



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

UNIT 291 NEWPORT HARBOR - GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 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 the Beautiful.
- ❖ Preamble of the Constitution of the ALA – Dana Johnston, 1st Vice President
- ❖ Roll Call of Officers - Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary
 - Excused: President Mary Beth Martin, and Cynthia Culp
- ❖ Nominations Committee – Stacy Eickhoff, Chair
 - Announced the nomination for the position of 2nd Vice President. Called for nominations from the floor and repeated three (3) times. There were no nominations for the 2nd Vice President position. With no nominations from the floor, the position of 2nd Vice President was closed.
- ❖ Elections – Dana Johnston, presiding President called for recess to allow the officers to vote first. Recess began at 6:14pm. Once the officers voted the meeting was reopened at 6:27pm to continue the meeting. Once all members voted, the tellers counted the votes.
- ❖ Officer Substitutions — Dana Johnston 1st Vice President for President Mary Beth Martin
- ❖ Special Guests
 - Bobbi Renaghan – Introduced Miss Poppy Christina Reyna. She has been Miss Poppy for three (3) years. She was presented with a Certificate of Participation, flowers and is the first recipient of the Poppy Scholarship.
- ❖ Approval for Minutes - The General Monthly Meeting minutes dated Wednesday, April 17, 2024. A motion to dispense the reading of the minutes. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried. The minutes stand as written.
- ❖ This Month Dimes for Times– Poppy for Poppy Program

REPORTS & INFORMATION

- ❖ President Mary Beth Martin – Presented by Dana Johnston, Presiding President
 - Presentation of District awards for best Submittals: Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – 1st place Constitution & Bylaws, Caroline Miller – 2nd place Girls State, Sue Lindsey – 3rd place Historian, Susan Difonzo – 2nd place National Security, and Heidi Maturino - 2nd place VA & R.
 - Next District 29 meeting: Saturday June 1, 2024, 9:00am at Post 295 Cypress.
- ❖ 1st Vice President Membership - Dana Johnston
 - Membership numbers - 1,918 active members to date (seniors 1,886 and Juniors 32). At 98% goal.
- ❖ 2nd Vice President - Cindy Edes - No Report

- ❖ Secretary - Cynthia Minucci Neal
 - Spirit of Volunteerism Award – Gave a brief overview of the event and shared the *Certificate of Appreciation for 2024 Outstanding Volunteer* received from ONEOC. The event was held at The Grove in Anaheim.
- ❖ Treasurer - Laura Farr
 - Reviewed the Monthly Financial Reports dated May 5, 2024.
 - The 2nd Reading of the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2024 – 2025 was read.
 - **Motion** on behalf of the Board 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.
- ❖ Chaplain - Sharon Morgan – Updated the members on the current well wishes since our last meeting. She shared the District's Memorial Service at the last District meeting May 11th.
- ❖ Historian - Sue Lindsey – Updated the past events and history since the last meeting: Bags of Love, membership team, Children & Youth children's party at Camp Pendleton and May is Military Child month, Fundraiser for Girls State at Newport Rib Co, and the VA & R program.
- ❖ Executive Committee - Bobbi Renaghan, Cynthia Culp, Jan Woolford, Kim Philhart & Peggy Bengry – No Report
- ❖ Past President – Cindy Edes - No Report

STANDING COMMITTEES

- ❖ Americanism - Carol Markel
 - Spoke about the following: Flag Etiquette for Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, National Poppy Day and in June is Flag Day.
 - Gave a brief history of Flanders Field and read the poem.
 - Reminded everyone to wear a poppy on Memorial Day.
- ❖ Auxiliary Emergency Fund - Jan Woolford – Presented by Dana Johnston
 - Increase the Auxiliary Emergency Fund line-item budget from the General Fund in the amount of \$4,800 above the \$1,200 line item (for National donation) was made. This will provide temporary assistance to assist eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291 in the amount up to \$2,400 who have endured a significant financial setback. A guideline policy has been drafted for implementation on how to qualify for emergency funding. The policy was read to the members.
 - **Motion** to accept the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Policy for implementation. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
 - **Motion** to increase the Auxiliary Emergency Fund line-item from \$1,200 to \$6,000 for the additional \$4,800 to provide temporary assistance for eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291 in the amount not to exceed \$2,400 each as per the Policy. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- ❖ Chair Covers – Janz Simmons
 - Chair cover for the Army Ball on June 8, 2024 - Volunteers needed at 10am to help with chair covers.

- ❖ Children & Youth - Bea Foster
 - Updated on the Children's events in April through July.
 - April 27, 2024 - Long Beach Navy Yacht Club Children event for military month for the kids
 - April 28th – Children’s party on Military Base
 - April Month of the Military Child – Children’s Party on base
 - May 18, 2024 - Long Beach VA Hospital Baby Shower
 - July 20, 2024 - Luau for Military Families – donating new board games to the event
 - Donations of school supplies – Have 75 backpacks to fill with needed school supplies from list. Each backpack needs one (1) of each:
 - Pencil box - filled with supply items from list.
 - Notebook - filled with supply items from list.
 - June 15th garage sale for sun and sail Women’s Club
- ❖ Community Service - Sharon Morgan
 - Bags of Love was on April 22, 2024. Sharon thanked all for coming to help. A total of twenty-four (24) volunteers came to help. Made 175 bags and distributed them to Newport PD, Costa Mesa PD and OC Sheriffs.
- ❖ Constitution & Bylaws - Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – No Report
- ❖ Community Donations Recommended by the Board - Christine Beilby, and Phyllis Helt - No Report
- ❖ Education - Barbara Melum – No Report
- ❖ Girls State - Caroline Miller
 - Girls State upcoming Sacramento trip is June 25th – June 30th
 - Have sixteen (16) girls participating this year.
 - Need volunteer Chaperones for the Girl State buses. Leave on June 25, 2024
 - June 20, 2024 - Girls State dinner will be here at the Post
 - Updated on the Newport Rib Co. fundraiser. Thanked all for coming and supporting. The fundraiser made \$300 profit to date
- ❖ Leadership - Cindy Edes - No Report
- ❖ Juniors - Stacy Eickhoff – No Report
- ❖ Legislative - Pia Thompson - No Report
- ❖ Membership - Kendall Madsen - No Report
- ❖ National Security - Susan Difonzo - No Report
- ❖ Past President Parley - Cindy Edes – Presented the “Member of the Year 2023 - 2024” Heidi Maturino! Gave a brief background on Heidi and all she has accomplished. Presented her with a certificate and flowers.
- ❖ Poppy - Bobbie Renaghan
 - As of May 13th, we have raised to date \$35,207.06.
 - National Poppy Day is on May 24, 2024. Will be at Newport Harbor High School in the morning for the ceremony at the Flag pole for the ceremony.
 - Miss Poppy will be at the Post on weekends with poppies.
- ❖ Public Relations - Heidi Sargeant - No Report
- ❖ Salute to Service - Jeannie Celeketic & Julie Sanborn
 - Segerstrom donation for Salute to Service gave a \$5,000 grant to pay for up to 150 dinners. So far (25) enlisted coming.
 - June 3, 2024 – Volunteers needed for decorating

- ❖ Troop Shipping - Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal
 - Upcoming Troop Shipping is on Saturday May 18, 2024. Starts at 10am
- ❖ VA & R- Heidi Maturino
 - Replenished all four (4) of the food pantries at US Vets, Orange Coast College, Coastline College and Long Beach VA Hospital.
 - Home Veteran visits – Visited her at home Veterans at their homes bringing them needed items they requested. Also told us of a homeless veteran newly released from the service, the US Vets & the Auxiliary helped him with shelter, and assistance. He got a job in San Francisco to start his new career.
 - Starting in July will be collecting for food drive.
 - Looking for a co-chair

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- ❖ Old Business
 - The nominated slate of elected officers were all uncontested. Each office was read separately and voted on and has been re-elected to office.
 - The 2024 – 2025 elected officers are as follows:
 - President Mary Beth Martin
 - 1st Vice President Dana Johnston
 - Secretary Cynthia Minucci Neal
 - Treasurer Laura Farr
 - Chaplain Sharon Morgan
 - Historian Sue Lindsey
 - Sergeant at Arms Janz Simmons
 - Assistant at Sergeant at Arms Stacy Eickhoff
 - Stacy Eickhoff presented the Results for the 2024 - 2025 Executive Committee who were nominated and elected.
 - Peggy Bengry
 - Jan Woolford
 - Bobbi Renaghan
 - Janice Flanagan
 - Mary Ann Leonard
 - The completed election ballots shall be held for thirty (30) days from the election by the Secretary.
 - Cindy Edes read the Delegates and the Alternates list for this year's convention.
 - **Motion** to accept as the Delegates for convention. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
 - **Motion** to accept as the alternatives for convention. Motion was made, 2nd and motion carried.
 - American Legion 100 year Anniversary committee – Mary Ann Leonard. Reported on the status on the weekend event. Volunteers are needed on July 4th for breakfast, and on the 4th and 6th volunteers are needed for the silent auction table.
 - Undraping of Charter - The ceremony to undrape was performed by Dana and Sharon.

- ❖ New Business
 - Initiation of new members initiation ceremony was performed.
 - **Motion** to accept the new members. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

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

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

THE NEXT GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING will be on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 6:00pm in the main Hall.

There will be no meeting in June. We are Dark in June.

ADJOURNMENT Time: 7:49pm

INFORMATION

- ❖ 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 is posted on the AL website. www.AL291.com.
- ❖ Your membership/parking card is your OWN. Please show them to the Gate Concierge & do not forget to sign-in your guests on the sign-in sheet at the front door or parking lot entry.
- ❖ Pull tabs for The Ronald McDonald House can be dropped off in the troop shipping box.