



American Legion Auxiliary District 29

Area 5
Department of California



A Fresh Slice of **RANGE**

COUNTY



- Unit 72 Anaheim
- Unit 131 Santa Ana
- Unit 133 Huntington Beach
- Unit 132 Orange
- Unit 222 Laguna Beach
- Unit 257 Laguna Hills
- Unit 277 Placentia
- Unit 281 South Orange County
- Unit 295 Cypress
- Unit 291 Newport Beach
- Unit 327 Leisure World
- Unit 354 Buena Park
- Unit 555 Albert Schwab
- Unit 679 Richard Nixon
- Unit 716 Los Alamitos
- Unit 721 San Juan Capistrano

January 2025



Hello to all Auxiliary Members!!!

Once again, I am having problems with my computer — sometimes it takes just a little patience and waiting for the magician to fix things for me.

Hope you all have had great Christmas and New Year festivities. Please send unit pictures to our Historian, Pat Burr.

Hopefully with the New Year, we will be able to help La Habra get set up and functioning soon. If anyone is interested in helping with this,, please let me know. We also, have several units needing help in different areas AND we have one unit that will be going back on “probation” status at the annual Department Executive Committee meeting coming up this month.

Every member is invited to our District meeting this month on 01/11/2025 as we will be having our Department President, Linda Hayes, visiting our district. The meeting is at the Anaheim Post 72 located at the corner of Lemon Street and La Palma Avenue in Anaheim at 10:00 a.m. ---please carpool as parking at the Post is quite limited.

Lastly, there are some Units that seem to be having “Unit” problems — please discuss these problems as outlined on the cover of the December “Slice of Orange” news. We are here to help which we cannot do unless the steps have been followed. AND if anyone would like to help with the La Habra Unit, please let us know ASAP as the 13 applications have already been sent to Department.

See you soon — thank you for all that you are all doing for our veterans and their families!

Pat

District President, Pat
Phone: (714) 342-4173



“Linda is a lifetime member of the Palmdale American Legion Auxiliary Unit 348. Her eligibility is through her father’s service as a US Marine during WWII. Her husband served during the Vietnam era in the US Army. She and her husband are 32-year members of the American Legion Family.

She has been a Department Chairman for twelve terms, the 2023-2024 Vice President, and was the Representative to the Lancaster CalVet Home.

Linda served as Unit President for multiple years. She served as District 20 President in 2011-2012. She has held nearly all positions and chairmanships at both the unit and district levels.

After graduation from high school, she went to business school in Bakersfield. Linda was later employed by the Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District where she retired after 28 years; her job titles included School Secretary and Administrative Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools for 22 years. Upon her retirement, she and her husband were co-owners of Screenmobile of the Antelope Valley and Victorville/Apple Valley. Linda also worked weekends as a bartender at Post 348.

Linda is the mother of two sons (both SALs) who were avid baseball players all through school, including the American Legion Baseball program in Palmdale. Richard and Linda have a combined family of three more sons, four granddaughters, two grandsons, two great-grandsons, and two great-granddaughters.

Linda enjoys time with her family, cooking, reading, jig-saw puzzles, sudoku, traveling, and camping. She especially enjoys a good game of Solitaire with her granddaughter.”

from: <https://calegionaux.org/>



District 29 Officers and Chairs

President, Pat Alvarez 714-342-4173
ed50pat49@yahoo.com

Vice President I, Cindy Mayfield 714-308-2862
samramay@yahoo.com

Vice President II, Cindy Edes 714-906-6021
cindyedes@gmail.com

Secretary, Noella Passarelli 714-756-0236
n.passarelli83@gmail.com

Treasurer, Kim Thompson 714-713-1052
kt040495@yahoo.com

Chaplain, Gail Spitzform 626-506-0366
spitz316@aol.com

Historian, Pat Burr 949-633-1848
pat949@comline.com

Sergeant-at-Arms, Yoli Gonzalez 909-730-9212
yoligz@yahoo.com

Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms, Janet De Monceau Bergendal
949-887-8945 rjdumon@yahoo.com

Americanism, Kristin Landis 562-964-9020
klandis515@yahoo.com

Aux. Emergency Fund, Nancy Hall, 714-504-8433
nancytchs@aol.com

Children and Youth, Dar Phillips 714-293-6157
justdardar@gmail.com

Community Service, Stacey Smith 714-273-8111
Onyxbear612@yahoo.com

Constitution & By-Laws, Cindy Edes See VP II

Education, Wendy Hart Hagen 714-448-0254
wendyhart.oc@gmail.com

Girls’s State, Noella Passarelli See Secretary

Junior Activities, Joanna Garcia 562-225-8411
jgarcia90815@yahoo.com

Leadership, Cindy Edes See VP II

Legislative, Leisha Fauth 714-469-1825
lfauth36@gmail.com

National Security, Yoli Gonzalez See Sergeant-at-Arms

Past President’s Parley, Pat Burr See Historian

Poppy: Pat Alvarez 714-342-4173
ed50pat49@yahoo.com

Public Relations, Wendy Hart Hagen See Education

Veteran’s Affairs and Rehabilitation Cindy Mayfield
See VPI

National Security, Yoli Gonzles 909-730-9212
yoligz@yahoo.com



GIRLS STATE



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
GIRLS STATE PROGRAM
2024-2025



Bulletin #5

www.cagirlsstate.org

January 2025

Happy New Year!

Happy 2025!

I'm hoping you all had a very happy holiday and are ready for the upcoming *Girls State Adventures*. Put it in 1st gear. Hang on. Here we go!

We currently have 443 Reservations with some that have yet to be updated. Our original goal was 440. We made it! Maybe we will make it to 450! I'm so excited by our progress. Thank you for all your work!! [2025 Reservation Form](#) (if you have not already submitted your schools). If you have submitted one or more schools already, please send me an email with the School Name, City and if the School is Public or Private. We will enter those schools in the computer.

Unit Girls State Chairperson To Do List:

- Contact your schools when they open with a Welcome Back, Happy 2025! note. All of us are on different pages with our programs. Some of you are ready for interviews and others are just getting your list from the schools. My advice is to work at your own pace. Don't worry if another Unit is ahead of you or your planning.
- Review the [Reservation List](#) for accuracy. Send email to alacagschair@gmail.com to correct or add to the list.
- Continue reviewing the Candidate Selection slides. Both you and your Unit President must take the Candidate Selection Quiz before selecting Candidates. The quiz is not graded and will not disqualify you if you miss some answers, but we need to have record that you have taken it in order to be in compliance with our Girls State Code. [2025 Candidate Selection Quiz](#).
- Download, review and start filling in the [2025 Unit Information Packet](#) so that you will have it ready before you select the Delegates.
- Once you have the names of the Candidates, let the school know your interview plan or schedule.
- When interviewing, ALWAYS explain to the Candidates that they cannot arrive late or leave early from the 2025 Girls State Session. They must attend the ENTIRE session. There is no time for other school work, interviews, virtual meetings or any responsibility. If they do not attend the ENTIRE session (including leaving for illness), they do not

get credit for having attended Girls State. **No awards, Certificates, or pin.**

- Always select a Delegate and Two Alternates. If a Delegate drops and there is no alternate, your Unit will not receive a refund from Department.
- Initiate a [Interview Tally U105.pdf](#) Remember to ask each Candidate the same questions.
- Review the "to do list" for January on [2024-2025 Suggested Calendar for Girls State Chairs](#). If you are further ahead of the others or just want to start planning, check the February To Do List.

We will be using a new Zoom Link for our Monthly Zoom Recordings. Hopefully we will have more success. Please contact me if you missed a zoom meeting. I will go over what we discussed. Additionally, If you have questions that have not been answered or you need help, call me at the number below.

Next Zoom: Monday, January 13th at 7:00 pm

Topic: ALA Girls State Chair Zoom

Time: Jan 13, 2025 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7142722021?pwd=TERIN2pxd3VDeVNIQytSSStWTWw2Zz09&omn=81225214451>

Meeting ID: 714 272 2021

Passcode: GZv6QD

Links and Information from Previous Bulletins

[GS 2024-2025 Links](#)

[2025 ALA CAGS Candidate Selection Quiz](#)

[Unit Information Packet](#)

[Website 2025 Reservations List \(Responses\)](#)

[Reservation Form](#)

[2024-2025 Suggested Calendar for Girls State Chairs](#)

[Interview Tally U105.pdf](#)

Thanks for all your work. Your work for this program changes lives.

Caroline Miller

alacagschair@gmail.com

(562) 444-8296



AMERICANISM

D29 Unit Presidents & Americanism Chairman:

Let me start by thanking all Units/Chairman that have submitted their Mid-Year reports! As of this morning I have received 10/16 and can accept late submissions at today's district meeting or via email by end of day from those that have not done so (you will receive a separate courtesy email reminder if your Unit's report is still outstanding). Again, Americanism is more than just the youth essay contest and should be part of and practiced by ALL units and members so at the very least/bare minimum report your hours for holidays observed and flying your flags.

December 28th is National Pledge of Allegiance Day, and our National Chairman put together a wonderful newsletter with information/history for observance of this which you can also email or print and share with local schools/educators and your members. It's even themed with a patriotic Christmas image for the Holidays. I've attached a copy to this email for your reference and convenience.

Have you been making/distributing Star Spangled Kid Kits? As you/your Units support holiday toy drives, family adoptions (especially for our veteran/military families), and participate in community celebrations consider adding Kit items/publications, coloring books, comic books, etc. Being the Holiday season even an American Flag or other patriotic themed ornament handout or pledge of allegiance bookmarks with gifted books. Get creative, have fun, and track how many you distribute. For January I'm working on some special resources to handout/present in honor of Madam Department President (AKA Lady Liberty's) District Visit with her American the Beautiful theme as inspiration. I've attached a short resource flyer for some of the items for Kits you can order through emblem sales with this email. There is also another free American Activity book I found which can be downloaded from the Disabled American Veterans website (www.dav.org) - copy attached for your use and convenience.

Lastly, I know you are all working hard on advertising or with local schools for the current year's Americanism Essay Contests. The Department chairman is now looking for next year's essay title submission suggestions. If you have any educators that would like to submit a proposed essay title, or you have one yourself for one/any of the age groups please email them to me before Christmas so I can ensure they are respectively forwarded to the Chairman before her January 1st deadline. Be sure to include the name and unit # on your emails/submissions. Submissions will be reviewed by the committee during D.E.C.

Thank you all again for your hard work and dedication for this program, your Units and community!

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

Kristin Landis
District 29 Americanism Chairman
ALA Unit 716 President
3252 Florista St
Los Alamitos, CA 90720
(562) 964-9020

FROM THE NATIONAL CENTRAL CHAIR OF THE AMERICANISM PROGRAM

NATIONAL PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE DAY



National Pledge of Allegiance Day is celebrated on December 28 to commemorate the adoption of the Pledge of Allegiance into the United States Flag Code by Congress in 1945. The Pledge of Allegiance, originally written by Francis Bellamy in 1892, has undergone several changes, including the addition of the words "under God" in 1954 during the Cold War. The day serves as a reminder of the patriotic values and principles that the Pledge represents, such as liberty, justice, and unity. It also highlights the historical significance of the Pledge in American culture and its role in fostering national unity and patriotism.

For many of us, the Pledge of Allegiance was something we knew by heart and recited each morning in school. With our right hands over our hearts and our eyes cast upward at the flag on the wall, we were taught to show our patriotism.

The first iteration of a patriotic Pledge of Allegiance was penned in 1885 by Civil war veteran Colonel George Balch, but it shares almost no similarities to the Pledge of Allegiance many of us learned in grade school! It wasn't until 1892 that Francis Bellamy, an editor at the children's magazine "The Youth's Companion", was asked to write a patriotic verse to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus touching down on the continent that the official original version of the Pledge was written.

Bellamy, who was both a former Baptist minister and a Christian socialist, was inspired by the French concepts of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity" while writing the Pledge. What he came up with is like what is recited in schools today, excluding the phrase "under God" – but we'll get around to explaining that.

Continue - Over the late 1800s and early 1900s, the pledge was widely adopted in schools, and Balch's Pledge was dropped. Small tweaks were made in the text, but the meaning remained unchanged. For example, today we say, "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America," which wasn't always the case! The National Flag Conference added the phrase "of the United States of America" in 1923 and 1924.

Congress formally adopted the Pledge in 1942, declaring that it should be recited with one's right hand over one's heart.

One of the more significant changes occurred in 1954 when President Eisenhower asked Congress to add the controversial phrase "under God" to the text. This was an effort to differentiate the American way in communist times. There has also been great debate over whether schools should require children to recite the pledge – even before the religious addition. One 1940 ruling, which compelled children to say the pledge, was quickly overturned by a 1943 ruling. There were significant challenges to the mandatory pledge in the 1930s and 1940s, as they found it to be a form of idolatry and went against their religious beliefs.

In 2004, there was a ruling that children did not have to stand for the pledge. This followed a 2002 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals case in which an atheist, whose daughter would soon start school, argued that the pledge was an unconstitutional endorsement of monotheism. Between 2006 and 2015, there have been over 5 significant court cases challenging- or somehow related to the phrase "under God" – the most recent 2015 ruling stated that the phrase did not violate any atheist rights. (research google)

2024-2025 LEADING THE WAY



HOW TO OBSERVE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE DAY

1. Learning history
2. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Celebrate Pledge of Allegiance Day
4. Post #Pledge of Allegiance Day on social media

WHY PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE DAY IS IMPORTANT

1. It's patriotic

There's no better way to reaffirm your love for your country than taking the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge is meant to make Americans proud of our land and people, so celebrating Pledge of Allegiance day is truly patriotic!

2. It's a part of our history

The Pledge of Allegiance had a difficult journey in history to arrive where it is today. Researching the Pledge's metamorphosis throughout distinct eras of history gives insight into America's background – it's worth a bit of reading.

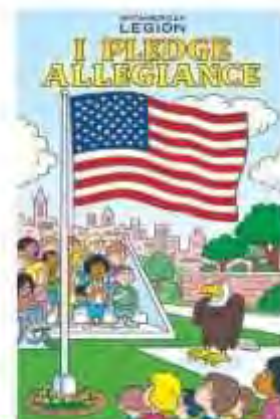
3. It honors people who serve the country

From government officials to military members, many people who selflessly serve our nation feel honored to hear people reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. It's a way to thank them for their sacrifices!



Our Country's Flag Comic Book History, significance, and proper treatment of U.S. flag

Item # : 755.300



Pledge of Allegiance Comic Book
16 pages of activities & stories

Item # : 755.302



Indivisible - The Story of Our Flag
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST! Item # : 755.915

All available on Emblem Sales

- Chairman - Christine Trahan
(Department of Texas)
- Vice-Chairman - Julia Moore
(Department of Illinois)
- Central Division - Mary Sypherd
(Department of Iowa)
- Eastern Division - Bonnie Lamson
(Department of Maryland)
- Northwestern Division - Vicki Ozenbaugh
(Department of Nebraska)
- Southern Division - Bonita Robey
(Department of Kentucky)
- Western Division - Dorothy Hazen
(Department of New Mexico)



“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

STAR-SPANGLED KIDS KITS

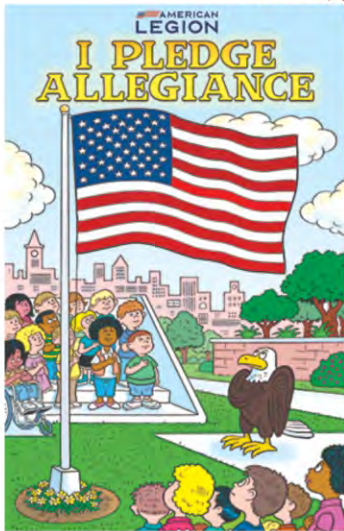
**ALA's "How to Promote Star-Spangled Kids"
information sheet available at**

<https://member.legion-aux.org/Member/Committees/Americanism/How-to-Promote-Star-Spangled-Kids> .

Star Spangled Kids: Educate youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism and the U.S. Constitution.

**All the items listed are available from The American Legion Flag & Emblem at
<https://emblem.legion.org>. Subject to availability.**

Of course, you can always add other patriotic items to your Star Spangled Kids kits!



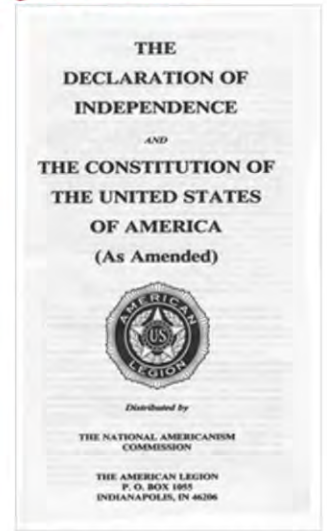
Item Number: 755.302
\$1.00
Special Pricing:
→ Buy 100 for \$0.79/each



Item Number: 755.300
\$1.00
Special Pricing:
→ Buy 100 for \$0.79/each



Item Number: 755.200
\$1.00
Special Pricing:
→ Buy 100 for \$0.80/each



Item Number: 755.206
\$0.75
Special Pricing:
→ Buy 100 for \$0.50/each



Item Number: 100.200G
\$109.00
Price is for one gross (144)



Item Number: 815.613
\$1.99



U.S. Flag Patriotic Stickers
Item Number: 750.141



U.S. Flag Decals
Item Number: 850.103

Please add any other resources you have that will help educate our youth.



Calling all Members~

It is time to submit your ideas for the

Americanism Essay titles

2025-2026

There are 5 Groups:

- Grades 4/5
- Grades 6/7
- Grades 8/9
- Grades 10/11/12
- Special Needs

Please feel free to submit your idea for one group, several, or all five.

Deadline for submissions: January 1, 2025

Send your ideas to:

americanism@calegionaux.org

Thank you~

Robin Falkenberg, Americanism Chairman 2024-2025





EDUCATION

**ON THE NEXT PAGE
YOU WILL FIND INFORMATION
THAT MUST BE DISTRIBUTED
TO THE PROPER PERSONS
NOW.**

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.



EDUCATION

SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLY: September 1, 2024 to March 26, 2025

JAMES H PARKS SCHOLARSHIP

Each Veterans Affairs medical center may nominate one Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS) Student Volunteer to be considered for this scholarship. The nominee must have completed 100 hours of regularly scheduled VAVS during a calendar year prior to September 1. **LAST DAY TO APPLY DEC. 31.**

<https://www.volunteer.va.gov/ParkeScholarship.asp>

Continuing/Re-entry Students or students pursuing a higher degree Scholarship

Eligibility for all educational scholarships to be awarded by the Department of California shall be granted only to students attending schools in California and who are a veteran, son, daughter, or spouse of a veteran.

Applicants for any Department of California Scholarship must be a resident of the State of California and planning on attending a college or university in California in the Fall. (Exception: Lucille Ganey Scholarship.)

<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://calegionaux.org/resources/scholarships/scholar-ca-E21c-app-for-ed-assist-for-continuing-or-reentry.pdf>

LUCILLE GANEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Eligibility for all educational scholarships to be awarded by the Department of California shall be granted only to students attending schools in California and who are a veteran, son, daughter, or spouse of a veteran.

Applicants for any Department of California Scholarship must be a resident of the State of California and planning on attending a college or university in California in the Fall.

(Exception: Lucille Ganey Scholarship.)

<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://calegionaux.org/resources/scholarships/scholar-e21g-lucille-ganey-memorial-scholarship.pdf>

Educational Assistance General Scholarship

Eligibility for all educational scholarships to be awarded by the Department of California shall be granted only to students attending schools in California and who are a veteran, son, daughter, or spouse of a veteran.

Applicants for any Department of California Scholarship must be a resident of the State of California and planning on attending a college or university in California in the Fall. (Exception: Lucille Ganey Scholarship.)

<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://calegionaux.org/resources/scholarships/scholar-ca-e21-application-for-ed-funds.pdf>

**A
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VA&R

WE LOVE OUR VETERANS!

It's that time ladies for sending words of comfort and care to our veterans on Valentines Day.

Hoping our units can send gift bags of love with a handwritten Valentines card. Work with your juniors and Auxiliary as a project for our veterans at the VA Hospital. We will cover Community Living Center, Blind Unit, Fisher House, Spinal Ward and PierGroup. I can pick up gift bags at our District meeting February 8 at Cypress. I thought I would send this out now in order for you to work with your units in January.

Gift bag stuffers:

- * tooth brush and toothpaste
- * mouthwash
- * hand lotion they do like old spice or Irish spring scents
- * shampoo/conditioner old spice or fragrant male scent
- * hand sanitizer
- * chapsticks
- * journal book/stationary
- * paperback books
- * small games or fidget items
- * snacks- beef jerky, cookies, popcorn, chips, candy, anything munchie
- * fruit drinks
- * sugar free cookies and candies
- * hairbrush or comb
- * tissue packets
- * Beanie or baseball caps (no pink or purple colors, men prefer dark colors)
- * Sunscreen

Please tag your gift bag if it is a special need, sugar free, female. This is made possible from all of our Units. Your endless energy helping our vets are appreciated. Figure about 15 bags per unit. Decorate your bag and cards anyway you want. Amazing how creative we can get.

If any questions, please give me a call 714-308-2862.

Thank you, Happy Holidays.

Cindy

Cynthia Mayfield
Hospital Dep VA&R Chairman



MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to District 29!!!

As you can see, we are at 76.46%.

We have seven units that have hit the next goal target!

UNITS HAVE TIED FOR FIRST PLACE 88.24

281

257

UNIT 295 87.23%

UNIT 133 85.59%

UNIT 132 84.13%

Thank you for our mid-year reports. Your hard work shows what you can do for our units.

See attached Membership Report



UNIT 281 OUT & ABOUT

Cookies and Gift Bags for Veterans House

South Orange County Unit 281 has been busy this holiday season. At our December Unit meeting, we packed boxes of holiday cookies and assembled gift bags that included a blanket, the cookies, Walmart gift cards, and lots of Christmas cards for the residents of Veterans House in Santa Ana. Our VA&R Chair, Patty Mouton, and several members delivered the gifts, and a catered California Pizza Kitchen dinner, and enjoyed talking to the vets. "It was grand fun, and well-received," Patty said.

Wreaths Across America

A small contingent of ALA Members from South Orange County Unit 281 and San Juan Capistrano Unit 721 journeyed to Riverside National Cemetery to participate in Wreaths Across America, on Saturday December 14. The inspiring ceremony, representing all branches of the military, reminded us not only to remember and honor those who have served our country, but also teach future generations that the freedoms we enjoy are not free. Our group then gathered wreaths, fluffed the bows, and respectfully laid the wreaths at veterans graves, saying their names, and offering a brief prayer of thanks.





UNIT 281 OUT & ABOUT





UNIT 721

On the MOVE



On December 19, 2024, brand new member, Tonya Wood, of Unit 721 and Laura DiGilio were honored to serve dinner to 1st Combat Engineering Battalion, approx. 900 Marines and their families on Camp Pendleton.

SJC, CA Unit 721 : Wreaths Across America Dec. 14 at Riverside Cemetery. Pam Newlin, Jennie Gee-Storie and Connie Weingart



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

11-Jan	72	10AM	ANAHEIM PRESIDENT LINDA HAYES VISIT TO D29	936 N Lemon St, Anaheim, CA 92805
8-Feb	295	9AM	CYPRESS	5646 Corporate Ave, Cypress, CA 90630
8-Mar	281	9AM	SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY	Sea Country Community Center, 24602 Aliso Creek Rd, Laguna Niguel 92677
12-Apr	133	9AM	HUNTINGTON BEACH	Memorial Hall - 1718 Orange Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648
10-May	327	9AM	LEISURE WORLD	1353 Seal Beach Blvd, Seal Beach CLUBHOUSE MEETING LOCATION TBA
14-Jun	555	10AM	MIDWAY CITY	14582 Beach Blvd, Midway City, CA 92655
JULY	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING