of Great American Insurance Group as the insurer for the Post's General and Excess Liability coverage.

### **Membership Goal and Progress**

Elsewhere in this issue of the Sea Breeze, First Vice Commander Bob Brennan elaborates on the status of the Post's annual membership drive and the opportunities for recruiting more military veterans to join the Post. The membership goal for this year is 4,096 members. Good progress is being made, but the help of all members is needed and requested to meet and exceed this goal.

## **Business Operations**

### **Business Management and Administration**

The new year is starting off very well for Post business operations. Bar, restaurant, and banquet income is up over the prior year, and many more customer events have already been booked. The Post should continue solid business activities over the coming year.

The Post installed its new point of sale (POS) system — Toast — on Friday 7 February. The new system has already demonstrated significant productivity improvements for our bar and restaurant staff, and it provides vastly improved business reporting for Post bar and restaurant management.

### **Financial Management and Fiduciary Stewardship**

As authorized under the lease, the City of Newport Beach conducted a comprehensive audit in February of Post business operations. Tracey Kleimeyer, the Post's Manager of Administrative Operations and Accounting, and Bob Wine, Post Finance Officer, provided extensive assistance to the City's auditor for the duration of the audit. The audit was successfully completed, with the Post receiving full acknowledgement of proper accounting and business practices.

### **Facilities, Property, and Equipment**

An active program of maintenance, repair, and upgrades continues with several projects related to the restrooms, the kitchen, and the marina docks.

The Post is also working with the City of Newport Beach on its project to replace the seawall cap at the Post. The City is currently performing the preliminary engineering tasks and seeking the necessary permits from the Coastal Commission, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Water Quality Control Board. Construction (which may occur about a year from now) is anticipated to take about three months. Although there will be some inconveniences to Post members — and to slip renters, especially — the Post will continue in full operation during construction.

### **Bands — and Sound Levels**

Post members have enjoyed outstanding entertainment from a number of bands — carefully chosen and thoughtfully engaged by Post Second Vice Commander Anthony Morales. However, a recurring issue is their sound levels. Several complaints from neighboring residents have been sent to the City's Code Enforcement staff, who in turn have informed Post Officers of possible violations. It is important that the Post be a good neighbor to the surrounding community and a good and responsive tenant to its landlord, the City of Newport Beach. In addition, there are OSHA considerations for Post employees who must endure elevated sound levels in the course of their work. The Post must and will comply with the law and will strive earnestly to be a good neighbor. Therefore, although it may be disappointing for a few, the Post will enforce strict limits on sound levels of the bands.

## **Note on Post Communications**

Although the SeaBreeze will continue to serve as a principal medium for Post communications to its members, the Post website — [www.al291.com](http://www.al291.com) — is the central source of current information about Post activities and events. Periodically, communications to members will also be sent via Constant Contact for proactive outreach on especially important items.

Hope to see you all soon at the Post!

For God and Country!

Jon Reynolds  
Commander  
Newport Harbor Post 291 of The American Legion

*Spring Equinox occurs on Thursday, March 19.*



ALA UNIT 291

## Letter from the President of Auxiliary Unit 291 Debbie Schubert

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*As we Begin the first of the New Year, I'm pleased to update you on what will be happening.*

It's hard to believe we are in the third month of this year already. The Auxiliary is off to a great start. We had a fabulous Sweat Hearts ball, thanks to Jan Woolford's team for a great job. Our blood drive was highly attended. Thanks so much to Susan Siever and her team.

On March 9th we will be stuffing Bags of Love. The hours are 3:00 PM in the main hall. We then take these bags to homeless outreach centers. Bags contain toothpaste, toothbrushes, small shampoo and things to give them a lift.

The Auxiliary is currently working on a Wine Tasting date in the near future. Please look for our next flyer.

We have a large collection box located in the view room, right as you enter the main hall. There, you can place various items, to support both the Bags for Love and also Troop Shipping which is just around the corner.



**Poppy month** – May - is coming soon, all proceeds go directly to our veterans. Please donate and fill out our remembrances card. The cards will be displayed in the bar on the mirror. We've almost obscured the mirror with cards in past years. Please help to fill it again in May.

Please find all auxiliary information on our website [www.ala291.com](http://www.ala291.com)

And remember, the third Wednesday of every month you're welcome to attend the Post 291 Auxiliary General Meeting. It starts at 6:30 usually ends by 7:45.

Thank you,  
Debbie Schubert  
President Newport Harbor Auxiliary Unit 291

### *OUR MISSION*

*In the spirit of service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.*

*For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.*



## Letter from the Commander of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 291, Timothy Sullivan

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SAL SQUADRON 291



Things are getting busy around here. The SAL elections are coming around again. We've already had our first round of nominations with our next round in April and the actual elections at the May meeting. We are reflecting on our giving last year and our targets this year. We are looking over Christmas Boat Parade

numbers and, though not finalized, it looks like we netted approximately \$25,000 on this fundraiser. THAT'S GREAT!

Last year, the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 291 of Newport Beach, CA, proudly gave over \$100,000 to charitable causes. We gave to everything from the First Marine Foundation that supports Marine Corps families to things as local as a Cello for a school in Costa Mesa or pizza for Fountain Valley Special Olympics. I'm proud of the specific track record that we have created and the variety of causes to which we've been able to donate. Led by John Long, the Donations Committee has a "Big fish in a small pond" mentality where we enjoy finding smaller worthwhile charities that meet our criteria and really benefit from our donations. GOOD NEWS! We are on track to give the same amount this year!

All of our giving is done with a heartfelt and personal touch, but sometimes one donation comes along that brings it all home. Perspective is everything in life. One of the things that drives me to do what I do was a trip that I once made on a medical mission to Ukraine. I recall a ten-year-old boy who came up to me begging. Average wage at that time in Ukraine was about \$14 a month. I remember giving him a one dollar. The young boy started weeping. He tried to kiss my hand and I pulled away telling him it wasn't necessary, and he dropped down and tried to kiss my feet. I could see his mother weeping down the street. It literally broke my heart. I don't remember if I gave him another dollar or not, but I do remember it marking my heart. I remember thinking that my worst day in life is still

better than his best day. My perspective changed. My life changed. I decided to make a difference.

Fast forward to now. The Sons of Squadron 291 had an opportunity to work with Make A Wish this year. We all know about their great work and we were proud to work with them. At our March meeting we were presented with a very nicely framed thank you that is now proudly in our display case in the Fireside Room. The wish that we were able to grant was for a young man named Michael M. Michael is now 18 years old. He was a very active young man from a proud Veteran family. Both his father and grandfather served in the United States Army. Michael wanted nothing more in life than to follow in his family tradition. He wanted to join the Army and he wanted to be a pilot. Sadly, as an early teen, Michael was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. Michael struggled with his condition, missing opportunities for his wish to be granted, but, finally, Michael's time came. He was healthy and due to our participation; Michael was able to take 27 ours of extensive Flight Training. Michael will never be able to join the military, but we are proud to say that we were able to help Michael become a pilot.

Sometimes, we get caught up in our fantastic Post, great weather, and cheap drinks. These are the moments that bring back our perspective. THIS is what the Sons of the American Legion and particularly our Squadron is all about. This is one of the many "moments" that are so special about what we do. This is why we ask you to raise funds and participate by volunteering. This is why we encourage you to become involved. Giving is life changing. Helping is life changing. Affecting the lives of others in a positive way is life changing. Participating in something bigger and greater than ourselves is why we do what we do. It's definitely why I do what I do.

We ARE the proud sons of a proud generation. Our Fathers and Grandfathers are smiling with us or down upon us. Thank you all for your support and dedication to Squadron 291.

**The Sons of the American Legion**

FOUNDED IN 1932 TO HONOR THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF LEGIONNAIRES

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# POST 291 FINANCES



**Bob Wine,**  
Financial Officer

One of the things that puzzle some people about our financial statements is that we generally, if not always, show a loss in our business and membership operations prior to the addition of “Facility fees” to the bottom line. Since it’s difficult to present more than cursory information at the general membership meetings, let’s take a look at some of the reasons here.

On the membership side, income is primarily generated from members’ dues. In 2019, that amounted to \$275,503. But out of that amount, \$133,690 had to be remitted to National, Department, and District to support their operations. Other income from member operations included donations, fundraisers like the 4th of July, and miscellaneous apparel sales. However, most of the donations are turned over to the service officer to fund his charitable activities in support of veterans, and the balance of the income is used to cover member database costs, office salaries and benefits, and numerous other expenses. In 2019, this all resulted in a “loss” from member operations of \$135,332. Member operations will never show a profit, and aren’t intended to.

On the business side, the intention is to make a profit, but it’s not easy to accomplish. The Post exists to serve its members, but they can’t enjoy the facilities if the prices charged are out of reach. This creates a balancing act where the Post management tries to keep costs under control while still providing good food and service without unduly raising prices. For example, the new point-of-sale system should make the food and drink service more efficient, which helps the bottom line. Hosting more outside events like weddings, reunions and celebrations of life is also very important. But even so, with a gross profit in 2019 of \$662, 247, other large expenses must be overcome. Our rent paid to the City of Newport Beach was \$144,757 last year. Insurance was \$46,850, repairs and maintenance on our buildings and equipment almost \$100,000, music and entertainment \$51,700, and on and on. And, while our business operations covered our direct labor costs of \$933,620 and much more last year, they still didn’t quite cut it overall. So how do we keep the doors open? Facility fees.

Some people think that the facility fee is a diabolical idea, others think it is genius, but without it we wouldn’t survive very long. This fee is paid by every Legion member as part of his or her dues, and by Auxiliary members and SALs. Yacht club members already pay it as part of their Legion, Auxiliary or SAL dues, although ALYC members who are from other posts must pay it to ALYC, which then passes the fee on to Post 291. In 2019, all these fees totaled \$483,705, which allowed the Post to have a positive cash flow, increase cash reserves, and make capital improvements.

In other news, the City of Newport Beach audited the Post for the first time in anyone’s memory. Here is some background. Under the terms of our lease, the Post must pass a percentage of the revenue we generate from operations to the City in addition to lease payments. Additionally, our lease with them gives them the right to audit Post financial records to confirm the Post made proper payments, and they took full advantage of it this year. The audit covered 2016 through 2019, and included all our revenue sources and expenditures, not just the ones relevant to the percentage rent we pay. The auditors sampled original documents, which consisted of credit card receipts, cancelled checks, bank statements, invoices and other documents, all of which were tracked down by Tracey in the office. Out of over \$500,000 paid to the City over those four years, and millions of dollars of revenue and expenditures, the City’s auditors only found an \$800 discrepancy, which, by their own admission, was partly their fault. Great work Tracey!

See you at the Post.  
Bob Wine



## From the Adjutant Desk

Mike Berdine, Adjutant and House Committee Chair

The last couple of months have been busy and productive for your Post 291 support team. We are focused on fine tuning our policies and processes to make member experience at the Post as supportive and fun as we can.

### Point of Sale

One example of that is our new Point of Sale (POS) system, Toast. Here is some background. A POS system is the technology used as a start-to-finish way to get food and drink orders quickly and efficiently to members' tables and to complete the payment process.

Some years ago, Post 291 purchased a POS system, computerizing most of the meal and drink ordering and delivery. At the time, that system was great. But it required the staff members to use paper to take orders to fixed place terminals, taking credit cards to those terminals for making a payment "swipe" and then completing payment by printing out paper for a customer signature. That POS was a step in the right direction, but it had fallen behind the times.

A few weeks ago, the Post installed a new POS, Toast. Here are a few things you may have noticed about the new POS. First, we're saving a tree or two. Yes, Toast does have a couple of paper processes, but most of the paper is gone. Instead of having to write down orders, our servers now have handheld terminals to take orders. No more note pads! The handhelds send orders to the kitchen and bar to speed the ordering process.



A big plus is you no longer will be required to leave your credit card at the bar when you open a tab. Instead, there will be one "swipe" of your card when the first drink order is taken. Your credit card will never leave your line of sight. And, finally, payment when you are ready to leave your food service table is 21st Century easy-peasy with payment done through the hand held terminal.

By all accounts, the switch was problem-free from our customers' perspectives. To ensure a smooth transition from the old POS to Toast, our staff members did a fantastic job of planning, entering needed information into the new system and training – all to make your Post 291 dining and bar service experience easy and smooth.

### Hootnanny and Sunday Bands

As I write this, I'm also reminded of another detail improvement. In the past, when the weather was iffy, the Post would cancel our Big Top (West Patio) entertainment. Some weeks ago, management changed that policy. Now when there is bad weather forecast on Tuesday afternoon, and if there is no competing activity scheduled in the Main Hall, the Hootnanny will move indoors. And we have the same policy in place for Sundays. Keep in mind that we can only make the move from the patio to the Main Hall if it is not otherwise being used. So, if the weather is bad and you are headed to either the Hoot or to the Big Top to enjoy the afternoon band, call the bar to confirm the show has relocated to the Main Hall.

Mike Berdine  
Adjutant and House Committee Chair

# On Membership

Bob Brennan, First Vice Commander

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My principal duties as First Vice Commander are to chair the Membership Committee and to ensure Post 291 not only achieves its annual membership goal, but also to exceed it and grow. Membership is the lifeblood of any organization. It certainly is here at Post 291. A healthy renewal and recruitment program is our best assurance we'll keep the Post open for business.

And the good news is our year-to-date membership count, according to the most recent report from District 29, is 93.5 percent of this year's objective of 4,096. That is about the same percentage we've seen in past years at the start of March. The challenge is to maintain the pace of new member application rolling in as well as keep up renewals.

### Here's the year-to-date Membership Report.

Source	New	PUFL	Paid plus Transfers	Total	Goal Members	% of Goal
Post 291	205	200	3424	3829	4096	93.5%

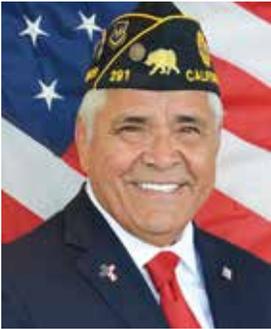
Our recruiting plan for new members depends on word-of-mouth promotion to our fellow veterans — relying on our current members to show off our great facilities, food and beverage offerings, and weekly entertainment. We also open the Post meeting rooms to other veterans organizations — an easy-to-manage way of showcasing all that Post 291 has to offer. Also, the LEGION Act, approved last year, opened up American Legion eligibility to all who served on active duty any time since 7 December 1941 — which is estimated to add another 4.2 million veterans to those eligible for membership. So please help the effort and bring your friends to the Post!

As most of you know, Post 291 is one of 27 Posts in the all-Orange County District 29. In addition, the Department of California is divided into six Areas; and District 29 is one of five Districts in Area 5. In line with my duties as First Vice Commander, I also regularly attend and represent Post 291 at District 29 meetings and Area 5 meetings throughout the year. This enables Post 291 — the largest Post in the Department of California — to have a voice at these meetings and to gain additional insight and information about activities in other Posts and American Legion organizations.

Another American Legion program for which I'm an especially strong advocate is the Buddy Check. Here's a full explanation from The American Legion National website.

As American Legion members, our most sacred responsibility is to look out for each other and our fellow veterans. As a way to reach out to members and former members who may need help, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019. The resolution calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion's birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day. However, American Legion posts are encouraged to perform this vital function whenever it makes the most sense in their communities. The idea is to reconnect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask. These contacts may be made by a personal visit, phone or email, or a combination. The important part is to reach out to veterans in your community to let them know you care and can provide whatever assistance they may need. It's what we do for our battle buddies.

For more information, go to: <https://www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck>  
I want to urge each of you to reach out and contact your military veteran buddies — especially if you haven't heard from them in awhile — and see how they're doing.



## Entertainment

### Anthony Morales, 2nd Vice Commander

Hello Post Members and Friends,

I just wanted to get the entertainment news out and share what to look forward to this year under the Big Tent on the patio. As always, we will enjoy every Sunday afternoon outside (weather permitting), 1200 to 1600 hours (12:00 to 4:00 p.m.). Saturday's band shows and entertainment will begin the first weekend in July, which happens to be on July 04, 2020. As I'm writing this publication, I am still considering a band for that particular day. So as of now, let's say T.B.A... If you know of a group that could fit in at the Post, please share, as I'm sure our post members would welcome some new sounds. When you are out around town, and heard a new group that you think the post members might enjoy, let me know. I can have them audition on a Saturday. Who knows? Your pick might be ready to perform for our fabulous 4th of July celebration. Just send me an email ([al291@att.net](mailto:al291@att.net)) with all the contact information, and I'll do my best to get them to the Newport Harbor post. I'm sure we would all enjoy entertaining new bands at the American Legion. Please don't worry. I will not get rid of our regulars and favorites.

As for our current bands, I have been asking them to start bringing their A-game to the American Legion. When playing in the main ballroom and under the Big Tent, we are expecting them to update their music genre with more contemporary songs that get keep our members dancing, staying longer, enjoying the music, and having a fun weekend at the post. Our band entertainment knows they have to be on top of it, by learning new songs and not depending on past achievements and old songs. There are so many fantastic dance songs from the '80s, '90s, '2000s, and present.

JAZZ NIGHTS will be starting in the summer, on alternating Thursdays. I have been out looking and educating myself with the help of one of our regular jazz players at the post. Also, some of the members have been asking why there isn't a Blues Night. So I need to know how many of you would be interested in an evening of blues music under the Big Tent?

Tuesday evening, starting at 1730 – 2000 hours (5:30 to 8:00 pm), we have "FREE Line dancing" taught by our fabulous instructor Laura DeMarco. She brings new line dances along with all your old favorites. Come on down and make new friends and reconnect with others. Beginner first 30 minutes, Open line - next hour, and intermediate /Advance - last hour

So this spring and summer, join us at the American Legion, Newport Harbor post 291.

# American Legion Boys State/Nation

Jim Updike, Third Vice Commander

*One of the most respected educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students.*

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As this is being written, we are in the throes of the selection process for this year's Boys State. It's an exciting time and we are looking forward to the interviews with the candidates. So far, we have 29 young men being recommended from 12 schools. We will be selecting 25 of the nominees to attend Boys State at California State University, Sacramento. Here are the schools represented by this year's candidates:

- Irvine High School
- Northwood High School
- University High School
- Woodbridge High School
- Corona del Mar High School
- Costa Mesa High School
- Estancia High School
- Newport Harbor High School
- Sage High School
- OC Performing Arts School
- Woodrow Wilson High School (Long Beach)
- Pacific Academy



The Boys State Committee will be interviewing the young men on Saturday March 21 and Sunday, March 22. My deep appreciation to our committee:

- Fran Capitanio
- Jon Kurtz
- Burt McChesney
- Jim Moss
- Julie Roberts
- Rick Sundell
- Ken Wilson
- Al Yarrington

In addition I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the sage advice we've gotten from the Auxiliary Girls State Chairwoman, Cynthia Culp.

I also want to again recognize the donations of \$2,500 from Surgical Care Associates, Group President, Julie Roberts and the donation of \$1,000 from Schools First Federal Credit Union, Bill Cheney, CEO.

If you would like to volunteer to help in the very worthwhile program, please contact, Third Vice Commander, Jim Updike at [jeusail@gmail.com](mailto:jeusail@gmail.com)



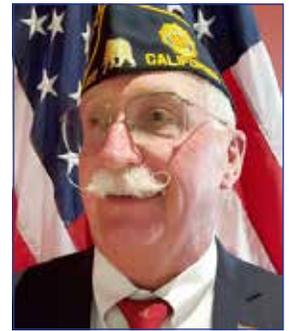
Sergeant at Arms  
Bob Grundmeyer

As I'm serving as Sergeant at Arms and OD, it's great to see so many of our Post members enjoying our Post and attending and participating in our General Membership Meetings and other Post events. Although one of the duties of the Sergeant at Arms is to "preserve order at all meetings," I'm very pleased that our Post 291 members and Post 291 Family members exhibit excellent behavior and courtesies to one another. We have an outstanding Post here, and it's very encouraging to see that our members take personal responsibility to ensure it stays a friendly and fun place to visit.

Another duty of the Sergeant at Arms is to manage the Officer of the Day (OD) program. Monthly OD schedules are published in which each member of the Post Executive Board ("E-Board") takes turns serving as OD. An OD is always scheduled for Friday evenings, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and sometimes for other highly attended Post events such as holidays and special activities. The OD is kind of the "on-site problem solver" representing the E-Board. Typically, the OD watches for potential safety issues — such as bare feet on the patio (where there's sometimes broken glass) or forgetful guests occasionally taking a drink glass on the dance floor (posing hazards from spilling on other dancers or the floor or dropping and breaking the glass).

The OD is also the E-Board "Ambassador." When you see the OD on your next visit to the Post, go up and introduce yourself.

— ***And continue to enjoy our wonderful Post!***



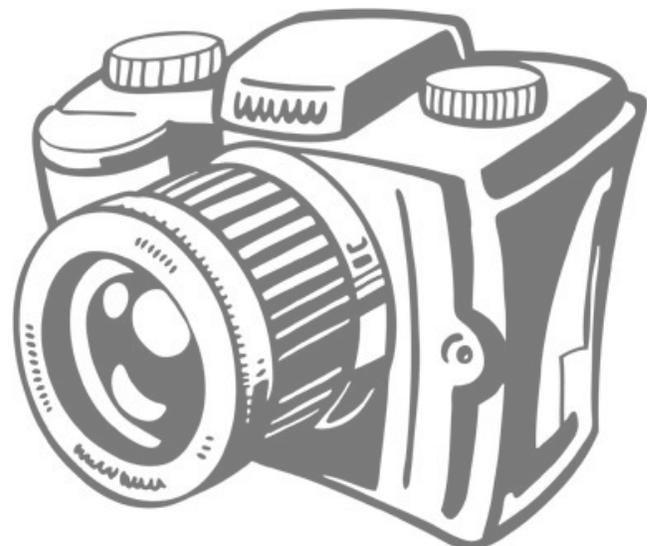
Historian  
Rich Frauenzimmer

My primary duties as Post Historian are to "compile and preserve Post records" — including "a pictorial Post history for print and electronic distribution." So you'll see me frequently at General Membership Meetings and other Post events with large camera in hand — trying to catch all "photo ops" and capture them for our Post records. Our website manager, Mizka Brick, also takes many photographs at Post functions; and she routinely gets our photos up onto the Post website for our members to enjoy. So be sure to check the Post website at [www.al291.com](http://www.al291.com) for additional viewing.

As many of you know, I've been serving for several years as a docent at the Richard M. Nixon Library in Yorba Linda. In that role I had an unusual opportunity a few weeks ago to give a personally guided tour of the Nixon Library to The American Legion National Commander, James W. "Bill" Oxford, when he was out here in California for the annual Commander's visit. It was a great honor to represent Post 291 in hosting the National Commander at this incredible historic American institution.

So the next time you see me at the Post with my camera,

***Try to look your best and smile!***



# Chaplain's Corner

Ken Wilson

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*March, 2020*

Well, it's been a crazy ride with the Coronavirus (Covid19) and the steep decline in the stock market. We have two choices to make with our response to all that is going on: 1. Panic & Fear or 2. Peace and hope.

I prefer the second choice but with so much negative news, it is hard not to worry or have some anxiety. When anxiety hits, I return to the basics. 1. None of us gets out of the world with our skin on. 2. There is an eternal perspective we need to stay in touch with every day.

A Jewish carpenter once said: Do Not Worry!

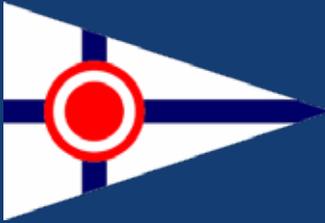
25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?  
26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?  
27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life[e]?"

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin.  
29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.  
30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?  
31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'  
32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.  
33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.  
34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:25-34]

In this time of uncertainty, take time to meditate, contemplate and focus your thoughts and energy on the eternal values {love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control against such things there is not law.} [Galatians 5:22-23] The higher road requires that we seek "first the Kingdom of God." If we weather the storms of the Covid19 and the stock decline, those are only temporary interruptions on our way to our eternal home.

May your road home be filled with peace and hope. God Bless!

Chaplain Ken  
For God and Country!



## American Legion Yacht Club COMMODORE'S CORNER



### Commodore's Update

Bruce Batcheller, ALYC Commodore

Ahoy from the bridge of The American Legion Yacht Club! Our early season race schedule has begun, and we're now preparing for our second big open water race, the Whale Regatta on March 14. These open water races test the skill of our mariners, as they must strategically plan their route and work through changes in the conditions. Their reward is some recognition, but also a fun post-race dinner with friends. And that brings up my favorite reason to be in ALYC—the connection opportunities you gain with fellow veterans and their families. We put together a full calendar with a diverse set of events, with the sincere hope that we can reach each and every one of you at some point during the year. While we have a steady group of regulars, the club is always looking for new members to come experience events. Please make a goal this year to try at least one new activity.

And we have a few great options coming up soon. We are just launching our inaugural monthly social night, held the second Saturday of each month. The first one is March 14, following the Whale Regatta. Our first cruise of the year is to Dana Point Harbor, April 3-5. While some members will cruise by boat, most will actually cruise by car and join us for dinner or request a shuttle to come out to Valor during our raft-up. Details can be found online by going to our home page at [alyc.com](http://alyc.com).

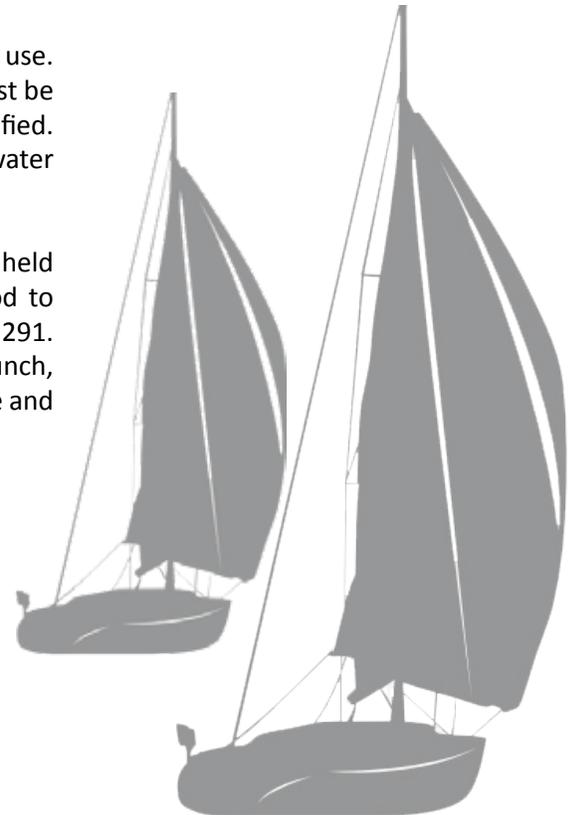
Another new opportunity this year is Model Racing. These sail boats are about three feet long, and function just like a full size sail boat, except you control all movements via remote control. We own three of these boats so you can start with no cost at all. Meetings, practice and regatta schedules are posted up online.

The club also owns two full-size sailboats that are available for member use. More than half the time, they sit idle, and we'd prefer them in use! You must be a certified skipper to check them out, but it's not too difficult to get certified. Email [portcaptain@alyc.com](mailto:portcaptain@alyc.com) and we'll get you squared away and on the water in no time.

We've also begun preparing for our 54th annual Opening Day ceremony, held Sunday May 3rd. This year's theme is "The Good Old Days," with a nod to tradition and appreciation for our 54 years of heritage as a program at Post 291. We will feature our traditional ceremony, plus some fun classic music at lunch, followed by our ceremonial cruise through the harbor. Please sign up online and join us.

I look forward to seeing you at an ALYC event soon!  
Fair Winds,

Bruce Batcheller  
Commodore 2019-2020





## 39th Annual Avalon Underwater Cleanup

Bruce Batcheller, ALYC Commodore

The American Legion Yacht Club Divers participated in the 39th Annual Avalon Underwater cleanup on February 22nd. Third Vice Commander and ALYC member Jim Updike was one of the divers, along with dive buddy and ALYC member Stu Liggan. They were part of nearly 400 divers that collectively hauled up over a ton of trash and debris.

*"Participating in this event every year is a great opportunity to continue the tradition by the Post and ALYC of giving back to the community,"* said Mr. Updike.

Mr. Liggan added, *"I spend a lot of time on the water as a recreational boater, Licensed Coast Guard Captain and Part time Harbor Patrolman at Two Harbors Catalina Island. I think it is important that we give back and be responsible for our Ocean environment. Underwater clean ups in Avalon and Newport Harbor gives me this opportunity. The crew I dive with are military veterans and we have a lot in common. So it is great to meet up with them and help out."*

ALYC is proud to represent Post 291 at several cleanup events throughout Southern California every year. Look for us next at the **Newport Harbor Underwater Cleanup** on Saturday, June 6th, 2020.

2019 Commodore





## Where are the Veteran Resources?

Chase Wickersham, Service Officer

Your Post is one of many veteran service providers in Orange County. Often this comes as a surprise to many local veterans. It isn't just the Veterans Administration (VA) providing services. There are many organizations locally offering everything from emergency housing to free legal services. The problem was that many of these programs were invisible to the veteran and military family.

Eight years ago the Orange County Veterans & Military Families Collaborative (OCVMFC) was born to eliminate the confusion and make the existing resources more readily available. Today the OCVMFC has 105 members which are public and private agencies that serve veterans or military families in Orange County. The mission of the OCVMFC is make the provision of service more efficient to our deserving veterans through better communication among service providers, training of staff and collaboration among providers to reach more veterans in need. UCI now is the convener or host to the OCVMFC and a program director is an employee of UCI and supports the OCVMFC administration.

The OCVMFC accomplishes its mission through its 11 working groups. They are (1) Housing, (2) Employment, (3) Health & Wellness, (4) Faith based ministries, (5) Education, (6) Legal & Re-entry, (7) Children & Families, (8) Government Relations, (9) Resources and Fund Raising, (10) Public Relations & Outreach, and (11) the Older Veterans Taskforce. Each of these working groups meet monthly and share their programs at the quarterly general meetings. Check out their schedules at [www.Ocvmfc.org](http://www.Ocvmfc.org). The accomplishments of these groups include hosted seminars



and presentations about veteran services, training and encouraging "collaboration" between service providers.

Agencies come in all sizes. Small providers like Patriot & Paws offer household items for homeless veterans moving into their first apartment and larger agencies like the Child Guidance Center provide clinical support for children with a special grant called Strong Families, Strong Children for military families. In addition to private charities some dedicated solely to veterans and military families and some only providing occasional support, there are Public agencies like OC4VETS which is part of the County Healthcare Agency and is exclusively focused on veterans with mental health issues who are referred from the County VSO office. There are also peer to peer services which provide trained veterans to coach, counsel and refer veterans to appropriate providers. AL Post 291 as the largest veteran organization in the area gets many desperate calls. Your Post provides referrals to other OCVMFC resources and, in many cases, is the only agency offering financial assistance. Your generous support allows us to continue serving our local veterans and military families.

Chase Wickersham,  
Service Officer



## Cancelation of Events

Unfortunately, it has been necessary, in compliance with official direction, to cancel all Post events and meetings. Here're specific cancelations.

- **Vietnam Welcome Home Party** scheduled for Saturday 28 March.
  - **Swift Boat** visit to Post 291 Guest Dock scheduled for Thursday 26 March through Sunday 29 March.
- Post 291 Family organizations have also canceled several events and meetings, and you will hear directly from those organizations about those cancelations.

### GENERAL MEETINGS

#### American Legion Post 291 General Meetings

Are held on the second Wednesday of every month.

New members arrive at 5:30 pm for instructions on induction.

6:00 pm Dinner Buffet in the Main Hall, \$10 donation

General Meeting call to Order: 7:00 pm.

#### Auxiliary Unit 291 General Meetings

Are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

#### SAL Squadron 291 General Meetings

Are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

*For more information please contact,*

LEGION MEMBERSHIP  
(949) 673-5070 Ext. 105  
Email: membership@AL291.com

### VETERANS RESOURCES

Fellow Veterans,

We have four local resources for our medical and related questions such as benefits, health issues and burial.

#### VA Hospital of Long Beach

Department of Veteran Affairs

Tel: 562.826.8000

#### Laguna Hills VA Clinic

23719 Moulton Parkway

Laguna Hills, CA 92653 - Tel: 949.587.3700

#### Anaheim VA Clinic

2569 W. Woodland Dr.

Anaheim, CA 92801 - Tel: 714.763.5300

#### Santa Ana VA Clinic

1506 Brookhollow Dr, Suite 100

Santa Ana, CA 92705 - Tel: 714.434.4600

#### Riverside National Cemetery

22495 Van Buren Blvd.

Riverside, CA 92518

Tel: 951.653.8417 · Fax: 951.653.5233

#### County Veteran Service Office

1300 South Grand Ave.

Santa Ana, CA 92705 - Tel: 714.480.6555

#### County Veterans & Military Families

##### Collaborative OCVMFC

Coordinator Jeff Pagano

Email: paganoj@uci.edu

Tel: 949.824.2435

#### Ken Wilson, Chaplain

Email: kenw49@hotmail.com

Tel: 949.230.2826

#### Chase Wickersham, Service Officer

Email: al291veteranassistance@gmail.com

Tel: 949.673.5070 Ext. 117

### March Upcoming Events at Post 291 - Cancelled -

#### Saint Patrick's Day

Tuesday, March 17th | 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

#### Vietnam Era Veterans D-

Saturday, March 24th | 10:00 pm

#### Swift Boat

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

#### Easter Brunch

Sunday, April 12th

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**CANCELLED**



# THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291



## POST 291 COMMUNITY DRIVE - THRU

**NEW!**

Dear Members,

Our Post is opening its foodservice operation to provide drive-thru low cost meals to our Post family members, their families, friends and our whole community during the Covid-19 crisis.

Our mission is to provide delicious meals under \$10

**Open 7 days per week 12:00 Noon and 6:00 pm.**

All can come to our drive-thru.

### How It Works

Chef Ulises Dominguez will have different menu options each day. Today's Menu will be published on our website at [www.al291.com](http://www.al291.com)

The drive-thru is in the Post parking lot.

Place and pay for your order upon arrival.

Pull up and your order will be delivered to your car.

Share with your family, your friends, your neighbors and everyone you know!

- AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC -

## Post 291 COMMUNITY DRIVE-THRU 7 DAYS A WEEK - FROM 12:00 - 6:00 PM

### TODAYS MENU

**PUBLISHED DAILY IN OUR WEBSITE**

*Chef Ulises Dominguez, Everyday Something New!*



**FRESH BAKED GOODS DAILY**

Wine and beer by the bottle now available for purchase.

CREDIT CARDS ARE PREFERRED PLEASE.

