



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

UNIT 291 NEWPORT HARBOR - GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

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

CALL TO ORDER - Please Silence your cell phones. Time: 6:15pm

- ❖ **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 *God Bless America*.
- ❖ **Preamble of the Constitution of the ALA**
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** - Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary
 - ▶ **Excused:** Jan Woolford - Executive Committee and Cynthia Culp - Executive Committee.
- ❖ **Officer Substitutions** - None
- ❖ **Special Guests**
 - ▶ **Carol Markel** - Introduced two (2) of the winners of the Americanism Essay Contest.
 - ▶ **Jim Garner** from *Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing* presented a slide presentation of their program for veterans.
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes dated Wednesday, March 20, 2024.
 - ▶ The minutes were approved as written. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- ❖ **This Month Dimes for Times** - Children and Youth for Military families.

REPORTS & INFORMATION

- ❖ **President** - Mary Beth Martin - General Announcements:
 - ▶ Two (2) previous Past Presidents were in attendance and recognized and introduced. A third previous Past President was also recognized, however not in attendance, her daughter accepted. All three (3) were each presented with a red, white, and blue blanket shawl. Also, gave one (1) of the blanket shawls to Heidi Maturino (VA & R) to give to her elderly 90+ year old male veteran at her next visit.
 - The blanket shawls were made and donated (twelve (12) total) by one of our own junior's and her grandmother. The additional blanket shawls will go to Cynthia's committee for reconnecting and visiting our own older ALA members.

- ▶ Our Veterans pictures Video – to date we have fifty (50) veterans and active duty. They range from World War. Continue to send in your photos of your veterans and active duty to president@ala291.com. The Legion liked the idea so much, they have asked all the family members of the post to ask their members for photos and it will be presented at the 4th of July/100 year celebration.
 - ▶ Kelly (Legion PR) - nominated the Auxiliary for the Spirit of Volunteerism award. The luncheon and awards ceremony are on April 27, 2024.
 - ▶ The Election is on May 15, 2024, at the General Monthly Meeting. Encouraged all to come and vote.
 - ▶ President Mary Beth Martin will not be here for the May 15, 2024, meeting. Dana Johnston our 1st Vice President will step in as President and run the May Meeting.
 - ▶ Legion Family Day at the Post. All the families come together. Sunday April 28th from 12pm – 4pm, the Post will open to the public to show what we are all about.
 - ▶ Next District 29 meeting: The Next District 29 meeting: Saturday May 11, 2024, 9:00am at Post 295 Cypress.
- ❖ **1st Vice President Membership - Dana Johnston**
- ▶ Membership numbers are as follows: 1,892 total members paid to date 1,863 seniors and 39 Juniors.
 - ▶ Motion - Propose changing the standing rules on membership. Change the required documentation for new members to require as follows: current California ID or DL, proof of kinship to eligible veteran (birth certificate, marriage license, etc.), DD214, if eligible veteran is alive, copy of their current Post 291 membership card, if eligible veteran is deceased, death certificate (for Newport Beach or Costa Mesa applicants only).
Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried
- ❖ **2nd Vice President - Cindy Edes - No report**
- ❖ **Secretary - Cynthia Minucci Neal – Read the correspondence received since the last meeting.**
- ❖ **Treasurer - Laura Farr**
- ▶ Reviewed the Monthly Financial Reports dated March 31, 2024, and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024 – 2025.
 - ▶ **Motion** to approve the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2024 - 2025. Rational: According to our revised Standing Rule #5 (March 2024). Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
 - The proposed budget shall be read for the 2nd reading at the next General Monthly meeting on May 15, 2024, for the final reading and approval.
- ❖ **Chaplain - Sharon Morgan – Updated the current well wishes since our last meeting.**
- ❖ **Historian - Sue Lindsey - No report**

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Americanism - Carol Markel**
 - ▶ Discussed April History dates:
 - 4/5 Gold Star Spouses Day started in 1945
 - 4/14 Air Force Reserve Day
 - 4/15 Military Kids Day known as Purple Up Day
 - 4/15 Patriots' Day commemorates the battles of Lexington and Concord
 - 4/22 Earth Day
 - 4/23 Army Reserve Day
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund - Jan Woolford** – No Report.
- ❖ **Chair Covers – Janz Simmons** - No Report
- ❖ **Children & Youth - Bea Foster**
 - ▶ Update on Children & Youth events.
 - ▶ April is Military Childrens Month
 - ▶ April 27, 2024, Long Beach Navy Yacht Club is Family Day with the Children. Will be bringing games and crafts.
 - ▶ April 28, 2024, at San Onofre Marine Base for Childrens Party with games and crafts for the children.
 - ▶ May 4, 2024, Baby Shower at VA Hospital will be bringing handmade baby quilts from Costa Mesa Ladies Quilts.
 - ▶ May 20, 2024, Luau for military families in San Clemente.
 - ▶ School back packs are put together in June - School supplies needed. A list of items needed has been placed on the table. Was able to purchase from Dollar Tree Store the pencil box with all the supplies for \$12.50 each and the notebook with all the supplies for \$12.50 each.
- ❖ **Community Service - Sharon Morgan** – Discussed the upcoming Bags of Love on Monday, April 22, 2024, 1:00pm - 2:30pm. Volunteers needed to stuff 150 bags.
- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws - Janet du Monceau de Bergendal**
 - ▶ **Motion** - To propose a change to Standing Rule #22 (mailing address) from PO Box 11448 to 215 15th St., Newport Beach, CA 92663. Motion was made, 2nd, motion carried.

- ❖ **Community Donations Recommended by the Board -Christine Beilby, Heidi Sargeant, and Phyllis Helt - No Report**
- ❖ **Education - Barbara Melum - No Report**
- ❖ **Girls State - Caroline Miller**
 - ▶ Gave a brief update on the sixteen (16) Girls State delegates.
 - Check for the delegate's fees has been mailed.
 - Orientation for the girls is on Sunday April 21, 2024, at Post 555 Midway City.
- ❖ **Saturday, April 27, 2024. The Newport Rib Company fundraiser dine in or take out mention ALA291.**
- ❖ **Leadership - Cindy Edes - No Report**
- ❖ **Juniors - Stacy Eickhoff- Juniors' activities project is postponed.**
- ❖ **Legislative - Pia Thompson - No report**
- ❖ **Membership - Kendall Madsen - No Report**
- ❖ **National Security - Susan DiFonzo - No Report**
- ❖ **Past President Parley - Cindy Edes - No Report**
- ❖ **Poppy - Bobbie Renaghan - Updated on Poppies.**
 - ▶ Had the Poppy mailing last month
 - ▶ May is Poppies month and starts on May 1, 2024.
 - ▶ Next week the remembrance cards will go on the mirror in the bar.
 - ▶ April 24th is National Poppy Day
- ❖ **Newport Harbor High has a celebration and event every year around their flag pole. They have brass plaques around the flag pole honoring the deceased military. Bobbi and Sue (alumni) have been invited and will be passing out poppies.**
- ❖ **May - Miss Poppy will be out on the patio.**
- ❖ **Public Relations - Heidi Sargeant - No Report**
- ❖ **Salute to Service - Jeannie Celeketic & Julie Sanborn - No Report**
- ❖ **Troop Shipping - Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal**
 - ▶ Updated on the Troop Shipping to be held on May 18, 2024.
 - Showed a sample of a Troop Shipping box
 - Discussed the two (2) new options to donate to Troop Shipping:
 - Go to the Auxiliary website www.ala291.com / Click on Donate / Click on Troop Shipping or
 - See Janet or Janice to use the new QR code (use with phone or other similar devices). Needs QR code reader app or camera (i.e. Apple)
 - ▶ Can always use more addresses of deployed military to send out care packages.

- ▶ Read the American Legion Auxiliary Mission - “In the spirit of service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security”.
- ❖ **VA & R- Heidi Maturino** - Updated on the following Veteran Resource Centers:
 - ❖ Provide four (4) food pantries every month at US Vets, Coastline College VCR, Orange Coast VRC and Long Beach VA Hospital.
 - ❖ Also, a part of a program from US Vets called Helping Heros - it is 1 on 1 Veteran Visits. US Vets identify elderly vets 65 years and older that have transportation issues, food challenges, etc., and fill request items the vets need and visit them at their homes and bring the item(s) to them. Told the story of her 98-100 year old she visits. Also visits a 77 year old who has cancer, and a female veteran we have helped with her utilities. She thanked everyone for all the help and making this possible for our veterans.
 - ❖ Do not need coats at this time.
 - ❖ Can use can goods, think homeless.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

❖ **Old Business**

- ▶ Nominating Committee – Stacy Eickhoff, Chair
 - Stacy Eickhoff, presented the slate with the following nominees: for the Office of President – Mary Beth Martin, for the Office of 1st Vice President (Membership) – Dana Johnston, for the office of 2nd Vice President (Fundraising) - Open for floor nominations, for the Office of Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal, for the office of Treasurer – Laura Farr, for the office of Chaplain – Sharon Morgan, for the office of Historian – Sue Lindsey, for the office of Sargeant -at-Arms – Janz Simmons, and for the office of Assistant Sargeant-at-Arms – Stacy Eickhoff. The Executive Committee has five (5) positions available. The slate for the Executive Committee is as follows: Peggy Bengry, Jan Woolford, Bobbi Renaghan, Cynthia Culp, and Kim Philhart.
 - The floor was opened for nominees for each position one (1) at a time. Each position called for nominations three (3) times and the nomination was closed after each position was called. The following slate of nominees were uncontested: for the Office of President – Mary Beth Martin, for the Office of 1st Vice President (Membership) – Dana Johnston, for the Office of 2nd Vice President (Fundraising) – was tabled and nominations were closed after three (3) call for nominations, for the Office of Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal, for

the Office of Treasurer – Laura Farr, for the Office of Chaplain – Sharon Morgan, for the Office of Historian – Sue Lindsey, for the Office of Sargeant -at-Arms – Janz Simmons, and for the Office of Assistant Sargeant-at-Arms – Stacy Eickhoff. For the Office of Executive Committee (five (5) positions) Stacy called to the floor for nominations. Two (2) additional members were nominated. Mary Ann Leonard (accepted the nomination) and Janice Flanagan (not present received a written Letter of Acceptance) were also nominated for the Office of Executive Committee. Stacy called for nominations from the floor for a total of three (3) times and the nominations for Executive Committee was closed.

- Stacy asked if any nominee wanted to give a speech. Mary Ann Leonard gave a speech on her qualifications to run for the Office of the Executive Committee. Janice Flanagan submitted a speech that was read from the floor. The current Executive Committee Officers were asked if they wanted to say anything. No one responded. The current Executive Committee Officers were asked to stand and were given a round of applause. The nominations were closed. We will have a Runoff Election for the Office of Executive Committee at the May General Monthly meeting. The floor was given back to President Mary Beth Martin.
- President Mary Beth Martin stated the election will be held by Ballot for the five (5) Executive Committee positions open. Voting will take place at the next General Monthly Meeting on May 15, 2024, from 5:00pm – 6:30pm. Current membership card will be required to vote.

❖ **Undraping of Charter** – The undraping of the Charter shall be presented at the next General Monthly Meeting on May 15, 2024, and will be brought up under Old Business.

❖ **New Business**

- ▶ Initiation Ceremony of New Members was held. **Motion** to accept these new members into Auxiliary Unit 291. Motion was moved, 2nd, and motion carried. The new members were Introduced and welcomed to the Auxiliary after the Initiation ceremony.
- ▶ Peggy Bengry spoke about the Senior Center Quilts they make and donate to the Auxiliary for our Veterans.

❖ **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.

The Colors will remain in place.

ADJOURNMENT Time: 7:47pm

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.