



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

Date: September 12, 2024

- ❖ **CALL TO ORDER - Silence your cell phones** Time: 6:00pm
- ❖ **Officer Substitution –**
- ❖ **Chaplain’s Prayer – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain**
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance – Janz Simmons, Sgt-at-Arms**
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers – Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary**

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

P=Present E=Excused A=Absent Quorum = 9

STANDING COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Americanism – Carol Markel – No Report**
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Jan Woolford – No Report**
- ❖ **Chair Covers – Janz Simmons – No Report**
- ❖ **Children and Youth – Bea Foster - Presented by Cynthia Minucci Neal**
 - See Bea Foster’s Children & Youth Board Report – in the Executive Board Package
 - October 11, 2024 - Long Beach Veterans Hospital, outside in the parking lot they will be having their Veterans Day event in the parking lot.
 - 3 to 5 volunteers needed. Volunteers need to be registered.
 - Set up 8:30 – 10:00am Crafts and Bingo 10:00am - 2:00pm
- ❖ **Community Service – Sharon Morgan – No Report**
- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal**
 - **Standing Rule Article III #2**
Needs to remain as originally written. No changes to be made.
Standing Rule reads - Membership dues shall be \$150.00 per year for Senior members and \$10.00 per year for Junior. Dues include National, Department, and District per capita fees.

Motion: I rescind my motion on Standing Rule Article III #2, of which I proposed at the E-board Mtg on July 8, 2024. No changes are needed for this Standing Rule. Motion was made, 2nd and motion carried.

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

- See Christine Beilby's Community Donations Board Report – in the Executive Board Package
 - **Veterans Yoga Project – Proposed by Catherine Kat – Suggested Donation \$1,000.00**
 - **Motion:** Community Donations moves to donate \$1,000 to help support Veterans Yoga Project Mission in helping ill and injured military heroes through yoga. Motion was made, 2nd and motion carried.

- See Heidi Sargeant's Community Donations Board Report – in the Executive Board Package
 - **HB Girls Softball non-profit from Trevor Perry (former Marine) – Suggested Donation \$500.00**
 - **Motion:** Community Donations moves to donate \$500 for Silver Level Sponsorship to HB Girls Softball non-profit to support updated uniforms, equipment and enrollment into tournaments. Motion was made, 2nd and motion carried.

 - **H.O.P.E. Food Bank - Proposed by Heidi Maturino - Suggested Donation: \$750.00**
 - **Motion:** Community Donations moves to donate \$750 in September to help the H.O.P.E. Food Bank with back to school and upcoming holiday food needs. Motion was made, 2nd and motion carried.

 - **Active Valor (Perry Yee, CEO) www.activevalor.com Proposed by Dana Johnston Suggested donation \$1,000**
 - **Motion:** The Donations Committee makes a motion to donate \$1000 to Active Valor for annual Halloween Event with Gold Star Children and Veterans. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

- See Heidi Sargeant's Email dated 09/05/2024 – in the Executive Board Package
 - Updated the Community Donations monthly spreadsheet

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

❖ **Girls State - Caroline Miller – No Report**

❖ **Juniors – Stacy Eickhoff**

- Volunteer opportunities
 - September 21, 2024 – ALYC coastal clean up
 - Date TBD – Candy bag stuffing for Halloween party

- ❖ **Leadership – Cindy Edes – No Report**
 - See Cindy Edes Leadership Board Report – in the Executive Board Package
- ❖ **Legislative – Pia Thompson – No Report**
 - Register to vote at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration>
- ❖ **Music – Mary Ann Leonard – The song selection for the GMM will be Grand Old Flag.**
- ❖ **National Security – Susan Difonzo – No Report**
 - See Susan Difonzo's National Security Board Report – in the Executive Board Package
- ❖ **Past President Parley – Cindy Edes Poppy – No Report**
 - See Cindy Edes Past President Parley Report – in the Executive Board Package
- ❖ **Poppies – Bobbi Renaghan**
 - Sal's 911 Memorial handed out poppies and hand flags at the event.
 - Poppies order is being submitted
- ❖ **Public Relations – Heidi Sargeant – No Report**
 - See Heidi Sargeant's Public Relations Board Report – in the Executive Board Package
 - National Hero/Good Deed Award – David Hemmerling Fruit for the Famished
- ❖ **Troop Shipping – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal**
 - Saturday Nov. 23, 2024 – Will be held in the Main Hall.
 - Requested addresses for deployed.
- ❖ **Salute to Service - Jeannie Celeketic & Julie Sanborn – Presented by President Mary Beth Martin**
 - Salute to Service will be May 19, 2025. 1st meeting will be on Tuesday October 1, 2024, at 3:00pm. Anyone interested in joining the committee may come to the meeting.
- ❖ **VA & R – Heidi Maturino**
 - Updated on US Vets Helping Heroes Program veteran visits
 - Food pantry shopping next week.
 - Request clothing, jackets and food collection for Long Beach food bank
 - Sunday November 3, 2024, at 1:00pm - District Bingo @ Long Beach VA Hospital. Volunteers needed. Will be assisting in transportation of patients to play 8 – 10 games.

REPORTS

- ❖ **President – Mary Beth Martin**
 - See Mary Beth's President Board Report – in the Executive Board Package
 - Speaker: Commander Brian Fleming, American Legion Post 291 – Auxiliary Volunteers for Post Front Door Access (Email attached in board Package) – Discussed how the Auxiliary can help on Tuesdays, Saturday, and Sundays and high profile days (i.e.

holidays) at the front door. Post has access policy (handed out at meeting). Will be on Sign-up Genius. Training class Monday September 16, 2024.

- Discussion and vote:
 - ◆ Does the Auxiliary want to volunteer for the Post Front Door Access: Yes
 - ◆ Days to start the program: Tuesday 3:00pm – 7:00pm, and Sunday 10:00am – 3:00pm. **Motion:** moves to begin the Post Front Door Access program on Sundays and Tuesdays to start. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
11 yeas / 1 opposed
 - ◆ Post Front Door Access will start as of Tuesday October 1, 2024.
- Wednesday October 16, 2024, General Monthly Meeting we will celebrate the Auxiliary's 99th birthday. Cake will be provided.
- Sunday October 20, 2024 @ 3:00pm, Dana will ask the band to play Happy Birthday sing-along for the Auxiliary's 99 birthday.
- Monday December 9, 2024, Membership Holiday Party – Auxiliary shall provide appetizers/light desserts and water/lemonade/iced tea. Social for an hour then a white elephant exchange. (Gift should not cost any money, something you have at home, gift you received and do not want, something funny).
- Convention goodies – Passed around a bag from Dept convention. Looking for ideas we could hand out to our members and Dept. Convention from ALA Unit 291 – 100-year celebration.

❖ **1st Vice President / Membership – Dana Johnston**

- Update on membership – currently for 2024 is 1,966 paid members. 2025 is currently 393 paid members. Close to being full.
- Met with Mary Ann regarding the Raffle tickets for the big yearly party Flappers and Gangsters.
- Met with Bonnie and spoke about the events. Handed over all the 2nd Vice President files.
- Met with Sharon on the boutique.
- Prior Membership records
 - Per the Unit Guide Book Revised April 2024, page 51 – Unit Permanent Records. “It is the responsibility of the Secretary to keep a permanent file whether by paper or electronically for the unit, (bullet point 3) individual membership applications filed alphabetically, for everyone who is or has ever been a member of the unit;”

- The 1st Vice President requested all the membership applications from the 2023-2024 Membership Chairman. The Membership Chairman informed her that all membership applications have been destroyed.
 - New member initiation – Initiation of new members will be held on September 18, 2024, at General Monthly Meeting.
- ❖ **2nd Vice President / Fundraising - Bonnie Robertson – No Report**
- **Fundraising Committees**
 - **Raffle - Mary Ann Leonard** – Monday November 4, 2024, 9am – 2pm, Raffle Envelope stuffing for the Saturday, February 22, 2025, Flappers and Gangsters Party.
- ❖ **Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal**
- **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes for the Executive Board Meeting held on August 12, 2024. The minutes stand approved as written.
- ❖ **Treasurer – Laura Farr – No Report**
- See Laura Farr's September Financial Reports – in the Executive Board Package – Information
- ❖ **Chaplain – Sharon Morgan**
- Updated on the current birthdays since our last meeting.
- ❖ **Historian – Sue Lindsey – No Report**
- ❖ **Parliamentarian – Peggy Bengry - No Report**
- ❖ **Executive Committee – Bobbi Renaghan, Jan Woolford, Janice Flanagan, Mary Ann Leonard, & Peggy Bengry**
- Updated on the Executive Committee activities.
- ❖ **Junior Past President – Cindy Edes – No Report**

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

❖ **Old Business**

❖ **New Business**

- Stacy Eickhoff – A Special Guest table will be at the General Monthly Meeting so the Sargeant of Arms and Assistant Sargeant of Arms can escort the Special Guest(s) to the front.
 - Special Guest that want to talk, there is a 5 minute time limit.
- Heros Hall Exhibit on Saturday November 9, 2024, from noon – 3pm

- ❖ **NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** – The next meeting is Thursday October 10, 2024. It will be held in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm.
- ❖ **NEXT DISTRICT MEETING** – The next District meeting will be on September 14, 2024, 10:00am San Juan Capistrano – located at 25925 Camino del Avion, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
- ❖ **Closing Prayer – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain**

ADJOURNMENT – Time: 8:03pm