

Assistance League® of Orange

February Regular Meeting

February 2, 2007

President Sharon Algeo called the February regular meeting to order at the chapter house at 10:05 a.m.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Darlene Lundgren.

Recording Secretary: Shirley Winslow stated that the minutes of the January 12, 2007 regular meeting had been read by a committee of three (3) members. There were no additions or corrections reported. The President announced that the minutes were approved as written.

President: President Sharon Algeo reminded the membership to turn off all cell phones.

She read a clever missive entitled "Ode To A Volunteer".

The President then welcomed the Past Presidents, Life and 25-Year Life members who were in attendance as special guests at today's meeting.

President Algeo stated that recommendations for the "Volunteer Angel Awards" are to be placed in the angel box in the office. The President presented **February Angel Awards** to Carolyn Seeley, for her chairmanship of the opportunity baskets at the "Embrace Orange" Fundraising event; and to Elena Hiramatsu, for creating and chairing the "100 Club" with regard to that event. It was reported that Eunice Bryant, who was absent, will be recognized and honored at the next regular meeting.

The President announced that, today, February 2nd is National Wear Red Day, as a reminder to take care of one's heart.

The President asked to be notified of any changes regarding the March 2nd, off-site meetings in the homes.

Opportunity Baskets: Beth Southern spoke on behalf of Assisteens® Auxiliary and presented opportunity baskets to be awarded at the conclusion of today's meeting. She thanked the Noël's for allowing them to offer the baskets in support of the Assisteens 2007 Medallion Presentation.

First Vice President, Membership: Chairman Melodee Fahy reported on the Membership Committee meeting that was held on January 18th. She stressed the need for ALO "ambassadors" who might reach out to the public at local schools, clubs, etc. and promote our organization in the hope of bringing in new members. The New Member Tea will be held at the chapter house on Thursday, March 15th at 10:00 a.m.

The Stein Mart "Trade In-Trade-Up" program at the Yorba Linda Store, to be held on March 23rd, 24th and 25th, was explained. The advertising for this activity would be handled by Stein Mart and customers could bring in up to three (3) garments and receive three (3) – 20% off coupons to purchase something in the store. ALO would then receive the traded garments for our Thrift Shop. Volunteers were needed to man the booth. A sign-up sheet for this was distributed at today's meeting.

The Membership Chairman reminded everyone to sign in each month for attendance credit.

Second Vice President, Resource Development: Ginny Abell reported that everything is moving forward nicely with regard to the planned “SS Embrace Orange” fundraising event to be held at the Crown Royal Plaza Hotel on March 4, 2007. Invitations have been mailed and solicitation opportunities are listed on ALO’s web site. The dress code was stated as “cocktail attire” for the ladies and “no ties” for the gentlemen. The opportunity drawing prize of a seven day Mediterranean cruise was explained and, also, the fact that no air fare was available in connection with this prize. “Club 100” and extra underwriting were also addressed.

At this time, Opportunity Basket Chairman Carolyn Seeley spoke regarding the baskets and stated that a sign-up sheet for the baskets was being distributed. The deadlines for turning in a completed basket are February 14th and 15th.

Third Vice President, Program Services: Chairman Andrea Byrnes reported that all projects are moving along nicely.

Halos: Volunteers are encouraged that the children mentored by chapter members are increasing their reading skills.

Humor, Happiness and Health: The committee will hold an “Oscar Nominee and Previous Nominees” Party at Kirkwood instead of a Valentine’s Party this year. Then, the first Thursday in March, they will honor the Oscar winners and previous winners at another Kirkwood party.

Operation School Bell®: Andrea Byrnes reported that on January 17th, our chapter enjoyed a milestone event by clothing the one thousandth (1,000th) child for the year. Cristian Tovar, a 3rd grade boy from Palmyra Elementary School, was presented with a gift certificate and an educational game. Every other child clothed that day received an orange and a wooden toy, donated by the Orange County Wood Crafters Dr. Tom Godley, OUSD Superintendent of Schools; Kim Nichols, OUSD School Board President; and Rocio Soler, OUSD Community Liaison from California Elementary School attended the clothing session. At this time, one thousand eighty (1,080) children have been dressed by OSB this year. The dressing of four hundred and four (404) pre-school children has also been completed.

Andrea Byrnes thanked Justina Lowry Professional Auxiliary, Assisteens Auxiliary and Orange Blossoms Auxiliary for their participation in providing various items to the children in conjunction with the clothing.

Orangewood Children’s Home: The February event will be a Valentine’s Day party to be held on the 6th.

Scholarships: Andrea Byrnes reported that this committee will offer scholarship applications to private high schools within the City of Orange in addition to the public high schools. The applications are also available on ALO’s web site.

Special Assistance: It was reported that the Special Assistance Chairman and Vice Chairman will now refer all calls requesting help with utilities to The Friendly Center. The Friendly Center has received substantial grants for this purpose and would be glad to take all our utilities callers. ALO is also in the process of developing a partnership with The Friendly Center in order to enable us to help with rent assistance for those requesting help. The process regarding this was explained to the membership.

The Kids on the Block®: Andrea Byrnes told of the new bookmarks that were produced with all the updated information on them. The new puppet programs need volunteers before they can be adequately presented.

Andrea Byrnes reported that the 14th Annual Ayuda Free Dental Clinic and Health Fair will be held at Yorba Middle School on Saturday, March 10th, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our chapter will be participating, and volunteers were requested to man a booth.

Corresponding Secretary: Sue Richardson reported on the following:

Outgoing Correspondence: Thinking of you cards were sent to Betty Suffon and to Elizabeth Shipley; flowers and a card were delivered to Helen Miles; and a sympathy card was mailed to Laura Heil on the passing of her mother-in-law.

Incoming Correspondence: A donation to ALO from Sandra and Charles Benz, in the memory of Laura Heil's mother, Leila Hood, was received; Villa Park realtor, Lesslie Giacobbi, made a donation of \$1,000 to the Orange County United Way with the request that the contribution be sent to ALO; and a request was received from Villa Park's High School's Grad Night Committee asking for a donation for their 2007 Grad Night. (The Board approved this request at its January 29, 2007 meeting.)

Sue Richardson stated the both Helen Miles and Marge Kelley were now doing well.

The Stein Mart "Trade In-Trade-Up" program "CL" at the Yorba Linda Store was reiterated.

Treasurer: No report.

Parliamentarian: No report.

Assisteens®: Coordinator Mary Beth Martin reported on the following:

* Assisteens completed a month of service projects at Orangewood, House and Hope, Mercy House and Ronald McDonald House. Crafts and story times were enjoyed by the children. There will be two (2) Valentine Bingo Nights this month, one at Park Plaza and the other at Summerville.

* The juniors held a grade level event on January 14th.

* Medallion plans are well underway. The Medallion Committee will meet on February 18th at the chapter house. Tickets to the 2007 Medallion event to be held on May 6th are \$60.00. The opportunity baskets to be awarded at today's meeting were again addressed.

* The new members were welcomed into full membership at their January 23rd regular meeting. Nancy Mellon, from chapter, informed the seniors of the availability of the Pan-Hellenic Scholarships. Forms were distributed regarding the auxiliary's governing body positions for the 2007-2008 year.

* The February regular meeting will be a "Family Night". A magic show, dinner and prizes will be offered.

* The prospective new member information luncheon will be held on March 26th. Both young ladies and men were encouraged to join.

Chapter Liaison to Justina Lowry Professional Auxiliary: President Algeo reminded the membership of the auxiliary's St. Patrick's Day fundraising event to be held on March 17th.

Chapter Liaison to Orange Blossoms Auxiliary: The President told of Orange Blossoms Auxiliary's fundraising event, "A Taste of Orange", to be held on April 28th.

Chapter Center: No report.

Hospitality: Karen O'Keefe introduced today's luncheon committee and thanked members of the Hospitality Committee for serving as hostesses.

With regard to the March off-site evaluation meetings, one (1) more home was reported to be needed at this time due to a cancellation. Marlene Coult volunteered the use of her home.

Regarding chapter's social outings, the chairman reported that there is a sign-up sheet for members wishing to attend Dr. Phil's Show on February 21st, and also for the April 19th date to take the train to San Juan Capistrano Mission for a docent tour at 10:15 a.m. followed by lunch at Ramos House and shopping.

President Algeo thanked the Hospitality Chairman for handling all of the arrangements for today's meeting and luncheon.

Public Relations: Robin Lyall stated that on Friday, January 19th, Mmes. Algeo, Arnold, Abell and Lyall were interviewed by Pat Buttress for the Channel 6 show "Orangview". They spoke of ALO's history, its auxiliaries, its projects, the clothing of the 1,000th student, the upcoming "SS Embrace Orange" fundraising event, and Scholarship opportunities. The taping was shown on Thursday, February 1, at 6:30 p.m. on Channel 6.

Dental Center: Chairman Beth Brake informed the membership that the Dental Center conducted the first free dental screening with children from Operation School Bell on Wednesday, January 24th. Approximately one (1) dozen children were screened, one (1) appointment for dental follow-up was made, and the remaining families were provided with paperwork to fill out. Five Hundred Thirty-one (531) patients have been seen in the Center so far this year.

Thrift Shop: Chairman Debbie Cheatham stated that the Antique Fair is in two weeks and the shop will be open for longer hours, as well on Sunday, during that time. Additional volunteers were needed to work on Saturday, February 17th. Thrift Shop's January sales totaled \$12,938.

Boutique Noël: No report.

COMMITTEES:

Bridge: President Algeo reported for Chairman Nancy Mellon that, to date, the total receipts raised from the January and February bridge classes totaled \$3,700. Costs for the same period of time amounted to \$1,160.28. The surplus realized now stands at \$2,539.72

Noëls: President Algeo reported that there will be a meeting of the Noël's Committee on Tuesday, February 6th at 10:00 a.m. A brunch will be served.

Nominating Committee: 2007-2008 Nominating Committee Chairman Jan Naylor reported on the difficulty of finding members willing to “step up” to assume some of the Board positions such as President, President Nominee, etc. This issue was discussed.

Mrs. Naylor, who is, also, the chairman of project HHH, sadly informed the membership of the death of Kirkwood Director Jasmine Crowl’s son who was serving in Iraq. Flowers and a sympathy card will be sent to Mrs. Crowl expressing ALO’s sincere condolences.

Strategic Planning: Strategic Planning Chairman Joy Nicholls told of the rewards of serving as president of ALO and encouraged the membership to consider Board positions when asked. She discussed a plan for, objectives to be met, and goals in sight, with regard to what the focus should be as to the future plans for ALO. The agenda for the March off-site meetings will be set with these areas of discussion in mind.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

At this time, President Sharon Algeo was honored by Past President Norma Hockensmith with the presentation of a flower, depicting the President’s month of birth, which she placed in the Presidents’ floral bouquet arrangement.

The President introduced the Life and 25-Year Life members who were in attendance. She also recognized and introduced the Past Presidents as “Volunteer Angels”, and commanded each to sit on an “Angel Throne” whereon they were “awarded” angel wings and halo. A good time was had by all.

Opportunity Prize: Beth Brake, representing the Assisteens, conducted the drawing for the opportunity prizes to benefit the Medallion event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The President stated that articles for the March, 2007 Limelight are due to Courtney by February 15th.

The March regular meeting will be off-site meetings conducted in the homes on March 2nd. Coffee time is 9:30 a.m. with the meetings to begin at 10:00 a.m. It was noted that the listing of attendees for the respective homes was in the February Limelight.

President Algeo thanked everyone who attended today’s meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a. m.

Sharon Algeo
President

Shirley Winslow
Recording Secretary