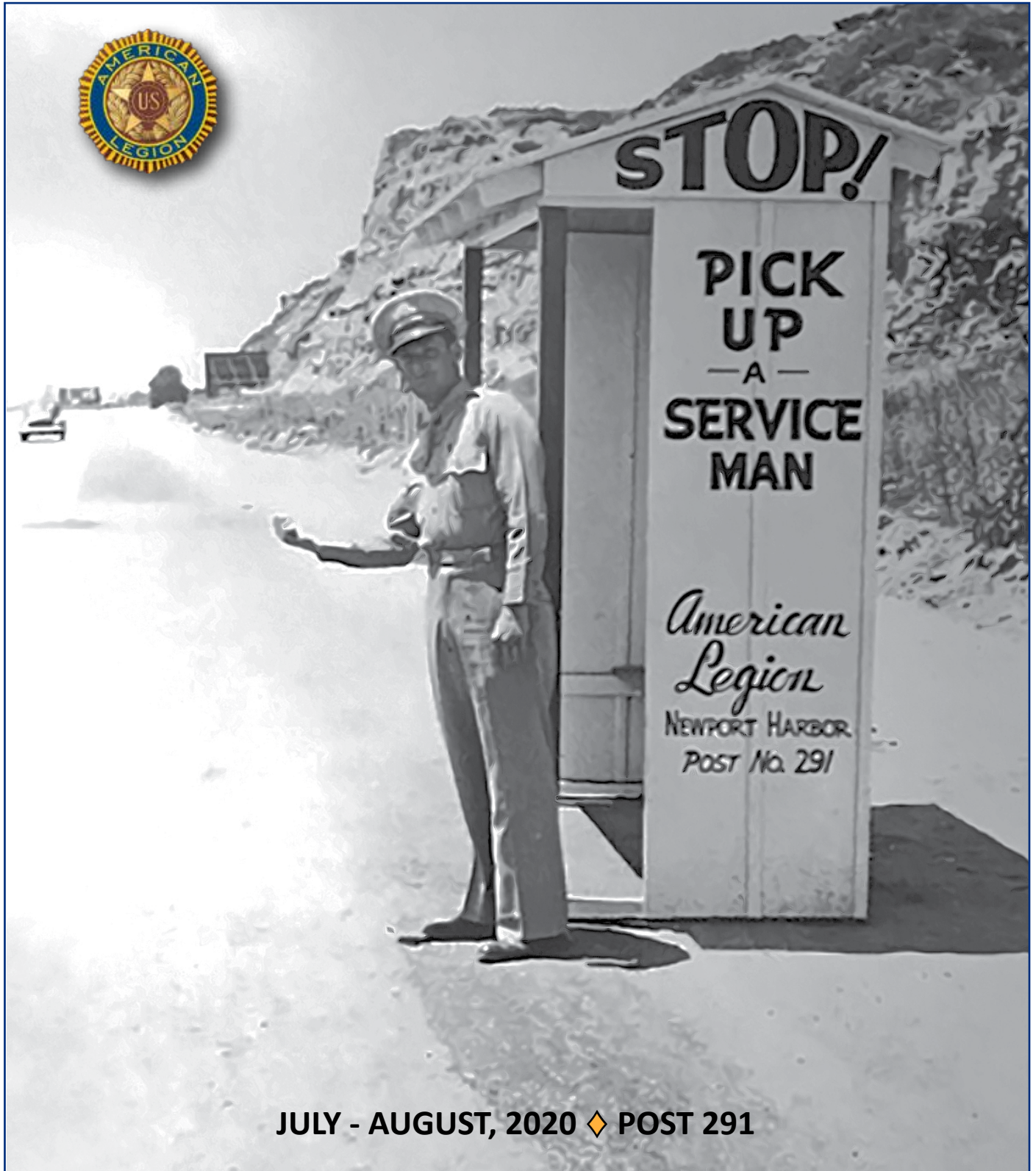


SEABREEZE

THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291



JULY - AUGUST, 2020 ♦ POST 291

THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291



AL POST 291



ALA UNIT 291



SAL SQUADRON 291



ALYC

The American Legion Newport Harbor Post 291 Family

Online Membership Renewals



We now offer online Post 291 Legionnaire renewals in addition to on site and telephone renewal options. The online renewal button is on the home page of the Post 291 website or you can [click here](#) to go to the renewal page directly from this email. Please note you will need to enter your 9 digit member number, so please have your 2020 Membership Card at hand when you start the online renewal process.

This enhancement reflects Post 291's commitment to make the renewal process as safe and convenient as possible during these current difficult times.

Thank you for your continuing Newport Harbor Post 291 membership and contributing to the Post's and Post Family's support of veteran and active duty events, activities and charitable contributions.

WE NOW OFFER ONLINE RENEWALS – FOR LEGIONNAIRES ONLY

Auxiliary and SAL please contact your Membership Department.

Click on the relevant below button to renew your American Legion membership, to update your membership information or to make a donation.



Update

Donate

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SEABREEZE

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From your Commander

Jon Reynolds



Pleasant Days at the Post — with Limited Reopening

It's great to see our Post 291 Family members coming to the Post to enjoy the outdoor dining service during this fine summer weather here in Newport Beach. The Post continues as a unique venue for military veterans and their families and guests.

Although Post 291 was permitted to expand reopening for a couple of weeks in June with inside dining, it was again required to limit dining to the outside patios in July.

And the Post is extremely fortunate with Post Food and Beverage Manager **Dennis Fitzpatrick** and Kitchen Manager and Chef **Ulises Dominguez** and their exceptionally capable staffs providing outstanding food and dining service for both the drive-thru meal service and on-Post patio dining. In addition, Bar and Custodial Supervisor **Peter Lara** ensures full staffing of bar services and custodial activities. The Post has also contracted with a professional cleaning and sanitizing company, JB Services, to complement and augment Post custodial employees to ensure all required health and safety practices are followed.

Adopting and Following New Healthy Habits and Behavior

As Post 291 continues on through this Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, it's gratifying to see our Post 291 Family members adhering to Post rules on health and safety protocols.

Here's a summary of the basic rules under which the Post is currently operating — as required by State, County, and City direction. And the Post is likely to be operating in this mode for the foreseeable future.

- Drive-through meal service is available every day of the week — and is open to the public.
- For Post 291 Family members and their guests, outside dining at the Post is available every day of the week — on the patios only — and a meal must be ordered if ordering alcoholic drinks.
- Masks must be worn to enter the Post patio areas — and must always be worn when not seated at a table.
- Social distancing continues as a requirement.
- Outdoor Dining on the Patios.
 - Tables are set up on the patios for outdoor dining — and are purposely spaced at required distances.
 - Masks may be removed while seated at a table for eating and drinking.
 - Alcoholic drinks may only be ordered and served with a meal — but refills are permitted.
 - When reordering drinks from the bar, masks must be worn. —“If you get up, mask up!”
 - No standing while consuming drinks or food. Customers must be seated while eating or drinking.

- Tables are cleaned after each set of users has departed.
- Videoconferencing is the prescribed and normal method for holding Post meetings.
- No in-person meetings may be held at the Post. — All Post 291 Family organization meetings must be held by videoconference.
- Only certain kinds of events are authorized to be held at the Post — and these must be conducted within limits of numbers of attendees and with social distancing.
 - Religious — e.g., weddings.
 - Cultural — e.g., celebrations of life.
- The Post marina is still open and slip renters have full access to their vessels.

Maintaining Health and Safety Practices

Although some restrictions have been eased on social gatherings, it's extremely important to remain aware that Coronavirus (COVID-19) is still an omnipresent threat. There is concern that some people may develop a false mindset that since the government has relaxed a few rules on gatherings, "therefore the pandemic is over." As the old cliché goes, "Nothing could be further from the truth." There is no vaccine yet available, and all the same risks are still out there. This is a respiratory disease transmitted between human beings. And the principal vector for transmission of the virus from one human being to another is the aerosol of droplets from sneezing, coughing, or other expulsions from an infected (perhaps asymptomatic) human being. Consequently, with fewer restrictions on gatherings, it is even more essential to maintain social distancing, wear face coverings, wash and sanitize hands frequently, and continue other good hygiene practices and healthy behavior. The need for these practices is likely to remain critical until an effective vaccine is developed and fully deployed in the US population — which is unlikely to occur until about Spring of 2021.

Fourth of July

While clearly restricted on the full scope of usual Fourth of July activities at the Post, the American Legion Yacht Club (ALYC) conducted an enormously successful Old Glory Boat Parade in Newport Harbor — with a record turnout of participating boats. — A special thanks to ALYC Commodore **Bruce Batcheller** and the entire ALYC officers and organization for putting on a great patriotic show on the Fourth!

On Going Post Operations and Activities

- Officer of the Day (OD). As most of you know, an Officer of the Day is assigned during much of the opening hours at the Post on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The OD's role is to provide onsite assistance to Post employees and members on rules, regulations, policies, and procedures questions or issues if needed. Sergeant at Arms **Bob Grundmeyer** prepares the monthly schedule of OD assignments — and he's been extensively assisted by volunteers from the Auxiliary, SAL, and ALYC to fill all the OD duty time slots. — All these volunteer efforts by the Post 291 Family organizations are greatly appreciated!
- Videoconferencing for Post Meetings. Videoconferencing (webinars) are — and will continue indefinitely to be — a way of life for holding meetings at the Post. Adjutant **Mike Berdine** has become the Post expert for the GoToWebinar and GoToMeeting platforms for videoconferencing — along with being expert in about everything else in the management and governance of Post 291. If help is needed in arranging Post committee meetings or Post 291 Family organization meetings, Mike can provide advice and assistance.
- Reopening Planning. Third Vice Commander **Jim Urdike** chairs the Post Reopening Planning Committee, which is relentlessly exploring ways of opening more of the Post facilities while remaining in compliance with State, County, and City direction, rules, and requirements. As new opportunities arise, the Committee will work to take the necessary steps to make more of the premises available and to inform the Post 291 Family membership of any expanded accesses.
- Member Dues. Membership dues are a major, critical component of Post 291 income. Recently, renewal of American Legion membership by online payment of membership dues was enabled. 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.
 - Go online to the Post website at www.al291.com and follow the instructions for renewing with credit/debit card.

Still another option is to renew by credit card with National American Legion at www.legion.org/renew — although that's less helpful to Post 291 because of associated additional delays in receiving the membership dues income from National. Regardless of which method you choose, please renew your Post 291 American Legion membership for 2021 as soon as possible.

- Financial Planning for 2021. Finance Officer **Bob Wine**, with the assistance of Post Manager of Administrative Operations and Accounting **Tracey Kleimeyer**, has been working diligently — and has notably succeeded — in maintaining fiscal and budgetary discipline for the Post during this challenging environment of the pandemic. Through careful economizing and thrift measures, the Post continues to provide superb services and an inviting, unique venue in Newport Harbor while still keeping our outstanding Post employees employed.

- Support of Military Veterans. Service Officer **Cory Vigil** has been very active in providing necessary assistance and support to many of our needy fellow military veterans. As a result of the highly successful Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund campaigns spearheaded by former Service Officer **Chase Wickersham**, many additional veterans can be helped. And, of course, this is one of the important Four Pillars of The American Legion — Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

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





ALA UNIT 291

Letter from the Auxiliary Unit 291

Cindy Edes, President



Greetings from the Auxiliary. This is an exceedingly difficult and stressful time for the United States and the world, but we have faced difficult times in the past. As Americans, losing our freedom to move about, work and worship freely, is a reminder of how precious our liberty is. Being a part of the American Legion Auxiliary reminds us that we are contributing to keeping that freedom alive and well. Amidst the grinding halt to life as we know it in the Legion family, we have rays of bright light to help us navigate through the darkness. In May, when the Legion opened to drive through meals the Auxiliary was able to participate in a canned food drive for the Support the Enlisted Project. The Post families and the

community were able to collect a van full of canned goods by simply putting a collection container by the entrance. Special thanks to the kitchen staff and Dana Johnston for taking the barrel out in the AM and taking it in every night. In May, Poppy Month, our dedicated Poppy Ladies solicited donations for our Poppy Program via the drive through. The remembrance cards, which are normally posted in the bar, were posted on traveling posters, and set out each day. All monies received went directly to our Veteran Administration and Rehabilitation programs.

May 15th our slate of candidates was posted on our web page and on an e-mail blast which opened nominations. July 9th the Executive Committee acted under Bylaws Article VI, Section 4 and voted to pass the uncontested slate of candidates. The changes were me as President, Heidi Maturino as Secretary and Susan Siever as Executive Committee member. All other officers are staying in place.

So, what now? With instructions changing daily from the State as to how things can operate, we must think outside the box to get things done and without our fundraising that we would normally have to operate. There will be military mom's baby shower August 30th at Camp Pendleton. We will be moving our donation boxes out in the patio area. We hope the Legion families will take the time and drop a few donations for these first-time mothers. The list of needed items will be posted soon. We hope we can repeat this procedure for our troop shipping in November.

The Executive Board has been meeting via Zoom so we will attempt the next General Membership meeting August 19th via Zoom as well. Watch for an E-mail blast and Facebook post for a link to join.

And lastly, we pray for all those who have been affected by this pandemic. Let's take the time to show compassion and kindness to one another. We will come out of this situation better than when we started.

Cynthia Edes

President Unit 291 President 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.

Comments

Bob Wine, Finance Officer



An interesting, and gratifying, result of all the adversity the Post is experiencing right now is the way everyone, from employees, officers, SALs, Auxiliary, yacht club, and our members, have been pulling together to keep the Post operating at its highest possible level under the circumstances. I've been a member of the Post for nineteen years, and I've not seen anything like it. We've become a real team, and the benefits of this will continue long after the crisis has passed. We've been forced

to closely examine every aspect of Post operations, from administrative to food service, finance to maintenance, membership to marina, to make everything as efficient as possible. I'm really impressed with the dedication, competence, and talent of everyone who's involved.

On the financial side, the Post is holding its own pretty well. We are losing money, but slowly. The curbside service continues to provide solid returns, and the use of the patios for outside dining is becoming more popular. The marina is operating at full capacity, and membership renewals seem to be on track. We haven't laid off any employees, although a few part-timers have decided that unemployment insurance is a better option for them. By careful scheduling, and moving one employee from part time to full time, there hasn't been any drop-off in service. The challenge will grow in the fall and winter, however, when membership renewals will begin to wane, and the weather isn't always inviting for outdoor dining. Hopefully, we'll be back indoors by then.

A major benefit to the Post's cash reserves was the Paycheck Protection Plan loan we obtained back in May. Although we have now spent those funds on the approved expenses, we would have had to spend our own funds in the same amounts anyway, so the loan, in effect, added \$254,100 to our cash balances that wouldn't be there now. As a result, our cash reserves are at the same level (maybe even a bit higher) than they were when we closed down on March 18th. We will submit our application for forgiveness of the loan in mid-August, when our bank said it will start accepting those applications.

Hope to see you at the Post (wearing your mask, of course).

Bob Wine

American Legion Boys State/Nation

Jim Updike, Third Vice Commander



Being ever optimistic, we were very pleased to learn that the American Legion California Boys State for 2021 has been scheduled to be held at California State University, Sacramento, starting June 19 to June 26.

We will be looking to select 25 young men who are currently attending their junior year in High School, as delegates from your Post 291. We will be contacting area High Schools in November and December and holding interviews in February.

We are keeping our fingers crossed and doing everything we can to defeat this pandemic so our delegates will be able to attend the 2021 California Boys State.

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

September 2020

HOLIDAYS, EVENTS, OBSERVANCES

National Suicide Prevention Month	Month of September
Labor Day	First Monday of September
V-J Day (Victory over Japan)	September 2
Patriot Day	September 11
Constitution Week	September 17 -23
Citizenship Day/Constitution Day	September 17
Air Force (USAF) Birthday	September 18
Office of the Sec. of Defense Birthday	September 18
Air National Guard Birthday	September 18
National POW/MIA Recognition Day	Third Friday in September
Gold Star Mother's Day	Last Sunday in September
Warrior Games	Sept. 21 (begins), Sept. 28 (ends)



Greetings from the Newport Harbor American Legion Honor Guard team.

As we continue to move forward through these tough times, we all find it difficult to know what public services are available to us or not. Unfortunately, there has been the same confusion with the Honor Guard team. But I am very proud, and honored, when I say that our team is fully operational and willing to continue providing our services... no matter what state the country is in.

Far too many conversations, recently, have been with the family and friends of Veterans who have passed away within the last few months, and tell me their loved ones were not offered the opportunity to have Military Honors provided at their funeral service. I would like to get the word spread so that people know the service can be provided, and if possible, we're willing to help. As an all-volunteer team of Veterans, we offer the full military honors service; including the rifle volleys, a bugler to play TAPS, and a flag folding and presentation detail. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions in regards to an Honor Guard service.

Another important note I would like to announce is that we are continuously looking for new members to join our team. We do not require past experience, but we do welcome Veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces and all eras of conflict and peace time. We will provide the uniforms and the training, if you can provide the heart and dedication to volunteer your time. If you are a Veteran and a member of the Newport Harbor American Legion, you've met the most basic requirements.

The members of the team are not compensated for their participation, but are involved solely as a patriotic duty to honor our country, our active duty service members, and our Veterans (past and present).

If you are interested in learning more about the Honor Guard or if you are interested in joining the team, please visit our website www.honorguard291.com or contact the main office at (949) 673-5070 Ext. 100. They will get you in contact with me.

Brian Fleming Jr.

Chaplain's Corner

Ken Wilson



August, 2020

If you have been paying attention to the news, John Lewis recently died. He served in the United States House of Representatives for Georgia's 5th congressional district from 1987 until his death in 2020. He was a civil rights activist born out of his friendship and teaching of Martin Luther King Jr. His faith and love of God motivated him to protest the injustices of segregation and inequality with non-violent peaceful resistance. He was jailed, beaten, spat upon and nearly killed during the civil rights marches for freedom and equality. Here are a couple of quotes from his Memoir from 2012: *Across That Bridge: Life Lessons and a Vision for Change!*

"You are a light. You are the light. Never let anyone—any person or any force—dampen, dim or diminish your light. Study the path of others to make your way easier and more abundant. Lean toward the whispers of your own heart, discover the universal truth, and follow its dictates. [...] Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won. Choose confrontation wisely, but when it is your time don't be afraid to stand up, speak up, and speak out against injustice. And if you follow your truth down the road to peace and the affirmation of love, if you shine like a beacon for all to see, then the poetry of all the great dreamers and philosophers is yours to manifest in a nation, a world community, and a Beloved Community that is finally at peace with itself."

"We are one people, one family, the human family, and what affects one of us affects us all."

As Legionnaires, we can learn from his example in seeking justice, speaking truth with love to power and striving for a more perfect Union.

May we all try to serve God and our Country in order to encourage each of us to "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8).

Chaplain Ken Wilson.

POST 291 Office Open for Membership Renewals

Membership Renewals: We are available in our office for Membership Renewals. Masks are required.

Office Hours: Regular hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm and On-site Membership Renewal assistance available from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.
By telephone from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Please use the intercom located at the front door to inform the office of your arrival before entering the lobby.

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 OCVMF
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 held as a webinar.

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

Check out meetings information in our calendar

www.al291.com/calendar

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



**AUG
7**

Purple Heart Day is observed on August 7 each year and is a time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.



There are no upcoming events scheduled for the months of August / September at the Post. Please keep checking our website www.al291.com for updates.



American Legion Yacht Club COMMODORE'S CORNER

Commodore's Update

Bruce Batcheller, ALYC Commodore



Ahoy from the bridge at ALYC!

We've done our best at ALYC to continue hosting events to keep our members engaged, and also to offer something out to the community. Our biggest event of the summer was hosting the Old Glory Boat parade in Newport Harbor. Please look for a separate story on that event in this issue of Sea Breeze. This summer, we've also continued our "Sundowner" summer sailboat race series, racing every Monday night. The racing is still as intense as ever, but we all miss gathering for good food and drink post-race. We have another month of racing ahead, and then we'll have an online Awards Ceremony to honor our racers.

New this summer we kicked off our Model Yacht racing program, racing every Tuesday evening at Mason Regional Park in Irvine. ALYC owns three boats that are available for members to come try their hand at this emerging sport. We race on an officially sanctioned course, so there is both an opportunity to just try it out and also race competitively. We have all ages sailing the boats, so bring your friends and family and come join us any Monday at 5:00PM.

Our Youth Sailing Program has seen a surge in students this summer, as parents sought new opportunities for their children during the pandemic. We took extra safety precautions to ensure the safety of the children and feel privileged to provide this essential outlet for our youth. ALYC Staff Commodore and US Sailing Certified Instructor Dan O'Sullivan leads the sessions held at ALYC weekdays during the morning or afternoon. The last session begins August 17, so call us at 949.973.5002, or email at info@alyc.com. More details are available on our home page at alyc.com.

Last weekend we hosted our summer fishing tournament. SAL member Benny Hallock and his crew aboard "Keep It Quiet" took home top honors for the biggest haul. We'll have another tournament in November, so watch for an update on that and come compete on shore or on boat.

As we head into fall, sadly many of our events have dropped off the calendar. The biggest is we made the difficult decision to postpone our annual Sail for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Events we can conduct safely are still on the calendar, including two open-water sailboat races, the Refraction Regatta August 9 and the Blue Water Regatta over 9/11 weekend. During the 9/11 weekend, we also have our signature cruise event of the year to Catalina Island. Our home base will be the shoreside camp of our friends from the Corsair Yacht Club. It will be a great opportunity to come say hello to old friends and make new connections. Due to the spacing of this site, and the separate moorings for boaters, we can manage this event very safely and stay within all regulations. Information is on our web site at alyc.com.

We have other connection opportunities this fall, including online social events and our general member meetings. While we can't see you all in person, we can still see your faces! Please make sure you sign up online and register for our online events. There are plenty of great stories to hear from our sailors, racers, power boaters, kayakers, paddleboarders, and fishermen. Our next General Meeting is August 13, so please join us online. I look forward to seeing you online or hopefully on the water at one of our events soon!

Fair Winds,

Bruce Batcheller
Commodore 2019-20

Old Glory Boat Parade Sailed Again Through Newport Harbor

Bruce Batcheller, ALYC Commodore

While most cities and counties were planning for a very different 4th of July in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Legion Yacht Club was given permission by the City of Newport Beach to host the annual Old Glory Boat Parade, just as they've done for nearly 30 years.

Themed "Honoring Our Frontline Heroes," the ALYC set out to pull off a very different socially-distanced parade. No in-person skipper meetings, very limited in-person registrations, limited guests on board due to the pandemic, no pancake breakfast, no fanfare, and no awards dinner. Also missing this year? The folks they were honoring. After reaching out to over a dozen medical facilities, military medical professionals, and first responders, most honorees were actually working on the 4th. It was a sobering reality of the new world we live in.

"ALYC was delighted that we could keep this tradition going," said Bruce Batcheller, Commodore of the yacht club. "It was a long shot to get a permit, but knowing how much this parade means to the city and the community, as well as our American Legion Post 291 family, we knew we had to make a special appeal to the Mayor."

In their plea, the ALYC noted it was one activity that always brings the harbor together. The club openly recognized the parade wouldn't have quite the impact as in years past with the loaded boats and packed restaurants and beaches, but believed the community needed an organized event for our Independence Day. Despite all the cards stacked against them, they held a parade with a record number of participants. With club boat Valor leading the way and Mallika following close behind with VIPs, they were followed by 51 participants. Parade organizers also noted they were joined by probably another 200 unofficial participants.

ALYC had the greatest number of boats entered with 27 participants. Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club followed with six participants.

The Grand Prize Sweepstakes award went to RyLaCade, owned by Stuart Leigh of Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club. RyLaCade flew an impactful 30' by 50' American Flag off its mast and a Betsy Ross replica flag off its mainstay that contained the names of those who lost their lives on 9/11.

Other awards were handed out virtually on July 19 at the Awards Celebration online.

Best Decorations – Triple Net, Owned by Jeff Spindler
Spirit Award – Hayden's Havoc, Owned by Michael Hayden
Theme Award – Mahalea, Owned by Michael Starkweather
Best Electric – Skal, Owned by Michael Volk
Best Power – Triple Net, Owned by Jeff Spindler
Best Sail – Oasis VI, Skipped by Charlie Polce
Commodore's Award – Kathryn Marie, Owned by Roger Behrens

To see all the pictures from the parade, please visit: https://www.facebook.com/pg/TheALYC/photos/?tab=album&album_id=3776930099000712

To watch the video of the parade, please visit the Newport Beach website at:
<https://alyc.com/event-3669764>

Bruce Batcheller
Commodore 2019-2020



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Post and Drive-Thru

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 12:00 - 7:00 PM | SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday and Sunday Breakfast 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Drive-Thru Open to the Public, Seating is for Members Only.

TODAY'S MENU

PUBLISHED DAILY IN OUR WEBSITE

www.al291.com

Chef Ulises Dominguez

Everyday Something Fresh and New!



FRESH BAKED GOODS

215 15th Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS PREFERRED.