



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

UNIT 291 NEWPORT HARBOR - GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2024, from 6:00pm – 8:00pm in the Main Hall

CALL TO ORDER - Please Silence your cell phones. Time: 6:05pm

- ❖ **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 *Let there be Peace on Earth.*
- ❖ **Preamble of the Constitution of the ALA** – see Projector screen
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** - Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary
 - **Excused:** Laura Farr - Treasurer
- ❖ **Officer Substitutions**
- ❖ **Special Guests:**
 - The new Post 291 Commander Brian Flemming introduced himself and spoke about the goals for the family (Legion, Auxiliary, Yacht Club and Sal's) and what we can do together as a family for the veterans. Build on the foundation of the family. Welcomed all to come and talk with him.
 - Judy Leonardi, American Legion Baseball World series at Chapman University, Orange, on July 25th – 29th. Gave the history of the American Legion Baseball.
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes** - The General Monthly Meeting minutes dated Wednesday, May 15, 2024. Motion to dispense the reading of the minutes. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried. Minutes approved as written.
This Month Dimes for Times– Girls State for Girls State

REPORTS & INFORMATION

- ❖ **President- Mary Beth Martin**
 - Sacred ground – Discussed the area in front of the podium as sacred ground and not allowed to stand near the area.
 - Officer installation – A wonderful installation of officers by Cindy Edes with Helen Riker and Pat Harrington assisting. Had the officers and chairs stand and Introduced the Leadership for 2024-2025.
 - Department (CA) convention – Four (4) of us went to the convention in Visalia, CA. Met Auxiliary members from all over California. Received awards from the Department (CA) level.
 - Poppies – Unit 291 purchased 10% of the total Department of California sales
 - Great Job Bobbi, Miss Poppy and the entire team.
 - Size of Unit 291 – Unit 291 is the 3rd largest unit in the country, and the largest unit in state of California. Next is District 21, Unit 519 Owen Coffman (Riverside County)

- Green tickets were handed out and a winner was selected to win a floral bouquet brought back from the convention.
- Salute to Service was at the beginning of June recognizing high school seniors going into the service after high school graduation. TikTok video was played. Will be uploaded to the members area on the website.
- General Monthly Membership meeting – 1 hour before the meeting each month Showcase the program of the month (Change jar). This month is Girls State for Girls State. Next month is Constitution and bylaws.
- Celebrating Us – History review each month starting in October, looking for volunteers to perform skits/telephone calls about each decade (think: Lily Tomlin as Ernestine in 1969 Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In and 1983 Saturday Night Live). Will start with 1925. Looking for ten (10) volunteers.
- Flag – Historical one/new one. Janz is determining the state of our flag for possible repair. Purchased a new one for the Friday night dinners and will be used for the flag ceremony. Pam Garrett volunteered to do the Friday night flag ceremony.
- 4th of July Silent Auction event raised \$3,005. Sign up genius worked great for volunteers. Will use in the future.
- We have QR codes for donations; Troop shipping, Poppies and General Donation. We also have the QR code on the back of our business cards going forward.
- Email went out looking for volunteer for the pop tops. Mary Sericali volunteered.
- Fundraiser committee. The following members have volunteered:
 - Raffle - Jan Woolford
 - Boutique – Sharon Seal
 - Quartermanina – Julie Sanborn
 - Bingo Elks, Lake Forest – Christine Beilby
 - Technology – Tammy Hill

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

- Membership numbers to date: There are 1,957 members.
- Dana offered to help the new fundraising committee members with her past knowledge of being 2nd VP and share all the information.

❖ **Secretary - Cynthia Minucci Neal – No Report**

❖ **Treasurer - Laura Farr – Presented by Janet du Monceau de Bergendal**

- Motions are needed for electronic methods of payments
 - **Motion** to ratify payments made in 2023 – 2024 using debit card, Zelle and other electronic payments. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
 - **Motion** for the Board to approve payments in 2024 – 2025 using electronic payments, including debit card, Zelle and other payments. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

- ❖ **Chaplain - Sharon Morgan** – Updated the current well wishes and condolences since our last meeting.
- ❖ **Historian - Sue Lindsey** – Update on Auxiliary past events and history since our last meeting in May. Check our website at ala291.com for all postings, May 18th - Troop Shipping, May 24th – Memorial Day Service at Newport Harbor High School, May 30th - Memorial Day services at Pacific View Memorial Park, June is dark – no meetings, June 3rd - Salute to Service, June 17th – Dinner and Installation of Officers ceremony with the Post family, the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sal's, June 20th sendoff dinner for the sixteen (16) delegates going to Girls State in Sacramento, July started off with a Board Retreat at Presidents home, July 1 – Department (CA) Convention, June 26th - Girls State session in Sacramento
- ❖ **Executive Committee - Bobbi Renaghan, Jan Woolford, Janice Flanagan, Mary Ann Leonard & Peggy Bengry** – No Report
- ❖ **Past President – Cindy Edes** - No Report

STANDING COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Americanism - Carol Markel**
 - July 4th America's birthday! Gave a brief history of the independence history.
 - Lions club old glasses or readers – bring to the meetings to donate at each meeting
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund - Jan Woolford** – No Report
- ❖ **Chair Covers – Janz Simmons**
 - Auxiliary rents out chair covers for events at the Post. Thanked everyone for helping with the chair covers for the Military Ball on June 8th.
 - Needs help washing the chair covers. Can pick up after the meeting.
- ❖ **Children & Youth - Bea Foster**
 - Updated on children's parties.
 - July 20, 2024, Luau for Military families –Donated board games and toys.
 - Children & Youth committee filled @36 backpacks to date for children in need. There will be a total of 76 backpacks filled. Backpacks will be donated to community and military children this year.
 - Sunday, August 4, 2024 - Sun & Sail Women's Club will have their 16th Baby Shower for eight (8) moms-to-be. The Auxiliary purchased diapers for the events.
 - Sunday October 27, 2024 - Children's Halloween Party in the hall.
 - Sunday December 8, 2024 – Holiday Children's Party in the hall
- ❖ **Community Service - Sharon Morgan** – No Report
- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws - Janet du Monceau de Bergendal** .
 - Old Standing Rule #34a / New Standing Rule Article III #2a

- Current Amendment - New and renewing membership cannot be accepted in the months of June and July. New and renewing membership will be accepted in August and processed in September in accordance with our National Bylaws.
 - Proposed Amendment - Proposed Amendment Old Standing Rule #34a / New Standing Rule Article III #2a - New membership cannot be accepted in the month of August. (2024)
Rationale - Correcting months from June and July and eliminating unnecessary wording.
 - **Motion:** moved to accept New Standing Rule Article III #2a New membership cannot be accepted in the month of August. (2024) Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried. One (1) no
- Old Standing Rule #14 / New Standing Rule Article X #2
- Current Amendment - A Past President's pin shall be ordered by the Unit Secretary and presented at the Unit Installation, or the first general meeting of the new President. This cost is not to exceed \$50.00. The name of said President should also be added to the Past President's plaque.
 - Proposed Amendment - A Past President's pin shall be ordered by the Unit Secretary and presented at the Unit Installation, or the first general meeting of the new President. This cost is not to exceed \$125.00. The name of said President should also be added to the Past President's plaque. (2024)
Rationale - Changing dollar amount due to higher costs.
- **Motion:** moved to accept New Standing Rule Article X #2 Proposed Amendment - A Past President's pin shall be ordered by the Unit Secretary and presented at the Unit Installation, or the first general meeting of the new President. This cost is not to exceed \$125.00. The name of said President should also be added to the Past President's plaque. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- ❖ **Community Donations Recommended by the Board** - Christine Beilby, Heidi Sergeant, and Phyllis Helt
- Introduced the committee. The committee wants to know "What pulls at your heartstrings" of our members. Would like to keep it local, southern CA and smaller. Send an email with the charity information and the committee will look into the charities and vet them. Charities selected will be invited to speak at the general meetings. Charities should be military driven for veterans and active military.
 - Auxiliary Hats sales to date has made @\$450.00. Have @30 left and will be available at the General meeting. Possibly create hat for 100-year anniversary. Have made \$1,200.00 Discussed making hats and shirts for the 100-year celebration.

➤ **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing – Proposed Donation \$500.00**

Jim Garner from Project Healing Waters was a guest speaker and spoke at the April 17, 2024, General Monthly meeting. He presented a slide presentation and spoke about the non-profit organization. This organization provides all the fishing equipment, fly fishing trips, guide services, food and travel expense for our disabled veterans in our community. Project Healing Waters began in 2005 servicing wounded Military service members returning from combat. They have expanded nationwide and have established a program in the Department of Defense Hospitals, and the VA Medical Centers to name a few. The non-profit organization helps our active military service personnel and Veterans through their programs such as fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying and fly rod building while on fly fishing trips.

- **Motion:** moved to donate \$500.00 to the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing program for the active military and Veterans. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

❖ **Education - Barbara Melum – No Report**

❖ **Girls State - Caroline Miller**

- Updated on the 81st session of Girls State in Sacramento, CA. Reported on the trip with the girls. One (1) delegate from Orange County was selected to represent CA Girls State in Girls Nation in Washington DC. The girls set up government, learned about the Auxiliary mission and purpose, importance of our poppies, Flanders Field, flag etiquette, honoring our veterans, honor flights wrote thank you letters “letters from home” for the veterans, girls wore their pens with their veteran and the girls wo, had mock trials, take bar exam, and many more. Elected officials visited. August 12th Girls State combined with Boys/Girls State.
- Awards banquet in August 12th combined with Girls / Boys State
- President Mary Beth Martin announced a change of in Girls State Leadership - Caroline Miller is now the Department Girls State chairman.

❖ **Leadership - Cindy Edes - No Report**

❖ **Juniors – Stacy Eickhoff**

- Received a request for Junior volunteers for Salute to Service
 - A junior and their friend volunteered. Positive feedback
 - Sent a request to add a SAL to list of volunteering
- Sending out to all current Juniors asking for feedback on what they would like to see this year. Has sent the juniors out an email.
- Patch program – Can earn patches

❖ **Legislative - Pia Thompson - No Report**

❖ **National Security - Susan Difonzo - No Report**

❖ **Past President Parley - Cindy Edes – No Report**

❖ **Poppy - Bobbie Renaghan**

- Updated on total of donations received for Poppies. Total received \$36,874.00
- Thanked Miss Poppy. This is her 3rd year and gave her a \$2,500 scholarship.
- Thanked Sue Lindsay Historian for last two (2) years she takes poppies and walks down by the Newport pier, and she brings donated money back.

❖ **Public Relations - Heidi Sargeant - No Report**

❖ **Salute to Service - Jeannie Celeketic & Julie Sanborn – No Report**

❖ **Troop Shipping - Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal. – No Report**

❖ **VA & R - Heidi Maturino**

- Thanked Bobbi Renaghan - Poppies chairman for what the Poppies program does for VA & R.
- In late May, helped provide food for a beach BBQ with US Vets.
Helping Heroes Home Veterans visits - In June took supplies to each of the three (3) home veterans.
- Long Beach VA Hospital - supplied toiletries and food pantry
- In July met Art (US Vets) at Costco and supplied the food pantry
- OC Resource Center - supplied the food pantry
- Food donations start next month (August). Donations go to Long Beach VA
- Possibly found a co-chair more to come

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

❖ **Old Business**

- None

❖ **New Business**

- Initiation of New Members were introduced and initiated. Nineteen (19) new members were initiated.
Motion: moved to accept these new members into unit 291. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- **American Legion Baseball – Suggested Donation \$2,000.00** – Presented by Janet du Monceau de Bergendal
 - The American Legion baseball (high school students) will be having the World Series games at Chapman University in Orange on July 24th - 29th. The goal is for Post 291 families (Legion, Auxiliary, Sal's and ALYC) to contribute a total of \$10,000.00. Post 291 has a baseball team, and it is doing very well this year.
 - **Motion:** moved to donate \$2,000 to the American Legion Baseball. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT Time: 8:01pm

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.ca legionaux.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.