



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
UNIT 291 NEWPORT HARBOR
GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2023, from 6:00pm – 7:30pm in the Main Hall

- ❖ **Call to Order** – Please Silence your cell phones. Time: 6:00pm
- ❖ **Posting of the Colors** - Janz Simmons, Sgt-at-Arms, & Stacy Eickhoff, Asst. Sgt-at-Arms
- ❖ **Placement of POW/MIA Cover & Prayer** – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance** - Janz Simmons, Sgt-at-Arms
- ❖ **Music** – Mary Ann Leonard, Music Chair - The song for the General Meeting will be *You're a Grand Old Flag*. Gave a brief report on the background of the song.

- ❖ **Preamble of the Constitution of the ALA** – Janz Simmons, Sgt.-at-Arms
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** – Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary
 - **Excused:** Debbie Schubert, President, Laura Farr, Treasurer, Kim Philhart, Executive Committee, Cindy Edes, Jr. Past President
- ❖ **Officer Substitutions** – Mary Beth Martin, 1st VP stepped in for our President Debbie Schubert.
- ❖ **Special Guests** – Art Jimenez is the 2nd VP of the Sons. Gave a report on the Sons events. Boat Parade December 13 – 17, 2023. Tickets are on sale now. Go to Sons website www.sons291.com to purchase tickets.
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes dated September 20, 2023. Minutes were approved as written.
- ❖ **This Month Dimes for Times** – EDUCATION for EDUCATION PROGRAMS

REPORTS & INFORMATION

- ❖ **President** – Debbie Schubert, General Announcements: Presented by Mary Beth Martin, 1st VP
 - **Open Chairmen Positions** – We Have Education and Public Relations positions open. Flyer on each table.
 - *The Post/Parking Lot Access Policy* has been updated. It will be posted on the AL website. www.AL291.com. A copy is available at the front table.
 - Your membership/parking card is your OWN. Please show them to Gate Concierge & do not forget to sign-in your guests on the new sign-in sheet.
 - Pull tabs for The Ronald McDonald House can be dropped off in the troop shipping box.
 - National News www.legion-aux.org/home Create your own account using your membership #
 - Department News is at www.calegionaux.com
 - District News is at **D29 ALA Group Facebook**. It will have information regarding what is happening at various Auxiliary Units.
 - The next District 29 meeting will be moved up 1 week to November 4, 2023, at 9:00am. At the American Legion Post 295 Cypress.

❖ **1st Vice President Membership** – Mary Beth Martin

- Update on the 2024 membership dues renewed and paid to date. 759 members have paid their 2024 membership dues. Kendall will send a constant contact message to the members tomorrow, to pick up their membership cards at the General Monthly Meeting for those who sent in a check to pay membership dues. Membership cards will no longer be mailed. Renew your 2024 Membership dues online at <https://www.legion-aux.org/renew> or pay by phone by calling ALA National Headquarters at (317) 569-4570 with your membership ID ready. The hours to call are Monday – Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm EST

❖ **2nd Vice President** – Dana Johnston

- October 22, 2023, at 10:00am – Halloween Bunco is here at the post. Bunco has been posted on our Facebook group. Sign up online and join us. There is a \$20 cash donation at the door on the day of the event.
- November 6, 2023, at 11am Raffle Envelope stuffing for the February 24, 2024, Hoedown Party.
- See's Candy Fundraiser is now on our Facebook page [ALA Unit 291 | Facebook](#), and place your order. Order See's Candy for the holidays up to December 1, 2023. Orders come directly to your home. Login to our Facebook page to order or go to: https://www.yumraising.com/secure/americanla_ala_20/Dan_Joh3763/
- Thursday, November 16, 2023 - Holiday Boutique from 3:30 to 7:30pm here at the Post. There is a \$5.00 admission to come shop all the vendors and is collected at the door.
- Saturday, February 24, 2024 - This year our Spring Fling Party is called *Hoedown*. Tickets to go on sale after New Years. Dance lessons, DJ
- Visited the Hollywood Post - Played Quarter mania and looking into it for here! Spoke to the Coordinator. It was a great time. Looking into having one here.

❖ **Secretary** – Cynthia Minucci Neal – Housekeeping: called the names on the Member name tags. Did not find anyone. Read the correspondence received.

❖ **Treasure** – Laura Farr – Presented by Mary Beth Martin, 1st VP

- Copies of the financial report are on the tables for review.
- Update on the Wagon Tailgate Raffle net profit \$2,400.

❖ **Chaplain** – Sharon Morgan – Update on the current Birthdays, well wishes and condolences since our last meeting.

❖ **Historian** – Sue Lindsey – Update on some of our past events since our last meeting.

- October 9, 2023 - American Red Cross Blood gathered Drive 29 pints
- September 13, 2023 - Tailgate Wagon Raffle. The winner was Anthony Lee.
- September 23, 2023 - California Coastal Cleanup Day Yacht club & Juniors
- Heidi VA & R helping homeless hats off to you! Busy with several Veterans Resource Centers in Orange County.
- October 22, 2023, played Bunco at the Post.
- September 29, 2023, Kids Halloween party at the Post.

- November 16, 2023, Holiday Boutique at the Post
- November 18, 2023, Troop Shipping
- Check us out at our Facebook page [ALA Unit 291 | Facebook](#)
- ❖ **Executive Committee** – Jan Woolford, Bobbi Renaghan, Cynthia Culp, Kim Philhart & Peggy Bengry – No Report

STANDING COMMITTEES

- ❖ **National Security** – Susan Siever
 - On Monday October 29, 2023, we had our 20th Blood Drive in 10 years to have a blood drive. 32 people came in and we collected 29 pints of blood that were donated. That is enough to help 87 hospital patients. The next event is in February 2024.
 - The Adjutant from the Legion wanted to know if we would be interested in having a CPR class at no costs to us. We have 5 or 6 so far interested in the class.
- ❖ **Americanism** – Carol Markel
 - If you see a homeless vet on the street call Veteran Affairs (877 424-3838)
 - Senior Diane Feinstein passing. Gave a brief history of her life.
 - Thanked Sharon for the Birthday card is weekend
 - Yogi Beera, professional baseball - Started his baseball career in American Legion baseball.
 - Happy Veterans Day coming up November 11, 2023
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund** – Jan Woolford – No Report
- ❖ **Chair Covers** – Janz Simmons
 - Volunteers needed to set up chair covers and sashes for Marines Corp. Ball on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at 10am
 - Thank you to the (3) members who helped with washing the chair covers.
- ❖ **Children & Youth** – Bea Foster
 - Saturday, October 14, 2023, at 10am in the Fireside Rm – 160 candy bags were made for Children’s Halloween Party. Candy bags leftover will go to the Long Beach VA Children’s party. Also face painting practice for those that need practice.
 - Sunday October 29, 2023 - Halloween Kids Party. Crafts, coloring and games. Pizza will be served. We need more volunteers for the event.
 - November 10, 2023, at 9:30am-1or 2pm - Long Beach VA Hospital Childrens Party need 3-4 volunteers.
 - Return of PJ’s Project. Collecting new pajamas for ages 1 to 15 years.
- ❖ **Community Service** – Sharon Morgan – No Report
- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws** – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – No Report
- ❖ **Donations Recommended by the Board** – Pua Huffine
 - Brought thank you cards received for the donations we send. Feel free to read the cards at the table next to the t-shirt table.

- **Veteran's & First Responders Equine Therapy – Suggested Donation \$2,000.00**
Suggested by Mike Schubert - Mission: To provide equine wellness for Veterans, children, and the community to help facilitate growth, learning and healing. American Equine Therapy is dedicated to enhancing the physical and spiritual well-being of special needs individuals and their loved ones through involvement with horses. The Veterans Administration has determined that Equine-assisted therapy is a great alternative approach that allows Veterans to address their trauma in a hands-on way, alongside other Veterans who understand their story. This volunteer-run organization has just held their 2nd Annual HERO RIDE to raise money for Veterans and 1st Responders experiencing PTSD, anxiety, and trauma, to heal with horse therapy. American Legion Post 291 donated \$2500. I leave it to the E-Board to decide how much the Auxiliary would like to donate. American Equine Therapy – Rescue Horses Rescuing People 25200 Trabuco Rd. Lake Forest, CA 92630 (844) 378-4634. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- **Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association – Suggested Donation: \$500**
About: The Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association (SMSA) is the nation's only provider of need-based scholarships exclusively to the children and grandchildren of America's fighting Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers attending accredited colleges and universities. Members of the Association include all Seabees and friends of the Seabees who have contributed funds toward the Association's purpose. The Board of Directors is composed of volunteer CEC officers and Seabees and corporate executives committed to providing educational opportunities to Seabee Families. The Scholarship Selection Committee consists of a cross-section of officers and enlisted Seabees and includes the former Force Master Chief of the Seabees, representatives of the Seabee Veterans of America, and other supporters of the SMSA. The board meets annually in May to review applications and select scholarship recipients for the upcoming school year. The SMSA has awarded scholarships to over 1000 recipients valued at over \$7 million since 1972. SMSA, P. O. Box 391, Springfield, VA 22150 703) 690-7272 Charity Navigator Score: 4 Star / Platinum Transparency. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- ❖ **Donations - Return of the Holiday Pajamas Program. Pajama donations from October through November 2023 – Suggested Donation \$500.00 - In addition to the pajamas donated by our members to purchase additional pajamas for the Pajama Program for ages 6 months to 15 years.** Collecting all sizes of pajamas for children 6 months to 15 years old. Pajamas will go to the following organizations: STEP – Support the Enlisted Project, and Strong Families, and Strong Children. They are both non-profit organizations supporting the military and their families. We will also include a couple of Bea Foster's (Children & Youth) military children's organizations. Drop off and mark the bags with "Pajama Project". December 1, 2023, donations will be sorted by size and given to the organizations in time for the holidays. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- ❖ **Education – OPEN**

❖ **Girls State** – Caroline Miller

- Gave a brief history of Girl State Gave a brief history of what is Girls State
- We have (16) schools to sponsor - same as last year. Still no set date for next year's session at Sacramento State. CA Department Girls State meeting is the weekend of October 21· 2023. Budget and 2024 fees for Girls State should be finalized at the meeting.

❖ **Juniors Activities** – Stacy Eickhoff

- September 23, 2023, ALYC beach coastal cleanup several juniors and auxiliary members came out.
- October 14, 2023, Children & Youth's stuffing Candy Bags for the Children's Halloween Party.
- Working with a Boy scouts troop making blankets and collecting socks

❖ **Legislative** – Pia Thompson – No report

❖ **Poppy** – Bobbie Renaghan – No Report

❖ **Public Relations** – OPEN

❖ **Troop Shipping** – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal

- Troop Shipping is on November 18, 2023, at 10am. Flyer is on the tables of needed items donated. Stil need more addresses. Christmas cards were passed around to sign. The cards will go into the Troop shipping boxes. Thanked those that have been dropping off Christmas cards. A donation list has been created of the needed items to fill the Troop boxes

❖ **VA & R** – Heidi Maturino – Updates on the following Veterans Resource Centers:

- US Vets, Costa Mesa
- September 21, 2023, Long Beach VA – Replenished the food pantry. Also checked into the P.I.E.R. program, the office was closed.
- September 26, 2023, Orange Coast College VRC - Replenished the food pantry.
- September 27, 2023, Coastline College VRC – Replenished the food pantry.
- September 27, 2023, Orange Coast College Veterans Resource Center – Went to a BBQ they held for the veterans, and a tour of the facility.
- September 28, 2023, Long Beach VA – Need donation items for the homeless Veterans: backpacks, wallets, flip flops, underwear, socks, women sport bras, and hygiene items.
- October 2, 2023, Orange Coast College VRC – Replenished food pantry.
- October 5, 2023, volunteered for the Long Beach VA – Need volunteers to work for Female Veterans Breast cancer awareness and screening. Served the female veterans breakfast, had gift bags for them, could sign up for a screening, served lunch, and got a mini message. 1st time they Long Beach VA had this event. There was 60 – 80 women and it was from 9:30am to 1:00pm.
- October 17, 2023, shopped and purchased several underwear for men & women, women's sport bras, and socks to donate to the Elks Lodge, Santa Ana, drive for Long Beach VA underwear drive. Delivered the donated items to the Elks Lodge.
- January 2024 – Elks Lodge planning on having a large Stand Down in Garden Grove

- ❖ **Membership** – Kendall Madsen – Presented by Mary Beth Martin, 1st Vice President
Initiation of new members - The candidates were introduced and taken to the Fireside Room. A motion was made to accept these new members into unit 291, 2nd, motion carried. The candidates were brought back to the General meeting and installed as new members.

❖ **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- **Salute to Service – Mary Beth Martin** – Salute to Service Day is scheduled for June 3, 2024. The first meeting of the committee was held on Monday, September 25, 2023. Great committee and have many new committee members to volunteer on a committee. Thanked Debbie for getting the grass area for parking at the event. Caroline made a poster and will be approved at the next meeting. (2) Legionnaires have volunteered to help us with video and a keynote speaker.

- ❖ **Old Business** – None

- ❖ **New Business** – None

- ❖ **The next General Monthly Meeting** will be on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 6:00pm in the Main Hall.

- ❖ **Closing Prayer**– Sharon Morgan, Chaplain

- ❖ **Removal of POW/MIA Cover** – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain

- ❖ **Adjournment** Time: 7: 28pm

IMPORTANT SITES TO VISIT

- Auxiliary Unit 291 website for info & events www.ala291.com
- ALA 291 Facebook [ALA Unit 291 | Facebook](#) Join our Facebook page for up-to-the-minute news
- RENEW your 2024 Auxiliary Membership online. - www.member.legion-aux.org/member
- Track your Volunteer time - www.TrackItForward.com/site/american-legion-auxiliary-unit-291
- National ALA website - www.legion-aux.org - Create your account using your membership #.
- Department ALA News is at www.calegionaux.com
- District ALA News is at **D29 ALA Group Facebook**. What is happening at various ALA Units.
- American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales - www.emblems.legion.org