VOL. 59 FEB 2021

SEABREEZE

NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291 OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



JANUARY - FEBRUARY - 2021



Newport Harbor Post 291 of The American Legion Family

From your Commander Jon Reynolds



Welcome to the New Year!

During the last week in January, the Stay at Home Order that included Orange County was canceled, enabling the Post to reopen outside dining on the patios. And in spite of the sometimes challenging weather and cooler temperatures, the Post is still an outstanding, beautiful venue here on the water in Newport

Harbor to enjoy great food and delicious beverages. Although Orange County is still in the Purple Tier and only outside dining at this point is permitted, additional heaters have been acquired to enhance comfort out on the patios. And the West Patio offers additional shielding from the prevailing west winds. So please keep on taking advantage of the excellent takeout service and enjoying the superb food offerings of Chef Ulises Dominguez and his highly skilled staff, and continue to visit the Post and enjoy yourselves throughout the coming months.

Current Post Operating Rules

As long as Orange County remains in the Purple Tier (Tier 1), dining at the Post is limited to outside on the patios. As a reminder, here is a summary of the current Post services and operating rules associated with that Tier.

- Drive-thru takeout food and beverage service is available daily and open to the public — 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday; 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm Saturday; and 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Sunday.
- Outdoor dining on the patios during the same operating hours is available to Post 291 Family members and guests.
- No in-person meetings ("gatherings") may be held at the Post.
- All Post 291 Family meetings must be held by videoconference.
- Videoconferencing (Webinars) will continue indefinitely as the primary method for holding Post meetings. — If assistance is needed, please contact Adjutant Mike Berdine.

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SEABREEZE

Official Publication of The American Legion Newport Harbor Post 291. Published monthly, Non-Profit Postage Paid Newport Beach, CA. Online Circulation 3,000. Editorial Policy: Submissions to the SeaBreeze are due by the 10th of each month for publication the following month. We reserve the right to edit any submission for the purpose of publication. Letters to the Editor must include name, address and telephone number. Names will be withheld upon request.

AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291

Editorial Offices: 215 15th Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663 Office 949.673.5070 Ext. 100 Email: admin@al291.com Post Bar & Grill: 949.673.5070 x 107 - www.al291.com Production and Graphic Design, Mizka Brick ©2021 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

- Marina is open and slip renters and dry storage renters have full access to and use of their vessels.
- Reopening Planning Committee, chaired by Third Vice Commander Jim Updike, will continue to explore options and methods for further reopening the Post.
- Support of military veterans needing assistance continues — under the skilled direction of Service Officer Cory Vigil.
- Administrative services are available at the Front Office window during regular business hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Health and Safety Practices Required

The Post will continue to operate within the official direction and guidance of government authorities. As a further reminder:

- Health and safety of Post 291 Family and Post employees are the most important priority in reopening and operating the Post.
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is still an omnipresent threat.
- It's essential to be considerate of fellow Post Family members and Post employees and their health and safety.
- CDC compliant face mask must continue to be worn.
- Social distancing must be continued.
- Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizers is imperative.
- Official direction, rules, and regulations must be followed.
- Vaccinations are available at VA Long Beach for veterans.
- o Enroll/ sign up at: https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/
- Vaccinations in Orange County are being managed and scheduled by Othena.
 - o Enroll / sign up at: https://othena.com
- — Expect the current operating mode to continue through this coming May or June.

On Going Post Operations

In addition to the services cited above, several other activities are scheduled or underway.

- Member Dues for 2021. As noted in the previous issue of the Sea Breeze, member dues are an essential source of income to keep Post 291 going and enabling it to provide basic services to our American Legion members. If you haven't yet done so, please renew your Post 291 membership for 2021 as soon as possible. And, of course, membership can now be renewed online at the Post website at www.al291.com as well as by stopping by the Post Front Office window, which is open during regular business hours from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.
- Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund (VEAF) Campaign. A new VEAF campaign is underway and will run through Memorial Day, Monday 24 May. Your generous contributions to the Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund enables the continuing support to military veterans needing assistance.
- American Red Cross Blood Drive. Under the experienced and expert sponsorship of Post Auxiliary Unit 291, another blood drive was conducted by the American Red Cross at the Post on Monday 15 February. Although it was "by appointment only," it was completely "sold out" — with all available appointments filled. — More outstanding work by our Auxiliary on this critical service, and for which the Post and the community are exceedingly grateful!

So yes, the Post is at least partially open, and everyone in the Post 291 Family is encouraged to come enjoy it! — And please continue to stay safe and healthy!

For God and Country!

Jon Reynolds, Commander Newport Harbor Post 291 of The American Legion





Greetings from the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 291

Timothy Sullivan, Commander

SAL SQUADRON 291



The biggest Squadron in the entire universe, striving to be the best! We are constantly working on your behalf to represent you within the organization as well as to build a reputation in the community. We are accomplishing just that. The Sons 291 are being recognized for how much we

give and how consistent we are with our giving. One recent example was the Newport Beach 1st Battalion 1st Marines Foundation who recently added our own Giving Committee Char, John Long, to their Board. A well deserved honor for John and a great place for Squadron 291 to be involved and visible in the community. I was recently added to the Orange County Sheriffs Advisory Council, another great honor and place for the Sons291 to be involved in the community. We are growing our relationships and that will serve us well into the future.

Before I go much further, please say a prayer for our friend and 2nd Vice Commander Art Jimenez who has been hospitalized with complications from Covid for several weeks. He is recovering and soon will be in a rehab facility, but my understanding is that he is finally getting out of the hospital. Keep him in your thoughts and prayers. Art has done so much for us and if any of you are willing and able to help fill the void in his absence, please contact me. We have several events this year including Flag Day, Fourth of July Pancakes and Concierge, Patriot's Day 9/11 (This is the 20th anniversary. Can you believe it?), the fishing trips, and the Christmas Boat Parade. We need volunteers, not just for the day of, but to assist in the planning. I'm looking for Captain's to run each event and work with me to make them a success. As soon as Art feels ready, he will be back working with us, but his recovery is the most important thing.

Speaking of events, we are growing and reaching out once again with the Fins and Fairways fishing and golf tournament. This is a joint production with the Reel Warriors Foundation and it's a huge step for us. Up until now, our biggest fundraiser has always been the Christmas Boat Parade, but the fishing and golf tournament, which we intend to be an annual event, will probably more than double the amount of funds that we are able to give annually. We're very excited. How can you help? We need sponsors, fisherman, and golfers. If you know any Veteran friendly companies, please ask them to consider sponsoring a hole or partial hole or offer us raffle prizes or prizes for the silent auction. All of the information is available at to sign up, sponsor, or donate at www. finsandfairways.com. Or use your smart phone and click the QR Code below. Gotta love technology!

That's all for now. As we continue to grow and move forward, I challenge you to participate and if nothing we are currently doing is in your wheelhouse, I challenge you to look at your own unique talents and skillset and determine a way that you can contribute and make us better. We are the proud Sons of a proud generation. Our heroes are smiling down upon us. Thank you.





Letter from the Auxiliary Unit 291

Cindy Edes, President

Greetings from the Auxiliary,

ALA UNIT 291



Hello everyone. The year 2020 was one for the books, but we have a fresh slate to start with and we are looking forward to an optimistic and productive year. So many restrictions have caused us to modify

our procedures for our activities. Girls State interviews which are normally conducted in person at the Post, are being handled by essay submission. I have personally read 18 of the 28 essays, and each one is truly a shining example of the talent, perseverance and tenacity of these young women. Not only in their academic achievements and family relations, but in their volunteerism and love of country. It truly makes one believe there is hope for the future.

Our Children and Youth Chairman Bea Foster, has been collecting baby items to help with a first-time mom's baby shower at Camp Pendleton to be held on February 20th. Eighteen diaper bags are filled with all sorts of items that a new mother and baby needs. A deep thanks again for all who donated items in our collection bins located at the entrance of the Post. And speaking of bins, we often ask for donations for various projects like troop shipping, children's Christmas gifts, baby showers or canned food drives. Normally, we have fixed and easily identifiable containers located inside the Post. Because the Post is only partially opened, we have made temporary bins which are located in the parking lot at the food ordering EZ Up. Please take a moment to see what we are collecting for at the time, and when you return to the Post again for lunch, drop off a donated item. You will give much joy to someone in need.

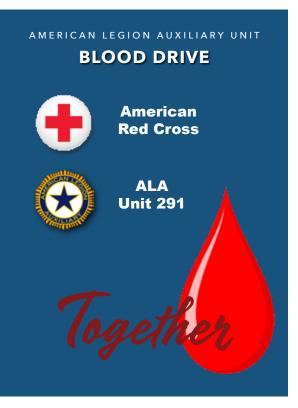
On Sunday, February 14th, we held our Valentines Raffle at the Post and streamed it live on Facebook. We thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for all the support in buying tickets and selling tickets to friends and family. This is one of our two major fund raisers of the year and supports so many of our programs for our Military and their families.

On Monday February 15, Susan Seiver & Vera Rowe, once again held a Red Cross Blood Drive at the Post. Again, thanks to our wonderful members and their friends, we had 100% sign up. We were able to hit the 510 pint mark for all the years we have been sponsoring the Blood Drives.

We have our Executive Board Officer elections in May but our Nomination Committee starts in February. If you are interested in running for an office, the committee members will be posted on our web site where you can reach out to them for more information about those positions. We are all volunteers on the Board and most have full time jobs. We can always use new blood, new ideas and new talent.

We continue to have our General Membership meetings on Zoom the third Wednesday of the month. Please join our Facebook Page ALAUnit291 for our up-to-date actives and volunteer opportunities of the Auxiliary.

We have many more events coming up that we will share as we get closer. Despite our Post being closed most of the year, the Auxiliary along with the other Post families, has strived to remain ever diligent for the needs of the community and our Military. As Mahatma Gandhi once said "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of other."







Election Voting Process

Jim Updike, Third Vice Commander

Given the uncertainties surrounding the COVID restrictions and the distinct possibility that we would not be able to hold the May General Membership meeting in person and, hence, the elections, Commander Reynolds formed an Election Voting Process Committee to explore contingencies with the ultimate goal of being able to hold elections for the Post E-Board during the May 12 General Membership meeting.

The Committee reported their recommendations to the Post E-Board at the E-Board meeting on February 4. The Committee stated, "The primary goal of the Committee was to get on the other side of this year's election and have our Membership look upon the election process with pride and with the feeling that everything possible was done to ensure that Members had an opportunity to vote within the constraints imposed by the COVID restrictions and that no Member felt they were disenfranchised."

The Committee recommended that the E-Board develop two contingency plans:

- Plan A If, by May 12, the restrictions have been lifted and gatherings are once again permitted, the Post would hold the Membership meeting in person and elections would proceed as we have done in past years.
- Plan B If the restrictions are still in place, we would hold the May General membership meeting virtually as we have been doing for several months now and that we would develop an on-line voting system.

The Committee noted that there were several critical features that must be present in utilizing an online system:

- Security the system must be secure and tamper-proof. In addition, it would be important to have a system available giving our Members a strong level of comfort.
- Members must have as fair and equal opportunity as possible to attend and participate in the balloting process.
- The system must be as easy and intuitive to use as possible.
- Anonymity must be guaranteed.
- There needs to be the institution of a 'Help Desk' both prior to and during the meeting to assist Members who run into connection difficulties.

In November 2020, ALYC faced this same situation. They were able to meet the critical features noted above and hold a successful election using their membership management software/platform, Wild Apricot. Fortunately, we can emulate their success.

The E-Board adopted the Committee's recommendations and work is now underway to have the system in place for this year's election.

Details will be sent to the Membership as the voting system develops.

The members of the Committee are:

- Jim Updike, Chair
- Anthony Morales
- Lynette Planto
- Frank Reinhart
- Kevin Van Otterloo
- Tommy Wheeler
- 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.

In the last issue of Seabreeze I spoke about the challenges facing us as we attempted to reach this year's goal of sending 25 young men to California Boys State. Faced with the restrictions imposed by the pandemic,



we were not at all certain that schools would be in a position this year to nominate sufficient candidates for us to be able to make our selection of Delegates.

I am happy to report that our fears were unfounded. 14 schools nominated 30 outstanding candidates. The Boys State Committee interviewed all 30 utilizing something we have become all too familiar with; Zoom. It was a herculean effort conducting an interview every half-hour from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on Saturday, February 6 and from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm on Sunday, February 7. By the end of the weekend, we had selected 25 Delegates to this year's California Boys State.

Despite the exhausting schedule, everyone on the Committee agreed that having the opportunity to speak with these young men was incredibly rewarding. Some of these young men are, indeed, the best of the best. The future of our nation is in good hands.

Because the COVID restrictions are still with us, California Boys State leadership decided that this years Boys state will be held virtually from June 19 to 25. Fortunately, they have some experience to draw on. Last year, Texas successfully held their Boys State on a virtual platform and California will be utilizing the same platform.

I especially want to recognize the members of Post 291 Boys State Committee. They went above and beyond the call of duty:

- Fran Capitanio
- Burt McChesney
- Jim Moss
- Ken Wilson

HOLIDAYS, EVENTS, OBSERVANCES

March 2021

Women's History Month	Month of March
Navy Reserve Birthday	March 3
Hug a GI Day	March 4
Mardi Gras	March 5
Seabee Birthday	March 5
Daylight Saving Time Begins	March 14
K 9 Veterans Day	March 13
American Legion Birthday	March 15
St. Patrick's Day	March 17
Rosie The Riveter Day	March 21
Medal of Honor Day	March 25
Passover	March 27 to April 4
National Vietnam War Veterans Day	March 29







Chaplain's Corner

Ken Wilson

February 2021

Well, we are now under the leadership of President Biden and his administration. Covid-19 still threatens the whole world. Pfizer, Moderna and soon Johnson & Johnson vaccines will roll out in greater numbers to meet the demands of a restless citizenry. Patio dining is

opening again and sad to say many more businesses have failed to reopen, perhaps never to be open again. Tragically, we may have lost loved ones to Covid-19.

Where do we find our hope and peace in the midst of an ever changing world i.e. a health crisis, grief and not so friendly political climate? We may find it in activity; staying busy and ignoring all that is happening around us. We may find it in TV or movie programs; taking our mind off the intrusion of reality. We may find it in support groups, counseling sessions or medications. We may find it in some type of faith and belief system i.e. be it church, synagogue, mosque or temple. As Legionnaires we may find it in our common bond as veterans. Let's review out preamble.

THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

"For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

"FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER...This is the introduction. It declares that The American Legion recognizes the influence of Almighty God in all worthwhile endeavors-and declares the allegiance of Legionnaires to both God and Nation. First things have been put first. All that follows is in conformity."

For me and I hope for you as Legionnaires, "Almighty God" keeps first things first. That is where we will find our hope and peace. So when we are bombarded by the news of the day or pressured by the demands of our work schedule or we are feeling isolated and lonely, may you each find refuge in God!

February is a month we remember our Presidents, our military battles, our 4 Chaplains Day (check out the Chaplain's Corner and watch the 4 Chaplains video) and our religious heritage with Ash Wednesday. February is also the month we celebrate Valentines' Day. A tradition built on love and self-sacrifice of a saint that lived in the 3rd century A.D. There are different legends/stories about St. Valentine but each legend/story presents us with someone who defied the Roman leadership in order to spread the love of God in Christ.

May the preamble statement "For God and Country" be based on love. "Almighty God" can be stated this way; "Almighty Love." I John 11, 12 "My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love! Peace and hope come out of love!

For God and Country, Chaplain Ken



VEAF Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund

Helping Veteran Families with Children

Cory Vigil, Service Officer

The Service Officer at AL291 is often asked to solve problems and help veteran families with children. We were asked by another American Legion Post to help a veteran family requesting rental assistance.

The Service Officer discovered that they had five kids, the husband, a disabled Marine, was unable to work, the wife was taking care of a new baby and their funds were limited since the wife could not return to work immediately. A quick review of their finances made it obvious that the husband's disability check would not be enough for the family to survive in Orange County. It turns out that they had family in Texas and the option of relocating to a less expensive area where family could provide a safety net was discussed.

The Service Officer helped them reach a decision to relocate which AL291 and the VEAF made it possible. The Service Officer spoke to the landlord about terminating the lease and provided advocacy to avoid any potential legal and eviction issues.

The VEAF provided funds for transportation, moving expenses and other incidentals and the family was off to Texas with new contacts and specific resources in their new community. We have since heard that the family is settled in a house outside of Dallas and the wife has found a new job. Alot of planning and case management went into this process and ultimately their decision. This is why the service officer and the POST 291 is critical in the community.

Orange County has some of the most expensive real estate in the Country and some veterans discover that they cannot afford to live here. Being a service officer sometimes means becoming a coach and financial advisor when help is requested. It may require a tough decision to leave the area particularly when kids in school are involved. The VEAF is a tool to help a veteran family move forward. The expertise along with the community agencies that the service officer has established relationships with has been vital. The POST 291 continues to lead the way in the community and work with veteran families and their children.

VETERANS DESERVE OUR SUPPORT

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

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







March 15th, 2021 AMERICAN LEGION 101 BIRTHDAY

March 15, the designated birthday of The American Legion, is the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4 – for the day in 1776 when revolting patriots declared the independence of the British colonies and the spirit of America was born – March 15 is the date on which the Legion came to life.



Patio Dining and Drive -Thru

POST 291 DRIVE-THRU MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 11:00 - 6:00 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



Ahoy from the bridge at the American Legion Yacht Club!

Your new board of directors took office and got to work on the plans for this coming year, knowing our full schedule will be challenging due to the pandemic that just can't get out of here fast enough. Despite the circumstances, the team rolled up their sleeves and approved a 2021 operating budget for the club, and then started on the fun stuff: events! First up was our annual Change of Watch ceremony, normally held during the Commodore's Ball. While a ball was not possible this year, we still enjoyed a formal and festive night via Zoom, complete with a concert from our friends at the M Street Band. We had over 100 people join in the fun, including singalongs and dancing from our living rooms. We missed the ball, but it still was a special night and gave us all a much-needed escape.

Our February General Membership Meeting featured three guest speakers that showcased their boat club rental programs for all budgets. We followed that up with a special Valentine's weekend social night online, where we played the Newlywed Game.

The Midwinter Regatta was cancelled this year, so we look forward to our Whale Regatta March 27 to kick off our 2021 racing season. Two weeks later, we head to Dana Point for our first cruise of the year. Plans are getting firmed up now, so please head over to alyc.com to check out the details and sign up. We only hold activities when we are certain we can conduct them safely, so rest assured you'll have a great environment and fun at the same time.

As we move into May and early summer, we will start our summer racing season both for our boats in the harbor, and our model yacht boats over at Mason Regional Park. We also typically host our Opening Day, and we are eagerly waiting to see if the state's gathering rules will allow any type of celebration. If it must be postponed, we'll look to early fall for a backup date.

To all our members who have renewed with us for 2021, or are just joining for the first time, we thank you for you or your family's service and your membership to our club. As we did in 2020, we will work hard to provide connection opportunities for you and your family. We have such a special opportunity at ALYC to help more veterans and their families get to know the peace that comes from being on, near, or under the water. We look forward to seeing you—in person—in 2021!

Fair Winds,

Bruce Batcheller Commodore 2019-21



ALYC Presents Annual Member Awards

Bruce Batcheller, ALYC Commodore

At the January 23rd ALYC Change of Watch Ceremony, Commodore Bruce Batcheller presented the annual awards for Member of the Year and Yachtsman/ Yachtswoman of the Year. Here are the two award announcements, as presented that evening.

Congratulations to ALYC Member of the Year, Clover Hodgson!

"Clover answered the slightly subtle and likely quite desperate sounding call for some help late in 2019, and quickly became absolutely essential even before there was a term for essential worker. When we take on jobs like this as Commodore, it is not possible to be successful without a small army of helpers around you. Some rise naturally to answer the call to help, and when one of those eager volunteers also happens to be fiercely bright, funny, proactive, professional, responsive, willing to learn, willing to try, a defender of what's right, a defender of me and my leadership decisions, and above all else, just a great person that has earned the respect and lifelong friendship of everybody here, well you've hit a home run with that person."

"She quickly learned how we work and became a right hand to me and everything I touched. She took on the role for Club Communications, but she was part Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Membership Chair, Fleet Captain, Director and sometimes spiritual advisor! She invested hours learning how our underlying membership systems works, how to create events, send out emails, run reports, make updates, register people for events, process payments, help people make payments, return voicemails and emails. She managed the website, updated our calendar, and managed our Facebook page. I know I pushed her to the limit, mostly out of necessity, but she responded and for that, I owe her a deep debt of gratitude. Simply put I could not have been the Commodore this club needed, and we would not have won club of the year without her."

Congratulations to ALYC's 2020 Yachtsman of the Year, Rich Tonti!

"Rich started volunteering in 2019 by helping out on Valor. He claimed he didn't know much, but he asked questions and got started. Whatever problem he encountered, he found a solution. When asked to get something done, it was just simply, done. As often happens, when you get the bug to help, you tend to want to do more. This happened to Rich and he found his way on to the ALYC board in late 2019."

"Rich is industrious, hardworking, disciplined, and focused. He is a great team player with a dry sense of humor. He nurtured a team of volunteers, developed crew for Valor and became a Valor Captain. He outlined an upgrade and update list for Valor, which was unprecedented in scope. He got everything reviewed, bids submitted, selected vendors, presented to board for approval, managed projects, and ensured quality work was done. He met with the mechanic and always kept Valor in top running condition.





Clover Hodgson Yachtswoman of the Year



Rich Tonti 2020 Yachtsman of the Year



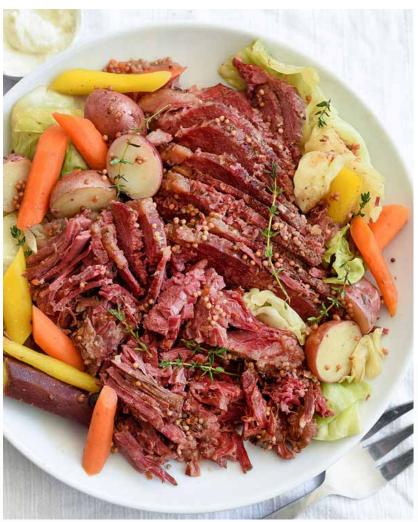


♦ Newport Harbor POST 291 of The American Legion ♦

POST 291 DRIVE-THRU

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 11:00 - 6:00 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

Fresh Baked Goods | Daily... www.al291.com

