



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

Date: Wednesday, September 20, 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 God Bless America. She gave a brief history of the song.
- ❖ **Preamble of the Constitution of the ALA** – Kendall Madsen, Membership Chair
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** – Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary
 - **Excused** – Mary Beth Martin-1st VP, Laura Farr-Treasurer, & Stacy Eickhoff, Asst Sgt-at-Arms
- ❖ **Officer Substitutions** - None
- ❖ **Special Guests** – None.
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes dated August 16, 2023, were approved as written.
- ❖ **This Month Dimes for Times** – AEF / LEADERSHIP / PPP / PUBLIC RELATIONS

Reports & Information

- ❖ **President** – Debbie Schubert, General Announcements:
 - ALYC has a fundraiser *Bonnie Lou Gibson sail for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SVI)* on October 14, 2023, at 9:00am. Need help with more boats to participate to help take the participants out for a cruise. Contact the ALYC for more information.
 - 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 in the View Room.
 - The next District 29 meeting will be on October 14, 2023, at 9:00am at the American Legion Post 295 Cypress.
 - Open Chairmen Positions – We Have Education and Public Relations positions open. Looking for (2) Education co-chairs to share the responsibility of the position, and (1) Public Relations chair. Flyer on each table. Contact Debbie Schubert, President at president@ala291.com or Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary at secretary@ala291.com for more information or to apply for the positions.
- ❖ **1st Vice President Membership** – Mary Beth Martin – Excused and No Report
- ❖ **2nd Vice President** – Dana Johnston –
 - See's Candy Fundraiser is now on our Facebook page [ALA Unit 291 | Facebook](#). Login to our Facebook page to order or go to:

https://www.yumraising.com/secure/americanla_ala_20/Dan_Joh3763/ and place your order. Order

See's Candy for the holidays up to December 1, 2023. Orders come directly to your home.

- Bunco is on October 22, 2023, at 10:00am 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.
- Holiday Boutique is on Thursday, November 16, 2023, 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. There will be crafts, jewelry, home décor clothing and more. The vendors are small businesses and new vendors are welcome too. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to the event. We are open to the public for this event.
- Saturday, February 24, 2024 - This year our Spring Fling Party is called *Hoedown*. Tickets to go on sale after New Years.
- Sunday September 24, 2023, was Constitution Day. Her school had a Giant Constitution Assembly Day. Fun activities included our Post 291 Color Guard attending the school assembly, all the Pre-K - 5th graders dressed in red, white, and blue, every grade level recited a patriotic poem, 5th graders recited the preamble, and many more. The event promoted Americanism as one of the pillars of the American Legion.
- Put in a request to Pua for donation for up to (5) new Flag bases at her school.
- Monday, November 6, 2023 - Envelope stuffing for raffle tickets for Hoedown.
- ❖ **Secretary** – Cynthia Minucci Neal – Thank You's received since the last General Meeting
- ❖ **Treasurer/Finance** – Laura Farr – Excused. Debbie Schubert, President read the 2nd reading of the new budget 2023 to 2024. Motion was made, 2nd and carried.
- ❖ **Chaplain** – Sharon Morgan – Sent a get-well card to one of our lifetime members.
- ❖ **Historian** – Sue Lindsey – No Report
- ❖ **Executive Committee** – Jan Woolford, Bobbi Renaghan, Cynthia Culp, Kim Philhart & Peggy Bengry – No Report

Standing Committees

- ❖ **Americanism** – Carol Markel – No Report
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund** – Jan Woolford – gave a report on what the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is. We have emergency funds available for those who meet the criteria. Application available.
- ❖ **Chair Covers** – Janz Simmons – the Auxiliary rent chair covers for events at the Post. Thanked everyone that helped on September 20, 2023, putting the chair covers on for a beautiful wedding / Volunteers needed to wash chair covers. / T-shirts are available at the back table.
- ❖ **Children & Youth** – Bea Foster –
 - October 29, 2023 - Kids Halloween Party at the Post, usually have 80-100 kids participating. Asking for donations of large bags of individually wrapped candy for the event, signup sheet available to volunteer to help at the party. The candy is for both the Kids Halloween party and the Long Beach VA Hospital Kids party.
 - Saturday, November 10, 2023 - The Long Beach VA Hospital Kids party.
 - Class on Facepainting
- ❖ **Community Service** – Sharon Morgan – No Report

- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws** – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – Discuss the Standing Rules update Section 2.
 - Add reimbursement cost to \$150.00 per day, add “State” and delete “Sub-section A”. Amended to \$250.00 per day. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
 - *The annual Budget was approved by both the Board and the General Membership. The Board can approve the budget changes within the approved budget. For transparency purposes, we report these to you as follows:*
 - Amend the budget to add line item for “National Convention Reimbursement up to \$3,600.00 for a delegate”. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- ❖ **Donations Recommended by the Board** – Pua Huffine – Read by Debbie Schubert, President
 - Received an email from the ALA Dept of Hawaii President Brister Thomas (also ALA Girl’s State Director, ALA National Executive Committee, and current ALA National Chaplain), thanking us for our \$5,000 donation to the Maui Disaster Assistance donation.
 - Received an email from Bill Finster, Donation Chair for SALS, they are matching our \$5,000.00 donation for the Maui Disaster assistance.
- ❖ **Donations** - *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:*
 - **Newport Beach 1/1 Marines Foundation Suggested donation: Table for 6: \$250 pp / \$1,500** - The SALS are requesting that we (ALA) purchase a table for the Newport Beach 1/1 Marines Foundation. They are celebrating their 20th anniversary this year. They are doing a Mess Hall Night to honor the marines in the 1/1. The event will be held at the Balboa Bay Resort on September 21st. As the ALA 291 was one of the founding members, they would be very much like us to participate by either sponsoring or purchasing a table for the event (flyer provided at meeting). The event will host the top 130 officers in the 1/1 that night and will be having three separate events for the 900 remaining marines in the 1/1 at the base shortly after the Mess Night. Contact Steve Rosansky (949) 729-4404 or John H Long, 1st Vice Commander SAL 291, Newport Beach 1/1 Foundation Director (714) 797-2796 Email: jhl2745@cox.net Motion to Sponsor one table for \$1,500.00 was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
 - **Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) – Suggested donation \$1,000** – TAPS is the national nonprofit organization providing compassionate care and comprehensive resources for all those grieving the death of a military or veteran loved one. TAPS provides a variety of programs to survivors nationally and worldwide. Our National Military Survivor Seminar and Good Grief Camp has been held annually in Washington, DC over Memorial Day weekend since 1994. TAPS also conducts regional survivor seminars for adults and youth programs at locations across the country, as well retreats and expeditions around the world. Staff can get you connected to counseling in your community and help navigate benefits and resources. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
 - **The Bob Woodruff Foundation – Suggested donation \$1,000** – Mission: We ensure that our nation’s veterans, service members, and their families, those who stood for us, have

stable and successful futures through: Community Building, Housing, Emergency Financial Assistance, Food Security, Employment Aid, Legal Support, Mental Health, and Well-being services throughout the “Got Your 6” support network. Bob Woodford Foundation, 1350 Broadway, Suite 905, New York, NY 10018 Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

- **San Clemente Military Family Outreach (SCMFO) “Salute to Military Stars” Luncheon – Suggested donation \$500.00** – The 21st Annual “Salute to Military Stars” Fundraiser Luncheon Event at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, on October 28, 2023, at 1pm. SCMFO continues to provide emergency financial assistance to Military families at Camp Pendleton. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

❖ **Education** – OPEN

- ❖ **Girls State** – Caroline Miller – Updated on this year’s Girl’s State. Started contacting the high schools. Have 15 high schools confirmed. Designed several flyers last year for teachers, counselors, students, and a poster for each school. No date set for next year’s session. October 21, 2023, the ALA Dept. Girls State Meeting and finalizing the budget for the 2024 fees for Girls State.
- ❖ **Juniors Activities** – Stacy Eickhoff – Read by Debbie Schubert, President. Update on beach cleanup on Saturday, September 23, 2023 / Sending email to Juniors with information from our Americanism Chair, Carol Markel, regarding the next Americanism 2023-2024 ALA CA Dept essay contest March 8, 2023.
- ❖ **Legislative** – Pia Thompson – Read by Debbie Schubert, President - Directly subscribe to legislative alerts (in the event one is not on the ALA 291 Facebook page at <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>. Learn more at: <https://www.legion.org/legislative>
- ❖ **National Security** – Susan Siever – Read by Debbie Schubert, President - The Blood Drive is on Monday, October 9, 2023, from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Contact Susan at susandifonzo1@gmail.com or call (949) 230-3032. Sign up online at RedCrossBlood.org. Use Sponsor code AMPost291.
- ❖ **Poppy** – Bobbie Renaghan – No Report
- ❖ **Public Relations** – OPEN
- ❖ **Troop Shipping** – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal –
 - November 18, 2023, at 10:00am, is Troop Shipping – Getting currently deployed addresses of our troops working. Send out @150 boxes. Donations needed to help fill the boxes and will have flyers posted with donation items, cash and checks are accepted.
- ❖ **VA & R** – Heidi Maturino – Update on the following resources centers:
 - US Vets – On September 6, 2023, miscellaneous foods, and toiletries received from Troop Shipping, and a donated walker, and then went on a shopping spree to fill their food pantry.
 - Orange Coast College Veterans Resource Center - Went on a shopping spree on September 6, 2023, furnished and supplied food items and restocked their pantry. Will be meeting on October 12, with the resource center to go shopping for a BBQ they are having at the center
 - Long Beach VA Hospital - Went shopping to replenish the food pantry
 - P.I.E.R. program – While at the Long Beach VA ran over to the P.I. E.R. office and they were closed. Will continue to try to reach out.
 - Coastline College Veterans Resource Center – New session starting with a meeting to go over their needs.

- Food Drive - Collecting staple food items at our General Meetings for our Veteran Centers for the holidays. List of donation foods available.
- Elks Lodge - Collecting tee-shirts, underwear and socks for the Long Beach VA men and women veterans. Coordinating donations from ALA 291 to The Elks Lodge.
- ❖ **Membership** – Kendall Madsen
 - Initiation of new members ceremony - 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.
 - We are at a 2,000-member cap. Membership is closed to new members until January 2024 when the final count of membership renewals are completed.
 - To date 490 members have renewed. Goal is 1,950, and we are at 25%. Membership renewals for 2024 are due by January 2024. Renew your 2024 Membership dues online at <https://www.legion-aux.org/renew>.
- ❖ **Special Committees** –
 - **Salute to Service – Mary Beth Martin** – Read by Debbie Schubert, President - Salute to Service Day is scheduled for June 3, 2024. The first meeting of the committee will be Monday, September 25, 2023, at 4:00pm in the Fireside Room.
 - **Tailgate Wagon Raffle – Kim Philhart** – Anthony Lee was the winner of The Tailgate Wagon Raffle. He was contacted and was presented the NFL tickets with parking and the Tailgate Wagon. This has been posted on ALA 291 Facebook. Page.
- ❖ **Old Business** – None
- ❖ **New Business** – None
- ❖ **The next General Meeting** will be on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 6:00pm in the Main Hall
- ❖ **Closing Prayer** – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **POW/MIA Cover & Prayer** – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **Adjournment** Time: 7:33pm

IMPORTANT SITES TO VISIT

- ALA Unit 291 website - www.ala291.com website for information & events
- ALA Unit 291 Facebook page - [ALA Unit 291 | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ALAUnit291) Join for up-to-the-minute news.
- 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 #.
- CA Department ALA News is at www.calegionaux.com . It will have information regarding what is happening at various Auxiliary Units in California.
- American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales - www.emblems.legion.org
- American Legion Legislative alerts <https://www.voterveice.net/AmericanLegion/home>. Learn more at: <https://www.legion.org/legislative>
- **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 member ID ready. The hours to call are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST.