



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
UNIT 291 NEWPORT HARBOR, CA  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Date: Monday, October 9, 2023, from 6:00pm – 7:30pm**

- ❖ **Call to Order / Silence your cell phones** Time: 6:00pm
- ❖ **Officer Substitutions** - None
- ❖ **Chaplain's Prayer** – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance** – Janz Simmons, Sgt-at-Arms
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** – Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary
  - Excused: Laura Farr, Treasurer, Cindy Edes, Jr. Past President
- ❖ **Introduction of Special Guest(s)** - None
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes** – Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary – The minutes dated Monday September 11, 2023. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and motion carried.

**Reports**

❖ **President - Debbie Schubert**

- Attended the American Legion E-Board Meeting on Thursday, October 5, 2023. The legion had a closed session and the Auxiliary, SALS and Commodore were asked to leave and return to the door at 7pm. At 7:15pm the 3 were still waiting at the door, decided to all leave. Unable to report.
- The Rams/Eagle game on Sunday, October 8, 2023, our winners of the Tailgate Wagon Raffle were a wonderful couple and went to an exciting game.
- The American Legion is putting on the WWII and Korean War Veteran Luncheon on Thursday, November 9, 2023, 10:00am – 2:00pm. Need (12) volunteers to help: (6) food servers, (4) beverage servers and (2) for check in.
- The Executive Board Christmas Party will be on Monday, December 11, 2023, in the Fireside Room at 5:00pm with Happy hour and hors d'oeuvres.
- Discussed the open Chair positions that are currently available: Education and Public Relations.
- The next ALA District 29 monthly meeting will be on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at Unit 295 Cypress.
- Debbie Shubert, President will be on vacation for the General Meeting. Kendall Madsen will step in for her.
- **American Legion General Meeting – Janet du Monceau du Bergendal** – Will be attending the American Legion General Monthly Meeting on Wed. October 11, 2023. Updating the Legion on the Auxiliary for October and November.

- ❖ **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President / Membership – Mary Beth Martin** – Update on the 2024 membership renewals paid to date. 723 members have paid their 2024 membership dues. Kendall will send an constant contact message to the members tomorrow, to pick up their membership cards at the General Monthly Meeting for those who sent in a check to pay membership dues. Membership cards will no longer be mailed.
- ❖ **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President / Fundraising – Dana Johnston** – Updated: on the following fundraisers:
  - Halloween Bunco is on Sunday, October 22, 2023, at 10am. We still have openings. Sign up on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/187538111350562/>
  - See's Candy Fundraiser online now until Friday, December 1, 2023. Go to: [https://www.yumraising.com/secure/americanla\\_ala\\_20/Dan\\_Joh3763/](https://www.yumraising.com/secure/americanla_ala_20/Dan_Joh3763/)
  - Holiday Boutique is on Thursday, November 16, 2023, from 3:30 – 7:30pm. We have 28 Vendor tables sold. We are close to being sold out.
  - Hoedown Party on February 24, 2024. The committee is busy. Kendall is getting the flyer ready and getting the raffle tickets printed.
  - Wednesday, Dec 6, 2023, Raffle Ticket Envelope Stuffing for Hoedown Party. Volunteers are needed to stuff the envelopes. Time is TBD. Will announce at the next General Monthly Meeting.
  - The Line Dancing flyer on Constant Contact needs to be updated. Line Dancing is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Debbie will let Mizka know to update.
- ❖ **Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal** – Next month's Meeting dates.
- ❖ **Treasurer – Laura Farr** – Excused - Debbie Schubert, President read her report.
  - Financial statements for October 2023 were emailed to everyone. Any questions, call Laura.
  - Request for reimbursements, scan documents (reimbursement form and receipts) and email directly to Laura at farrhooton@hotmail.com.
  - Tim Resnick will be preparing our entity income tax returns in late October.
  - The Tailgate Wagon Raffle net profit after expenses was \$2,400.00.
- ❖ **Chaplain – Sharon Morgan** – Updated the current Birthdays, and condolences since our last meeting.
- ❖ **Historian – Susan Lindsey** –No Report
- ❖ **Parliamentarian – Peggy Bengry** – Discussed bringing back the voting on approving donations to the General Monthly Meetings for the membership to vote on. The decision was made donations approved at the Executive Board meeting will go forward to the General Monthly Meeting and will be read and voted on by the membership to approve.
- ❖ **Executive Committee** – Kim Philhart, Peggy Bengry, Cynthia Culp, Bobbi Renaghan & Jan Woolford – No Report
- ❖ **Junior Past President – Cindy Edes** – Excused - No Report

### **Standing Committees**

- ❖ **Americanism – Carol Markel** – Excused - No Report
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Jan Woolford** – No Report
- ❖ **Chair Covers – Janz Simmons** –
  - Thanked those that washed the chair covers from the last event.
  - Volunteers needed to set up chair covers for Marines Bal on November 7, 2023, at 10am
- ❖ **Children and Youth – Bea Foster** – Review of upcoming Children Events:
  - Sunday October 29, 2023 - Halloween Kids Party. Need more volunteers.
  - Saturday, October 14, 2023, at 10am in the Fireside Rm - Stuffing Candy Bags for Children's Halloween Party. Also face painting practice for those that need practice. Bobbie Renaghan and Kim Philhart will take care of the bags for the fishing game.
  - November 10, 2023, at 9:30am – 1 or 2pm - Long Beach VA Hospital Kids party need 3 to 4 volunteers.
- ❖ **Community Service – Sharon Morgan** – No report.
- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal** – No Report
- ❖ **Donations Recommended by the Board – Pua Huffine** –
  - **Veteran's & First Responders Equine Therapy – Suggested Donation \$2,000.00**  
Suggested by Mike Schubert  
Mission: To provide equine wellness for Veterans, children, and the community to help facilitate growth, learning and healing. **American Equine Therapy** is dedicated to enhancing the physical and spiritual well-being of special needs individuals and their loved ones through involvement with horses. The Veterans Administration has determined that Equine-assisted therapy is a great alternative approach that allows Veterans to address their trauma in a hands-on way, alongside other Veterans who understand their story. This volunteer-run organization has just held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual HERO RIDE to raise money for Veterans and 1<sup>st</sup> Responders experiencing PTSD, anxiety, and trauma, to heal with horse therapy. American Legion Post 291 donated \$2500. I leave it to the E-Board to decide how much the Auxiliary would like to donate. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and motion carried.  
American Equine Therapy – Rescue Horses Rescuing People  
25200 Trabuco Rd. Lake Forest, CA 92630 (844) 378-4634
  - **Two Flag Stands – Requested by Dana Johnston - Suggested Donation - \$150**  
(Please see calculations below) Dana has requested a donation to West Orange Elementary School, to replace the two dilapidated flag stands that are, at this point, merely attempting to hold the CA State Flag and the American Flag at the school where she teaches. Our flags deserve to have sturdy, pride of place in this school, and every school. We can't do them all, but we can do this. It is suggested that we purchase the stands through American Legion Flag & Emblem. Each stand is \$37.95. I do not know how much shipping would be, but the flag stands also require 8 pounds of sand each (16lbs.). A 20-pound bag of clean, play sand is \$25 to \$27. In total, without shipping, \$125.00 would be in

- the vicinity of totality for the donation requests. Janz Simmons, Sgt-at-Arms, will donate the (2) flag stands. The stands will come from Nikki's Flag Shoppe in Newport Beach.
- **Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association – Suggested Donation: \$500**  
About: The Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association (SMSA) is the nation's only provider of need-based scholarships exclusively to the children and grandchildren of America's fighting Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers attending accredited colleges and universities. Members of the Association include all Seabees and friends of the Seabees who have contributed funds toward the Association's purpose. The Board of Directors is composed of volunteer CEC officers and Seabees and corporate executives committed to providing educational opportunities to Seabee Families. The Scholarship Selection Committee consists of a cross-section of officers and enlisted Seabees and includes the former Force Master Chief of the Seabees, representatives of the Seabee Veterans of America, and other supporters of the SMSA. The board meets annually in May to review applications and select scholarship recipients for the upcoming school year. The SMSA has awarded scholarships to over 1000 recipients valued at over \$7 million since 1972. SMSA, P. O. Box 391, Springfield, VA 22150 703) 690-7272 Charity Navigator Score: 4 Star / Platinum Transparency. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion carried.
- ❖ **Education – OPEN**
- ❖ **Girls State – Caroline Miller** – 16 schools - same as last year. Still no set date for next years session. Department Girls State meeting is the weekend of October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Budget and 2024 fees for Girls State should be finalized.
- ❖ **Juniors – Stacy Eickhoff** –
  - September 23, 2023, Juniors will be participated at ALYC beach coastal cleanup was held.
  - October 14, 2023, Juniors will be participating in Children and Youth's stuffing Candy Bags for the Children's Halloween Party.
  - October 29, 2023, the Juniors will be participating in the Childrens Halloween Party.
  - Juniors received an Invitation to Post 716 Los Alamitos for a Lunch and Art event.
  - Looked into getting the California Juniors Christmas Ornament to sell. After discussion we would have to pay \$20 per ornament and add money on above to make a fundraiser. Ornament stock is not available currently to purchase and resell at Holiday Boutique.
- ❖ **Legislative – Pia Thompson** – No Report
- ❖ **Membership – Kendall Madsen** – No Report
- ❖ **Music – Mary Ann Leonard** – The song selection for the General Monthly Meeting will be *You're a Grand Old Flag*.
- ❖ **National Security – Susan Siever** – Updated on the Blood Drive held on Monday, October 9, 2023. A total of (29) pints collected today. Next blood drive will be in February 2024.
- ❖ **Poppy – Bobbi Renaghan** – No Report.
- ❖ **Public Relations – OPEN**

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- ❖ **Troop Shipping – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal** – Updated on Troop Shipping on November 18, 2023. Personal hygiene bags have been made and are ready for Troop Shipping day. A donation list of needed items to be passed at meetings.
- ❖ **VA & R – Heidi Maturino** –. Update on the following centers:
  - On September 21, 2023, delivered a carload of food to the Long Beach VA Food pantry.
  - On September 26, 2023, Coastline College Veterans Resource Center was put in touch with The Elks Lodge. They are having a Stand Down in January 2024.
  - On September 27, 2023, went to a BBQ at Orange Coast Veterans Resource Center and toured the facility.
  - On September 28, 2023, Long Beach VA (Food pantry & homeless Vets) appreciate the food. LBVA needs supplies and items for the homeless veterans. Checked on P.I.E.R. while LBVA and office was closed.
  - On October 2, 2023, met with Coastline College
  - On October 5, 2023, Long Beach VA contacted Heidi regarding 1<sup>st</sup> breast cancer awareness event and supplied Danishes and lunch.
- ❖ **Special Committees** –
  - **Mary Beth Martin – Salute to Service** – Salute to Service Day is scheduled for June 3, 2024. 1<sup>st</sup> committee meeting that was held on Monday, September 25, 2023. Great committee and have many committee members new to volunteering on a committee. Thanked Debbie for getting the grass area for parking at the event. Caroline made a poster and will be approved at the next meeting. 2 Legionnaires have volunteered to help us with video and a keynote speaker.
  - **Pua Hoffine – Donations - Return of the Holiday Pajamas Program. Donations from October through November 2023** – Collecting all sizes of pajamas for children 6 months to 15 years old. Pajamas will go to the following organizations: STEP – Support the Enlisted Project, and Strong Families, and Strong Children. They are both non-profit organizations supporting the military and their families. We will also include a couple of Bea Foster’s (Children & Youth) military children’s organizations. Drop off and mark the bags with “Pajama Project”. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, donations will be sorted by size and given to the organizations in time for the holidays. - Suggested Donation \$500.00 - In addition to the pajamas donated by our members to purchase additional pajamas for the Pajama Program for ages 6 months to 15 years. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and motion carried.
- ❖ **Old Business** – None
- ❖ **New Business** – None
- ❖ **Closing Prayer** - Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **Next Executive Board Meeting** – Monday, November 13, 2023, in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm
- ❖ **Adjournment** – Time: 7:11pm