



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

UNIT 291 NEWPORT HARBOR - GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2024, from 6:00pm – 8:00pm in the Main Hall

CALL TO ORDER - Please Silence your cell phones. Time: 6:01pm

- ❖ **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**
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** - Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary

X	President Mary Beth Martin	X	Chaplain Sharon Morgan	X	Executive Committee Jan Woolford
X	1 st Vice President Dana Johnston	E	Historian Sue Lindsay	X	Executive Committee Bobbi Renaghan
	2nd Vice President OPEN	X	Sergeant at Arms Janz Simmons	X	Executive Committee Janice Flanagan
X	Secretary Cynthia Minucci Neal	X	Asst. Sergeant at Arms Stacy Eickhoff	X	Executive Committee Mary Ann Leonard
E	Treasurer Laura Farr	X	Jr. Past President Cindy Edes	E	Executive Committee Peggy Bengry

- ❖ **Officer Substitutions**
- ❖ **Special Guests**
 - 1st Vice Commander Ernesto Alonso, American Legion Post 291 – Update on the American Legion membership is 4,210. Renewals to date 1,400
 - Cell Dogs, Inc. – presented Cell Dogs, Inc. training rescue dogs for both family and Service dogs for veterans. They brought Tahoe (service dog) to the meeting.
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes** - The General Monthly Meeting minutes dated Wednesday, July 17, 2024. Minutes were waived to be read. Minutes were approved as written.
- ❖ **This Month Dimes for Times** – AEF / Leadership / PPP / Public Relations for Junior Activities

REPORTS & INFORMATION

- ❖ **President- Mary Beth Martin**
 - The Legion is tenting all the sheds including the Auxiliary's for termites. It will be tented for (3) days.
 - Hosting the District 29 meeting here at the Post on Saturday, November 9, 2024, at 9:30am.
 - Office is working on getting the Auxiliary a phone extension. When you call in you will be able to leave messages.
 - Thanked everyone who volunteered to help with Fundraising positions and other jobs.

- Bonnie Robertson volunteered for the February dinner dance and to be 2nd Vice President Fundraising.

Motion: Bonnie Robertson was nominated for 2nd Vice President Fundraising. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

- Decade recap – all the skits are written; looking for volunteers
 - Skits will be from October 20, 1925 (Charter date) to the present
 - Members who volunteered for the decade skits:

Dana Johnston – 20's	Karen Shafter - TBD	Diana Davis - TBD	Sharon Morgan - TBD
Stacy Eickhoff - TBD	Mary Ann Leonard - TBD	Bonnie Robertson – 50's	

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

- 2024 paid membership is 1,964 plus adding @ 20 new members
- 2025 - Renew Pay tonight and or online at <https://member.legion-aux.org/renew> or call and pay by phone (317)569-4570
- Introduced and thanked her membership committee.

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

❖ **Treasurer - Laura Farr** – No Report

❖ **Chaplain - Sharon Morgan** – Updated the current well wishes and condolences since our last meeting.

❖ **Historian - Sue Lindsey** – No Report

❖ **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**

- *Retire with Dignity* program - Spoke about the program started in Texas. A retired US flag can be cremated or buried with a veteran. This will be available here at the Post.
- US Holidays to observe in September and gave a brief history on each:
 - September 1st Labor Day
 - September 11th Patriot Day
 - September 18th US Air Force Birthday

❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund - Jan Woolford** – No Report

❖ **Chair Covers – Janz Simmons** – No Report

❖ **Children & Youth - Bea Foster** – Presented by Mary Lynn Gaddis

- Seventy-seven (77) school Backpacks were distributed to the San Onofre Military base, Child Guidance Center in Santa Ana, Thomas House in Garden Grove, and Operation Warm Wishes, and to an event at Veterans Center in Anaheim.
- Sunday, August 4, 2024, was the Sun and Sail Women’s Club baby shower for eight (8) moms-to-be. ALA Unit 291 donated boxes of diapers, safety kits, and bath wash sets.
- Upcoming: Sunday October 27, 2024 - Children’s Halloween Party at the Post.. Will need about twenty (20) volunteers.

❖ **Community Service - Sharon Morgan**

- *Vials of Life* is a program that provides emergency medical personnel with crucial medical information about individuals in case of an emergency at home placed on the refrigerator. It includes a medical information sheet, a zip lock bag and a decal to place at the front door to alert emergency responders to go directly to the refrigerator for the information.

❖ **Constitution & Bylaws - Janet du Monceau de Bergendal** - No Report

❖ **Community Donations Recommended by the Board** - Christine Beilby, Heidi Sergeant, and Phyllis Helt

❖ The following motions have been approved by the Executive Board to move forward to the General Meeting for membership approval:

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

- Cell Dogs., Inc. was a Guest Speaker at the General Monthly Meeting.

Cell Dogs, Inc. rehabilitate juveniles and adults in correctional institutions by teaching responsibility and imparting crucial life and job skills. In becoming contributing members of the community, the people who grow through our programs are far less likely to reoffend. The state of California typically spends upwards of \$90,000 each year to house and care for a single inmate. By heading off future incarcerations, our program saves taxpayer dollars.

Some special canine graduates become service dogs and help their human partners enjoy a fuller, more independent life. Their valuable skills benefit individuals with emotional, psychological and physical challenges and disabilities, changing the lives of entire families. Most recently, we have been training service dogs to support veterans and first responders with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

- **Motion:** The Executive Board 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 CKRmy: Proposed by Christine Beilby – Suggested donation \$500**

- This squad is participating in the Wounded Warrior Project carry forward 5k to provide life changing programs for American wounded warriors and they need support. When we rally together for injured veterans, we help ensure they get the help they need and deserve.

The Warrior Foundation Freedom Station was founded in 2004 and is celebrating their 20th anniversary. They have helped thousands of ill and injured military heroes. These heroes are learning to overcome their injuries through recovery, rehabilitation and transitioning back to civilian life. Their mission is to provide support services and assist them and their families during their recovery. They offer several support services for those suffering from post-traumatic stress (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries (TBI), seriously ill or injured, and physical or occupational therapy, personal support, mentorship programs, wellness programs transitional housing (an 18-month housing program), personal support just to name a few.

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

➤ **The Warrior Foundation Freedom Station: Proposed by Phyllis Helt - Suggested donation \$1,000.00 (corrected)**

- 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, two (2) T-Shirts with our logo as well as on their event banner.

- **Motion:** The Board moves to donate \$1,000.00 to the “*Ride for the Warriors*” and the remainder will go toward the Foundation. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

- Asking for photos taken at Auxiliary events. The photos will be placed in a memory book of the year.

- ❖ **Education – Barbara Melum** – No Report
- ❖ **Girls State - Caroline Miller** – No Report
- ❖ **Leadership - Cindy Edes** - No Report
- ❖ **Juniors – Stacy Eickhoff** – No Report
- ❖ **Legislative - Pia Thompson** - No Report
 - Register to vote at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration>
- ❖ **National Security - Susan Difonzo** - No Report
 - Monday, October 14, 2024, Blood Drive at the Post in the Main Hall
- ❖ **Past President Parley - Cindy Edes** – No Report
- ❖ **Poppy - Bobbie Renaghan** – No Report
- ❖ **Public Relations - Heidi Sargeant** - No Report
- ❖ **Salute to Service - Jeannie Celeketic & Julie Sanborn** – No Report
 - Salute to Service will be on Monday, May 19, 2024
- ❖ **Troop Shipping - Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal**
 - The next Troop Shipping is on Saturday November 23, 2024.
 - Need names and addresses of deployed troops
 - Donations for the troop shipping boxes
- ❖ **VA & R- Heidi Maturino** - No Report

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Old Business - None**
- ❖ **New Business**
 - New member Initiation ceremony - We Initiated and welcomed two (2) new members to ALA Unit 291.
- ❖ **Closing Prayer-** Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **Removal of POW/MIA Cover** - Sharon Morgan, Chaplain

THE NEXT GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 6:00pm in the main Hall.

THE NEXT DISTRICT 29 MEETING will be Saturday September 14, 2024, hosted by Unit 721 San Juan Capistrano at the San Juan Capistrano Community Center 25925 Camino del Avion, SJC 92675

ADJOURNMENT Time: 7:30pm

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 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.