



## CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS CLUB AWARD ENTRY COVER SHEET

Annual Reporting January 1- December 31, 2024

Chairman: Nancy Shurtleff		Club: Laguna Niguel Woman's Club	
# of Club Members (as recorded in 2024-25 CFWC Yearbook): 91		District: Orange	Area: C
Club Position: Chairman			
Reporter's Address:			
City:		State: CA	Zip: 92603
Email:		Phone:	
<div style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Civic Engagement &amp; Outreach</u></b> GFWC Special Program, Community Service Program, Advancement Plan, ESO</div>			

In 1969, 20 years before Laguna Niguel was incorporated, eighteen women decided they wanted a park for their children. They organized an effort to build the park and decided to continue meetings. The Laguna Niguel Woman's Club was formed. Our goal is the advancement of cultural, philanthropic, and educational interests of the club and the surrounding community. Throughout the year, the club conducts numerous service projects and fundraisers for charities both domestic and international. We also give scholarships every year to local students. We have a diverse population of members that include working women as well as those that are retired. Along with financial donations and multiple hours of volunteerism, our members enjoy many social activities that provide the cultivation of friendship. We just celebrated our fifty fifth (55th) year as a club.

**Project Title:** Valentines for Veterans      **Hours** 19    **Donated \$**      **In Kind** \$50

Valentines for Veterans is a program where 7 days of Valentines Day cards are delivered to each local veteran in our area who sign up to receive cards during the week of February 14. This program is to support veterans and acknowledge their service, sacrifice, and commitment to our country.

The Laguna Niguel Woman's Club members wrote notes on the cards to the veterans during our January general meeting. These cards were then hand delivered to veterans in our local community by volunteers. Social isolation and loneliness can negatively impact veterans' mental and physical health. The National Library of Medicine reported 44% feeling lonely at least some of the time and 10% reported feeling lonely more often. What better way to bring a smile to a veteran is through a Valentine Card. This was an excellent way for our club to offer our assistance. These cards were then hand delivered to veterans in our local community by volunteers. This project was enthusiastically received by our members.

**Project title:** Girls State/American Legion Auxiliary    **Hours** 12    **Donated** \$500    **In Kind** \$

The Laguna Niguel Woman's Club board approved \$500 to sponsor Girl's State in South Orange County, a weeklong program for high school juniors that tutors young women about government and citizenship. A nonpartisan program sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary that instructs young women about responsibilities and privileges of American citizenship. Girls learn about the political process, responsible citizenship and how to be a leader. Through the assistance of the Laguna Niguel Woman's Club, American Legion Auxiliary was able to sponsor 8 girls. Our members then attended a session to hear directly from the attendees as to their experience. They shared their better understanding of California's local, county and state government systems. The girls shared being assigned to create a government with structures and operations increasing their knowledge in Civic Engagement, consensus building, advocacy, and service learning. A win-win for all.

**Project Title:** Sea Country Festival 2024    **Hours** 72    **Donated \$**      **In Kind** \$50

On August 23, 24 and 25, 2024, the Laguna Niguel Woman's Club held an open booth at the Laguna Niguel

Sea Country Festival. We work with our city to arrange our participation. Throughout the weekend, our booth was open for 20.5 hours. Three of our members decorated our booth, set it up and took it down. Nineteen members staffed our booth in shifts of 2- or 3-hours, providing information on our Club, Membership, Philanthropy, Community Support and Social Events.

These 19 members also spoke to our community regarding our support of veterans, military, first responders, Girls' State, and public safety in our community. Our members shared information about our community service programs, including Arts and Culture, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Education and Libraries, Environment, Health and Wellness, and Advocates for Children.

Our working members shared with our community the mission of the Laguna Niguel Woman's Club:

Laguna Niguel Woman's Club members, using a framework of a board and committees, mesh the needs of our communities with our own personal abilities and interests, in the pursuit of a wide variety of charitable and social endeavors.

Those interested were encouraged to browse our website and see the way our members have touched our communities, our country, and the world. We offer women of all ages the opportunity for community service, social growth, leadership training and support.

Passersby were told of our fundraisers such as our yearly "Tea" event, our Sunset Harbor Cruise, and Pumpkin sale. How monies raised are used towards Scholarships for high school or college students. Pictures and stories from our summer and winter parties were shared.

We shared with our community information on our social activities for growth of friendships such as our Coastal Walking Groups, out to the Movies Group, Culinary Adventures, Gourmet Evening with Friends, Out to Lunch Group, Bunco, and Book Club.

We had many visitors, and 37 women signed in asking for additional information about the Woman's Club.

There were flyers with pictures and information on what our membership continues to offer our community. We continue to have new members join our Club from this important outreach project. It is due to the giving of our membership and their time that this was a successful event!

**Project Title:** Honoring our First Responders **Hours** 15 **Donated \$** **In Kind\$**

On August 9, 2024, 74<sup>th</sup> Assemblywoman Laurie Davies hosted an event honoring First Responders including representatives from Laguna Niguel Police Department, Sheriff Department, Fire Department, Lifeguards, CERT, Police and Sheriff Dispatchers. The event was held at Laguna Niguel City Hall.

Proudly, Fifteen Laguna Niguel Woman's Club Members attended. Supporting and honoring our local first responders is a high priority for the Laguna Niguel Woman's Club. Our membership continues to enthusiastically support our first responders and our military.

**Project Title:** Lithium Battery Storage Facility (BESS) Advocacy **Hours** 10

Our Mayor ProTem of the City of Laguna Niguel, also a Laguna Niguel Woman's Club member, presented to our membership on a local Proposed Battery Energy Storage System Facility (BESS), which concerns a potential lithium energy storage facility on the edge of our city which is a high fire area.

Pertinent information on this important subject was presented which can pose a dangerous hazard in areas with fire hazards, which are present in our community. Our city strongly urged the California Energy Commission to consider the adverse fire carefully and fully, economic, environmental, and public safety risks as they evaluate this proposed storage project. A template letter was provided to members to sign and oppose this facility. This is an excellent example of club advocacy. Letters were sent to the CA Energy Commission. We continue to inform our membership of any local environmental and safety issues that affect our community. This information was well received by our membership and many questions were asked and answered.

**Project Title:** National First Responders Day **Hours:** 11 **Donated \$170** **In Kind \$60**

National First Responders Day was October 28, 2024. We contacted our three local fire stations and our local police / sheriff station and advised them we would like to honor their service to our community on National First

Responders Day. This has been one of our civic engagement projects for the past several years and year after year Laguna Niguel is noted as one of the top 10 safest cities in California.

Five committee members gathered and met with our first responders on behalf of the Laguna Niguel Woman's Club to honor them, present them with a cake, a card signed by over 35 of our members, and thank them for all they do to keep our community safe.

Together we presented our first responders with words of gratitude and respect for the commitment to our community. It was a humble experience and a reminder to take a moment to thank our first responders when you see them. First responders shared how much this small act of kindness meant to them.

**Project Title:** Hometown Holiday Parade and Brunch Honoring Veterans **Hours:** 18 **In Kind:** \$50

Members of the Laguna Niguel Woman's Club had the privilege of providing the deserts for a full platoon of 100 marines from the 1st Marine Regiment domiciled at Camp Pendleton, CA. These marines participated in our Laguna Niguel City Parade on December 14, 2024. They were then honored at a brunch immediately after the parade for the marines and their families.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Regiment plays a significant role in the military. Their mission is in support of crisis response operations and provides mission capable battalions in support of enduring and emerging operations requirements to meet operational commitments across a range of military operations.

Our commitment to our local military and their families remains strong. We continue to enthusiastically support them.



