



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

UNIT 291 NEWPORT HARBOR - GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2024, from 6:00pm – 7:30pm in the Main Hall

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- Sharon Morgan**, Chaplain
- ❖ **Chaplain- Sharon Morgan** Chaplain
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance** - Janz Simmons, Sgt-at-Arms
- ❖ **Music** – Mary Ann Leonard – Excused. The general membership selected *We are family*
- ❖ **Preamble of the Constitution of the ALA** – On projection screen
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** – Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary
 - **Excused:** Laura Farr, Treasurer
- ❖ **Officer Substitutions** - None
- ❖ **Special Guests** – None
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes dated Wednesday, November 15, 2023. The minutes were approved as written. Motion, 2nd, and motion carried.
- ❖ **This Month Dimes for Times** – LEGISLATIVE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAMS

REPORTS & INFORMATION

- ❖ **President** – Mary Beth Martin - General Announcements:
 - Brief moment of silence for Debbie Schubert
 - January is National Thank you month. Thanked everyone for working so hard helping our Veterans, and Military and their families.
 - Introduction – Introduced herself and gave a brief introduction.
 - Dana Johnston shall assume the duties for 1st Vice President.
 - Use of wireless mics and projector screen – Introduced the use of the projector and mics.
 - Meeting reminder email with link to agenda will be sent out once a month.
 - History – 100 years in 21 months; October 20, 2025
 - What is our history? Is it written down? Looking for volunteers to join the 100-year committee celebration.
 - Looking for anyone that has any history, pictures, stories, etc.
 - Position(s) OPEN.
 - 2nd Vice President – Diana Davis stood up and offered to be 2nd Vice President. A motion was made to accept Diane Davis as 2nd Vice President. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
 - Next District 29 meeting on Saturday, February 10, 2024, at 9:00am at Post 295 Cypress

❖ **1st Vice President Membership – Dana Johnston**

- Update on current paid to date memberships is 1,672.
- The spring fundraiser is February 24, 2023. The Hoedown party is \$50 pp in the office. Raffle tickets sold to date is over \$30,000. The Committee will meet on Saturday, January 15, 2024.
- March 10, 2024, Quartermania at 11am tickets available

❖ **2nd Vice President** – See President's notes.

❖ **Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal** – Correspondence was read that was received.

❖ **Treasure – Laura Farr** - Janet du Monceau de Bergendal for Laura Farr.

- **The Executive Board proposes to adopt the following standing rule:** Ratify and approve electronic payment of recurring and other bills including Zelle transfers, ACH transactions, and debit card for the current fiscal year. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- **The Executive Board proposes to adopt the following policy:** IRS requires the conflict-of-interest policy for tax purposes. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- **The Executive Board proposes to adopt the following policy:** IRS requires a document retention and destruction policy for tax purposes. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- **The Executive Board proposes to the General membership:** The Board moves to help subsize Debbie Schubert's memorial with the American Legion Post 291 with funds not to exceed \$3,000. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- **The Executive Board proposes to the General membership:** Transfer \$5,000 from General fund to Community / Donations budget to replenish funds to cover our \$5,000 Maui Disaster donation. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- Form W-2G Certain Gambling Winnings – Must be filled out by winners before receiving check.

❖ **Chaplain – Sharon Morgan** – Gave a report on the current birthdays, well wishes and condolences since our last meeting.

❖ **Historian – Sue Lindsey** – Summarized our historical events from our last meeting in November until the present.

- Fundraising - November 16, 2024, was the annual Holiday Boutique. Boutique was a huge success. Had a lot of vendors and happy shoppers.
- Troop Shipping - November 18, 2023, was Troop Shipping. Packed 176 boxes and shipped the boxes to our deployed! Have received numerous Thank you's from the recipients.
- VA & R - November 22, 2023 - Long Beach Veterans pantry was re-supplied.
November 23 2023 - Treated (2) two female Veterans to a holiday dinner for 6-8 people provided by Five Crowns Restaurant, gift cards and more. November 30,2023 – US Vets took supplies for Homeless Veterans. December 10, 2023 - Visited (2) two senior Veterans with Christmas cheer and quilts.
- Children and Youth - December 10, 2023, held the annual Christmas Children's party at the Post. (66) Sixty-six children attended the party with parents and grandparents. Collected lots of unwrapped toys for our other children's parties. December 17, 2023, was the Camp Pendleton

Children's Christmas Party. (29) twenty-nine families with (31) children celebrated with Santa, had dinner, and played Bingo.

- ❖ **Executive Committee** – Jan Woolford, Bobbi Renaghan, Cynthia Culp, Kim Philhart & Peggy Bengry – No Report

STANDING COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Americanism** – Carol Markel – Americanism Essay Contest is due March 1, 2024.
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund** – Jan Woolford – No Report
- ❖ **Chair Covers** – Janz Simmons
 - January 13, 2024 – Commadores Ball
 - Volunteers for Chair covers washing is needed.
 - Thanked all who helped with the December 31, 2023, New Years eve party.
 - Washing of the chair covers. Need help with 3 more chair covers washed.
 - Saturday January 13, 2024 – Commadore's Ball. Need help with setting up chair covers.
- ❖ **Children & Youth** – Bea Foster
 - Update on Children & Youth activities since last meeting.
 - January 27, 2024, Upcoming Baby shower SCMFO asking for baby item donations.
 - Asked for volunteers assist the chairmen -26 boxes need help to store a few boxes for upcoming children parties.
- ❖ **Community Service** – Sharon Morgan –Bags of Love is on April 22, 2024, at noon. Need donations and volunteers to help stuff @150 bags. One hundred fifty (150) bags will be distributed between three (3) different law enforcement agencies.
- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws** – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – No Report
- ❖ **Community Donations Recommended by the Board** – Heidi Sargeant, Christine Beilby and Phylis Helt – No Report
- ❖ **Education** – Barbara Melum – No Report
- ❖ **Girls State** – Caroline Miller
 - Girls State deadline is January 12, 2024
 - Need volunteers on February 8, 2024.
 - Deadline for candidates for Girls State is this Friday January 12, 2024, for the schools. Have 16 candidates, Feb 3 & 4 in Fireside Room. Need volunteers on Feb.8, 2024 to go to Anaheim schools. Feb 10th in Hut ... Cindy Edes is helping Girls State and suggested restaurants that have fundraisers that give back 20% opportunities.
- ❖ **Juniors Activities** – Stacy Eickhoff
 - Update on Juniors activities since the last General meeting.
 - Corresponded with den mother of the Tiger Troop Scouts who came to the November meeting and donated homemade blankets, and socks. Each Tiger scout had received a Certificate of Appreciation.
 - Notified the Juniors of the Americanism Essay Contest

- Junior Past Volunteer Activities: assisted at Troop Shipping, 1 Junior/grandmother crocheted hats for Troop Shipping, and 1 Junior assisted at Childrens Holiday Party
- Received an inquiry from an ALA member regarding volunteer ops for granddaughters.
- Received Junior Patches – coordinate for February General meeting to present.
- Cindy Edes suggested Valentine cards and candy bags for the veterans.
- ❖ **Legislative** – Pia Thompson – No report
- ❖ **Membership** – Kendall Madsen – No report
- ❖ **National Security** – Susan Siever – Next Blood drive is in February 2024
 - Next blood drive is February 19, 2024, need 59 slots filled.
 - Need volunteers to fold the flags for the pocket flags.
- ❖ **Past President** – Cindy Edes – No Report
- ❖ **Poppy** – Bobbie Renaghan – Update on Poppy envelope stuffing
 - Poppy envelope stuffing is Monday, March 11, 2023, at 10am – 5pm. Sign up.
- ❖ **Public Relations** – Heidi Sargeant
 - Updated the activity on LinkedIn and Facebook posted events.
- ❖ **Troop Shipping** – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal
 - Updated the Troop shipping activities since last general meeting on November 15, 2023. Troop shipping was on November 18, 2024, and shipped out 176 boxes. Due to the weather the troop shipping was held in the hall.
- ❖ **VA & R** – Heidi Maturino – No report

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Salute to Service – Mary Beth Martin** – Update on committee meeting Monday, January 8, 2024.
 - New chairmen are Jeannie Celeketic and Julie Sanborn
- ❖ **Old Business** –
- ❖ **New Business** –
 - Debbie Schubert Tribute, Draping of the Charter
- ❖ **Closing Prayer** - Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **Removal of POW/MIA Cover** – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING will be on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 6:00pm in the main Hall.

ADJOURNMENT Time: 7:38pm

IMPORTANT SITES TO VISIT

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *The Post/Parking Lot Access Policy* has been updated. It will be posted on the AL website. www.AL291.com. A copy is available at the front table.
- Your membership/parking card is your OWN. Please show them to Gate Concierge & do not forget to sign-in your guests on the new sign-in sheet.
- Pull tabs for The Ronald McDonald House can be dropped off in the troop shipping box.