

VOL. 57 OCT 2020

# SEABREEZE

THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 2020 ♦ POST 291



AL POST 291



ALA UNIT 291



SAL SQUADRON 291



ALYC



HONOR GUARD

## The American Legion Newport Harbor Post 291 Family

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SEABREEZE - VOL. 57 OCT 2020

## THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291

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Thanksgiving dinner — for both  
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#### SEABREEZE

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#### AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291

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## From your Commander

Jon Reynolds

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### Another Fine Autumn at Post 291!

The Southern California weather continues to be especially inviting for our Post 291 Family members — and it's delightful to see so many of you there enjoying the Post!

With Orange County moving up a tier from Purple to Red, the Post has been permitted to open limited indoor dining along with the outdoor dining. And as the weather begins to become cooler, additional outdoor heaters will be deployed to enhance the comfort of the outdoor dining.

Because of the demonstrated popularity and extraordinary success of the drive-thru takeout food operation, it will be continued indefinitely — although the hours open for both the drive-thru meals and on-premises dining will be adjusted in response to shorter days and reverting to Standard Time. Post Food and Beverage Manager **Dennis Fitzpatrick**, Kitchen Manager and Chef **Ulises Dominguez**, Wait Staff Captain **Camilo Sabogal**, and Bar and Custodial Supervisor **Peter Lara** and their superbly skilled staffs continue to work their magic with outstanding food, beverage, and dining service.

### Post Operations Under COVID-19 Restrictions

State and California Department of Public Health rules for operating under COVID-19 restrictions have been modified periodically over the past several months. The most significant recent change has been to allow limited indoor dining — up to 25 percent of capacity. As a result, the View Room and the Bar area have been reopened for indoor dining. Other areas of the Main Building will be reopened as rules permit and as staff is prepared to respond.

For now, the following services can be and are provided at and by the Post:

- Drive-thru takeout meals. (Open to the public.)
- Dining at the Post. (Limited to Post 291 Family members and their guests.)
  - Outdoor dining on the patios.
  - Indoor dining in the View Room and the Bar area.
  - Beverage service from the Bar.
- Full marina access for slip renters and Guest Dock visitors.
- Administrative services at the Post Front Office window.
- Support of military veterans needing assistance.

And going forward through the COVID-19 pandemic, Post 291 will continue to comply with the rules and direction from State, County, and City government and health officials. Mask wearing and social distancing will remain standard practice, along with other health and safety protocols. And Post meetings will continue to be held by videoconferencing. The Post Reopening Planning Committee, chaired by Third Vice Commander **Jim Updike**, will stay abreast of all the latest guidance and direction from State, County, and City officials to determine if and when additional activities become authorized.

### Recent Post Activities

- Patriot Day. Under the leadership of SAL Squadron 291 Commander Tim Sullivan, the SALs sponsored a recognition ceremony on the Post west patio of the sacrifices of first responders on 9/11. Necessarily, because of the pandemic, attendance was limited.

- **WHOW.** Post 291 Marina Manager **Mark Ayers** spearheaded Post support of the War Heroes on Water charitable organization by arranging the provisioning operations for their boats at the Post Guest Dock for its annual fishing tournament for military veterans.
- **Red Cross Blood Drive.** Led by Auxiliary President **Cindy Edes** and supported by other key Auxiliary volunteers, Auxiliary Unit 291 sponsored and hosted a very productive blood drive in the Post Main Hall under direction of the Red Cross.
- **VEAF Campaign Underway.** Service Officer **Cory Vigil** has launched another Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund (VEAF) campaign — which will wrap up on Veterans Day. This is an extremely important Post fundraising activity that all Post members are strongly encouraged to support for our military veteran comrades needing assistance.
- **Go online to the Post website at [www.al291.com](http://www.al291.com) and follow the instructions for renewing with credit/debit card.**

## Upcoming Activities

Although holiday events and activities will be substantially reduced and restricted in operation this year because of the pandemic, there are several that are still scheduled.

- **Veterans Day.** Veterans Day is on Wednesday 11 November, and a program to honor our military veterans on that day is being planned.
- **Thanksgiving.** Thanksgiving is on Thursday 26 November, and the Post restaurant will again feature a classic Thanksgiving dinner — for both takeout and on premises dining.
- **Troop Shipping.** The Auxiliary is preparing for another troop shipping on Saturday 7 November just in time for the Holidays, and everyone is requested to donate items for this shipping. Donations may be left in the clearly marked containers in the Post parking lot and near the parking lot gate into the Post.
- **Christmas Boat Parade.** The annual Newport Beach Boat Parade is scheduled for Wednesday 16 December through Sunday 20 December. SAL Squadron 291 is working with the Post restaurant staff to sponsor dining at the Post with excellent parade viewing opportunities. This is a very important annual fundraiser for the SALs, and the entire Post 291 Family membership and the public is encouraged to support it.
- **Christmas.** Post activities this year related to Christmas will be very limited, but the Post restaurant will once more provide an outstanding Christmas dinner, available for both takeout and on premise dining. Further details will be published on the Post website as the date approaches.

## Post 291 Family Working Together to Support Military Veterans and Their Families

As can be seen from all the fundraising and support activities by every Post 291 Family organization, each of them needs to be recognized for their enormous contributions to the support of our military veterans and their families. — And working together with a combined purpose yields even greater productivity.

## Renew Your Membership!

Member dues are a major, critical component of Post 291 income — and an absolutely essential resource for continuing our American Legion activities and the Post's services to its members and to its employees. The Post has completed actions to enable renewal of American Legion membership by online payment of membership dues. So now there are three convenient methods for paying membership dues and renewing annual American Legion membership:

- Stop by the Post Front Office window weekdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and pay by cash, check, or credit/debit card.
- Call into the Post Front Office weekdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and provide a credit/debit card number — or arrange to send a check by mail.

Please continue to follow good hygiene practices and stay safe and healthy — and come enjoy your Post!

For God and Country!

Jon Reynolds  
Commander  
Newport Harbor Post 291 of The American Legion



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

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SAL SQUADRON 291



Greetings to all from the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 291. We are the biggest in the world, striving to be the best. Covid or no Covid, know that your SAL Eboard and volunteers are hard at work. It's important to us to not shrink back, but to move forward. Our charities keep working to help those less fortunate and still depend on our support. Perhaps more now than ever. The Veterans and Veteran families that they serve still have needs. Covid doesn't stop poverty, or other sickness, or the needs of those dependent on those that give. We made the decision early on to continue to be a support leg for those less fortunate. We made the decision, not to shrink back and manage the crisis, but to be the leaders that we are and LEAD through the crisis. That is easier said than done, as there are continuous new obstacles, but we are a team of overcomers who go through, over, and around those obstacles to continue on with the mission of our organization. Be proud Sons. We press on.

Since the beginning of this year, you will be happy to know that we have done just that. We've given over \$56,000 to our charitable causes, so that they can continue. The 1st Marine Foundation of Newport Beach recently sent us a very nice thank you, as they were able to use our donation to help renovate the barracks at Camp Pendleton. More important now than ever because many of the Marines were quarantined and could not even go to chow. The renovations we helped them to make made life for our heroes that much more comfortable. We were proud to be there and continue our support.

We've given to some great charities, Patriots and Paws, Fisher House (like a Ronald McDonald House at the VA for Veteran families while their loved one receives care at the VA), Young Marines, Boy Scouts, Knots of Love, and Patriotic Service Dog Foundation. We're in the process of providing \$5000 worth of grants in the name of our friend Walt Wagner to Veteran's attending college who need assistance. We've taken our Veteran's fishing four times as a way to provide sanctuary and peace to those that suffer PTSD. We had our first Father/Son fishing trip to assist with that family bond between our Veterans and their sons. We've continued to promote Americanism through our Flag Day and Patriot's Day events. They were limited, but we adapted, we improvised, and we overcame to make them a success. On Flag Day, unable to obtain a permit for Veteran's Park, we took the event to the boardwalk and handed out flags, flag pins, and comic books about the Pledge of Allegiance and the American Flag. Flags were seen on bicycles and in the hands of pedestrians from the Newport Beach Pier to the Balboa Pier. It was a great site to behold. We were granted access to have a small memorial on 9/11 at the Post where we had our Legion Honor Guard present the colors and we had our friend, Honor Guard Commander Brian Fleming, speak along with Lt. Joe Cartwright from the NBPd and 1st Marine Foundation. We had a bagpiper play us out with Amazing Grace. It was small, but poignant. Most importantly, we remembered.

Sadly, the only thing missing was the ability for our friends and members to share these experiences with us. Know that while the fear of Covid has impacted our interactions, it has not impacted our actions. We are working hard, representing each of you, building our reputation in the community and making an impact wherever possible. As time passes, the fear factor will lessen, treatment and remedies will evolve, and I expect that life will gradually return to normal. We look so forward to seeing you all again at the Post for meetings, etc. soon. In the meantime, the patio is still open for dining. The periodic opportunities to say hello are cherished. We love seeing you all when we have that opportunity. Stay safe and remain proud that we are committed to the cause and working hard to support our Veterans. Wishing you all peace and good health!

*We are the proud Sons of a proud generation.  
Our heroes are smiling down upon us. Thank you.*



ALA UNIT 291

## Letter from the Auxiliary Unit 291

Cindy Edes, President

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Greetings from the Auxiliary:

I hope this edition of the SeaBreeze finds you, your family and friends all in good health and staying safe.

The motto for the American Legion Auxiliary is "Service Not Self." However, during this Covid-19 time, we may have to add to that with "Doing more with Less." All the Legion families are struggling to fulfill their mission statements to serve veterans, active duty along with their families and the community while being severally constricted with funds. Budgets have been reduced accordingly. The Auxiliary will not be having our two major fund-raisers this and next year. Our Holiday Boutique and the Sweethearts Ball are cancelled due to the virus but we will still be doing our raffle with five cash prizes of \$1,000, \$2,000, \$3,000, \$4,000, and \$5,000. Who couldn't use some extra cash? You will be getting tickets in the mail in December and we will be selling them at the Post. Please offer them up to friends and neighbors. You will be surprised at the willingness to purchase when you mention the proceeds go to fund programs for the military, veterans, and their families.



In a testament to all the Legion families pulling together for the common good our blood drive on Monday October 12<sup>th</sup> has a 100% sign up. Sadly, no walk-ins are allowed per Red Cross protocol. Susan Sevier and her team worked closely with the Red Cross to ensure we would be Covid-19 safe. A special thanks to the re-opening committee for working with us and giving us the green light for the blood drive.

On October 24<sup>th</sup> Bea Foster, our Children and Youth chairman, and her team will be hosting a children's Halloween party at Camp Pendleton for approximately 50 children. There will be games, crafts, face painting, gifts for the kids and best of all, PIZZA. What a wonderful way for our children, who have been so socially affected by this epidemic, to spend the day with friends and their families!

Troop shipping is a vital service the Auxiliary performs for our deployed soldiers. Historically we have done this twice a year packing boxes with food treats, hygiene items, socks, letters of thanks from school children, playing cards as well as special boxes for our K-9 warriors. The complete list of items needed is posted on our web site. Each box cost about \$19 to ship. Again, we are asking for your help. You have probably seen the holiday decorated plastic collection containers at the entrance of the Post parking lot and the Drive-Thru order booth. Please help us by dropping of some items in those containers. Not visiting the Post? We can always use cash to help ship those boxes. Checks can be sent to the Post address with Troop Shipping in the memo line.

The Executive Board is still meeting successfully via Zoom and our next general membership Zoom meeting is October 21<sup>st</sup>. A big thank-you to Cat Katz for being the Zoom guru and getting us through our meetings.

The members of the Auxiliary are working hard to support the Legion and continue to provide services where needed. With your help we can achieve great things.

Cynthia Edes,

President Unit 291 Newport Harbor



## Comments

Bob Wine, Finance Officer

How do you run a business when your gross profit drops by 60%? For most businesses, the answer would be “You can’t”. The Post can, though, because we’re a lot more than just a business. We’re a strong, membership organization that includes not only about four thousand dues-paying members, but also three, vibrant Legion programs which contribute vitally to the Post both monetarily and voluntarily. We are not going to be defeated by a virus.

The results of the Post’s 2019 audit are in, delayed a bit because of Covid 19 restrictions. The auditors gave the Post a “clean” opinion, meaning that the financial statements “...present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Newport Harbor Post 291 of the American Legion as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

The report was submitted to the E-board at their October 8th meeting by the audit committee, which recommended approval. The audit committee also recommended approval of the auditor’s internal control review, and made a further recommendation that the Post prepare rolling, ninety-day income and expense projections in light of the uncertain business climate. These were already being done internally by Office Manager Tracey Kleimeyer and me for distribution to the finance committee, house committee and E-board, but will now be presented at the general member meetings, too, starting with the meeting on October 14th. You can check out the report when the meeting minutes are posted on the website.



See you at the Post.

Bob Wine

# 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.*

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high-school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government, Boys State was founded in 1935 to counter the socialism-inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county, and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses, and recreational programs.

Legion posts, including Post 291, select high-school juniors to attend the program. For 2021, we have a goal of selecting 25 young men to attend California Boys State which will be held at California State University, Sacramento from June 18 to 26, 2021.

In early November and mid-December, we will be contacting local schools asking their assistance in nominating deserving young men. On February 6 and 7, 2021, we will be holding interviews to select the 25 delegates.

We need your help. We need volunteers to call on schools, help with administration, and to interview the nominees. If you would like to participate in this very rewarding and worthwhile program, please contact Jim Updike at [jeusail@gmail.com](mailto:jeusail@gmail.com).



## HOLIDAYS, EVENTS, OBSERVANCES

# November 2020

National Veterans & Military Family Month	Entire Month
Warrior Care Month	Entire Month
National Family Caregivers Month	Entire Month
Daylight Savings Time Ends	November 1
Election Day	November 3
National Veterans Small Business Week	November 2-6
Marine Corps Day/Birthday	November 10
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	November 26



**ALA UNIT 291**

*Again, we are asking for your help.*

*You have probably seen the holiday decorated plastic collection containers at the entrance of the Post parking lot and the Drive-Thru order booth. Please help us by dropping of some items in those containers.*

*Not visiting the Post?*

*We can always use cash to help ship those boxes. Checks can be sent to the Post address*

**215 15th Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663**  
with Troop Shipping in the memo line.

[www.ala291.com](http://www.ala291.com)

# Chaplain's Corner

Ken Wilson

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OCTOBER, 2020

Greetings Legionnaires,

How are you holding up with this continued Covid 19 pandemic? How has your life changed for the better or for worse? How have you made a difference in helping one other person?

Loving God and loving our neighbor is giving grace, forgiveness and a helping hand to those who don't deserve it. When we offer help that is not expected or offer encouragement to those who are discouraged or we give forgiveness when someone wronged you; that is when we reflect the spirit of God.

This month has many military days that are honored. If you have your American Legion calendar, take time to look at those special days. Each of those days can represent pride for our military but also loss of comrades in arms.

I hope you have seen the past two emails requesting donations for our VEAF support? It's that time of year to plan on giving a donation to our VEAF (Veterans Emergency Aid Fund) in order to continue the great care for Veterans in need who live in the Orange County area. Any amount is appreciated and will bless another vet who is struggling to make ends meet. This is just one way to make a difference in one person's life.

Soon, we will have an opportunity to vote for different propositions and political opponents. Make sure you vote. It really does make a difference.

Let me leave you with these quotes:

**"A time of crisis is not just a time of anxiety and worry.  
It gives a chance, an opportunity, to choose well or to choose badly."**

DESMOND TUTU

**"The measure of a country's greatness is its ability to retain  
compassion in time of crisis."**

THURGOOD MARSHALL

**"It is in times of crisis that good leaders emerge."**

RUDY GIULIANI

May God grant us all to choose well, offer compassion and do good.

For God and Country,

Chaplain Ken Wilson

## 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

**Cory Vigil, Service Officer**  
Email: al291veteranassistance@gmail.com  
Tel: 949.673.5070 Ext. 117

## Online Meetings

### POST 291

**The Post 291 General Membership meetings are being held as a webinars.**

*We are providing a link and registration via Constant Contact to our members.*

*Check out meetings information in our calendar [www.al291.com/calendar](http://www.al291.com/calendar)*

To update your email contact,  
LEGION MEMBERSHIP  
(949) 673-5070 Ext. 105  
Email: [membership@AL291.com](mailto:membership@AL291.com)



OCT  
31

*Rare blue moon will bring a Halloween 2020 treat to the skies. For the first time since World War II, people in all parts of the world will be able to see the October 31 display.*



*There are no upcoming events scheduled for the months of October/November at the Post. Please keep checking our website [www.al291.com](http://www.al291.com) for updates.*

## Effective Monday, October 26th Drive -Tru and Dining New Hours



### POST 291 DINING AND DRIVE-THRU

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 11:30 - 6:30 PM

SATURDAY 12:00 - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday Breakfast 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Lunch 12:00 - 5:00 pm





## Commodore's Update

Bruce Batcheller, ALYC Commodore



### *Fall greetings from the bridge at the American Legion Yacht Club!*

In this pandemic-challenged year, we've recently had some bright spots with our club.

As we closed out our summer sailing sessions, we were able to pause and reflect and appreciate our racers that sailed with us throughout the summer. Our annual Sundowner Race series, based in Newport Harbor, runs from May through August. We had a slow start but finished strong, with a great field of enthusiastic and healthy racers. The Race Committee opted for some personalized awards this year, and have handed those out to the winners individually.

New this year we launched our Model Yacht program, and we held a weekly race series from June through September. Winners received inaugural plaques commemorating their achievements with our emerging program. Managed by Jr Staff Commodore Doug Green, and mentored by Post 291 Historian and ALYC member Richard Frauenzimmer, this program was a big success, reaching our intended goal of finding new enthusiasts of all ages. Our youngest sailor and award winner was Mason, age 9, grandson of Post 291 Sergeant At Arms Bob Grundmeyer. We will have more events throughout the year, so please look for these new opportunities to have some fun at a safe and fun venue.

The weekend after Labor Day was our third annual trip to Emerald Bay on Catalina's west end. We reserved the wonderful facilities from the Corsair Yacht Club. Look for a more detailed look back at this epic weekend inside this issue of the SeaBreeze.

We have more opportunities ahead of us yet this year. Our fall cruise takes us to Dana Point Harbor for some extra fun in the sun, on the water, and out to dinner. November is election month, of course for our local and national elections, but also for ALYC. Our election committee has been working on solutions to conduct the vote in compliance of our bylaws, and

it looks like they have it figured out. We have a bit more testing to do, but the goal is to bring the election to you via an online election, on our regularly scheduled day and time November 12 at 6:30PM. Please look for final confirmations on that soon. Also, you may review the nominated officers and directors on our home page at [alyc.com](http://alyc.com).

Also in November we have started up a program we've long wanted to do: member cruises aboard Valor. Since we now have six certified captains, and a growing roster of crew, we are able to keep Valor in service more often. Also, with our current COVID safety protocols, we feel we can safely conduct these cruises as well, and give back something extra for our members. This event is up on our calendar so please take a look. If these cruises prove popular, we will expand this pilot program.

December brings another opportunity for Valor to compete in the Newport Christmas Parade of Lights. Assuming we get enough volunteers to decorate and staff her for the parade, we plan to enter and yet again compete and enjoy this incredible parade.

Your new officers and directors will be sworn in to office in December, and get right to work figuring out what activities we can manage early next year. A January Commodore's Ball may be a challenge right now, but we'll keep working and hope for a turn of events with this virus.

We look forward to our members re-joining us for another great year with ALYC, and if you're reading this and have considered being part of ALYC, there is no time like now to start building those new friendships and connections. Our club brings veterans and their families together, and we enjoy meeting new friends from other clubs as well as many civic opportunities to help our community. Please contact us anytime by email at [info@alyc.com](mailto:info@alyc.com) or read up about the club on our website at [www.alyc.com](http://www.alyc.com).

Hope to see you all soon on the water or at the club!

Fair Winds,

Bruce Batcheller  
Commodore 2019-20



## **ALYC Cruise to Emerald Bay**

Bruce Batcheller, ALYC Commodore

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Your American Legion Yacht Club did what they do best and took to the seas for a weekend of fun on Catalina Island. For the third year in a row, the Corsair Yacht Club made their Corsair Cove available to the ALYC. The camp was outfitted with everything you could possibly need for the weekend, and the Boy Scouts rented us cabins and water toys. It was hardly “roughing it” with flush toilets, hot showers, lots of electrical plugins and plenty of grill space.

We enjoyed record attendance at this event and now you know why. We had approximately 17 boats cross the San Pedro Channel and over 60 people in attendance over the course of the weekend. We arranged socially distant activities and had kayaks and paddleboards available all weekend. Visitors could also rent mountain bikes or hike as well. Literally, everything Catalina has to offer was right at our fingertips for the weekend. And we had it all to ourselves.

You didn’t need to have a boat to join in the fun. Club boat Valor headed over with extra supplies, and enough members with smaller boats were able to retrieve folks that arrived via ferry. Having the cabins available to rent from the Boy Scouts made it accessible for anyone who wanted to join.

Members and friends were on their own Friday. Saturday morning, a few members took to Indian Rock for some scuba diving and saw abalone, eels and lobster. For all you divers out there, they report the visibility was really good.

Saturday afternoon, there was a dinghy and raft up around Valor and then Saturday night we had our group dinner.

The cruise was such a hit that we’ve already booked our time for the same weekend next year. If you missed it, next year will just be bigger and better...and hopefully COVID-free.





# Veterans DAY

Last year, then Post 291 Service Officer Chase Wickersham launched the Veteran Emergency Assistance Fund (VEAF.) This fund is now managed by Post Service Officer Cory Vigil with the objective of helping local veterans in immediate financial need. As Chase wrote last year “Since the Post is the largest veteran organization in Orange County with almost 4100 veterans, we get many “I don’t know where else to go” calls.” And, with the COVID-19 crisis and the effects employment cuts have had on the County’s veterans, the number of assistance requests continues to dramatically increase.

Making a contribution to the fund is easy – just click the “Donate” button on the home page and then select a contribution amount along with “Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund” under the “Optional” drop down. And note that it will be matched through November 11, doubling your contribution. Please help support this vital program with a donation today.

Mike Berdine  
Adjutant

[Renew](#)

[Update](#)

[Donate](#)

# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - OCTOBER 20th, 2020



The American Legion  
NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291  
215 15th Street,  
Newport Beach, CA 92663  
(949) 673-5070 [www.al291.com](http://www.al291.com)

## Veteran Emergency Assistance Fund

Orange County has a large veteran population. One recurring problem continues to come up among the agencies serving these veterans. Who can provide immediate financial assistance when a veteran or veteran family needs help? Despite the desire to serve veterans and the many VA programs and private grants focused on this population, when a motel is needed on a Friday afternoon for a homeless family living in a car, there are few options.

American Legion Newport Harbor Post 291 is the largest in Southern California with 4000 veteran members and 6500 families in all the associated programs at the Post. When an agency must tell a desperate veteran that their request is more than the agency can handle or that it will take a week to make a decision and get a check cut, the veteran is told to call AL291. The Post Service Officer handles those calls and the volume has been growing for years. AL291 has been in the community since 1920 and is the most visible veteran service organization in the County. Last Fall, the Post decided to address this need with the Veteran Emergency Assistance Fund (VEAF). This is a dedicated fund to provide a fast response to the immediate financial needs of all veterans living in Orange County.

Since last Fall, the VEAF has raised over \$130,000 to be used exclusively for local veterans in need. Most of that was raised from generous veteran donors. All donations are restricted to the VEAF, kept in a separate account and used exclusively to help local veterans. An application is required to verify veteran status and questions about the current financial situation of the veteran must be asked. Because AL291 is a member of the Orange County Veterans & Military Families Collaborative (OCVMFC) and works with many local agencies on a daily basis, information can be shared quickly, often verbally, to speed the approval process. A decision is quick and a check can be issued to a utility company, landlord or vendor the next day and often within hours. The Post will also share costs with another agency to ensure that no veteran asking for help is turned away or ignored. After all, veterans always help other veterans and they never leave anyone behind.

### CONTACT

Cory Vigil

Veteran Service Officer Post 291

(714) 643-3854 [coryvigil61@gmail.com](mailto:coryvigil61@gmail.com)

**NEW HOURS!**  
**STARTING MONDAY OCTOBER 26TH**



◆ Newport Harbor POST 291 of The American Legion ◆

# POST 291 DINING DRIVE-THRU

**MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 11:30 - 6:30 PM**  
**SATURDAY 12:00 - 5:00 PM | SUNDAY 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

Sunday Breakfast 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Lunch 12:00 - 5:00 pm



**Chef Ulises Dominguez**

## **TODAY'S MENU**

[Daily... www.al291.com](http://www.al291.com)



### **FRESH BAKED GOODS**

Patio, View Room and Bar | Members and Their Guests Only.