



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

Date: Monday, November 13, 2023, from 6:00pm – 7:30pm

- ❖ **CALL TO ORDER - Silence your cell phones** Time: 6:01pm
- ❖ **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, Stacy Eickhoff - Asst. Sgt-at-Arms
- ❖ **Introduction of Special Guest(s)** - None
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes** –The minutes dated Monday, October 9, 2023. Motion was made, 2nd, motion carried.

REPORTS

- ❖ **President - Debbie Schubert**
 - Executive Board Christmas Party on Monday, December 11, 2023, in the Fireside Room at 5:00pm.
 - Mid-Year Reports Due December 1, 2023. Submit form to District #29 Chairman no later than December 1, 2023, and submit a copy to our own Debbie Schubert, President. A Mid-Year Report has been e-mailed to the Chairs, hardcopy is available at meeting, or download at <https://calegionaux.org/sources/forms/#midyear> .
 - Flyers are no longer able to be put on walls. Submit all flyers to the front office.
 - Discussion on the open Chair position currently available: Education
 - Attended the American Legion E-Board Meeting on Thursday, October 5, 2023. Updated the Legion with the upcoming Auxiliary events for November and dark in December
 - **American Legion General Meeting – Janet du Monceau du Bergendal** – Attended the American Legion General Meeting on November 9, 2023, and updated the Legion on the upcoming events.
 - **ALA District 29 Monthly Meeting – Cynthia Minucci Neal** – Attended the District meeting on November 4, 2023, along with 3 other Auxiliary members. Brief report on the meeting. The next ALA District 29 monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at Unit 295 Cypress.

- ❖ **1st Vice President - Membership/Salute to Service – Mary Beth Martin**
 - Updated on membership dues: 1,289 members have paid their membership dues to date.
- ❖ **2nd Vice President / Fundraising – Dana Johnston** – Update: on the following fundraisers:
 - Holiday Boutique on Thursday, November 16, 2023, from 3:30 – 7:30pm. Will see how the event turns out, maybe will change to another fundraiser. Spaces are now 6 x 6
 - Hoedown Party on February 24, 2023. Party plans are coming alone. Line dancing DJ for 4 hours. Next working on decorations. Raffle tickets have been sent
 - See's Candy Fundraiser – Last day to order is December 1, 2023
 - Discussion on having a Quarter Mania fundraiser event. Went to the event at the Hollywood Auxiliary. Met the Quarter Mania coordinator and talked about what is Quarter Mania. A new Fundraiser for the Auxiliary. Explained the game and prizes.. Looking into it further.
- ❖ **Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal** – No Report
- ❖ **Treasurer – Laura Farr** – Review of Financial Report.
 - The current financial statements for November 2023 emailed to everyone.
- ❖ **Chaplain – Sharon Morgan** – Updated the current birthdays, well wishes and condolences since our last meeting.
- ❖ **Historian – Susan Lindsey** – Updated on the past events since last meeting.
 - On October 22, 2023, Dana Johnston – 2nd VP and Fundraiser had Bunco at the Post in the Main Hall.
 - On October 29, 2023, we had Bea Foster - Children & youth Chair had her annual Kids Halloween Party. The children were all dressed up with big smiles. They ate pizza and cookies, played games, face painted, and got candy bags.
 - November 6, 2023, Envelope stuffing for the Hoedown Party in February.
 - November 9, 2023, The Legionnaires put on the WWII & Koren War Veterans Luncheon. Several Auxiliary members assisted with welcoming, serving lunch, dancing and celebrating “Our greatest generation” Veterans.
 - Follow the Auxiliary on Facebook and see the pictures.
- ❖ **Parliamentarian – Peggy Bengry** – No Report
- ❖ **Executive Committee** – Kim Philhart, Peggy Bengry, Cynthia Culp, Bobbi Renaghan & Jan Woolford – No Report
- ❖ **Junior Past President – Cindy Edes** – Mid-year reports only need the statistical information. Year end is the more detailed report.

STANDING COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Americanism – Carol Markel** – Report on handing out Certificates of Appreciation for Flying their Flag to various businesses. Gave a brief history of the Boston Tea Party is 200 years old this year. Giving certificates for flying a flag in front of their businesses.

- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Jan Woolford – No Report**
- ❖ **Chair Covers – Janz Simmons**
 - Saturday, November 4, 2023, Chair Covers and sashes installed for the Marine Ball. Thanked the (6) auxiliary members who came and helped.
 - Volunteers needed to wash the chair covers from the Marine Ball event. Will bring in the chair covers for cleaning to General meetings.
- ❖ **Children and Youth – Bea Foster – Review of Children & Youth events:**
 - November 29, 2023, Kids Halloween Party had 63 children attend. All the kids had a great time. Played games, had their face painted, handed out bags of candy, and ate pizza, chips, and cookies.
 - November 10, 2023, went to the Long Beach VA hospital for a children’s party. We had (60) children attend and they all had a great time!
 - Monday, November 20, 2023, at 5pm - Decorating 2 large boxes for the Post to collect Toys for the Children’s Christmas Party.
 - Sunday, December 10, 2023, Childrens Christmas Party at Camp Pendleton. Looking for volunteers to help at the party.
 - Pajama Project – Pua and Bea will sort the donated pajamas and distribute the the charities.
 - Saturday, January 27, 2024, Military Baby Shower in San Clemente. Looking for baby item donations.
 - Donations of Teddy Bears with sewn eyes are needed for the children.
- ❖ **Community Service – Sharon Morgan – No Report**
- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – No Report**
- ❖ **Donations Recommended by the Board – Pua Huffine –**
 - **You Were Worth IT Foundation – Suggested donation \$1,000**
Suggested by Dwight Hanson, Legionnaire at Post 291. Emergency request to purchase new military bedding for the Marines returning to Camp Pendleton on Monday, November 13, 2023. A motion was made to double the donation to \$1000 from \$500. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- ❖ **Mary’s Feast Celebration Suggested donation \$760**
Donation to cover a table for (8) military Moms-to-Be from Camp Pendleton. This is an event that prior to Covid, our unit would sponsor a table for eight for the annual baby shower. This event will take place in January 2024 and will honor 50 military spouses or active women who are expectant moms that reside at Camp Pendleton. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- ❖ **H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Everyday) Food Bank – Suggested donation \$500**
- ❖ Suggested by Heidi Maturino. The food Bank distributes twice per month on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. This The donation would be used to purchase food for distribution. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

- ❖ **Education – OPEN**
- ❖ **Girls State – Caroline Miller**
 - Fees increased for the 2024 Girls State session. \$500 for each girl and we will have a total of (16) girls. The fee this year will be \$11,200 for the (16) girls.
 - Katella HS was the 1st school and has (5) girls interested in Girls State.
 - Helping school counselors recruit candidates.
 - The Department of California plans on raising awareness about Girls State in order to help fundraising. Fundraising and Recruitment committees. Raising awareness of what is Girls State.
- ❖ **Juniors – Stacy Eickhoff – No Report**
- ❖ **Legislative – Pia Thompson – No Report**
- ❖ **Membership – Kendall Madsen – No Report**
- ❖ **Music – Mary Ann Leonard – The song selection for the General Monthly Meeting will be The Star-Spangled Banner.**
- ❖ **National Security – Susan Siever –**
 - 1200 small flags ready to package and go to Veterans.
 - February 19, 2024, is the next Blood Drive
- ❖ **Poppy – Bobbi Renaghan – No Report**
- ❖ **Public Relations – Heidi Sergeant – New, Debbie Shubert, President will introduce our new chair at the General Monthly Meeting on November 14, 2023.**
- ❖ **Troop Shipping – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal**
 - Coming up Saturday, November 18, 2023, Troop Shipping. Ready to go. Come rain or shine starts at 10am.
 - (3) auxiliary District 29 units brought donations from Richard Nixon, Huntington Beach, and for our Troop Shipping.
 - Christmas trees – (Flyer available) recommended by Brad McDermott, Chaplain American Legion Post 291, recommending purchasing holiday Christmas tree(s) from Crean Lutheran High School and to donate a tree to the families at Camp Pendleton. This supports the Student Athletics including the American Legion Baseball.
- ❖ **VA & R – Heidi Maturino – Update on the following Veteran Resource Centers:**
 - October 19, 2023, Presented the Elks Lodge a large quantity @\$600 worth of men's & women T-shirts, underwear, socks, and women's sport bras.
 - October 24, 2023, met up with Art from The US Vets to replenish their food pantry. On November 8, 2023, went with Art and visited (2) senior veterans that had special requests that we supplied.
 - October 25, 2023, went to the Long Beach VA Volunteer Services and took the food items donated from the last General meeting, food items received from Troop Shipping. Also delivered some men & women T-shirts, underwear, socks, and women's sport bras, backpacks, wallets, and some flip flops.
 - November 14, 2023, Coastline College Veterans Resource Center replenished food pantry.

- Received a donation valued at \$280 for a full Thanksgiving feast that serves 6 – 8 people from Five Crowns Restaurant in Corona del Mar, and a \$40 gift card for (2) pies. To be handed out at the General meeting on November 15, 2023, to (2) female Veterans from the Coastline College VRC. Also notified Coastline College VRC representative of the Five Crown menu).
- October 30, 2023, received a request from Cindy Mayfield, for an update on VA & R activities at the Long Beach Volunteer Services.
- November 10, 2023, Attended the LBVA Veterans Day event and did kids face painting at Bea Foster's Children & Youth event along with Carol Markel.
- November 14, 2023, going to Orange Coast College Veterans Resource Center to replenish their food pantry.
- Long Beach VA Volunteer Services – planning on going to drop off food items for their pantry.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Mary Beth Martin – Salute to Service** – Reviewed the committee meeting held on Monday, November 13, 2023. Committee members are doing a great job at the responsibilities at hand. Looking for guest speaker.
- ❖ **Donation – Pua Huffine and Bea Foster** - Holiday Pajamas Program. Pajama 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. (It is a non-profit organization supporting the military and their families) and Bea Foster (Chair of Children & Youth), will include the military children at Camp Pendleton. Drop off and mark the bags with “Pajama Project”. On December 1st, Pua and Bea will sort all the pajamas donated by size and distributed to the organizations in time for the holidays.
- ❖ **Old Business** – None
- ❖ **New Business** –
 - Dana Johnston discussed a new fundraising idea: an afternoon tea party. More to come.
 - New members orientation – Debbie Schubert, Cynthia Minucci Neal & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal to meet and discuss the idea.
- ❖ **Closing Prayer** - Sharon Morgan, Chaplain

NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – Monday, January 15, 2024, in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm. December 2023 is dark for the Auxiliary.

ADJOURNMENT – Time: 7:18pm