



**American Legion Auxiliary Los Alamitos Unit 716
Monthly General Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025**

Call to order:

The meeting held at Post 716 was called to order at 7:11 pm on February 10, 2025, by Madam President Kristin Landis. Colors in place. Chaplain provided opening prayer. Sargent at Arms prepared the MIA/POW chair. Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the American Legion Auxiliary Constitution were recited.

Roll call of Officers (conducted by Secretary):

President	Kristin Landis
First V.P.	Joanna Garcia
Second V.P.	** Open
Secretary	Gayelea Allison
Treasurer	Lori Ryon
Chaplain	Cindy Mayfield
Sgt-At-Arms	** Open
Parliamentarian	Mary Hernandez (excused)
Executive Board	Toni Mikrut
	Teresa Cespedes
	Cathy Cocks
Jr. Past President	Marcy Garcia (absence)

Attending Officers answered present. Overall Meeting Attendance: 22 members & 1 guest

Approval of minutes from last meeting:

Toni Mikrut moved that the Unit forego the reading of the minutes from last month's meeting as printed copies of meeting minutes were offered if needed and electronic copy forwarded via email to all members. Motion was adopted.

Treasurer's Report:

Joanna Garcia moved that the Unit dispense with the reading of the Treasurer's Report as printed copies provided. The motion passed to accept Treasurer's Report as filed.

New Members:

The following member applications were presented and moved for vote of approval by Unit Auxiliary Members:

- Ernestine Gonzales Banda
- Tamra Brannies
- Claudettee Cooley



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New Members (cont):

- Lauren Coombs
- Karen MacGinnis
- Rebecca Parenteau
- Debra Rendon
- Desiree Sanchez
- Josephine Tarmina

The following member(s) were obligated by unit Vice President in presence/witness of all attending Unit Auxiliary Members:

- Beverly Taylor
- Henrica Castellano

Guest Speaker(s)/Special Presentation(s):

- Ming Chen, coordinator for the Guitar for Vets local chapter, thanked the auxiliary for the donation of \$500 worth of gift cards to this program. The program serves at-risk veterans impacted by PTSD and other service-related traumas. He described the 10-week guitar instruction program as “healing thru music”.

Chaplain Report/Special Intentions:

- Kristin thanked Chaplain Cindy Mayfield for holding a prayer tribute at the legion on February 3, 2025 in honor of the Four Chaplains.
- Kristin read an article from the Stars and Stripes about Sgt. Jacob Durham of Long beach who was killed on February 6, 2025, while on a mission in support of US-Philippine activities.

Committee Reports:

AEF - Auxiliary Emergency Fund (Chairman – Lori Ryon):

- A reminder that members can still donate to the fund to support victims of the recent fires at: <https://donate.legionaux.org/CSiDonate?Give.aspx/7GY9YLF#>

Americanism (Chairman - Kristin Landis):

- Last call for Americanism Essay contest. See information flyer on table.
- Visiting a school soon? As part of the Star Spangled Kids, we can provide materials for you to share with students during your visit.



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- Upcoming important dates to fly the American flag
 - 2/12/25 - Lincoln's Birthday
 - 2/12/25 - Washington's Birthday
 - 2/17/25 - Presidents' Day

Child and Youth (Chairman Joanna Garcia):

- Currently, no updates to report

Community Service (Chairman - Gayelea Allison):

- Monthly speaking event at Rowntree Gardens Senior Living was held on 2/10/25, Cindy Mayfield presented the Four Chaplains. Next talk will be held on 3/10
- Los Alamitos community information:
 - Ribbon cutting ceremony at Stern Park on 2/18/25 @ 4pm
 - Shared information on Los Alamitos weekend of Art to be on display at community center.

Constitution & Bylaws (C&B):

- Currently, no updates to report

Education (Chairman - Kristin Landis):

- At the recent DEC, our unit was recognized for donations over \$900 to the Give 10 for Education school supply drive.
- Scholarships - Something for everyone! Many opportunities for scholarships. Please see Kristin if you are interested. List of available scholarships posted on our Unit website.

Girls State (Chairman - Cindy Mayfield)

- Volunteers are needed for chaperons on the bus rides up and back as well as for chaperoning during Girls State. Please see Cindy if interested.

Junior Activities (Chairman – Joanna Garcia):

- The Juniors made 25 Valentine gift bags for the VA. These bags included self-stamped cards for the veterans to send to their loved ones, pens, word search, playing cards, \$5 patriot bucks and other goodies.
- Juniors also made cards for the Gold Star moms.
- Our Juniors received a Western Division honor for outstanding Junior Activities Program for the 2023-2024 session.

Leadership (Chairman - Kristin Landis):

- Currently, no updates to report

Legislative Chairman - Kristin Landis):

- Interested in bills that impact veterans? Sign up to receive updates through the Grass Roots Action Center found at www.legion.org



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Membership/First Vice (Chairman - Joanna Garcia):

- Chairman Joanna shared that our units' national goal for membership is 265 paid members. Prior to tonight, our total was 215 paid members. With the additions of the members voted and obligated tonight, we have 227 paid members. 85%!
- Also, Joanna all present to keep their membership current. Only current members can vote/participate in auxiliary activities and any other benefits covered by membership.

Music (Chairman - Lori Ryon)

- please see information shared by guest speaker.

National Security (Chairmanship is open)

- March 8, 2025 is International Women's Day. See flyer for more information on how you can support this event.
- Flyers were provided to attending members regarding resources to have for an emergency kit and a list of additional preparedness.

Poppies (Chairman - Gayelea Allison):

- 2/19/25 (3pm-4pm) - Seal Beach auxiliary members will be holding a poppy making workshop at Rowntree Senior Living residence.
- 2/23/25 (2:30-5pm) - Lakewood Post will be holding a poppy making workshop. Please RSVP by 2/21 dbutler49verizon.net Bring scissors!
- Poppy poster contest details forthcoming

Public Relations - PR (Chairman – Lisa Massion)

- Kristin gave a shoutout for Taco Tuesday reel on social media.
- Encouraged members to take photos of their volunteering, patriotic holiday celebrations/events, etc. so that we not only have record for our Unit historical report but can incorporate on our PR sources as part of showing who we are and what our organization supports/has done.

Past Presidents Parley (PPP) (Chairmanship is open)

- A \$4,000 scholarship for nursing is available. Deadline for submission is April 4, 2025. Please contact Kristin for more information..

VA&R (Chairman - Cindy Mayfield)

- Cindy shared a fully tactile braille flag graphic that she plans to give to the Long Beach VA Blind unit.
- Cindy will also be distributing 250 Valentine bags made/contributed by the Juniors and other area Units in our District to Long Beach VA veterans.
- Per cuts in staff, Bingo can only be scheduled during the week at 2pm (not on weekends).
- Heads up on Vietnam Veterans' Day (3/28/25), more to come on volunteer opportunities once information/details are available.



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Correspondence: No correspondence received/presented at this meeting.

Old/Unfinished Business: No old/unfinished business to review.

New Business:

- E-Board voted (2/10/25):
 - To support paying the membership of our Gold Star Mothers
 - To support the Cypress Veteran's Resource Center (VRC) pantry for February 2025 estimated to cost approximately \$200

Announcements: Woman's Empowerment Gala black tie event and fundraiser organized by Cypress College VRC Woman's Unity Group to be held March 27th @ 5:30 pm. Flyer shared.

Upcoming Dates to be aware of:

- 3/1/25 - Race on the Base - if interested in volunteering, see Kristin
- 3/8/25 - Women's International Day
- 3/9/25 - Daylight Saving
- 3/9/25 - Bingo Fundraiser - more info to come
- 3/17/25 - St. Patrick Day
- 3/23/25 - Paint Fundraiser

Adjournment & Closing:

Chaplain offered closing prayer.

President Kristin Landis adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

**** The next meeting is Monday, March 10, 2024 @ 7:00 pm**

Minutes submitted by: Gayelea Allison, Secretary

Minutes Approved & forwarded by: Kristin Landis, President

Unit Resources:

- American Legion Auxiliary Department of California
www.calegionaux.org
- National American Legion Auxiliary
www.legion-aux.org
- Unit/Post Local Website (*local calendar of events etc.*)
www.losalamitospost716.org
www.LosAlamitosUnit716.org
- Unit Facebook Page: [Los Alamitos Unit 716](#)
- Instagram Page: [#losalamitosauxiliary](#)