



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 291
215 15TH STREET, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Date: August 12, 2024

Auxiliary Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary 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, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

- ❖ **CALL TO ORDER - Silence your cell phones** Time: 6:03pm
- ❖ **Officer Substitution** – None
- ❖ **Chaplain's Prayer** – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance** – Janz Simmons, Sgt-at-Arms
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** – Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary
 - Excused: Laura Farr Treasurer, Jan Woolford Executive Committee

STANDING COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Americanism – Carol Markel**
 - Introduced *The Retire with Dignity* program. Auxiliary Unit 430 in Odessa, TX “believes a tattered and torn American flag can serve one final purpose. They believe a retired flag “can be honored one last time by draping the retired flag over a veteran’s coffin or inside the coffin before cremation”.
 - Reviewed the September US holidays
 - September 1st Labor Day
 - September 11th Patriot Day
 - September 18th US Air Force Birthday
 - Flying Flags
 - There are thirty-two (32) bases in California the most in any state.
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Jan Woolford** – No Report
- ❖ **Chair Covers – Janz Simmons** – No Report
- ❖ **Children and Youth – Bea Foster** – No Report
 - The General Monthly Meeting Report will be given by Mary Lynn Gladdis.
- ❖ **Community Service – Sharon Morgan** – No Report
- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal** - No Report

❖ **Community Donations – Christine Beilby, Heidi Sergeant & Phyllis Helt**

➤ **Cell Dogs, Inc.: Proposed by Kendall Madsen – Suggested donation \$1,000**

- See Christine’s Community Donations Board Report – Attachment.

Cell Dogs., Inc. will be a Guest Speaker at the August 21, 2024, General Monthly Meeting.

- **Motion:** Community Donations moves to donate \$1,000 to Cell Dogs, Inc. for service dog training for the veterans and first responders. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

➤ **Wounded Warrior Foundation Freedom Station: Proposed by Community Donations Committee – Suggested donation \$500**

- See Christine’s Community Donations Board Report – Attachment

- **Motion:** Community Donations moved to donate \$500.00 to the Warrior Foundation Freedom Station to help support their mission in helping our ill and injured military heroes through recovery, rehabilitation, and transitioning back to civilian life. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

➤ **The Warrior Foundation Freedom Station: Proposed by Community Donations - Suggested donation \$1,000.00**

- This organization was founded in San Diego 2004. In October they will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary. They have helped thousands of ill and injured military heroes. These veterans are learning to overcome their injuries through recovery rehabilitation and transitioning back to life and reality. Their mission is to provide support services, temporary housing, during their recovery. They also offer services for those suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, serious illness, mentorship programs, as well as temporary housing for eighteen (18) months.

On October 6, 2024, the Orange County chapter is sponsoring “Ride for the Warriors” from Orange County to San Diego County to support the foundation and to donate funding for their temporary housing that they are building. This will include sponsoring two (2) riders (veterans), two (2) T-Shirts with our logo as well as on their event banner.

- **Motion:** Community Donations moved to donate \$1,000 to the “Ride for the Warriors” and the remainder will go toward the Foundation. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

➤ **Christine Beilby – Creating a *Moments to Memories Book* and needs actual photos and other items, stories, etc. Need actual photos.**

- **Education – Barbara Mellum**
- In the spring had Teacher appreciation breakfast at several schools. Working on starting this program to educate children Kindergarten – 6th grade. Also ask the staff at the schools if they would like a veteran to visit on Veterans Day. She received positive feedback for a veteran to visit.
- Looking into the National Auxiliary scholarships for this fiscal year.
- Would like to start a program in schools teaching the constitution and flag etiquette.
- ❖ **Girls State - Caroline Miller – No Report**
- ❖ **Juniors – Stacy Eickhoff – No Report**
- ❖ **Leadership – Cindy Edes – No Report**
- ❖ **Legislative – Pia Thompson – No Report**
 - Register to vote at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration>
- ❖ **Music – Mary Ann Leonard - Song selection for the General Monthly meeting is *America the Beautiful***
- ❖ **National Security – Susan Difonzo – No Report**
 - Monday, October 14, 2024, Blood Drive
- ❖ **Past President Parley – Cindy Edes Poppy – Bobbi Renaghan – No Report**
- ❖ **Public Relations – Heidi Sergeant - No Report**
- ❖ **Troop Shipping – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – No Report**
 - November 23, 2024 - Troop Shipping
- ❖ **Salute to Service - Jeannie Celeketic & Julie Sanborn – No Report**
 - May 19, 2024 - Salute to Service
- ❖ **VA & R – Heidi Maturino – No Report**

REPORTS

- ❖ **President – Mary Beth Martin**
 - See Mary Beth’s President Board Report - Attachment
 - Shed – Termites – Commander Brian getting bids for tenting the sheds. Will get notice as to when tenting will occur. Will have to be out of shed for three (3) days.
 - Post Front Office – I have received emails regarding the Post front office not being helpful or nice to auxiliary members. Open discussion with Legion regarding Office helping our members.
 - Discussed ways the Office could be more helpful.
 - Develop list of most asked questions of the office staff and provide answers. Put the Q & A on the website. Have copies of Q & A for office to handout to our members.

- Motions (e-board) – once a motion has been made and passed at the Executive Board everyone needs to stand behind and support the motion at the General Membership Meeting.
- District meeting at Post 291 will be on Saturday November 9, 2024, time TBD.
- The next District meeting will be on Saturday, September 9, 2024, at 10am hosted by Unit 721 San Juan Capistrano. The meeting will be held at San Juan Capistrano Community Center located at 35925 Camino del Avion, San Juan Capistrano, CA
- Sunay, Nov 3, 2024, Playing Bingo with the veterans at Long Beach VA Hospital. Will need six (6) volunteers, and goodie bags with no food.
- Thanked everyone that turned in the new Board Report.
- Need a new Raffle Fundraiser. Mary Ann Leonard volunteered.
- ❖ **1st Vice President / Membership – Dana Johnston**
 - Membership status: 1,960 members, 18 new members pending in September, and Two (2) transfers (Post 1000). A membership team has been formed.
 - Met with Sharon Seal on the Boutique Fundraiser. Gave her information on the vendors, digital files, flyers and set up information.
 - Donation form was passed around to fill out for donations to District, Department and National.
- ❖ **2nd Vice President / Fundraising - Open**
- ❖ **Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal – No report**
 - **Approval of Minutes** –The minutes for the Executive Board Meeting held on Monday July 8, 2024. Moved to dispense the reading of the minutes. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried. Minutes were approved as written.
- ❖ **Treasurer – Laura Farr – No Report**
 - **Laura Farr – No Report**
 - See Laura Farr’s Treasurer Board Report - Attachment
- ❖ **Chaplain – Sharon Morgan – Gave a report on the current birthdays, well wishes and condolences.**
- ❖ **Historian – Susan Lindsey – No Report**
- ❖ **Parliamentarian – Peggy Bengry – No Report**
- ❖ **Executive Committee – Bobbi Renaghan, Jan Woolford, Janice Flanagan, Mary Ann Leonard, & Peggy Bengry – No Report**
- ❖ **Junior Past President – Cindy Edes – No Report**

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Old Business**

❖ **New Business**

American Legion Baseball – The auxiliary was represented by Stacy Eickhoff (The Dinner) and Dana Johnston (baseball games).

Pending Motion *Fruits for the Famished* was pulled. Discussion by Community Donations interest in donation at next meeting. Positive interest from Executive Board. Community Donations will follow up.

NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – The next meeting is Thursday, September 12, 2024. It will be held in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm.

❖ **NEXT DISTRICT MEETING** – The next District meeting will be Saturday September 14, 2024, by Unit 721 San Juan Capistrano, at the San Juan Capistrano Community Center 35925 Camino del Avion, SJC 92675

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

ADJOURNMENT – Time: 7:19pm