



American Legion Auxiliary Los Alamitos Unit 716 Monthly General Meeting Minutes. March 10, 2025

Call to Order:

The meeting held at Post 716 was called to order at 7:10 pm on March 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
Executive Board.....	Tony Mikrut
	Teresa Cespedes
	Cathy Cocks
Jr. Past President.....	Marcy Garcia (absent)

Attending Officers answered present. Overall Meeting Attendance: 18 members

Approval of minutes from last meeting:

Mary Hernandez 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 an electronic copy forward via email to all members. Motion adopted.

Treasurer's Report:

Sheri Johnson moved that the unit dispense with the reading of the Treasurer's Report as printed copies provided. The motion passed to accept the Treasurer's Report as filed



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New Members:

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

- Michelle Ferguson
- Martha Garcia - Gold Star Mom
- Livier Ayala - Gold Star Mom
- Margaret Smith
- Catherine Trevino - Gold Star Mom
- Sandra Zuriaga – Gold Star Mom

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

- Michelle Ferguson
- Josephine Tarmina

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

Kristin requested members to submit list of volunteer hours and/or donations for 2024-2025 reporting purposes (includes all May 2024 – current/April 2025 activity). Requested that members email list prior to next general meeting or bring to the next general meeting on April 7th as respective committee reports are due April 11 by our Unit chairman to District. General tracking templates were provided on flyer table and emailed.

Chaplain Report/Special Intentions:

No report or special intentions presented at this meeting.

Committee Reports:

AEF-Auxiliary Emergency Fund (Chairman – Lori Ryon)

- Lori reported that our Unit has donated a total of \$300 this year to National AEF Fund that supports victims of natural disasters including the recent LA fires.

Americanism (Chairman – Kristin Landis)

- Reviewed Essay Contests and reminded about the due dates. Check the table for the entry cover sheets with additional essay rules and information.
- Requested if anyone needs Poppy coloring books for Star Spangled Kid Kit packs/patriotic items for school or youth group visits/activities to let her know.



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Child and Youth (Chairman Joanna Garcia)

- Juniors will have a table for Military Child presentation/ceremony at the next meeting
- Juniors will be assisting with/donating to a Mother's Day event at Precious Lamb (local non-profit for homeless mothers). More information to come.

Community Service (Chairman – Gayelea Allison)

- On March 10, held monthly speaking event at Rowntree Gardens Senior Living. The topic was the Poppy Story.

Constitution & Bylaws (C&B)

- Please let Kristin know if you would like a copy of the Unit Bylaws or Standing Rules. Copies emailed to all members earlier in the year.

Education (Chairman – Kristine Landis)

- Scholarship - \$500 from our unit to a graduating senior. Application details forthcoming as will be coordinating with District scholarship application/opportunity.

Girls State (Chairman – Cindy Mayfield)

- Cindy informed members that the interviews for Girls State have been completed. Six candidates and corresponding alternates were selected. Kristin and Toni, first time Girl State interviewers, shared their experiences with the unit members.

Junior Activities (Chairman - Joanna Garcia)

- Joanna shared the story of Unit Junior member self-organizing a clothing drive which raised over \$11k worth of donations. In recognition of her efforts, Junior Unit sent a \$50 Starbucks card to congratulate her and as “we miss you gift” since ongoing family health matter has prevented her from being able to attend meeting and volunteer at events locally/at our Unit.
- The Juniors will be presenting gift cards for both the Gold Star Manor (Gold Star Moms) and the Precious Lamb's Mother's Day event.



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Leadership (Chairman – Kristin Landis)

- If you are interested in learning about leadership roles, see Kristin or any of our current Unit officers/chairman.

Legislative (Chairman – Kristin Landis)

- Resource you can view or sign up for weekly email alerts/newsletter for legislative updates about what's happening locally and nationally regarding veterans: <https://votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>

Membership (Chairman – Joanna Garcia)

- Our Unit's membership goal is 265 members. With the new members voted in/obligated tonight (see New Members above), we are at 93%.

Music (Chairman - Lori Ryon)

- Lori's raffle basket raised \$150 for a total of \$650 this year that Lori has been able to donate to Guitars for Vets.

National Security (Chairmanship is open)

- Reminder to wear Red on Fridays to show support and remembrance of our active deployed veterans.
- Operation Shield is a new social network in Orange County that supports Veterans. For more information, visit the following website: <https://oshld.org/>

Past Presidents Parley (PPP) (Chairmanship is open)

- Reminder that the deadline to submit for the \$4,000 scholarship is fast approaching (April 4, 2025). Our unit has now received one submission.

Poppies (Chairman – Gayelea Allison)

- Held a poppy making workshop at Rowntree on March 21, 2025. There were 25 volunteers from Rowntree learning to make poppies. Big thanks to the Seal Beach Unit members Jean and Phyllis.



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- The next poppy making event will be held at Rowntree April 29, 2025 @ 2 pm. Let Gaylea know if you are interested in attending.

Public Relations – PR (Chairman – Lisa Massion)

- Kristin introduced Lisa to attending members during the meeting.
- Lisa offered to assist with flyers, social media, and any other PR ideas that members need help with. She can be reached at LisaMassion@gmail.com or (310) 995-9687.

VA&R (Chairman – Cindy Mayfield)

- Cindy mentioned that the pantry shelves are almost empty. Donations are always welcome. Also, they can use gas cards (\$25) to give to the veterans.
- Peer Group - They need items such as microwaveable meals, individual snack items, laundry pods, etc. Contact Cindy if you have items to donate.
- Cindy thanked the Juniors for the valentines provided for the Spinal Ward and Blind unit.
- Bingo Sessions: Blind Center would like to start up the bingo sessions again. These will be held in the evenings. Sessions for the Spinal Ward can only be held on Thursdays at 2 pm.
- Fisher House is also in need of food donations.

Correspondence: No correspondence received/presented at this meeting

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

New Business:

The ALA National President, Trish Ward, will be touring in southern California Thursday, March 13, 2025. A dinner reception will be held at Post 132 (Orange) on Friday, March 14, 2025. Please see flyer to RSVP.



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Announcements:

- Kristin encouraged attendees to check out the handouts on the entry table, check emails regularly (ensure unit president emails not marked/on spam junk mail list), visit the Unit website, and follow on our Unit social media sites for timely updates and event details.
- Kristin thanked all those who came to Bingo and supported the fundraiser. She was able to present a check in the amount of \$400 to Cypress College Woman's Unity Group (Associated with Cypress College Veteran Resource Center).
- There is a Krispy Crème fund raiser for Camp Hamilton. For every dozen purchased Online for \$15, there will be a \$7.50 going to Camp Hamilton. See Flyer on entry table or Post/link on our Unit Facebook page.

Upcoming dates to be aware of:

3/14 & 3/15 – Los Alamitos Art Show

3/15 – Battleship Iowa – can reserve a tour online.

3/17 – St. Patrick Day at the Post. Corn Beef and Cabbage meal

3/23 - Paint Party Fundraiser. Email Kristin if you plan to attend

3/25 - Vietnam Veteran's Day Event: Vets to be recognized at Taco Tuesday. 3/28 Holiday

3/27 – Cypress VCR Woman's Empowerment Gala. Be sure to buy your raffle tickets.

4/16 – Help celebrate Veteran Veron Ricks' 105th birthday. See flyer to send card.

5/17 – VA Baby Shower – See wish list on Amazon

5/18 – Honor Flight Return. 60 Veterans will be returning to LAX we can welcome home

Adjournment & Closing:

Chaplain offered prayer

President Kristin Landis adjourned the meeting at 8:42

****The next meeting is Monday, April 7, 2025 @ 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.LosAlamitosUnit716.org (*Auxiliary specific/dedicated website*)
 - www.losalamitospost716.org (*Post's general website*)
- Unit Facebook Page: Los Alamitos 716
- Instagram Page: #losalamitosauxiliary