

SeaBreeze





Legionnaires,

You may have seen the huge crane that the City of Newport Beach put in our parking lot for the seawall repair. What was suppose to be a few weeks turned into months but the entire project was finally successfully completed in July. Take a look at the bulkhead braces when you visit the Post.

Our annual 4 th of July celebration was a huge success with record crowds for the public breakfast in the parking lot and the afternoon party on the patio.

We want to thank all the corporate sponsors and our members for your generous donations to the raffle.

The remodeled Great Hall continues to impress everyone. Our banquet bookings demonstrate that the new air conditioning is making us competitive even on the hottest days. The new acoustical sound absorbing panels have eliminated the echo and further improved the venue. Finally our new sound system should be installed in the next few days.

Please invite your friends and enjoy dinner on the patio this Fall.

Evin Planto Commander Post 291

Events

Sept 4 AL POST 291

Labor Day BB

Sept 9 AL POST 291

Coffee Talk

Sep 10 AL YACHT CLUB

Veterans Outreach

Sep 11 SAL SQUADRON 291

Patriot Day

Oct 2 ALYC / AL291

Fishing tournament

Oct 5-8 AL POST 291

Octoberfest Special Menu

Oct 9 AUXILIARY 291

Blood Drive

Oct 14 AL YACHT CLUB

Sailing for the Visually Impaired

Oct 21 SAL SQUADRON 291

Dockside Octoberfest

Oct 28 AL POST 291

Halloween Party

Oct 29 AUXILIARY 291

Kids Halloween Party

SEABREEZE

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AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291

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Newport Harbor Post 291 The American Legion Family



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2nd Vice Commander
3rd Vice Commander
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American Legion Post 291 Meetings

General Membership Meeting 2nd Wednesday at 5:30pm E-Board Meeting 1st Thursday at 6:00pm



AUXILIARY UNIT 291 OFFICERS

President Debbie Schubert

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Auxiliary Unit 291 Meetings

Jr Past President Cindy Edes

General Membership Meeting 3rd Wednesday at 6:00pm E-Board Meeting 2nd Thursday at 6:00pm



SAL SQUADRON 291 OFFICERS

Commander Tim Sullivan

1st Vice Commander Jeff Gottfredson

2nd Vice Commander Art Jimenez

3rd Vice Commander John Long

Adjutant Don Allen

Finance Officer Todd Clucas

Chaplain Randy MacDougall

Judge Advocate & Historian Rene Alvarez

Sgt. at Arms

Tim Sullivan

I juff Gottfredson

Art Jimenez

John Long

Rond Clucas

Randy MacDougall

Rene Alvarez

Sgt. at Arms

SAL Squadron 291 Meetings

General Membership Meeting 1st Wednesday at 6:00pm E-Board Meeting 1st Wednesday at 6:00pm



AMERICAN LEGION YACHT CLUB OFFICERS

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American Legion Yacht Club Meetings

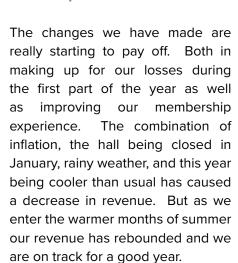
General Membership Meeting Every other Month 2nd Thursday at 5:30pm Bridge Meeting 4th Thursday at 6:00pm



Message from the Commander Evin Planto

We are getting more and more members to come back to the post!

Evin Planto Commander The American Legion Newport Harbor Post 291



The changes to the post have helped us with this rebound. Our kitchen remodel has increased our ability to meet more food orders in a shorter period of time. Where we use to have order tickets backing up in the kitchen, we recently had completed orders waiting to go out to customers. To solve this issue, we hired more expediters to get the orders from the kitchen to the customers. The changes to the hall's appearance and addition of

HVAC have our phones ringing off the walls with reservations. I cannot tell you how nice it is to be in the hall on a cold morning for Coffee Talk and have it 72 degrees. The days (or nights) of having to place the large round fans in the hall doorways to cool the hall are gone.

I hope everyone is getting their weekly "This Week at the Post" email. If not, please call the Post and let them know. It comes out



on Mondays and has the week's events at the post. Our weekly events and special events can be found there. We still have the Post Taco Tuesday, line dancing, swing dancing, hootenanny, Thursday jazz night with our enhance menu, Friday dinner dance, and Saturday/Sunday patio music in the afternoons. Ray Ricard, our board member in charge of entertainment, is always thinking of new events to add to our weekly calendar to make the membership experience even better. Our Father's Day Bar-B-Que was a great hit. The 4th of July Celebration was even better than last years. How can you beat a pancake breakfast, bar-b-que lunch, and M Street all in one day. The Boat Parade was also a big success. As you can see, we have so many great things going on every week.

Our monthly Coffee Talk program has grown from ten veterans attending in the beginning to now more than seventy. Our speakers bring value to everyone in the areas of VA benefits, Veteran Service Officer support, service dogs for veterans, veterans life stories, veteran benefit opportunities, senior veteran spousal support, suicide prevention, local government veteran programs, and sharing the brotherhood that only veterans have. We usually meet the first Saturday of the month at 9am.

My focus in the upcoming months will be to work with the city to resolve our audit issue and implementing needed ADA projects for new bathrooms, ramps, and kitchen Of course, I cannot expansion. forget our preparation for the Post Centennial Celebration to be held in 2024. Our event manager for the celebration, Mike Schubert, and his team has set the date for 4th of July, 2024 weekend. We are looking into expanding our 4th of July breakfast into an all-day event. Friday night will be our Centennial Formal Dinner, and Saturday/Sunday will be afternoon music with maybe a car show and chili cookoff. Updates on the audit and celebration will go out to the membership as we get them locked in.



The crane in our parking lot for the seawall repair

We have an incredible venue and fantastic membership. Be sure to come to the post to take advantage of everything we have to offer and make the most out of your membership.



Seawall (left) braces added by the City of Newport Beach



Valor (above) being pulled to the dock during our 4th of July Celebration after the Old Glory Boat Parade

Letter from the 1st Vice Commander Brian Fleming Jr

As the 1st Vice Commander, my primary responsibility is membership. After a successful 2023 fiscal year (ending July 1,) we are off to a good start for 2024. Current membership is at 4,216 with 2,254 of those members still needing to renew for the 2024 fiscal year. Our membership numbers are constantly changing as members pass away, move out of state or decided to drop their membership. We are working hard to get current members to renew their membership and recruit new members to join our Post. In the first two months, we had 86 new members join the Post. Our membership is the life blood of our organization and finding new members is essential to the future and success of our Post.

There are many ways to renew your membership:

- Call the Post's office and pay with a credit card over the phone: (FASTEST WAY TO RENEW)
- Come visit the Post and stop at the front office to pay with Cash, Check, or Credit Card.
- Go to the Post's internal website and pay with a credit card.
- Go to the National Legion website and pay with a credit card.
- Mail Payment to the Post with a check.

I am also the Commander of the Post Honor Guard and Color Guard teams. Our primary mission is to provide the Military Honors for the funeral services of our fallen



Brian Fleming Jr American Legion Post 291 First Vice Commander

Veterans, and a secondary purpose of providing Color Guard services for events within the community. As an extracurricular piece to the team, we also compete in Color Guard Competitions at the Department and National Conventions.

This year at the National American Legion Convention in Charlotte, NC, our Color Guard team won two first place trophies, for the "Advance and Retire" class and the "Military" class. We also took the overall competition and came home with our third consecutive title as the "National Commander's Color Guard". If you are interested in joining the Honor Guard, please contact me directly.

Brian Fleming
First Vice Commander
Commander of the Honor Guard







Cindy Baker
American Legion Unit 291
Third Vice Commander

The American Legion believes that our American government can survive only with an educated populace by planting the seeds for the future, utilizing Americanism programs the American Legion hosts each year. By teaching youths to understand and appreciate our democratic republic, America can remain strong and ensure our freedom for future generations to come.

The American Legion California Boys State commission have embraced new California legislature effective January 1, 2023, and changed the Boys State program to coed. Due to the long history of the program, the name will remain the same, the American Legion California Boys State Program but the committee will interview eleventh grade young men and women.

This program has been attended by junior high school students since 1937. It is a unique summertime educational program for high school JUNIORS

Letter from the 3rd Vice Commander Cindy Baker

with a focus on participation and gaining personal experience in electing a "Model State Government, complete with governmental bodies and elected public officials." It is designed to mirror the structure and operation of the California State government, providing practical training in:

Leadership – citizenship – duty justice – freedom – democracy State and Local Government – Operation and Responsibilities Working in and with Political Organizations

At the Area 5 championship Tournament in San Diego, July 2023 American Legion Post 291 sponsored the Mariners. Post 291 is proud of the Mariners for making it to the Area 5 playoffs.

American Legion Baseball offers Citizenship Through Sportsmanship. Baseball is not just a game, it teaches sportsmanship, camaraderie, patience, discipline, and Legion Baseball has demonstrated this through the ages as Legion Baseball graduates are proud contributions throughout our society and often are the most successful people in their respective career fields.

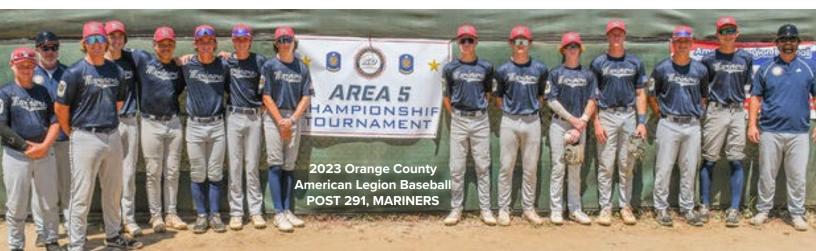
Brad McDermott, Post 291 Chaplain, worked through the challenges with the help of the 2022 Orange County Commissioner and San Diego's Area 5 staff to make Orange County American Legion Baseball a reality.

Brad set up the game schedule, worked with high schools' coaches, along with scheduling the umpires. We are thankful for the support of the team coaches from Crean Lutheran (Mariners), Santa Ana (SONS of Patriots) and Kennedy (Fighting Irish) High Schools for this important summer program.

Thank you, Brad, for putting together a great season.

American Legion California Boys & Girls State 86th Session, June 17-24, 2023







Letter from the Auxiliary Unit 291 Debbie Schubert, President

Dear Members,

I am in the process of returning from five days at National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

I attended meetings, convention itself, and one thing I learned from the participants, who are from all over the United States, no matter what your Unit's size we all have the same ups and downs.

Hopefully I will see you soon at the post for our American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291 events.

Debbie Schubert President

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2023

General Meeting

Wednesday, September 20th 6:00 to 8:00 pm Collecting non-perishable food to help out the people of Maui

Blood Drive

Monday, October 9th 10:00 am to 4:00 pm - Main Hall

Contact Susan DiFonzo at susandifonzo1@gmail.com
or call (949) 230-3032
Or sign up on-line at RedCrossBlood.org
Use sponsor code: AMPost291

Kids Halloween Party

Sunday, October 29th 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Children encourage to wear their favorite costumes, there will be pizza, drinks, and lots of games.



Debbie Schubert President American Legion Unit 291

SPECIAL REMINDER

We are still running the tailgate raffle. \$10 a ticket three for \$25

Get to level two football tickets to the

Rams versus Eagles

Sunday, October 8th plus excellent parking

With all the goodies in our tailgate wagon for pre game party!



The winning ticket will be drawn at our next

General Meeting

Wednesday, September 20th Winner need not be present.







American Red Cross Blood Drive The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291



The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 291 Timothy Sullivan, Commander



Tim SullivanCommander
SAL Squadron 291

will have had a special memorial to those 13 that we lost as we pulled out of Afghanistan. Our Post Honor Guard will have presented colors and presented a gun salute in their honor. People will have come from miles around, similar to the Viet Nam wall, to pay tribute to their lost loved ones. It's a very solemn thing that we do. We pay for it out of pocket and do not sell anything... on purpose. They said that they'd never forget and we are doing our part. BE PROUD SONS.

Who are the SONS?

Sons and Grandsons of those who served. We have Sons who's dads served as far back as WWII and I even have a grandfather that served in WWI. It humbles me to serve those that have served our country. My relatives and yours. My friends who are Legionnaires at the Post. We aren't perfect, but we do our best.

When you read this we will have just remembered 9/11/2001, Patriot's Day, in Veterans Park next door to the Post. We will have just paid tribute to those lost in the attack and those lost in the conflicts to follow with banners around the park naming every one of them. We

We just opened sales for the Christmas Boat Parade. They are selling quickly. For those of you who do not know the SONS291 have an annual fundraiser on the Post patio that helps to fund all that we do. This year the parade is December 13-17th and is a Country Christmas theme. We will be looking for volunteers for specific duties. If you volunteer, have an open heart and do whatever needs to be done. So often I get volunteers that sign up, "But I don't want to do that." Be humble and serve. You can make a request, but it should not be the "end all" of whether you serve or not.



Volunteers! None of these things just happen. We can only do what we can do, but I'm betting more of our 1800 members could be involved and helping. I'm extremely grateful for the volunteers that we have, but I can't help but notice that it's always the same committed faces. I'm so grateful for them. If you have not volunteered, please do. I see Sons over and over that attend events or to party with friends and I don't think that they realize that the banners for 9/11 don't magically appear in the park overnight. They don't magically come down when it's over. The food does not cook itself. The cars don't magically get parked. The decorations for the Boat Parade don't just appear one night. The easy ups, the chairs, the tables, ... they don't grow in the park. This all takes work. It all takes commitment. For what? To what end? We need to always remember that everything we do comes back to what we are doing for the Veterans, whether we are raising funds or honoring them in ceremony. "Well I've done my share years ago." That is such an interesting statement to me. When I hear that and think of my own volunteerism. In my 7th year as Commander, I do get tired, but I still see a job not finished. Veterans are still in harms way. Veterans are sadly still taking their own lives. Veterans are still homeless and addicted. The job is not done. It's not even close to being done. I challenge you all, "Are you doing your part?" "Can you be doing just a little more?"

Look, everyone has limitations. We have lives. I get that. Not everyone can make the commitment I've made. I get that too. But I also know that everyone can do something. Everyone can push out of their personal comfort

zones just a little bit to help. It's not easy. It's never been easy. It's meant to be a sacrifice that we make for those who put their lives aside so that we can live the lives that we have now.

We have those that volunteer all the time, but they are the same guys all of the time. We have some that can't give time, but they are able to support financially and do it purposefully and with commitment. We are so grateful to their diligence and generosity! "Parking duty is beneath me." I've got news for you, it's beneath me too, but we do it and attempt to do it with a humble and good heart. Why? Because it needs to be done. We save the Post close to \$200,000 a year at today's prices. That is a significant contribution. We have sons that repair things that need repaired instead of pointing out the problem and walking away. We honor their commitment. Who changes the flags and buntings at the Post? Most of the time, I do. I'm happy to offer that time. What is your expertise or vocation? Can you apply that to the charity? We are a charity first and foremost. I need a webmaster. Can you volunteer to tweak and run our page more effectively? Are you a sales guy? We need help fundraising. Are you asking friends and colleagues for support? We need painting and cleaning of exterior structures, etc. Can you help? I hear comments on things, but often no one volunteering to help fix it. Are you able? Are you available? Are you on the team? Please thoughtfully consider what you can do to be more involved. Let's continue to make SONS291 not only the biggest Squadron in history, but the best.

THANK YOU.





Cory Vigil Service Officer 714.643.3854 OIF VETERAN

Service Officer Duties Cory Vigil, Service Officer

As Service Officer for the Post, I receive many calls from desperate veterans looking for help. Sometimes it is financial and sometimes it is just advice and a referral to another agency.

Currently, I am preparing the Veterans Day Campaign to raise funds for the Veteran Emergency Assistance Fund (VEAF) starting next week and lasting until November 11 on Veterans Day. Your donations will go into a restricted fund that supports Veterans in Orange County. These funds will be used to put a homeless veteran in a motel, fix a car, provide rent assistance, help a family with groceries, provide gas cards or an UBER to get a senior veteran to the VA Hospital in Long Beach for an appointment.

Other areas of support include the growth and success of the Coffee Talk held at the Post on the first Saturday of the month. This is a safe place for Veterans and supporters of Veterans to meet and share information particularly recently transitioning and senior veterans. The last meeting had 82 attendees and we expect more than 100 attendees at the September 9th meeting.

One particular family your Post has supported with the VEAF was an Army family who recently had a newborn baby and the father had lost his job. The wife was still on maternity leave from her job and their income was significantly decreased. The family was referred by the County VSO office and rental assistance was requested. I was able to verify the lease and prepare a \$1200 check for the landlord. In addition to some financial planning, we provided the family with groceries and gas cards to help them through the crisis. The family was able to have a positive transition. Here is a picture of the Alma family taken at the Post. Your donations to the VEAF kept them from losing their home.



Show your support!

Please donate to help other veterans in our community.

VEAF

VETERAN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

An American Legion Post 291 Program to support veterans in need in Orange County. Please contact coryvigil61@gmail.com

Tel: 714.643.3854



General Membership Meeting

Held in the Main Hall every second Wednesday of the month. 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Buffet Served at 6:00 pm - Cash Donation

Learn the latest news from your post! www.al291.com/calendar



Don't forget the VEAF Veterans Day Campaign



Restaurant Dining Hours

Monday 11:30 am - 8:00 pm Tuesday Lunch 11:30 - 3:00 pm Taco Tuesday 4:00 - 7:00 pm Wednesday 11:30 am - 7:00 pm Thursday 11:30 am - 8:00 pm Friday & Saturday 11:30 am - 8:00 pm **Sunday 10:00** am - 8:00 pm Breakfast 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Lunch & Dinner 12:00 - 8:00 pm



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

Brad McDermott, Chaplain

Email: chaplain@al291.com Tel: 949.596.5085

Cory Vigil, Service Officer

Email: coryvigil61@gmail.com

Tel: 714.643.3854



Celebrating 100 Years

of History in Newport Beach

1924-2024

Post 291 History

American Legion Post 291 was founded in 1924 by a group of World War I veterans.

One of the first problems to be solved by the new Post was securing a permanent home for meetings. By various fundraising activities, enough money was raised to purchase from the City a building site on 10th Street, near the Balboa Pavilion, for the enormous sum of \$1,500. With the property went a 25 year lease on the tidelands intervening between it and the bay.

The Post incorporated and held more fundraisers to provide for actual construction of a Post facility. Original plans called for a two story hut but it was decided that would be too expensive.

October, 1925, construction began. The building, complete with all equipment including wiring and plumbing, cost \$1,900, and was financed by a mortgage from the Bank of Balboa. The note was personally secured by several members of the Post.

The new hut was build almost entirely by volunteer labor provided by Post 291 Legionnaires and took about two months to complete. The first meeting was held in the new hut on December 2, 1925.

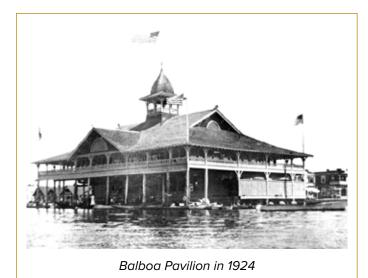
Post 291 then held its next great membership drive, starting in February 1926. That resulted in a total Post membership of 80 who met for dinner in the new hut on April 20, 1926.

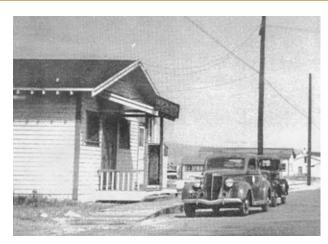
> The original hut on 10th Street showing the original organizing meeting of Post 291 in 1924.



On March 26, 1926, the Post voted to use a portion of its property for another hut site for the Newport Beach Boy Scout Troop which was formed in 1922 by Scoutmaster A.J. Twist. The Post then sponsored Boy Scout Troop 291 and eventually built another hut.

Scouting always had a problem with what to do with boys a year or two younger than the minimum scout age of 12 years. Scoutmaster Twist solved





Original Post Hut, 1924



Original Boy Scouts hut on 10th Street.

the problem by creating a branch called "Cubs." At that time, Cubs had no official standing in Scouting circles, but by 1929, the movement inaugurated by Twist was formally adopted and recognized by the National Council of Boy Scouts of America. Thus, the Cub Scouts of America organization was born right here at Newport Harbor Post 291.

On April 20, 1936, a new lease was granted to Post 291 on the tidelands north of Bay Avenue but the property was too small for the Post's purposes. On September 2, 1940, the lease of April 20, 1936, was canceled by mutual agreement with the City.

On September 2, 1940, the City granted to Post 291 a new lease on 15th Street (our current location) and set aside the tidelands for a permanent home for the Post.

The original building here at 15th Street was built in 1940 with the Legion Great Hall. Most of the work was done by volunteer members and friends.

In February 1958, the American Legion started construction of a public marina with all construction funds provided by Post 291. In July 1958, bulkheads and dredging commenced. The American Legion Yacht Club founded with the completion of the marina sponsors many harbor events including the annual July Fourth Old

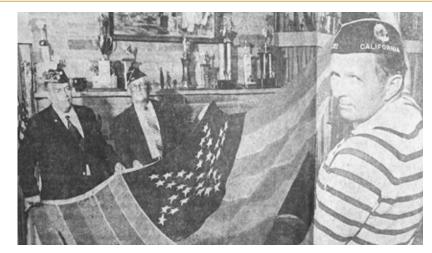
Glory Boat Parade which has become one of the largest spectator events of the summer in Newport Beach.

On the night of November 14, 1979, a devastating fire destroyed most of the building. The building was fully engaged when the fire department arrived and during the three hour battle to save the building three local firemen were injured. A floor furnace left on all night was found to be the source of the blaze. Most of the Post's pictures and memorabilia of WWI and WWII veterans were lost in the fire. Fortunately, the building was insured and with the insurance money and volunteer labor from Post members, the building including the Great Hall was rebuilt by July 1980. The Newport Beach Historical Society designated the Legion Great Hall as a Historical Site on May 18, 1995.

The Post negotiated a new lease with the City of Newport Beach in late 2002. This 25 year lease with an option for another 25 years thus leaves a path for our future veterans to follow.

During our entire 99 year history, Newport Harbor Post 291 has shown a steadfast commitment to supporting all veterans in Orange County. In addition, we have provided an inexpensive venue for parties, anniversaries, and celebrations of life for the entire community. The Post offers during the year public service programs such as the Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund (VEAF,) sponsorship of Girls and Boys State, Oratorical and Americanism contests for local high school students and support for first responders including police and firemen with the annual Law and Order banquet and awards ceremony.

On July 4th, 2024, American Legion Post 291 Newport Harbor will celebrate its 100th anniversary in Newport Beach. The Post has supported our local veterans and active duty military with the promotion of Americanism and Patriotism throughout its history and has become an institution in Newport Beach serving the entire community. Please join us to celebrate this event in 2024 and, if you have old pictures of Post events taken by relatives, please share them with us.



Article - "OC Register 1970, shows a gift to the Post that was lost in the fire of 1979."



Stephen AlfanoCommodore
American Legion Yacht Club

Commodore's Update Stephen Alfano, ALYC Commodore



Greetings Fellow ALYC Members,

Our summer season was filled with camaraderie and adventure on the open seas! Together, we express thanks to our numerous volunteers who plan, organize, and execute our harbor cruises, races, clinics, and special events!

Our flagship **"Valor"** maintained a busy schedule of excursions including whale watching, wine tastings, cruises, and leading boat parades around the harbor. We completed two cruises: Dana Point, with a wine tasting, and Emerald Bay. We also expanded our fleet with the addition of a Duffy electric boat. Stay tuned for more details!

Around the marks, our summer race series, organized by Scott Barnes and the race committee, was a highlight. The new "C's the Day" race paired experienced racers with newcomers - a fun way to grow our sailing community. To add to the excitement, the **Diving and Snorkeling Club** continues monthly meetings and dove into new depths, organizing a **Trip-of-a-Lifetime** to Fiji.

Opening Day saw the return of our traditional boat parade. Thereafter, Jim Palmer hosted a stand-up paddleboard clinic, and we organized a **Duffy Scavenger Hunt Adventure**. The 4th of July **Old Glory Boat Parade** had great participation and was led by **"Valor"** with our Grand Marshal, Newport Beach Police Chief Joe Cartwright.

Our youth sailing program relaunched this summer under Berkeley Green'ws expert instruction with two packed weeks of instruction.

Coming up this fall, we can look forward to a **Battleship Tour**, the **Pacific Air Show**, a veteran fishing tournament, **Sailing for the Blind and Visually Impaired**, a **Paddleboard Race**, and much more. Be sure to reference our complete calendar at <u>www.ALYC.com</u>.

Fair winds to all - I look forward to seeing you on the water!

Your 2023 Commodore, Stephen G. Alfano



~ Opening Day Ceremony ~



\sim Valor leading the Old Glory Boat Parade \sim





NON PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID NEWPORT BEACH, CA PERMIT NO. 70



Please invite your friends and enjoy dinner on the patio this Fall.

Chef Ulises Dominguez and Dennis Fitzpatrick, Restaurant Operations Manager

