



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 291 NEWPORT HARBOR - GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023, from 6:00pm – 7:30pm in the Main Hall

Approved as written

August 16, 2023

- ❖ **Call to Order** – Please Silence your cell phones. Time: 6:00pm
- ❖ **Posting of the Colors** - Janz Simmons, Sgt-at-Arms, & Stacy Eickhoff, Asst. Sgt-at-Arms
- ❖ **Placement of POW/MIA Cover & Prayer** – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance** - Janz Simmons, Sgt-at-Arms
- ❖ **Music** – Mary Ann Leonard, Music Chair - The song selection was “Grand Old Flag”
- ❖ **Preamble of the Constitution of the ALA** – Kendall Madsen, Membership Chair
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** – Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary
 - Excused – Dana Johnston, Cindy Edes & Cynthia Culp
- ❖ **Officer Substitutions** - None
- ❖ **Special Guests** – None
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes:** May 17, 2023 – The minutes were approved as written.
- ❖ **This Month Dimes for Times** - Is for Girls State for Girls State

Reports & Information

- ❖ **President** – Debbie Schubert, General Announcements:
 - Presented District awards to Bobbi Renaghan for Poppies program, and Sharon Morgan for Chaplain.
 - *The Post/Parking Lot Access Policy* has been updated. It will be posted on the AL website. www.AL291.com.
 - Your membership/parking card is your OWN. Please show them to Gate Concierge & do not forget to sign-in your guests.
 - Pull tabs for The Ronald McDonald House can be dropped off in the troop shipping box.
 - National News www.legion-aux.org/home Create your own account using your membership #
 - Department News is at www.calegionaux.com
 - District News is at **D29 ALA Group Facebook**. It will have information regarding what is happening at various Auxiliary Units.
 - There is no District meeting this month (July). The next District meeting is on Saturday, August 12, 2023, at 9:00am. The meeting will be at Cypress Post 295.
- ❖ **1st Vice President Membership** – Mary Beth Martin – Membership renewal for 2024 is here. The National ALA is sending out membership dues email to all with email on file. 3 ways to pay. Renew online at www.legion-aux.org/member, check or phone. Or renew online at our General Meetings, 1 hour before or 1 hour after the next General meeting on August 16, 2023. / Salute to

Service to begin 6/3/2023. The program will be for local high school seniors going into the armed forces after high school. Looking for interested volunteers to join the committee. A sign-up is available at the meetings.

- ❖ **2nd Vice President** – Dana Johnston – Excused – No Report
- ❖ **Secretary** – Cynthia Minucci Neal – Shared 3 thank you letters received from recipients of donations.
- ❖ **Treasurer/Finance** – Laura Farr – Reviewed the results of operations for FYE 6/30/2023 / Currently working on 2023-2024 budget / Looking for volunteers with accounting backgrounds to join the Treasury Team.
- ❖ **Chaplain** – Sharon Morgan – Sent out several sympathy & birthday cards since our last meeting in May.
- ❖ **Historian** – Sue Lindsey – Summarized the historical events since the last meeting to present: Bobbi Renaghan received Member of the Year Award; Troop Shipping on 5/20/2023; assisted in Memorial Day Golf Tournament; assisted in the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at Pacific View; Heidi supplied food pantry for at US Vets; installation of our officers at the Newport Rib Co.; Girls State Send Off dinner for their Sacramento trip; and assisted with the Post's July 4th celebration. Keep up to date on our Facebook page.
- ❖ **Executive Committee** – Peggy Bengry, Cynthia Culp, Kim Philhart, Bobbi Renaghan & Jan Woolford – No Report

❖ **Standing Committees**

- ❖ **Americanism** – Carol Markel – Spoke about the new US Space Force. Gave a brief report about who they are and what they do.
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund** – Jan Woolford – No Report
- ❖ **Chair Covers** – Janz Simmons – Volunteers needed on August 20, 2023, at 10am at the post to help with chair covers for a wedding. / New Auxiliary T-shirts for sale on back table.
- ❖ **Children & Youth** – Bea Foster – Update on the baby shower for moms of 5 girls and 3 boys on August 6, 2023. August 25, 2023, is Back to School. She is filling 48 backpacks with school supplies. Anyone interested in donating, Bea has a list for both children events. Benefits the local marine base.
- ❖ **Community Service** – Sharon Morgan – Reviewed the *Vials of Life* Program. She explained how the program works with the local fire department. Gave a demonstration on filling out the information, and where to place the bag with the information. Sharon shared ideas on going out and performing community service and tracking volunteer time.

- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws** – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – No Report
- ❖ **Donations Recommended by the Board** – Pua Huffine – Presented by Debbie Shubert, President. These items were approved on 7/13/2023 at the Executive Meeting and paid under the General fund.
 - Requested donation of \$500 to Semper Fi & America's Fund. Cares for our nation's critically wounded, ill & injured service members, veterans, & their families. All branches of the US Armed Forces are supported & provide one-on-one case management, connection, & lifetime support.
 - Requested donation of \$500 to Operations Second Chance. Committed to serving our wounded, injured, & ill veterans. They support veterans & their families by building relationships, identifying, & supporting immediate needs & interests. Dedicated to promoting public awareness of the many sacrifices made by our Armed Forces.
 - Requested donation of \$500 to Meals on Wheels of OC. To nourish the wellness, purpose & dignity of older adults & their families in OC.
 - Suggestion from Debbie Shubert - Requested donation of \$500 for Foundation for Women Warriors. It is a 100-year-old non-profit organization dedicated to honoring & empowering the women veteran community who served.
 - Suggestion from Dana Johnston - Requested donation Not to Exceed \$500 for Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst, New Jersey. Purchase a TV for the Navy Aircrew Training Classroom
- ❖ **Education** – Mercedes Shaffer – No Report
- ❖ **Girls State** – Caroline Miller – Spoke about the Girls State sendoff dinner, and the trip to Sacramento. She described some of the activities the girls enjoyed while at Girls State.
- ❖ **Juniors Activities** – Stacy Eickhoff – Juniors looking forward to volunteering for upcoming events with the VA & R and Children & Youth Programs.
- ❖ **Leadership** – OPEN
- ❖ **Legislative** – Pia Thompson – No Report
- ❖ **Membership** – Kendall Madsen – No Report
- ❖ **National Security** – Susan Siever – No Report
- ❖ **Past Presidents Parley** – OPEN
- ❖ **Poppy** – Bobbie Renaghan – Updated the success of the Poppy program Held in May.
- ❖ **Public Relations** – Lindsey Maturino – No Report
- ❖ **Troop Shipping** – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – On May 23, 2023; Troop Shipping and sent out 165 packages to our troops. The next Troop Shipping is on November 18, 2023.

- ❖ **VA & R** – Heidi Maturino – Updated on helping Veterans through US Vets, P.I.E.R. & Coastline College Veterans Resource Center. In late May, restocked the US Vets food pantry, including a BBQ event. On July 15, going to meet up at Costco, Tustin to replenish the food pantry and for BBQ. The BBQ is for the Women’s Warrior who will also receive a makeover. / We helped Coastline College Veterans back in May and replenished their food bank. Will not need anything over the summer. Will start back up in Mid – August. / Long Beach Veterans Administration P.I.E.R. program, we donated supplies from our own Troop Shipping, and went shopping for a few requested items.
- ❖ **Special Committees – None**
- ❖ **Old Business – None**
- ❖ **New Business** – Next General Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 6:00pm in the Main Hall
- ❖ **Closing Prayer**
- ❖ **Adjournment** Time: 7:34pm

IMPORTANT SITES TO VISIT

- www.ala291.com Auxiliary Unit 291 website for info & events
- ALA 291 Facebook [ALA Unit 291 | Facebook](#) Join our Facebook page for up-to-the-minute news & fun!
- www.TrackItForward.com/site/american-legion-auxiliary-unit-291 Volunteer time tracking
- ALA 291 Facebook page - [ALA Unit 291](#)
- National website - www.legion-aux.org - Create your own account using your membership #.
- www.member.legion-aux.org/member - Renew your 2024 Auxiliary Membership online.
- Department News is at www.calegionaux.com
- District News is at **D29 ALA Group Facebook**. It will have information regarding what is happening at various Auxiliary Units.
- www.emblems.legion.org American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary