



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
UNIT 291 NEWPORT HARBOR - GENERAL MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, November 15, 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 was *The Star-Spangled Banner*
- ❖ **Preamble of the Constitution of the ALA (See last Page)** – Kendall Madsen, Membership Chair
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** – Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary
 - **Excused:** Laura Farr, Treasurer, and Stacy Eickhoff, Asst. Sgt-at-Arms
- ❖ **Officer Substitutions** – None
- ❖ **Special Guests**
 - Debbie Schubert for Stacy Eickhoff – Presented Certificates of Appreciation to the *Boy Scouts of Tiger Scout Pack 2018*. The Tiger Scout Pack 2018 were 7 to 8 years old. The scouts donated socks and handmade blankets for our Veterans.
 - Heidi Maturino guests (2 female veterans) were unable to attend the meeting due to the weather. Heidi will present to them from Five Crowns Restaurant gift card worth \$300 a holiday turkey feast for 6-8 people, including all the fixings for a complete meal, and a \$40 gift card from Polly's pies for dessert.
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes dated Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried to approve the minutes as written.
- ❖ **This Month Dimes for Times** – MEMBERSHIP for MILITARY FAMILIES

REPORTS & INFORMATION

- ❖ **President** – Debbie Schubert, General Announcements:
 - Debbie Schubert, President presented a *Certificate of Participation* to Susan Difonso National, for the National Secretary program.
 - Open Chairmen Position(s) – We have (2) two chair positions open: Donations and Education.
 - *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 on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at 9:00am, at the American Legion Post 295 Cypress.
- ❖ **1st Vice President Membership – Mary Beth Martin**
 - The Executive Committee wants members to know the rules for the Access Card. The Access Card is for members only and is never to be shared. If a member shares the access card with others, member is allowed at the post, however the following suspension will occur:
 - 1st offense – member will lose access to the parking lot, gate and front door for 30 days.
 - 2nd offense - member will lose access to the parking lot, gate and front door for 90 days.
 - 3rd offense – member will lose the access card privilege.
 - Membership paid dues to date is 1,291 renewals.
- ❖ **2nd Vice President – Dana Johnston**
 - Thursday, November 16, 2023 – The *Holiday Boutique* is from 3:30 to 7:30pm here at the Post. Need help right after the meeting to arrange the tables for the boutique.
 - December 1, 2023, is the Last day to order See's Candy for the holidays 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/
 - Saturday, February 24, 2024 – Updated on the spring *Hoedown Party*. Raffle tickets have gone out in the mail.
- ❖ **Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal – No report**
- ❖ **Treasure – Laura Farr**
 - A financial report is on each table for review.
- ❖ **Chaplain – Sharon Morgan – Sent out well wishes and condolence cards since our last meeting.**
- ❖ **Historian – Sue Lindsey – No report**
- ❖ **Executive Committee – Jan Woolford, Bobbi Renaghan, Cynthia Culp, Kim Philhart & Peggy Bengry – No Report**

STANDING COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Americanism – Carol Markel**
 - Gave *Certificates of Appreciation* for Flying the American Flag to Huntington Beach Ford and Gastropub, Huntington Beach (2) two local business.
 - Recited the Flanders Field poem.
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Jan Woolford – No Report**
- ❖ **Chair Covers – Janz Simmons**
 - Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, was the Marine Ball. Placed chair covers and sashes on all the chairs. Thanked all the helpers.
 - Volunteers needed to wash the chair covers from the Marine Ball event.

❖ **Children & Youth** – Bea Foster

- Sunday, October 29, 2023 – Children’s Halloween party. There were 63 military children that came with their families. They played games, crafts, had their face painted, and enjoyed pizza, chips, cookies and drinks.
- November 10, 2023 – Veterans Day at the Long Beach VA hospital for the Childrens Party. The children got their faces painted and played Bingo.
- Monday, November 20, 2023, at 5pm - Decorating 2 large boxes for the Post to collect donated toys for the military children and making candy bags from the donated candy for the 3 children’s parties.
- Sunday, December 10, 2023 – Children’s Christmas Party at the Post. The children will play Bingo, crafts and have their faces painted, and enjoy pizza, chips, cookies and drinks. Need volunteers to help. Santa will arrive by boat.
- Sunday, December 17, 2023, Childrens Christmas Party at Camp Pendleton. Need volunteers to help at the party.
- Saturday, January 27, 2024, Military 1st time Baby Shower in San Clemente. Layette donations appreciated.

❖ **Community Service** – Sharon Morgan — Beginning in January details on the upcoming Bags of Love and donation items needed.

❖ **Constitution & Bylaws** – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – No Report

❖ **Donations Recommended by the Board** – Pua Huffine

➤ Announced this is last report, is stepping down from the donation chair position. We thank Pua for her hard work and wish her the best!

➤ **You Were Worth IT Foundation – Suggested donation \$500**

Suggested by Dwight Hanson, Legionnaire at Post 291. To purchase new military bedding for the Marines returning to Camp Pendleton on November 13, 2023. The donation was increased to \$1,000. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

❖ **Mary’s Feast Celebration Suggested donation \$760.**

Donation to cover a table for (8) military Moms-to-Be from Camp Pendleton. This is an event that prior to Covid, our unit would sponsor a table for eight for the annual baby shower. This event will take place in January 2024 and will honor 50 military spouses or active women who are expectant moms that reside at Camp Pendleton. Motion was moved, 2nd and motion carried.

❖ **H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Everyday) Food Bank – Suggested donation \$500**

Suggested by Heidi Maturino. The food Bank distributes twice per month on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. This The donation would be used to purchase food for distribution. Motion was moved, 2nd and motion carried.

❖ **Education** – OPEN

❖ **Girls State** – Caroline Miller

- The fees increased for the 2024 Girls State session.
- Helping the school counselors recruit candidates.
- The Department of California plans on raising awareness about Girls State to help fundraising.

❖ **Juniors Activities** – Stacy Eickhoff – No Report

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

❖ **Membership** – Kendall Madsen – If membership is renewed by check and mailed directly to Unit 291, membership cards are not being mailed. Membership cards can be picked up at the Post on Mondays 5-7:30pm, or at a meeting, or go online and print your membership card from My Auxiliary Member Portal. Saving the postage costs for our Veterans. The committee sends out weekly emails.

❖ **National Security** – Susan Siever

- Discussed with the members what is a Blue Star mother and if there is a Blue Star mother that has not received a blue star flag. Also received 1,200 flags that are handed out to the deployed or soon to be deployed military members. Need volunteers to fold the flags, each bag has 50 flags, with a sample, a message, bags and tutorial.

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

❖ **Public Relations** – Heidi Sergeant –Debbie Shubert, President introduced Heidi is our new Public Relations to the members.

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

- Saturday, November 18, 2023 – Troop Shipping is sending out @174 boxes. In case of rain, we will move into the Hall. Thanked everyone for the help and donations.

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

- October 19, 2023 – Donated @\$600 of men's tee shirts, women's sport bras, underwear and socks to the Santa Ana Elks Lodge
- October 24, 2023, met with Art at US Vets, in Costa Mesa, replenished the food pantry, and helped 2 elderly veterans with special request, and on November 8, 2023, met with Art again met with the (2) Veterans. Peggy Bengry, Parliamentarian provided beautiful quilts from the Costa Mesa Senior Women's club for our (2) two veterans.
- October 26, 2023 – Met with Tom at Coastline College VRC, Orange County and provided food for the food pantry.
- November 14, 2023 – John at Orange Coast VRC provided food for the food pantry.
- October 25, 2023 - Long Beach VA Hospital and P.I.E.R., Long Beach, provided food for the food pantry, and donated tee shirts, underwear and socks for the homeless Veterans. Also provided special request items. There is an ongoing list at each table of requested items including backpacks, wallets and gently used jackets for the homeless Veterans.
- An ALA member donated Rams Bluetooth speakers. Took some to Art at US Vets and Tom at Coastline College. Tom at Coastline had an open house for Veterans Day. He handed them out to the Veterans.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Salute to Service – Mary Beth Martin** – Program is for graduating seniors that are going into the military or military academies after graduation. Updated the members on the progress of the committee meeting held on Monday, November 13, 2023.

- ❖ **Old Business** –
- ❖ **New Business** – Jan Woolford, AEF - Thursday, November 9, 2023, World War II Luncheon – A wonderful time with the Veterans at the Luncheon. Plated and served 160 people in 17 minutes.

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

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING will be on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 6:00pm in the Main Hall. December 2023 is dark for the Auxiliary.

ADJOURNMENT Time: 7:20pm

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