



**American Legion Auxiliary Los Alamitos Unit 716
Monthly General Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2024**

Call to order:

The meeting held at Post 716 was called to order at 7:17 pm on October 14, 2024, 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 Toni Mikrut (excused)
- Teresa Cespedes
- Cathy Cocks
- Jr. Past President Marcy Garcia (absence)

Attending Officers answered present. Overall Meeting Attendance: 16 members & 3 guests

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 electronic copy forwarded via email to all members. Motion was adopted.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Lori Ryon spoke to changes in the Treasurer's Report to include further breakdown in Taco Tuesday's income and expenses. Cathy Cocks moved that the Unit dispense with the reading of the Treasurer's Report as printed copies provided. Motion passed to accept Treasurer's Report as filed."



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New Members:

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

- Jamie Slaughter
- Beverly Taylor
- Melanie Velasco
- Darlene Smith

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

- Vicki Howard
- Darlene Smith

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

- Debbie Proffitt, Secretary for Los Alamitos American Legion Riders, spoke regarding the contribution of Los Alamitos Riders to the over \$60k raised in California for the Veteran's Foundation. In addition, she shared that the Riders would be supporting a veteran family for Christmas and hosting a Toys for Tots breakfast on 12/1/24 (9am – 12pm). She thanked the Auxiliary for their contributions to these events/causes.
- Todd Landis, 1st Vice Commander of the Sons, shared the upcoming Son's events as follows:
 - Pumpkin Carving - 10/19/24 (12pm -3:30pm). \$10 donation
 - Steak/ Potato Friday Night Dinners – see Legion calendar for dates and times.
 - Veteran's Day BBQ Lunch – 11/11/24

Chaplain Report/Special Intentions:

- No special intentions presented at this meeting

Committee Reports:

Americanism (Chairman Kristin Landis):

- Upcoming important dates to fly the American flag:
 - 10/14/24 - Columbus Day
 - 10/27/24 - Navy Day
 - 11/5/24 - Election Day
 - 11/10/24 - Marine Day
 - 11/11/24 - Veteran's Day
 - 11/20/24 – Thanksgiving



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- Check upcoming bulletins for:
 - Youth Essay Contests
 - National and State levels
 - Grade levels 3rd thru 12th.
 - Monetary/scholarship prizes.
- 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)

- Information is coming regarding the following:
 - Adopt a family for Thanksgiving
 - Adopt a child for December holiday
 - Food drive in January

Community Service (Chairman Gayelea Allison):

- Reminder – Veteran Talks are held each 1st Monday of the month at the Rowntree Gardens Senior Living. Always looking for guest speakers. If interested, contact Gayelea.
- Veterans Day event to be held at the Rowntree Garden Senior Living on Veteran's Day.
- Library of Congress interviews with veterans are continuing
- Stay tuned for upcoming Beautification project

Constitution & Bylaws (C&B): no updates to report at this time

Education (Chairman Kristin Landis):

- Kristin thanked everyone for their donation to the Supply Drive

Girls State (Chairman Cindy Mayfield)

- Hashmithaa Thankswaran, a Girl State delegate sponsored by our unit, spoke about her experiences at this years' Girls State. She expressed her thanks for the opportunity to participate in the program and mentioned the experience changed her in a way that she had not thought possible. Chairman Cindy Mayfield presented her with the Girls State sash and certificates.
- Chairman Cindy Mayfield gave a quick review of the Girl States Program for the new members.



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Junior Activities (Chairman – Joanna Garcia):

- Junior’s Fundraiser – Car Wash raised over \$480.00
- Veteran’s Day – no Junior meeting. Instead, Juniors will make buttons for the Veterans during the SAL hosted BBQ
- No set date for November Junior meeting. Stay tuned.
- Camp Hamilton Veterans Memorial Park – Juniors to donate \$200
- Wreaths Across America – Juniors to donate \$102 which will sponsor/purchase 9 wreaths
- Juniors will be donating gas cards to the VA hospital.

Leadership (Chairman Kristin Landis)

- Several of our Unit members recently attended the Department hosted SoCal workshop October 12th. More details and information/resources from this leadership event will be shared with Unit.

Legislative Chairman Kristin Landis)

- The purpose of this committee is to provide information to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of the American Legion.
- Everyone is encouraged to sign up for legislature that impacts veterans. Go to the American Legion Website www.legion.org/legislative. Click on “Grass Roots Action Center” tab and sign up for alerts.

Membership/First Vice (Joanna Garcia):

- Memberships will be mailed tomorrow (10/15). Currently at 41% for 2025 renewals. Joanna’s goal is 100% by end of December. 2024 membership cards are valid thru December 2024. Renewed cards are valid Jan.- Dec. 2025.
- Reminder, Posts will be asking for you to show your membership card.

Music (Chairman Lori Ryon)

- Lori is planning to set up open jam/mic sessions Sundays 6-8:00 pm.
- Lori is working on organizing a program fundraiser, asking for donations of baskets or music type items.

National Security

- This committee’s purpose is to maintain and provide a strong national defense, strengthening our military families, and preparing our population for response to national and manmade disasters.
- In September our unit partnered with District donating and volunteering at the Joint Force Training Base at Los Alamitos. We collaborated with other units to welcome home approximately 400 infantry service members from the Persia Gulf.



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Poppies (Chairman Gayelea Allison)

- Poppy order has been submitted for 200 poppies.
- Meeting with Seal Beach Unit Oct. 21 to discuss how to incorporate a women group at Rowntree Garden Senior into making poppies.

Public Relations - PR

- Reminder: When posting on social media, be sure not to have alcohol present in your photos.

VA&R (Chairman Cindy Mayfield)

- For all the new members, Chairman Cindy explained that this program (Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation) supports the Veteran's Hospital and individual units of the VA such as the Community Living Center (CLC), the Pier Center, and the Fisher House
- On October 6, 2024, 4 members of the auxiliary and 1 Junior member hosted Bingo for patients at the Community Living Center. Goodie Bags and coupon books were provided to the attendees.
- Reminder that the Pier Center and the Fisher House needs food and sundry donations. Please let Cindy know if you have any donations.

Correspondence:

- No correspondence received/presented at this meeting.

Old/Unfinished Business:

New Business:

- Request for volunteers for Taco Tuesday between 4 – 8 pm. This is our unit's biggest fund raiser. It's important that we all join in and take a turn. See Joanna Garcia if you can help.
- Executive Board voted/approved to donate \$200 to Camp Hamilton Veterans Memorial Park in Bakersfield.
- Executive Board voted/approved to donate \$204 to Wreaths Across America which will sponsor/purchase 18 wreaths
 - Wreaths will be placed on the headstones of veterans on December 14 beginning 10 am at Downey Cemetery.
- Unit member and one of our bartenders Amanda Carmichael has been out for over a month due to illness/medical reasons. Joanna Garcia moved that the Unit provide \$500 for support to assist with medical bills and family expenses due to lost wages. The motion passed.



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Announcements:

- Final days for collecting and dropping off used clothing and household items (i.e. linen, towels). You may drop off at the Legion during Taco Tuesday, 10/15.
- City of Los Alamitos Trunk or Treat is 10/26/24 @ Little Cottonwood Park, 4000 Farquhar, Los Alamitos. Drop your donation of candy at Taco Tuesday (10/22/24) or bring to refill on night of event.
- Holiday Boutique will be on November 2, 2024 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Come support the vendors.

Upcoming Dates to be aware of:

- 10/19/24 - Collection Drive (clothes, linen, sheets, towels)
- 10/26/24 - Los Alamitos Trunk or Treat.
- 11/2/24 - Holiday Boutique hosted at Post from 10am – 3pm.
- 11/5/24 – Cypress College VRC Resource Fair from 10am – 3pm

Adjournment & Closing:

Chaplain offered closing prayer.

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

**** The next meeting is Monday, November 4, 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](#)
- Unit Instagram Page: [@losalamitosauxiliary](#)