



APPROVED AS WRITTEN
APRIL 17, 2024

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
UNIT 291 NEWPORT HARBOR - GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 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**
- ❖ **Placement of POW/MIA Cover**
- ❖ **Chaplain's Prayer** – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance** - Janz Simmons, Sgt-at-Arms
- ❖ **Music** - Mary Ann Leonard, Music Chair - The song selection is America (my country tis of thee)
- ❖ **Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary**
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** – Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary
 - **Excused:** Laura Farr - Treasurer, Peggy Bengry - Executive Committee
- ❖ **Officer Substitutions** – None
- ❖ **Special Guests**
 - **Caroline Miller, Girls State** – Introduced each of the sixteen (16) girls selected for the 2024 Girls State.
 - **Cindy Edes and Bea Foster, Children & Youth** – Introduced the three (3) boys who rescued eleven (11) ducklings from a sinkhole and reunited them with their parents. and gave them each a National Good Citizen Award and \$100. See video link:
<https://youtu.be/TSkLJ5xSey4?si=74i9A-9gJfFPGsiQ> (highlight the link, right click and Open Hyperlink)
 - **Commander Evin Planto, American Legion Post 291** – The Commander gave a brief history of his background. He answered questions from the members.
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes dated Wednesday, February 21, 2024. The minutes were waved to be read. The minutes were Approved as written. Motion was made 2nd, and motion carried.
- ❖ **This Month Dimes for Times** – Community Service for Community Service

REPORTS & INFORMATION

- ❖ **President** – Mary Beth Martin
 - 2nd Vice President – Position has been filled by the Executive Board for the unexpired term by Cindy Edes, Past President.
 - Draping of the Charter will continue. The Charter will remain draped and has been placed back up on the wall above the front office.
 - Hoedown Party – The Hoedown party was great. It was a sold out event. Dana did a great job and more in her report.

- Website membership page and password. There is a button Membership. This will be a private membership page. A password was selected at the meeting. Items in this section will include pertinent information for members.
 - Our Veterans pictures Video - Send in pictures of your veteran(s) for the video. Will be presented at the next April General Monthly Meeting.
 - Spirit of Volunteerism – Kelly (Legion PR) nominated the Auxiliary for this award.
 - Temporary Parliamentarian while Parliamentarian is out on sick leave – No volunteer.
 - Need Volunteers (signup sheet are up front) for American Legion events as following:
 - March 23, 2024 - Ruck Sack Walk (John, Historian)
 - April 4 – 8, 2024 - Annual Welcome Home Party - Vietnam Veterans. (Mike Schubert, Member at Large)
 - Next District 29 meeting: The Next District 29 meeting: Saturday April 13, 2024, at 9:00am Post 295 Cypress. The Department Auxiliary President Glenda Schultz will be visiting. See the Secretary after the meeting if you are interested in attending- Lunch will be \$11.00. Total number to attend from Unit 291 will be reported no later than April 4, 2024, at noon.
 - Table decoration – Were made by the President and daughter for the member who at each table has been in the auxiliary the longest.
- ❖ **1st Vice President Membership – Dana Johnston**
- Membership numbers are Seniors 1,816 + Juniors 39 = 1,855
 - Last Fundraising Events as the 2nd Vice President
 - Update on Hoedown party held on Saturday, Feb 24, 2024 – Was a big success. Lots of fun things to do, the floor was packed for line dancing, raffles throughout the night, photos, music and much more.
 - Update on Quartermania held on March 2, 2024 – 1st time to have a Quartermania was a fun event. Had several donated items for baskets to raffle all decorated by Sharon Morgan, vendors, selling and donating the Quartermania prizes, and a silent auction. Look forward to more in the future with the 2nd Vice President.
- ❖ **2nd Vice President – Cindy Edes (New) - No report**
- ❖ **Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal**
- Approved Minutes are now posted through January 2024 on our Website at <https://ala291.com>.
- ❖ **Treasurer – Laura Farr – Presented by Janet du Monceau de Bergendal, Constitution & Bylaws**
Speaking for the Treasurer, it is best practice in the non-profit world to have the current Board approve the budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The incoming Board should have a budget in place when it begins operations at the beginning of the new fiscal year.
- **Motion** to approve the procedure of presenting a proposed operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year in April of the current fiscal year. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- ❖ **Chaplain – Sharon Morgan – Updated on the current well wishes and condolences since our last meeting in February to present.**
- ❖ **Historian – Sue Lindsey**
- Updated on our Auxiliary historical events from the last meeting in February.

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Americanism – Carol Markel**
 - April is Military Kids Month. Wear purple. Started in 1986.
 - March history dates:
 - 3/3/1931 National Anthem Day
 - 3/29/2012 Vietnam Veterans Day
 - 4/5/1945 Gold Star Spouses Day
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Jan Woolford** – No Report
- ❖ **Chair Covers - Janz Simmons** - No Report
- ❖ **Children & Youth – Bea Foster**
 - Need a Chair person to help with Children’s & Youth, more storage boxes stored and volunteers to help at the other events outside of the Post.
 - Military Child events
 - April Long Beach Navy Yacht Club
 - On the base at San Onofre
 - Backpacks in July – Plan on 60 filled backpacks. Next month will have flyer with school supplies needed.
- ❖ **Community Service – Sharon Morgan** – April 22, 2024 - Bags of Love from 1:00pm – 2:30pm. A list of small items to fill a quart size needed has been placed on the table.
- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal** - Played Pop Quiz with the members in attendance.
- ❖ **Community Donations Recommended by the Board – Christine Beilby, Heidi Sargeant, and Phyllis Helt**
 - The following items have been approved by the Executive Board to move forward to the General Monthly Meeting:
 - **Suggested donation of \$900.00 to the Patriots and Paws Golf Tournament**
Motion to support the 9th annual Patriots and Paws golf tournament for a foursome of (4) veterans to play golf on Tuesday June 11, 2024, at Strawberry Farms Golf Club in Irvine. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
 - **Suggested donation of \$1,500 to the Sal, Fairways of Honor Golf Tournament–**
Motion to support the Sons of American Legion (SAL) golf tournament *Fairways of Honor* on May 25, 2024. The motion is to donate \$1,000 for the 9th hole and \$500 for a foursome of veterans. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- ❖ **Education – Barbara Melum** - No Report

❖ **Girls State – Caroline Miller**

- Saturday April 27, 2024 – Fundraiser at Rib Company Fundraiser Dine in 12pm – 9:30pm and take-out is 10am – 9pm. Either bring a flyer or mention the Auxiliary and they will donate 20% of your bill to the Auxiliary.
- Had a parent meeting. Spoke about the girl's participation.

❖ **Leadership – Cindy Edes – No Report**

❖ **Juniors – Stacy Eickhoff – No Report**

❖ **Legislative – Pia Thompson – No report**

❖ **Membership – Kendall Madsen – No Report**

❖ **National Security – Susan DiFonzo –**

- The Blood drive was held on Monday February 19, 2024. 32 pints of blood was donated, ninety-six people were saved.
- The next Blood drive will be on October 14, 2024.

❖ **PPP – Cindy Edes –**

- The Past President Parley (PPP) luncheon will be held on March 30, 2024, at 11:30am at the Post.
- The PPP mostly deals with Nursing scholarship. Has been reaching out to the Nursing schools.

❖ **Poppy – Bobbie Renaghan**

- Thanked everyone for showing up and stuffing the Poppy envelopes.
- Offering a scholarship our current Miss Poppy as she is aging out and has been doing this for us for the past three (3) years.
- We will be looking for a new Poppy girl for next year.

❖ **Public Relations – No Report**

❖ **Salute to Service – Jeannie Celeketic & Julie Sanborn**

- Looking for video clips from our current military members in the service on what they would have known before they enlisted. Send to president@ala291.com.
- The Salute to Service banner is displayed at the back of the room.

❖ **Troop Shipping – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal**

- Troop Shipping will be on May 18, 2024, at 10:00am in the Hall.
- Have been receiving addresses and can use more.

❖ **VA & R – Heidi Maturino – No Report**

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

❖ **Old Business**

➤ **Nominating Committee**

- Read the nominees of the elected officers to the membership. The only position open is 2nd Vice President. All others have agreed to a new term.
- Next month will open nominations from the floor for the same positions.

❖ **New Business**

- Year-end reports are due Apr 12th for those that were not at the Executive Board to the District (and copy Mary Beth) by the Chairmen.
- Log in all volunteering and record hours. Go to the website at <https://ala291.com>. Click on Log hours.

❖ **Closing Prayer – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain**

❖ **Removal of POW/MIA Cover – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain**

THE NEXT GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING will be on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 6:00pm in the main Hall.

ADJOURNMENT Time: 8:11pm

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.