

Assistance League® of Orange
January Regular Meeting
January 11, 2008

President Betsy Little called the January regular meeting to order at the chapter house at 10:25 am.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by new member Kathleen Johnson.

President: President Little wished all members a Happy 2008 and asked everyone to work together as a team to make this year a great year for the league. She reminded members to turn off their cell phones and to make sure they read the Limelight every month for important information. The Limelight is available online around the 20th of each month.

She thanked members who brought canned food donations today for the Friendly Center and told us how much our donations help their depleted stores. She indicated there will always be a box in the chapter center to leave items throughout the month.

She stated the February 1st meeting will recognize our past Presidents and indicated the tribute would be short and fun. She indicated the March 7th meeting would be held in member's houses and asked for anyone willing to be a hostess to contact Sandy Eyerly, as we need hostesses.

President Little stated that last month's vote yielded division within the league family. Thus, to help insure harmony between all Chapter and Auxiliary members, Carol Miller, National President and Anne Neish, Vice President – Membership will visit us on January 17th at 6:45 pm. She asked for all interested members to join these National Leaders for dessert and coffee.

President Little presented a **Helping Hands Award** to **Joy Nichols** for all her hard work on the Strategic Planning Committee and helping us reach our objectives and goals. She also advised us Joy Nichols was a Past President and had over twenty years of service at the National level.

Noëls Opportunity Drawing: Noëls Chairman Jackie Carter reported that she did not prepare any opportunity baskets for this meeting because she was “pooped” from Boutique and the holidays. At the suggestion of member Etta Williams, a 50/50 basket drawing was passed around. Chairman Carter also indicated that inventory and clean up of the Noëls room would be conducted on 1/15/08 and 1/22/08 and that she could use some help.

Recording Secretary: Jan Doezie (formally elected by the Board to complete the year as Recording Secretary since former Recording Secretary, Lisa Webb, was unable to continue with her duties) requested that the minutes of the December 4, 2007 general

meeting be approved as presented and stated that these minutes had been read by three members. She made the following motion:

MOTION: Jan Doezie moved that the minutes of the December 4, 2007 general meeting be approved as presented and that these minutes were read by three members.

Motion approved January 11, 2008.

Treasurer: Kathy Davis provided members with year to date financial information and indicated that this information would be available online for members and chairman to review.

President Nominee: Ellie Jordan reported that she and President Little would be attending the President's Roundtable on January 21st at the Assistance League of Fullerton. She indicated that they would be discussing the issue of renting out the chapter house.

She indicated the National Conference will be in Los Angeles this year, from October 20-24, 2008. She made a motion to membership about adding Strategic Planning to the Board, as follows:

MOTION: Ellie Jordan and the Board move to make Strategic Planning a member of the Assistance League of Orange Board.

Motion approved January 11, 2008.

President Elect Jordan reminded members about the March meetings in homes and that the focus would be planning for the future.

Strategic Planning: Chairman Joy Nichols indicated that Strategic Planning committee has the duty to set objectives and help the league reach their goals for the future. She indicated that our goals stay on the books until they are accomplished or voted off the list. She stated the perfect opportunity for members to be heard on chapter goals is during the March meetings in member homes. She asked members to come to the meeting with some "criticism" about a problem, plus an idea how to solve the problem. She said one "criticism" to consider would be, "Why does chapter have such a hard time getting members to run for positions?" The answer might be to reconfigure the board (add/delete positions) and/or relieve certain positions of administrative duties. These potential solutions could make it more likely a member would be willing to do the job. She encouraged all of us to attend these March meetings and put on our thinking caps.

1st Vice President – Membership: Melodee Fahy announced that the next committee meeting would be Friday, January 18th, at 9:00 am at chapter house.

New Member Orientation: Michele Ohanian stated that the Secret Santa project was a wonderful success, but did not have the final dollar totals yet. She reported that one family adopted for Secret Santa had been referred to us by member Elise Luckham because they had lost everything in the Southern California fires. It turns out this family received so many gifts from us and other organizations, that the family's children elected to take their extra gifts to Orangewood and share with less fortunate children there. They "paid it forward" and felt good about their sharing with others. She also indicated that the new members have had a rough start this year, but encouraged them to hang in there in the coming months.

New member Judy Carpentier thanked all of the members who were so generous to contribute towards the Secret Santa project. She said this project was an overwhelming task to complete, at a busy time in everyone's life, but it brought the new members closer together and was a resounding success. She told a story about member Debbie Cheatam's co-worker who heard about our Secret Santa project and donated \$300 towards the purchase of gifts. She told us that outsiders see the good works we are doing and want to contribute. This money allowed the new members group to purchase shoe vouchers for everyone they adopted.

2nd Vice President – Resource Development: Carolyn Seeley reported that United Way presented a check in the amount of \$3,716.33 from the City of Orange employees' fundraisers to the league. She indicated that Amy Stoner set up a table with info about the ALO so city employees could designate Assistance League as their charity of choice. This check will be split evenly with the auxiliaries.

She also reported that donations for the annual fundraising campaign have grown to over \$21,000.

She reminded us that Embrace Orange is scheduled for March 9, 2008 at the Crown Plaza Resort. Carolyn Seeley, Deena Arnold and Ginny Abel (via phone) reminded us that the dress would be casual tropics or aloha attire; that Visa, MasterCard, cash, and checks would be accepted; and that there would be a wonderful dinner, on-board shopping, and casino games for all. She indicated the committee had met with the Auctioneer for the evening and that they are very excited about the event.

Carolyn Seeley stated that Laura Farr was the underwriting chairman and seeking donations for the event.

Eunice Bryant stated she is handling donation letters. She is being helped by Karen O'Keefe. She reported that they have sent three hundred letters to date and eight have agreed to assist with underwriting.

Lori McNair stated she is handling Silent Auction Baskets. She indicated the baskets can be completed at Eunice Bryant's home on February 19th and 26th from 1-7 pm. She indicated that baskets or individual items can be dropped off at Eunice Bryant's home,

her home, or the home of Carolyn Seeley. She asked that the baskets and/or items be clearly labeled with their contents. She referred to the Basket Theme list that was passed out today for suggestions as to possible baskets.

Judy Carpentier stated she is handling printing of the invitations. She stated there would be an envelope stuffing party at the chapter center on January 17th at 9:00 am and asked for members to come by and help out. She also discussed the “invitation list” and asked members to personally invite anyone they knew on the list. The invitations were expected to go to press this week.

3rd Vice President – Program Services: Elise Luckham was and asked that members be reminded that Operation School Bell needs volunteers to dress children on January 16th and 23rd at 8:00 am.

Ande Byrnes, Chairman of Pre-school Operation School Bell, stated there would be a bagging party at the chapter center on Wednesday January 23rd from 6-9 pm and again on Thursday January 24th from 9:00 am until done. She asked members and the auxiliaries to stop by and help with bagging. She thanked Orange Blossoms for providing shoe vouchers this year and last.

Lynn Herndon, co-chairman of Special Assistance, reported that they were busy in December helping people in the community. She stated the Principal of Silverado Elementary School referred a family to us that had been left homeless by the fires and asked if we could help this family out. She stated she met with the family at Wal-Mart and presented a voucher for \$200 to help the family buy gifts for Christmas. She said this family was so grateful to be able to celebrate Christmas. She said this was the most rewarding experience she has ever had being an Assistance League member.

She stated that the screening process with the Friendly Center is working out well. She said our two organizations work closely together to help the families receive the help they need. The Friendly Center asked our members to remember to donate their gently used beds and/or mattresses to them. And, to tell our Assisteens that the Friendly Center can always use tutors. She also stated that if people call for help and live outside of Orange, they can still be referred to her, as she has a list of referral numbers for other cities.

Corresponding Secretary: Peggy Stephens reported that Trinity Episcopal Church donated five hundred new books to Thrift and that Coventry Pedestrian Church donated over fifty boxes of wonderful clothing to Thrift. She also reported that Elizabeth Selman Shipley, a 59 year member, and Ms. Palmer, a past member recently passed away. She reminded us that we are in the Assistance League for the “fun and friendship” and “volunteering.”

She also read a Thank You Card from Shirley Winslow from June 2007 thanking the members for awarding her the 25 Year Life membership classification.

Parliamentarian: Sharon Algeo stated that it was time to form the Nominating Committee. She stated that the Board had selected Jan Doezie and Deida Conrad, along with Char Vaughn as alternate, to be on the committee. She asked for three members and 1 alternate from general membership to volunteer: Sue Drobish, Michele Ohanian and Jackie Carter, along with Eunice Bryant as alternate, were selected.

Assistees® Coordinator: Deena Arnold had no report. See Limelight for program updates.

JLA Liaison to Chapter: Joyce Hansen had no report but reminded everyone that the JLA fundraiser is scheduled on March 16th, details to follow.

ALO Liaison to Orange Blossoms: Char Vaughn reminded members that the Orange Blossoms will hold their Taste of Orange on April 26th at the chapter center.

Chapter Center: Deida Conrad reviewed costs to repair the chapter center's gas main. She made the following motion:

MOTION: Deida Conrad and the Board move to approve a budget increase of \$5,600 to cover the cost of the necessary work completed to fix the chapter center's gas leak.

Motion passed on January 11, 2008.

Hospitality: Sandy Eyerly thanked this month's luncheon committee chaired by Donna White who stated the oranges and walnuts in today's lunch came from her parents orchards. She also thanked Charlene Sweetman for making fourteen loaves of the special breads we enjoyed. Sandy Eyerly also thanked Etta Williams for the lovely tulip table decorations and indicated they could be purchased today for \$10.

Public Relations: Barbara Khazoyan had no report.

Dental Health Center: Beth Brake had no report, but reminded members that Dental will re-open on January 14th.

"Now and Again" Thrift Shop Chairman: Cindy McCandless was not present. Deida Conrad conducted a spot quiz on tagging in Thrift.

Boutique Noël: Jan Doezie reviewed the results of the committee meeting on December 18th. She requested that all garden and window signs still outstanding be returned for use next year. She made the following two motions regarding Boutique 2008, as follows:

MOTION: Jan Doezie and the Board move the following dates and times be adopted for Boutique 2008:

<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>October 29th</u>	<u>4-9 pm</u>
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>October 30th</u>	<u>10-8 pm</u>
<u>Friday</u>	<u>October 31st</u>	<u>10-3 pm</u>
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>November 1st</u>	<u>10-8 pm</u>
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>November 2nd</u>	<u>11-4 pm</u>

Motion passed on January 11, 2008.

MOTION: Jan Doezie and the Board move that the purchase of six new adding machines with line item numbers be approved, not to exceed \$250 as a chapter expense.

Motion passed on January 11, 2008.

COMMITTEES:

Bridge: Nancy Mellon reported that twenty-six members had signed up for “Play of the Hand” classes beginning January 22nd from 9:30-11:30 am. She stated that members are invited to bring a box lunch and continue playing after the lesson concludes.

Circle Pin: See Susie Blakesley to make your donation and order your pin.

Hours: Janet Cairney reminded all members to turn in their hour sheets.

Restoration: Cindy McCandless had no report.

UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS:

Opportunity Drawing: Jackie Carter announced that \$275 was collected in the 50/50 drawing and half went to the winner Pat Fernandez, who immediately donated her half back to the league. Pat Fernandez also won the Raffle and received a \$5 gift card from Starbucks.

Announcements:

Limelight articles are due by January 15th to Courtney.

The next regular meeting is on February 1st.

Remember to mark your calendars and attend the meeting with National on January 17th at 6:45 pm.

Robin Lyall announced there will be a brief scholarship meeting after today’s meeting.

Adjournment: This meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Betsy Little
President

Jan Doezie
Acting Recording Secretary