



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 291  
 215 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663  
 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
 Date: October 10, 2024**

- ❖ **CALL TO ORDER - Silence your cell phone** 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 <sup>st</sup> Vice President Dana Johnston	E	Historian Sue Lindsay	P	Executive Committee Bobbi Renaghan
P	2nd Vice President Bonnie Robertson	P	Sergeant at Arms Janz Simmons	P	Executive Committee Janice Flanagan
P	Secretary Cynthia Minucci Neal	P	Asst. Sergeant at Arms Stacy Eickhoff	E	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 Total at meeting: 10

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

- ❖ **Americanism – Carol Markel – No Report**
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Jan Woolford – No Report**
- ❖ **Chair Covers – Janz Simmons**
  - November 2, 2024, at 10am - Marine Corp Ball – Volunteers needed for chair covers and sashes.
- ❖ **Children and Youth – Bea Foster – No Report**
  - See Children and Youth Board Report – in the Executive Board Package Document #1
- ❖ **Community Service – Sharon Morgan – No Report**
- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – No Report**
- ❖ **Community Donations – Christine Beilby, Heidi Sergeant & Phyllis Helt**
  - See Community Donations Board Reports – in the Executive Board Package Document #2 – 5
    - **CANINE COMPANION for Independence Suggested donation: \$1,000**
      - **Motion:** Community Donations moves to donate \$1,000 to provide food for three (3) dogs during their entire professional training period. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and motion carried.
    - **Infinite Hero Foundation Proposed by Carol Markel Suggested donation: \$1,000**
      - **Motion:** Community Donations moves to donate \$1,000 to Infinite Hero Foundation to help support the Five Pillars for Veterans. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and motion carried.
    - **American Veterans Assistance Group Proposed by Marla Oglevie Suggested donation:\$1,000**
      - **Motion:** Community Donations moves to donate \$1,000 to American Assistance Group for their November 9, 2024, luncheon for 400 – 500 veterans. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and motion carried.
    - **Heroes Hall – OC Fair Veterans Day Event Proposed by Janice Flanagan Suggested Donation: \$700**
      - **Motion:** Community Donations moves to donate \$700 to Heroes Hall at OC Fair to support their Veterans Day Event. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and motion carried.

❖ **Barbara Melum – No Report**

❖ **Girls State - Caroline Miller**

- See Girls State Board Reports – in the Executive Board Package Document #7
  - Have 17 schools participating in Girls State – all 16 schools from last year plus 1 new school.
  - Has two (2) more spaces for additional schools.
  - Spoke about two (2) outstanding girls outside our area. Looking into if there is a local ALA to represent them.

❖ **Junior Activities – Stacy Eickhoff**

- See Juniors Board Reports – in the Executive Board Package Document #8
  - 2 juniors and their young women's group (@15 girls) filled 100 candy bags for the Halloween parties
  - Call for volunteers for the Children Halloween party

❖ **Leadership – Cindy Edes – Presented by Cynthia Minucci Neal**

- Handed out the Parliamentary Procedure booklet

❖ **Legislative – Pia Thompson – No Report**

- Register to vote at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration>

❖ **Music – Mary Ann Leonard – No Report**

❖ **National Security – Susan Difonzo**

- Monday October 14, 2024 - Blood drive at the Post in the Main Hall
- Red Cross requested dates for 2025 Blood drives – Feb 17, 2025, and October 13, 2025. Information will be sent to office for calendar.

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

❖ **Poppies – Bobbi Renaghan – No Report**

❖ **Public Relations – Heidi Sergeant – No Report**

❖ **Troop Shipping – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal**

- November 23, 2024, at 10:00am - Troop Shipping will be held in the Main Hall. Volunteers needed
- Need deployed soldier's addresses

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

❖ **VA & R – Heidi Maturino**

- Update Long Beach VA - Shopped to replenish VA food pantry, took leftover toiletries received from Troop Shipping, and clothing
- District Bingo at Long Beach VA Sunday Nov 3 at 1:00pm - 2:00pm 5-8 games prizes and gift bags. Can take up to 5 volunteers. Also starting new and lightly used jackets throughout the winter.
- Wreaths across America putting in request for 60 wreaths for \$1,020.00. Will go to Riverside Cemetery
- Update Coastline College VRC – Replenished food pantry
- Update Helping Heroes Program – Updated on the veteran home visits.

- **Subject: Coastline Community College Veterans Resource Center Foundation Suggested Donation \$2,500**  
Note: The following motions were presented by Community Donations for VA & R and placed correctly in the minutes

Coastline College Veterans Resource Center (VRC) Foundation assist community veterans and student veterans. It is the only college in California that also that has a program serving incarcerated Veterans through their "Hope Heroes" program. The Grant will be used for Student Veteran Club meetings, food and events such as Bowling Night, Knotts day, Movie night, Veterans Art, and Resource Expo. Also, periodic groceries when we run low on items between shopping trips.

**Motion:** VA & R moves to donate \$2,500 to support Coastline Community College Veterans Resource Center Foundation to assist Veteran students in need.

- **Subject: Veterans Day Memorial Campaign (VEAF) Proposed by Cory Vigil, Service Officer, American Legion Post 291 Suggested Donation \$2,500**

American Legion Post 291 Veterans Day Memorial Campaign (VEAF) request support for the legionnaires to continue to help our veterans/families during an emergency. This is a restricted fund and goes directly to the Veteran only.

**Motion:** VA & R moves to donate \$2,500 to support and assist our own American Legion Post 291 with their Veterans Memorial Campaign (VEAF) program to help veterans/families during an emergency situation. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup> and motion carried.

## **REPORTS**

### ❖ **President – Mary Beth Martin**

- See President Board Report – in the Executive Board Package Document #9 - 10
  - Time limit on meeting reports – Spoke about In keeping with the effort to streamline the meetings, an idea would be put a time limit on reports similar to District 29. District 29 has implemented up to 5 minutes for officers and up to 3 minutes for chairmen. We are not implementing at this time.
  - Chairmanships with multiple co-chairs - only 1 member to speak at the Board/General meetings.
  - Front Door Access – process is going well. Changing Tuesdays to 4:00pm – 7:00pm instead of 3:00pm – 7:00pm.
  - Per the Auxiliary Standing Rules Article 7 Section 2, all donations of \$500 or more, must be voted on by both the Executive Board and General Membership.
  - Be kind to other Auxiliary members. Thanked everyone for their work with the Auxiliary.
  - November 11, 2024 – American Legion WWII / Korean luncheon – Needs 12 volunteers to plate and serve.

### ❖ **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President / Membership – Dana Johnston**

- Updated on membership – To date total is 877 for 2025.
- Membership is closed at this time, have reached our maximum number for membership.
- Will continue the next couple of months with Initiation at the General meetings due to new members accepted and have yet to be initiated.

### ❖ **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President / Fundraising, Bonnie Robertson**

- Raffle Ticket Envelope Stuffing
  - Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 4:00pm -8:00pm Ticket packs breakdown - Need volunteers will be on SignUpGenius.
  - Monday November 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 2:00pm – Raffle Envelope Stuffing - Need volunteers will be on SignUpGenius.
- Holiday Boutique
  - Thursday November 21, 2024, 3:00pm – 7:00pm

### ❖ **Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal**

- **Approval of Minutes** –The minutes for the Executive Board Meeting held on September 12, 2024 were approved as written.
- General Meeting – A flyer table for all flyers will be set up in the main hall.
- Monday October 28, 2024, 4:00pm – 5:30pm (4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month) – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of “Member to Member” committee
- Monday October 28, 2024, 5:30pm – 7pm (4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month) - 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of “100 Year Anniversary” committee

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

### ❖ **Chaplain – Sharon Morgan**

- Updated since our last meeting on the birthdays, well wishes and condolences.
- *Draping of the Charter* ceremony at the next General Monthly meeting.

### ❖ **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**

None

### ❖ **New Business**

- Christine Beilby - Elks Lodge Mission Viejo Bingo possibly start in January from 5:00pm -10:00pm on a quarterly basis. Will need 10 volunteers to either work the event or playing.
- Special guests for the General Monthly Meeting on October 16, 2024
  - District President Pat Alvarez ?
  - David Hemmerling "Fruit for the Famished"

❖ **NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** – The next meeting is Thursday November 14, 2024. It will be held in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm.

❖ **NEXT DISTRICT MEETING** – The next District meeting will be on Saturday October 19, 2024, at Unit 679 Yorba Linda at the Richard Nixon Library located at 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92663 at 10:30am.

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

❖ **AJOURNMENT** – Time: 7:16pm