

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Mexican Dignitaries Welcomed at Mayor's Reception

*Traditional event leads to the start of N2E 71!*

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif., April 25, 2017 – The Newport Ocean Sailing Association will celebrate 71 years of friendships integral to the success of the Newport to Ensenada International Yacht Race at the annual Mayor's Reception Thursday, April 26.

Commodore Daniel Hodge will welcome officials from both namesake cities and extends an invitation to all participating boat owners to come meet and celebrate those responsible for continuing the traditions of this iconic race and for making it happen year after year.

The reception starts at the Bayview Marriott's Seaview Terrace at 5 p.m. and will join the annual Sail Away party following the official ceremonies.

"I've been around sailboats my entire life, sailed in and around Newport Harbor since I was a small child, and raced boats all over the world. Some of the most fun I had was competing in the N2E as it brings together professional and recreational sailors for a 125-mile race across the border," said Mayor Duffield. The City of Newport Beach has a long tradition of supporting the race and we are proud to serve as one of its host cities."

Mayor Duffield will welcome officials that include William Ostick, US Consul General from Tijuana; Mauricio Cuevas Zamora, of the Mexican Consul General Santa Ana; Arturo Sanchez, the Mexican Consul for Press & Commercial Affairs; Gabriel Juarez Alvarado of the Mexican Tourism Los Angeles Board; and Petra Svehlova who works in conjunction with the Mexican Board of Tourism and is representing many wineries of the Guadeloupe Valley.

A Congresswoman from the State of Baja, a Congressman from Mexico City and the Mexican Consul General of Los Angeles; the names of whom were not immediately available, will also attend the 40-plus year-old time-honored ceremony. The owners of the Hotel Coral and Marina, Andreas Martinez and his wife Rossana Martinez attend annually as well.

"The friendship and graciousness of so many Ensenada area leaders is the primary reason for the continuance of this highly successful event that brings two nations, dozens of businesses and thousands of people together," said Hodge. "Our race shows how working together can bring mutual success to the communities of Newport Beach and Ensenada while providing N2E sailors an unforgettable, competitive, and fun race."

Hosting an international race, especially such a successful one for more than 70 years, takes months of behind-the-scenes planning by organizers who conquer distance, language barriers and ever changing policies, procedures and laws so all racers need to do is show up ready to go.

The contingency of dignitaries will watch the start of the race, now featuring 3 courses to 3 destinations, Friday, April 27, at 11 a.m. from the Balboa Pier, before returning to Ensenada's finish line.

On Saturday in Ensenada, many of the same dignitaries and those unable to make the trip here, will gather again as the City of Ensenada hosts a luncheon in honor of all those in both countries who bring the race to their fine and grateful city.

For media comments or questions directions or an official invitation, please contact Laurie Morrison at [lmorrisonventures@gmail.com](mailto:lmorrisonventures@gmail.com) or call 310-720-9011.