



**American Legion Auxiliary Los Alamitos Unit 716
Monthly General Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2024**

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

- Esmeralda Martin

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

- No guest speakers or special presentation presented at this meeting

Chaplain Report/Special Intentions:

- Chaplain Cindy Mayfield draped American Legion Auxiliary Unit716 charter in honor of the recent passing of member Ramona Estrada.
- A memorial service for Ramona to be held on 11/2 at St. Pius in Buena Park.

Committee Reports:

Americanism (Chairman - Kristin Landis):

- Upcoming important dates to fly the American flag:
 - 11/5/24 - Election Day
 - 11/10/24 - Marine Day
 - 11/11/24 - Veteran's Day
 - 11/20/24 – Thanksgiving
- Kristin provided information sheets with information regarding the Youth Essay Contests. She encouraged members to share with anyone who met the criteria.
- The America the Beautiful color book is available to share with schools. Go to the American legion Auxiliary National website for download and print.
- Reminder that election day is Nov. 5, 2024. Get out and vote!

Child and Youth (Chairman Joanna Garcia) - no updates to report currently

Community Service (Chairman - Gayelea Allison):

- Veterans Day event to be held at the Rowntree Garden Senior Living on November 8 @2pm. All are welcome to attend.

Constitution & Bylaws (C&B): no updates to report currently

Education (Chairman - Kristin Landis):

- Kristin mentioned the upcoming Unit scholarship details will be forthcoming and that we will be providing resources/details of other available ALA, Legion and military scholarships at VRC resource fair and respectively share/make available for Unit.



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Girls State (Chairman - Cindy Mayfield)

- Cindy reminded members that another way to honor veteran's service is to purchase a commemorative button. If you have any questions, please email greenlure@yahoo.com.
- Chairman Cindy Mayfield reported that our unit will be sponsoring 6 high schools for the Girl States Program next year. They are Cypress, Oxford Academy, Pacifica, Rancho Alamitos, Rosary, and Western.

Junior Activities (Chairman – Joanna Garcia):

- Olivia will accept a plaque on behalf of the Juniors at Camp Hamilton on Veterans' Day.
- Reminder for Veteran's Day (11/11) – no Junior meeting. Instead, Juniors will make and give custom buttons to the Veterans that attended the SAL hosted BBQ lunch (11/11).
- For December, the Juniors will be purchasing toys for the Joint Force Base MEDDET South holiday celebration.

Leadership (Chairman - Kristin Landis) - no updates to report currently

Legislative Chairman - Kristin Landis) - no updates to report currently

Membership/First Vice (Chairman - Joanna Garcia):

- Currently at 56% for 2025 renewals. Joanna's goal is 100% by end of December.

Music (Chairman - Lori Ryon)

- Chairman Lori held the 1st Open Mic Night on 11/3/24. She raised \$190.00 for her fundraiser meals.
- Lori asked for donations of baskets or music type items to raffle during the next Open Mic Night which will be every Sunday night 6-8:30 in the hall.

National Security (Chairmanship is open)

- Kristin encouraged all members to support active military. She recapped the recent support of welcoming home the 40th Infantry Division troops at the Joint Force Base.
- Also, Kristin reminded members to have a family plan in case of emergencies.

Poppies (Chairman - Gayelea Allison) - no updates to report currently

Public Relations - PR (Chairman – open)

- Lisa Massion was introduced as she created and launched our Instagram page. She can assist with any public outreach (i.e. flyers, posting to Instagram) you might have.



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VA&R (Chairman - Cindy Mayfield)

- Cindy suggested other ways to support the VA & NR is to donate goods or purchase gift cards at a Ralphs or Vons. Please give the gift cards to Cindy before Nov. 21st.
- The Pier Center and the Fisher House are still in need for food and sundry donations. Please let Cindy know if you have any donations or bring to an upcoming Taco Tuesday night where we can collect/store on Cindy's behalf to be picked up and delivered to VA.

Correspondence:

- A thank you note was received by Amanda Carmichael for the donation from our unit.

Old/Unfinished Business:

- Kristin gave an update of the Holiday Boutique. There were 19 vendors. The unit made \$500 for the general fund.
- Also, Kristin shared that the donations from the recent FUNDrive clothing & household linen items collection raised \$164.

New Business:

- A reminder from Kristin regarding the importance of tracking and reporting service hours. The due date to district is Dec. 1, 2024. For more information, see Mid-Year Reports at calegionaux.org service. Members can use Unit provided tracking template/sheet, or simply write/email list with dates, brief volunteer event or donation details with hours or respective \$ amount. Unit chairman can determine which programs the service hours apply to so if your unsure just include it on your list and thank you in advance. Volunteer tracking can be forwarded monthly/through out the year as you complete them.
- Tony Mikrut will hold a fund raiser on January 11, 2025, to support Precious Life and our woman veterans. The theme will be a Pittsburg Cookie party. She is asking those who attend to donate a gently used purse filled with items a women would have in her purse. More details to come.
- The Executive Board discussed a recommendation to donate \$2,000 toward veteran families for Christmas. Joanna made a motion to allocate \$2,000 toward family sponsorships (from vetted/confirmed veteran organizations) and the motion was approved.
- The unit received a request letter from Kennedy S.T.E.M. Academy with a request to support their upcoming 5th grade educational project. The Executive board approved to donate a \$200 Amazon gift card as requested in their letter to support the project supply needs.
- Esmeralda mentioned that the CVRC Women's Unity Club will be partner with our unit to host bingo for a fundraiser. Details to follow once coordinated/confirmed.



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Announcements:

- No Taco Tuesday (11/26/24) on week of Thanksgiving Day.
- Please note the change of time for our December 9 meeting.
 - At 6pm we will meet for a soup party, potluck and social hour. Asking members to bring their favorite/specialty homemade soups or sign up to bring a desert and enjoy time together/catching up. Then at 7pm we will open the General meeting with only necessary minimal formal items (like voting in any new members) and then start our Christmas “White Elephant” gift exchange (\$25 max value).

Upcoming Dates to be aware of:

- 11/5/24 - Cypress College VRC Resource Fair from 10am – 3pm
- November 10 - Marine Corps Day/Birthday
- November 11 - Veterans Day
- December 1 - Civil Air Patrol Day
- December 3 - #Giving Tuesday
- December 7 - National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- December 13 - U.S. National Guard Birthday
- December 14 – National Wreath Across American Day

Adjournment & Closing:

Chaplain offered closing prayer.

President Kristin Landis adjourned the meeting at 8:51 pm.

**** The next meeting is Monday, December 9, 2024**

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](#)