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Southern California Yachting Association Awarded Honors at 2021 Installation Meeting

January 16, 2021, Southern California – Celebrating 100 years of serving the yachting community, Southern California Yachting Association “SCYA” virtually gathered nearly 100 attendees for an unprecedented Installation of Officers. Usually, an assembly of the region’s organizational leaders from Santa Barbara to San Diego and across to Arizona and Utah, the event is of gala proportions including a formal dinner with a change of guard ceremony, and special guests being recognized for outstanding achievements and contributions.

After swearing in of new officers and recognizing the outgoing, Jr. Staff Commodore Marshall presented performance awards in categories based on their level of club membership. The following were recognized as the 2020 Clubs of the Year: Seal Beach Yacht Club (Regular Member Club) and American Legion Yacht Club (Senior Member Club).

Marshall continued by presenting a first - and hopefully last - Pandemic Powerhouse Performance Award this year to recognize clubs that embraced the challenges of operations during COVID19’s restrictions and excelled. The honors went to: Port Royal Yacht Club (Associate); Seal Beach Yacht Club (Regular); and Dana West Yacht Club (Senior).

The highlight of the evening is always the presentation of the perpetual awards. “Each of these prestigious awards are rich in history and the new name plate for 2020 will live in perpetuity among the preceding yachtsmen and yachswomen in Southern California that were honored over years – some trophies dating back to 1958,” stated 2021 Commodore McNamara.

The 31st Peggy Slater Memorial Trophy recognizes outstanding contributions to the enhancement and enrichment of women participation in sailing. This year’s recipient is Marie Rogers, a U.S. Coast Guard Master Captain and Staff Commodore of Los Angeles Yacht Club.

SCYA and California Yacht Club Staff Commodore Thom Page was awarded the Warren Ewert Memorial Trophy for his 17 years of distinguished service to SCYA in the true Corinthian spirit.

Nominated by California Yacht Club for the couple that rendered distinguished service over a long period of time to three yacht clubs and SCYYRA youth sailing leadership, the George and Kay Fisher Memorial Trophy was awarded to Madeleine and Justin McJones.

The coveted Mort Bloom Trophy recognizes excellence, commitment, and duration of service by Judges, Umpires and Race Officers applying their skills in competitive sailing events. San Diego Association of Yacht Clubs nominated the recipient Becky Ashburn, a US Sailing National Race Officer whose known nationally and internationally for her service as PRO.

The Sportsmanship Trophy that recognizes remarkable display of sportsmanship on and off the water was awarded to Elizabeth Hjorth for stepping up where needed for the Woman's One Design Regatta.

An Amateur Radio Operator veteran of 65 years won the Maritime Order of the Golden Key Award for his outstanding service. Richard Somers was presented the trophy for his vast knowledge and extensive experience in HAM Radio.

The prestigious James Webster Perpetual Trophy dates back 68 years and honors individuals for exceptional contributions to the yachting community. Betsy Crowfoot Senescu was nominated by California Yacht Club for 25 years of writing and reporting about sailing explorations and adventures, plus coverage of area regattas and events for yachting publications, broadcast and the internet.

The final trophy recognizes heroism and compassion in the sport of yachting. The Rescue Award was presented to Carolyn and Sandra Sherman for their rescue and recover actions to a competing solo skipper POB and his unmanned boat.

The Southern California Yachting Association was organized in 1921 to provide a much-needed communication, educational, and organizational service to the yachting community in Southern California and Arizona. Our objectives are to provide a forum for sharing ideas, identifying, and engaging in governmental issues that affect recreational boating, promoting events, acknowledging excellence, and providing a social and educational platform to build a stronger boating community.

To learn more about SCYA, the awards and past recipients, and its 100 years of making history, please visit <http://scya.org>.

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