

Chapter Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers

Poignant and traditional ceremonies were in abundance at the Annual Meeting and Installation of Assistance League® of Long Beach held May 19 at the Marriott Hotel. Parading Olympic presenters holding the colorful rings led Nanci Gee, new President, and her 2008-2009 Board to their installation. Weaving through 165 attendees, the paraders emphasized President Nanci Gee's theme "Teamwork Makes Dreams Work."

Outgoing President Sandy French, earlier in the program, presented Incoming President, Nanci Gee, with the traditional white orchid corsage. Shortly after, Sandy was interrupted with another Assistance League tradition, the "ringing of the bells." The jingling of the bells was led by past President Shelly Sanders that announced the "summons" for Sandy to appear before the Court of Past Presidents.

Annual reports highlighting the achievements of the past year were given by Pat Reep, Kathy Wade, Cindy Summers, JoAnn McDonald, Phyllis Comiskey, Shelly Barbre, Virginia Osmera, Ginny Kennebeck, Stephanie Eiler, Suzanne Nosworthy, and Sandy French,.

This year, the chapter's philanthropic programs took center stage as members made great strides in reaching their goals of serving the community. The members also had the opportunity to connect with and support each other, especially the chapter and auxiliaries; plus everyone had fun!

President Sandy French recognized two outstanding community members, Bill Wade and Dr. Terry McCarthy with the Flo Brooks Award and presented Suzanne Nosworthy with the Ada Laughlin Award.

The Flo Brooks Community Service Award honors those who "have unselfishly given of their time and energy to help fulfill our mission." Bill Wade has generously donated his photographic talents to the chapter for almost 30 years beginning when his wife, Kathy, became a Rick Racker. Over the years, he has taken numerous photos for press releases and marketing materials, recorded events, in addition to taking many of the Presidents' portraits.

Dr. McCarthy's affiliation with the Orthodontic Program goes back 20 years. His wife Sandy is a past President. Terry is a highly respected oral surgeon who takes on some of the most difficult cases, ones whose dental needs are too severe to be treated by a general practitioner. Dr. McCarthy offers his services to the chapter's patients pro bono and is truly a valued partner of the Orthodontic Program.

Suzanne Nosworthy was presented the Ada Laughlin Award, a coveted Assistance League recognition. Suzanne's dedication and leadership of 34 years makes her most deserving of this prestigious award. She has served as a role model and is the epitome of a devoted volunteer.

Finale of the morning was a "dazzling" Olympic production emphasizing "Team Work Makes Dreams Work" directed by Joyce Krause, Jane Jackson and the Class of 1999, the "Dazzlers," as they installed one of their own, President Nanci Gee, and the 2008-2009 Board of Directors. In true Olympian tradition, each newly-installed Board member received her "gold medal" presented on a red, white, and blue ribbon

and the "lighted" Olympic torch was passed onto newly-installed President Nanci Gee.

Congratulations go to the 2008-2009 Board of Directors: Pat Reep, Roberta Keester, Joan Smock, Arline Walter, Sharon Denham, Shirley Johnson, JoAnn McDonald, Cindy Summers, Linda McCarley, Melanie Werts, Linda Drummond, Gail Morrison, Nanette Dahlen-Wan, Karen Sprague, Florence Dodge, Kathy Grubb, and Jodi Simmons.

Newly installed President Nanci Gee introduced her Guests: husband Lynn Gee; son Paul Bailey; Betty Lanctot, Nanci's friend; Virgie Barnes and Jan and Dale Fairbanks.

FYI: Assistance League of Long Beach was chartered in 1940 and is the largest chapter of National Assistance League®. Its programs include Operation School Bell®/Middle School, Orthodontic Center, Scholarships, ALA Carte, The Kids on the Block®, Howard Collection and Assault Survivor Kits®. The organization currently clothes more than 4,000 needy children in the Long Beach Unified School District each year.

Seen at the scene: Past Presidents of Assistance League of Long Beach: Anne Cook, Bev Cook, Sue Foat, Joyce Krauss, Norma Marter, Sandie McCarthy, Ellie Schaffner, Erlene Minton, Suzanne Nosworthy and Shelly Sandler. Also attending were longtime members, sisters Jo Mary Thomason and Clara Andrews, and Judy Edson and Dolores Nason.

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