



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
UNIT 291 NEWPORT HARBOR, CA
GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2023, from 6:00pm – 7:30pm

- ❖ **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 *America the Beautifull*. Gave the meeting attendees the background history of the song.
- ❖ **Preamble of the Constitution of the ALA** – **Kendall Madsen**, Membership Chair
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** – **Cynthia Minucci Neal**, Secretary
Excused Laura Farr, Peggy Bengry, Cindy Edes
- ❖ **Officer Substitutions** - None
- ❖ **Special Guests** – No guests
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes** - **Cynthia Minucci Neal**, Secretary, The minutes dated July 19, 2023, were Approved as Written.
- ❖ **This Month Dimes for Times** – Constitution & Bylaws / Convention Report for VA & R

Reports & Information

- ❖ **President – Debbie Schubert**, General Announcements:
 - *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. Reviewed the new rules.
 - 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 September 9, 2023, at 9:00am. At the American Legion Post 295 Cypress.
 - Southern California Department Workshop will be on September 9, 2023, at the American Legion Post 299, 13759 Central Ave., Chino, CA 91710 from 8am to 3pm

- ❖ **1st Vice President Membership – Mary Beth Martin** – 2023/2024 Renewal Members. To date, 266 members have paid for their membership renewal. Mary Beth is available after the meeting to assist members in renewing membership online. Membership cards are not being mailed by our unit. If you sign up or want a hard copy, go online to www.member.legion-aux.org/member.
- ❖ **2nd Vice President – Dana Johnston** – October 22, 2023, Bunco at 10am. \$20 donation to play. We will take 24 players to play. Sign up on Facebook / See Dana if you need assistance in getting onto our Facebook page / November 16, 2023 – Annual Holiday Boutique. Forming a Holiday Boutique Committee to assist on the fundraiser. / February 24, 2024 - Spring Fundraiser event - Forming a Spring Fundraiser committee to plan the event. / See's Candy Fundraiser coming soon for the holidays. Fundraiser will be posted on our Facebook page.
- ❖ **Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal** – Read three Thank you cards received.
- ❖ **Treasurer/Finance – Laura Farr** – Report given by Debbie Schubert, President Approval of 2023-2024 budget. Reviewed the proposed budget with the auxiliary members. Motion was made, 2nd and motion carried.
- ❖ **Chaplain – Sharon Morgan** – Reported on the get-well cards she sent out this month.
- ❖ **Historian – Sue Lindsey** – Reviewed some of our past events since our last meeting on July 19, 2023. Hats off to Sharon Morgan, Chaplain and Bobbi Renaghan, Poppy Chair who received special District awards. / OC Fair July 14, 2023 – August 13, 2023, had some of our auxiliary members there volunteering for community service. Reminder to record community service hours at www.ala291.com. / August 6, 2023, Military Baby Shower for 8 first time Mom's from Camp Pendleton. Hats off to our girl's from the auxiliary: Bea, Patty, Leslie, and Sharon and the women of the Sun & Sail Women's Club of Lake Forest. Check our Facebook page for pictures from the event. / August 14, 2023, we had the Girls/ Boys State Dinner. It was a special night for our Caroline Miller, Girls State Chair and to her Girls had a great year. Thank you to the auxiliary committee who helped make it such a wonderful event.
- ❖ **Executive Committee – Peggy Bengry, Cynthia Culp, Kim Philhart Bobbi Renaghan, & Jan Woolford** – No Report

Standing Committees

- ❖ **Americanism – Carol Markel** – Update report on the Americanism Girls Essay. We had two 1st place winners and one 2nd place winner from our unit in the District. Next years essay contest has already been announced: Group 1 - *Why do we honor flag?* Group 2 - *Why is voting important?* Group 3 - *Who is responsible for making our country safe?* and Group 4 - *Is service to our country important?* and Group 5 - *How should the flag be disposed of?* / Want to honor local businesses that fly the American flag. We will send out certificates to those businesses.
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund** – Jan Woolford – No Report

- ❖ **Chair Covers – Janz Simmons** – Volunteers needed for Sunday August 20, 2023, to help with the chair covers for a wedding.
- ❖ **Children & Youth – Bea Foster** – August 6, 2023, Military Baby Shower for 8 first time Mom's from Camp Pendleton by the Sun & Sail Women's Group. There were 5 girls and 2 boys. It's been 15 years Sun & Sail Women's Club has put on this military baby shower and 10 years since our auxiliary has donated to the event. / Back to School Back Packs - 20 back packs went out last week to Child Center in Santa Ana and 29 more back packs were filled and delivered to the US Vets in Tustin. Volunteers are needed on Sunday October 29, 2023, for the Kids Halloween party, and on Tuesday, November 10, 2023, the Long Beach VA Hospital kids party. Normally we provide crafts and face painting for the kids.
- ❖ **Community Service – Sharon Morgan** – Discussed the Vials of Life and Bags of Love programs. Will need volunteers on Monday, April 22, 2024, to help fill the Bags of Love.
- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal** – Proposed changes to the Standing Rule - Per the Bylaws Article 4, section 5C - The President shall be signatory with the Treasurer on all Bank accounts. Our unit President Debbie Schubert has purposed that the unit Secretary be a third signer on the Bank accounts. The proposal, if approved, will become part of the Standing Rules. A motion was made "In the event the President or Treasurer is unable to co-sign on the Bank account, the Secretary has the authority to be a co-signer". Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried
- ❖ **Donations Recommended by the Board – Pua Huffine** – *Our annual operating budget, as approved by the Board and Membership, allows for donations to be made to veterans and veterans organizations in need. Committee Chair Pua Huffine proposed the following community donations which were approved by the Board. For transparency purposes, we report these to you as follows:*
 - Requested donation of \$2,500 to the American Legion Post 8, in Kihei, Maui for disaster assistance. The American Legion Post 8 is a small post with 75 members and were not affected by the fires. Pua feels Post 8 is the "feet on the ground", helping to make meals, provide personal hygiene kits, clothing, etc. as the recent Maui wildfires have left Maui devastated. Motion was made to increase the donation to \$5,000, 2nd, and motion carried.
 - Requested donation of \$500 to the Veteran's Surf Alliance. Veteran Surf Alliance is a Santa Cruz based nonprofit that creates fellowship and community among veterans through surfing, easing the transition between military service and civilian life. Motion was made, 2nd motion carried.

Requested donation of \$500 to Operation Black Hills Cabin. Operation Black Hill Cabin provides a week-long getaway, to qualifying COMBAT WOUNDED veterans and their immediate family, from any post 9/11/2001 military operation, to promote healing through family reconnection, reflection and fun while exploring the Black Hills of South Dakota. It provides a therapeutic environment to assist qualifying combat-injured veterans with their rehabilitation from their traumatic and stressful experiences, while serving the interest of our Nation. It also provides an opportunity for the disabled veterans to reacquaint themselves with

their family in a quiet, peaceful, and leisurely environment, far away from the stress and daily routine which has now become their new “normal”. Motion was made to increase donation to \$1,000. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

- ❖ **Education – Mercedes Shaffer** – No Report
- ❖ **Girls State – Caroline Miller** – Girls State will start up again in Mid-September. Caroline thanked the auxiliary members who supported and assisted in all the preparations for the Girls/Boys State Dinner.
- ❖ **Juniors Activities – Stacy Eickhoff** – Saturday, Sept 23, 2023, coordinating with the ALYC for their beach cleanup. / Saturday, October 21, 2023, have been invited by Post 295 Cypress to work with them on a day of Art / Sunday, October 29, 2023, for the Kids Halloween party / Coordinating dates for a joint project with Carol Markel, Americanism chair / Coordinating With Bea Foster, Children & Youth for the Juniors to help on Sunday, October 29, 2023, at the Kids Halloween party.
- ❖ **Leadership – OPEN**
- ❖ **Legislative – Pia Thompson** – Posting the weekly American Legion National Legislative updates every Friday on our ALA Facebook page. Will also put a link button to legislatures. Go to our Facebook page. [ALA Unit 291 | Facebook](#)
- ❖ **Membership – Kendall Madsen** – No Report
- ❖ **National Security – Susan Siever** – The next American Red Cross Blood Drive is on Monday, October 9, 2023, at Post 291. Contact Susan to add your name to the donor list.
- ❖ **Past Presidents Parley** – No Report
- ❖ **Poppy** – Bobbie Renaghan – No Report
- ❖ **Public Relations – OPEN**
- ❖ **Troop Shipping – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal** – Saturday, November 18, 2023, at 10:00am Volunteers needed for the Troop Shipping packing of holiday care boxes and shipping out to our military/ If you have any extra greeting, birthday, or blank note cards donations would be appreciated. / On Sunday, August 13, 2023, 500 socks and 377 t-shirts were delivered to Post 716 Los Alamitos, for a shipment going out to Post 8 in Kihei, Maui for the Maui wildfires disaster assistance. The donation was on behalf of ALA 291.
- ❖ **VA & R – Heidi Maturino** – Reported on the monthly updates at our Veteran Centers we help; the US Vets, Orange Coast College Veterans Resource Center, the Long Beach Food Pantry. / Currently collecting for food drive for the Maui Disaster Relief and then we will continue the food drive for our veteran centers for the holidays. A food list was provided at the meeting.
- ❖ **Special Committees** – None
- ❖ **Old Business** – none
- ❖ **New Business** – none
- ❖ **Closing Prayer** - Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **POW/MIA Cover & Prayer** – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **The next General Meeting will be on:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 6:00pm
- ❖ **Adjournment Time:** 7:18pm

IMPORTANT SITES TO VISIT

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



❖ For God and Country

we associate ourselves together

For the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during all wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state & nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom,

and democracy;

To participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes

of The American Legion;

To consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion

to mutual helpfulness.