



Newsletter of  
the Alfa Romeo  
Owners of  
Southern California



**Make the Cars & Coffee scene in Manhattan Beach,** then tour the Palos Verdes Peninsula before brunch. Info on page 5.



**Concorso Season opens** in an elegant setting in Corona del Mar. Enter or spectate. Details on page 7.

## Previews

**Jan 30 - Feb 1** Palm Springs  
Weekend at AROC  
Winter Retreat

**Feb 28** Manhattan Beach  
C&C + Drive +  
Brunch, Palos Verdes

**Mar 28** Club Concorso #1,  
Sherman Library &  
Gardens, Corona  
del Mar

**Apr 10-12** Wine Tour, Paso  
Robles

Please read  
**The Disclaimer,**  
page 23.



*Avanti  
e Verso  
l'Auto!*

**Presidents'  
Message**

## Wishing You a Very Happy New Year

We hope and expect that your calendar for the year ahead has already been annotated with dates for your Alfa Club's monthly activities. Please check out our 2026 AROSC Events Calendar in the email that delivers this newsletter, on our website and in ClubExpress, and come drive with us!

Looking back, what did you do for your Alfa(s) this past year? What have you planned for them in 2026? Do you have lists for each car as we *Copresidenti* do? Do you have a budget like we don't? Your Return On Investment (ROI) for your Italian artwork is hugely found in the driving experience. Although they are indeed pretty nice eye candy, mechanically sound Alfas are pretty too, and their health should be among your new year's resolutions.

Our 1989 Milano Verde, named 75DARTH on its license plate, continues as our go-to Alfa. We had the perfect warm and comfortable ride in it on a

rainy New Year's Day drive, and look forward to more, while keeping after its needs: the radiator, a front seat-bottom restoration, and so on.

Our GTV-6 is having its front ride height returned to factory USA spec to eliminate the ghastly tire wear caused by too much negative camber due to the cool guy lowered front end. It drives lovely on the twisties but destroys the inner tire tread within 2,000 miles. And the Spider waits patiently for a set of tires (to replace its 15-year-old Yokohamas) and a sunny day to remind us of what a joyous car it is to drive.

It's 2026, and we have More Questions for You:

Isn't it time for a brake fluid change, and radiator coolant replacement for your Alfas?

Do you know your 2026 AROSC Events Calendar has been revised? Please find it in the email that delivers this newsletter and on the website.

Will you attend the AROC Winter Retreat in Palm Springs this month? Our chapter is again the largest participant contingent and we are making this our January activity. We plan to have lunch on Friday afternoon. Details on page 3.

Will you join us in February for a Cars and Coffee in the South Bay, followed by a sprightly drive to brunch on the Palos



Verdes Peninsula? Note the new date is the 28th. You and your Alfa will enjoy it. Info on page 5.

Are you ready to try your hand at showing your car in a Club Concorso? Our first judged event is in Corona del Mar at the end of March amid leafy splendors. Check out the early details on page 7, and spiff your ride!

How about the 2025 AROC National Convention in nearby Utah? It is a beautiful place, in a beautiful place and a group of members are looking into hiring a transporter to get our vintage Alfas up there with minimal wear and tear. If interested, contact [info@arosc.org](mailto:info@arosc.org).

Take a look back highlights of year-end 2025 herein, and look forward to more Alfa fun in the coming months.

– Jim & Elyse Barrett  
Copresidenti (again)

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*Come to the  
AROC Retreat  
& party with  
your chapter pals.  
Registration closes  
January 17th.*

*January 30th - February 1st*

## Winter Weekend in Palm Springs

We are declaring the AROC Winter Retreat AROSC's January chapter activity this year. Because so many of us attend, it sort-of is anyway. At this writing, there are more than 20 of us planning to be there or be square, January 30th - February 1st.

*Alfisti* come from all over the West so this now resembles a regional mini-convention. AROSC is the largest participant contingent, so let's be that cool group!

AROSC will add a welcome lunch at 1:00 PM on Friday, January 30th, at the Fresh Agave in Palm Desert. We encourage everyone to get an early start and join us for this fun kick-off. We must pay with cash. RSVP to [event.questions@arosc.org](mailto:event.questions@arosc.org).

We are also aiming to secure a dining venue for Saturday evening, January 31st.

All AROC members received an eblast from national on December 28th when registration opened. Registration will close on January 17th.

The format is the same as in previous years.

- 1) Register through ClubExpress
- 2) A block of rooms for AROC has been reserved at the Best Western Plus Palm Desert Resort, 74695 Hwy 111, Palm Desert, CA 92260, Telephone to book 760.340.4441, Ext. 0 (select extension 0 [zero], do not select "Reservation").
- 3) Saturday driving tour.
- 4) Saturday evening sunset reception.
- 5) New: AROSC is attempting a group dinner for Saturday night after the reception. Watch your email for updates.
- 6) Sunday morning self-guided driving tour of old Palm springs at your own pace.
- 7) Sunday concorso lunch at Escena Golf Club.

Watch your email for updates. RSVP to lunch and send your questions to [event.questions@arosc.org](mailto:event.questions@arosc.org).

– Elyse & Jim Barrett, Copresidenti  
[event.questions@arosc.org](mailto:event.questions@arosc.org)

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February 28th

## Manhattan Beach to Palos Verdes in Three Parts



On Sunday February 28<sup>th</sup>, we will begin the day at the excellent Manhattan Beach Cars & Coffee in The Point shopping center. Known for its quality sports cars, precision restorations, and honest vintage SoCal street rods, this meet-up is a showcase of California cool and only takes place on the last Saturday of the month.

The event lasts from 8:00 AM to 10 AM, but it is usually full by 8:00 AM – try to get there by 7:30 AM. We will reserve parking space for a lineup of Alfas, but can't guarantee how long those spots can be reserved. There is a Peet's Coffee in the shopping center for caffeine and pastries.



**For Part 2**, we will reconvene on 25th Street in San Pedro about 1 1/2 blocks west of Western Avenue for a drive through the twisties of Palos Verdes Drive East. As getting there will involve some freeway driving, we will not be doing a caravan. If the freeway is not your thing, you could leave the Cars & Coffee early and take surface streets. More detailed directions will be provided when you RSVP.



**For Part 3**, the drive will continue west on Palos Verdes Drive North and then South on Palos Verdes Drive West to Lunada Kitchen in the Lunada Bay neighborhood of Palos Verdes Estates.

Al fresco dining is in a covered area on the south side of the building, and there is a lovely park across the street if you prefer to picnic or all Lunada Kitchen's tables are occupied. Feel free to bring your own picnic or get take-out from Lunada Kitchen.

Let us know if you will be driving your Alfa so we can try to reserve parking at the Cars & Coffee.

– Val Dietrich

Please RSVP and seek clarifications via email at

[val.dietrich@cox.net](mailto:val.dietrich@cox.net)

You may participate in any or all of the parts of this fun day.

Details: [manhattanbeachcarsandcoffee.com](http://manhattanbeachcarsandcoffee.com) and [thepointsb.com](http://thepointsb.com), located at 850 South Pacific Coast Highway, El Segundo, CA 90245. Check the brunch venue and menu at [lunadamarket.com](http://lunadamarket.com) and we'll see you there!



**AROC WINTER RETREAT**  
**PALM SPRINGS**  
**= 2026 =**

*You are Cordially Invited to Join Your  
AROC Board Members  
January 31 - February 1, 2026*

**REGIONAL DAY DRIVE  
NO-HOST LUNCH · SUNSET RECEPTION  
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*Registration Closes January 17*

**FOR EVENT DETAILS, EMAIL [WINTER.RETREAT@AROC-USA.ORG](mailto:WINTER.RETREAT@AROC-USA.ORG) OR PHONE 971.254.6660**



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March 28th

# Club Concorso #1 Sherman Library & Gardens



AROSC's 2026 Concorso season kicks off on Saturday, March 28th, at the beautiful Sherman Library & Gardens in Corona del Mar.

This is a new venue for us, in the heart of the SoCal Riviera. The library's first-ever car show last August drew hundreds of visitors, and we're privileged to be their second automotive event.

If you haven't visited yet, Sherman Library features fantastic botanical displays, charming patios, tiled fountains, and sculptures set amid early Californian architecture.

In addition to spotlighting our beautiful Alfas, Sherman Library makes an outstanding date spot and is sure to be popular with significant others.

There are many opportunities to learn how your car compares to those of your clubmates. We will again have juried classes for vintage and new Alfas (Classic Open & Closed, Modern, Modern Special, Competition Prepared and Street), plus the popular opinion-only People's Choice. See the results of the 2025 competition on page 13 for an overview of this year-long series of events.

So keep an eye out for our upcoming ClubExpress listing, and future Concorso email notifications. Questions may be addressed to [concorsi.questions@arosc.org](mailto:concorsi.questions@arosc.org). Make a point to register, polish up your favorite Italian 'mo-sheen', and we'll see you there!

– David O'Donoghue & Jeff Srinivasan, Concorso Co-Chairs



Sunny summery scenes of the show space just outside and patio inside Sherman Library & Gardens in 2025.

April 10th – 12th

## Wine Tour Fun '26

### *a Return to Paso Robles*

The AROSC 2026 wine tasting weekend will return to Paso Robles after several recent years in Santa Barbara County.

The dates are Friday to Sunday, April 10th to 12th. But you are encouraged to come earlier and stay later, if your schedule allows.

We have reserved all 15 rooms of a traditional motor court-style motel in town and will traverse traditional twisties through the lush, oak-studded hills of San Luis Obispo County.

The itinerary is based on wine tours of old. Expect a Friday evening orientation potluck Cocktail Hour; a Saturday morning Drivers' Meeting; a BYO Picnic Lunch and meetup at a specific winery; and a Saturday Evening Dinner in town.

Registration in ClubExpress is required, but there are no upfront costs. We need to know who is coming, what car you will be driving,

how many in your party and what parts of the weekend you will be participating in.


You will receive an email when the site is live and when the motel can begin accepting reservations. Sorry, no pets. The last day to book a room will be March 9th.

Watch your email for updates and send any questions to [event.questions@arosc.org](mailto:event.questions@arosc.org).

– *Your WTF26 Team*



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## Holiday Party 2025

# Ring in the Season



## A Silver Anniversary Celebration



We gathered, 60 strong, for the 25th time (!! ) at The Clubhouse.

Our 2025 Holiday Party was extra special as we celebrated the 25th anniversary of MJ and Sheila graciously hosting this beloved event.

In honor of the milestone, the Club presented MJ and Sheila with a beautiful wreath of silver bells, adorned by an engraved charm

commemorating those 25 years of warmth, generosity, and holiday cheer.

The indoor/outdoor gathering drew 60 attendees, and from all appearances, everyone was having a wonderful time. Laughter, conversation, and good spirits, along with delicious food

and fine wines filled the space throughout the day.

Once again, a highlight of this event was the presentation of the Year-End Concorso Awards. Chairs Jeff Srinivasan and David O'Donoghue awarded genuine vintage trophies to the winners (see page 13).

(continued)



From top left: A wreath of silver bells to thank our hosts for a quarter-century of Alfa holiday fun. MJ expertly roasted a delicious beef loin for the luncheon main course. New members Olga, Viktoria, Onorio (next to Jacqueline) and Eric joined us for the first time. Welcome to AROSC!

There were plenty of door prizes, which brought plenty of smiles and anticipation. Adding to the festive atmosphere was live music by Pat Quilter, whose Hawaiian slide guitar created a warm, relaxing ambiance that perfectly complemented the joyful

holiday mood. "Best party I've ever been to!" exclaimed some of the dozen or so first-timers.

It was a wonderful afternoon celebrating friendship, tradition, and community.

– MJ & Sheila

(continued)



Fine dining partners! Clockwise four above: Renee and Mario, Hiram and Mike, Roseann and David, Gene and Norm. Fine dining partners Part 2, clockwise bottom four: Jay and Catherine, Kate, John and Larry, Bob and Val. The big table includes Steve, Jim, Elyse, Paul, Jeff, Cheryl and Roberto.



(continued)



Down from top left: Niko and Tony; Roberto draws a number from Sheila and Bob unwraps while Jacqueline observes.



Down from top right: Evelyn draws a number from Sheila; Steve and Xiao celebrate their prizes with Jose and Jacqueline.

New and vintage members do a happy holidays shout-out with Sheila.

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## Celebrating Our Year-End High-Point Winners

# 2025 Concorso Awards

The “Closing Ceremony” of the 2025 AROSC Club Concorso season took place at the annual Holiday Party, as has been recent tradition. Mid-way through the festive afternoon, your Club Concorso Co-Chairs, David O’Donoghue and yours truly, Jeff Srinivasan, took the “mic” to recognize those members who served as concorso judges, as well as those who entered their Alfas in Club Concorso events throughout the season and scored the most points in their respective classes.

Every AROSC event requires a team of volunteers and Club Concorso events are no exception. The following were our Class Judges throughout the year, and their expertise and time are highly appreciated by David and I (we also served as judges alongside them): Mike Riehle, John Ireland,

David Waelder, Robert Jackson and Hal Croulet Jr.

There were three Club Concorsi in 2025. The first was held at the Petersen Automotive Museum in March. This was followed by our traditional “show-within-a-show” at the Huntington Beach Concours in June. The final event took place in September at Masonic Homes Covina, in Covina.

A total of 24 unique Alfa Romeo vehicles and owners entered their cars at these events this past year with the oldest Alfa from 1956 and the newest from model year 2023. These fine vehicles were entered in four of the five available classes, with representation in the Classic Open, Classic Closed, Classic Street and Modern classes.



Judges! Above:  
John Ireland,  
Robert Jackson,  
David O’Donoghue,  
David Waelder.  
Right: Mike Riehle,  
Hal Croulet Jr.



(continued)

At each event, ribbons were given for first, second, and third place in each class. In addition, all attendees voted for their favorite Alfa Romeo present at each event, whether or not they were entered for judging, and a ribbon was awarded to the winner - the People's Choice. Finally, also at each event, the judged Alfa scoring the highest number of points was designated the Best of Show and presented with a ribbon.

As a testament to the wide range of amazing Alfas owned by our members, there were no repeat winners this year for either People's Choice or Best of Show, and no single car won both Best of Show and People's Choice at any of our events in 2025.

Four year-end awards were given, with first place trophies awarded in each of these classes: Classic Open, Classic Closed, Classic Street and Modern. To be eligible for a year-end award, an Alfa Romeo and its owner must participate in two or more Club Concorsi. This year we had nine car/owners participate in more than one Club Concorso (compared to seven in 2024) and five car/owners participated in all three Club Concorsi (compared to one in 2024).

This year, in honor of Dick Harmon, a long-time AROSC member who passed away during the summer, we presented genuine vintage car event trophies, won by Dick during the '70s. Thanks to the Harmon family for sharing these special trophies with the club and we were honored to pass them on, with an appropriate new placard created and attached, to celebrate the 2025 Club Concorso Class year-end winners.

So, without further ado, here are the Year-End Awards Winners for 2025:

**Classic Open: Harold Croulet Jr.,**  
1996 916 Spider

**Classic Closed: Robert van Schoonenberg,**  
1969 GTV

**Classic Street: Pat Terrisse,**  
1978 Spider Veloce

**Modern: Robert Jackson,**  
2017 Giulia

David and I congratulate the winners and thank all the judges, entrants and spectators who made the 2025 AROSC Club Concorso season a huge success. See you in 2026!

- Jeff Srinivasan, Concorso Co-Chair



Hal Croulet

Pat Terrisse



Robert  
van Schoonenberg

Robert Jackson



# The Best of France & Italy '25

*Reveling in our annual Rite of Fall*



The weather was back on its best behavior, and we had a lovely fall day in the park. Tradition was upheld by the Silvermans San Carlos provisions, the establishment of Camp AROSC with AROC San



Diego joining us on a green (!) and growing (!) lawn.

Members went shopping at the Swap Meet, visited old friends in the Citroen, Fiat, Lancia and Ferrari

groups, applauded Jay Leno when he cruised through, and elected a new People's Choice Best Alfa.

Ready to do it again this year!

## The 2025 Alfa Italia-AROSC People's Choice



Joe Niedhurst (left) and his Sprint Speciale returned to the road late last fall after son Jay (2nd from left) vowed to complete its restoration, and succeeded. The results are gorgeous and the people spoke with their ballots. Sako and Sara of Alfa Italia (right) present their sparkling crystal trophy.

(continued)



Car of the Day: Brera!



Camp AROSC in the early morning.



Above: Ian and Paul with their Swap Meet lucky find. Below: cockpit and engine of the 6C 1750 we saw at Macchinissima III.



Above: Norm and Mario set up the San Carlos' delicious deli. Below: Special sights: Cheryl and son with the DeCadenet TZ.



## Burt at Autobooks-Aerobooks

Automotive writer, Alfa fan, friend of the Club, Burt "BS" Levy came west to enjoy our rainy Christmas week, sign copies of his previous works and preview his new book at Tina Van Curen and Chuck Forward's renowned Autobooks-Aerobooks store in Burbank. Attendees were invited to participate in a "soon-to-be-stale holiday cookie and sweets exchange" while yakking with him and eavesdropping on the podcast *Autoweek* scribe Mark Vaughn was trying to record. David and Susan Waelder dropped in with camera in hand. Looks like everyone was in good form.



Above: Putting Mark through the wringer. Left: BSing David's copy of "The Last Open Road".



Above: The fun interior of the store. Right: Tina!



# The Members' Page(s)

## Welcome & Welcome Back

### Greetings, Everyone!

Please join your Board of Directors in applauding the good taste of these Alfa Romeo owners who joined AROSC between November 2025 and January 2026: Jack Arnold, Walton Dornisch, Eric Gaynor, Bela Gutman, Patrick Hall, Viktoria Brohan Keister, William Story and John Veitch.



*Mille Grazie* to all our member-contributors, whose stories and images make this January-February edition of *Alfacionada* your best introduction to the coming year: David Waelder, Steve Edelman, Paul Blankenship, Jeff Srinivasan, David O'Donoghue, Val Dietrich, Ron Avery, MJ Kutkus and Sheila Kutkus.

## Remembering Steve Cole

Forty-eight-year AROSC member Steve Cole passed away this past November, doing something important to him. The last thing he needed for sailing instructor certification by the national governing body, U.S. Sailing, was to complete a swim test, and while lapping the pool, his heart gave out. An accomplished sailor, knowledgeable sportscar driver, train enthusiast, and retired owner of a thriving commercial lighting company, he was also a cancer survivor and confident international traveler. In March of 2025, he and his wife Melinda celebrated their 80th

birthdays aboard the *Viking Jupiter*, sailing around South America from Santiago/Valparaiso to Buenos Aires. He had looked forward to passing Cape Horn on his birthday - and they did! Alfa Romeos were equally important to him and his owned-since-new 1977 Alfetta was still very much in action, styling chapter drives and *concorsi*, starring as the March 2023 *Alfa Owner* centerfold, and contributing to the December 2024 "Honoring the Alfetta at 50" feature.

He encouraged his brother to buy a new Stelvio, and the chapter gained another cool Cole member.



He leaves behind Melinda, two daughters, brother Don and sister Susan.

We, his friends, believed he was invincible. Melinda said it best: "Steve was my hero in his determination, his 'What is, is.' perspective. Let's keep doing the things important to us."

- Elyse Barrett



Where many of us last saw him, at the 2025 Best of France & Italy Show, replacing the rear plate, LUVNWAR, with a nifty euro version. At right, the centerfold photo he shot at Alamos Bay Yacht Club. We miss you.



## Pals in Print – SoCal's Got Talent!

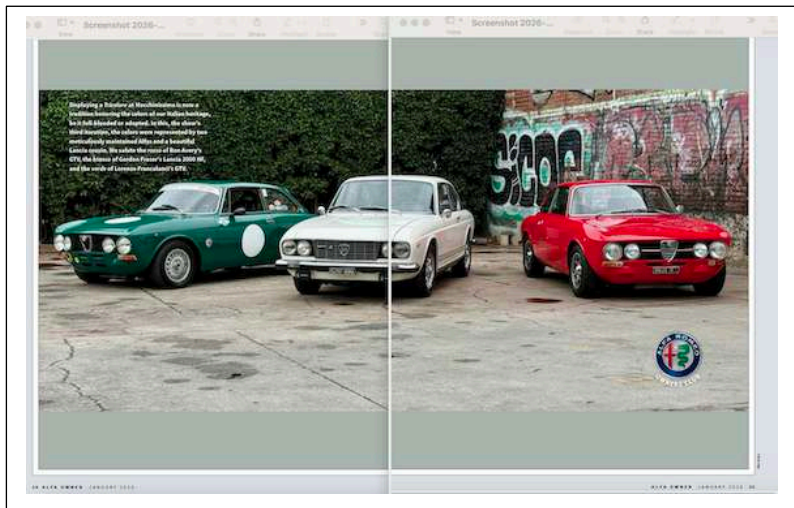


Congratulations to Yinghua Lu, whose outstanding photography made it into the January issue of *Alfa Owner* magazine - starting with the cover! She and partner Hiram Wang are two of our newest and youngest AROSC members. You may remember the 40th birthday party they put on for the Milano/75 last July.

**Nice way  
to start  
the year,  
y'all!**



Steve Edelman shot the rally GTV at Macchi for the back cover of the January *Alfa Owner*, as it lounged in a leafy corner of the Garden. The inset is an illustration on the hood, showing how the Alfa can jump.



Ron Avery, whose red GTV was part of the Macchi *tricolore*, stepped back and got the group that would become the January *Alfa Owner* centerfold - early in the day before the crowds swirled through the big outdoor display area at Rolling Greens called "The Pad."

## Sharing is Caring – Come to the Desert this Winter

And among car clubs it is only natural to invite our friends and neighbors to share the fun at each others' events. Such is the case with our brethren in the Palm Springs area, Desert ALFAs. Below is their new season's calendar and AROSC members are welcome to come to Coachella Valley for any of these activities.

**RSVPs are needed and John Strong, reachable via email at [strongssail@gmail.com](mailto:strongssail@gmail.com)** is your contact. These events are also listed online in the AROC national ClubExpress calendar, but still RSVP to John.

January 17th, 2026 - 1st Annual Bocce Ball Tournament, Palm Desert

March 8th, 2026 - Cheech Museum Visit and Luncheon, Riverside

March 28th, 2026 - Ciao Annual Meeting, Indian Wells

If you are an early riser and in Palm Springs at other times, they also gather for monthly weekday dine-in meetings and weekend cars & coffees.

Palms Cafe Breakfasts - 2nd Thursday of the month

Swiss Donuts Cars & Coffees - 3rd Sunday of the month

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## Track Time Available with the Lotus Club

The Lotus Club of Southern California has invited AROSC members to join them at any of their track days. Below a note we received from Ted Garland. Do follow up on your own. AROSC is not partnering with LCOSC, just passing this information along.

*I used to run HPDE and track days with AROSC. I am on the Board of the Lotus Club of Southern California, and on their behalf would like to invite your members to join our track days (we typically run 3-4 per year). Please feel free to email me directly with any questions. Sincerely, Ted Garland*

Entrants get over 2.5 hours of track time per driver. Only 3 run groups / 60 cars. Coaching for Novice drivers; relaxed atmosphere for all. You don't need a Lotus to join us!

Standard Pricing: \$275 Members / \$295 Non-members; Add LCOSC Membership (\$25) and grab the discount instantly!

Run Groups: Novice – Point-bys on straights, coaching for first-timers (limited to 5 slots). Intermediate – 5+ track days, point-by anywhere. Advanced – 15+ days, open passing (point-bys encouraged).

**Contact Ted Garland for information: [tgarland@ucr.edu](mailto:tgarland@ucr.edu)**

# About Your Club

**AROSC Business Address**  
info@arosc.org

## Changes of Address

To continue receiving the AROSC *Alfacionada*, and the monthly national magazine *Alfa Owner*, your new email and street address needs to be provided to both the Chapter and to the national organization. Send your updates to the chapter at info@arosc.org and go to aroc-usa.org and click on Membership to change your national status. If using the United States Postal Service, send your change of address(es) to AROC, P.O. Box 92155, Portland, OR 97292.

If you are receiving this newsletter on a complimentary basis, email your change of address to the Newsletter Address or the Club Business Address.

## 2025 Board of Directors

Your entire Board of Directors is available at one point of contact:  
info@arosc.org

Leave us a detailed message and/or your telephone number and we

will be happy to contact you personally.

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### *Concorso Co-Chair*

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## Chapter Meetings

General Meetings of AROSC are held monthly in conjunction with activities as they take place throughout Southern California.

A full listing of events is posted on our website, arosc.org, along with a 12-month calendar, which is also emailed early each year and periodically updated.

Email your concerns and questions about events, policies and procedures to info@arosc.org and a Director will respond.

Board of Directors Meetings are held quarterly on Zoom. All members in good standing are invited to attend. The Board Meeting schedule is noted in the published Calendar of Events. Contact the Board through info@arosc.org to receive a link to the Zoom meeting. Members are also invited to bring their business to the attention to the Board via email via info@arosc.org

(continued)

## About Your Club

### Communications Information

Please Note: AROSC consents to receive communications from you by email to [info@arosc.org](mailto:info@arosc.org). Since you are already receiving our newsletters, meeting notices, and ballots by email, we deem that you that you have consented to electronic transmission from AROSC of meeting notices and voter related communications to your email address in AROC's database. You may change this email address by modifying your profile in AROC's records (currently available at <https://arosc-usa.clubexpress.com/>). You may withdraw your consent to receive electronic transmission of meeting notices and voter related communications by sending an email to that effect to [info@arosc.org](mailto:info@arosc.org). However, by withdrawing your consent to electronically receive such communications, you will no longer be a voting member of AROSC.

## About *Alfacionada*

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