



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 291**  
**215 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Date: March 13, 2025                      Time: 6:02PM**

- ❖ **CALL TO ORDER - Silence your cell phones**
- ❖ **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**

P	President Mary Beth Martin	P	Chaplain Sharon Morgan	E	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	P	Executive Committee Mary Ann Leonard
E	Treasurer Laura Farr	E	Jr. Past President Cindy Edes	E	Executive Committee Peggy Bengry

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

- ❖ **Approval for Minutes– Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary**
  - The minutes for the Executive Board Meeting held on January 9, 2025. The minutes were approved as written.
  - The minutes for the Executive Board Meeting held on February 13, 2025. The minutes were approved as corrected.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

- ❖ **Americanism – Carol Markel – No Report**
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund – Jan Woolford – No Report**
- ❖ **Chair Covers – Janz Simmons – No Report**
- ❖ **Children and Youth – Bea Foste – No report**
- ❖ **Community Donations – No Report**
- ❖ **Community Service – Sharon Morgan**
  - April 17, 2025 11am – 1pm – Date changed to April 17, 2025 - Bags of Love will fill 150 hygiene bags that will be distributed to 3 local law enforcement offices for distribution to the homeless. Volunteers to fill the bags needed.
- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal No Report**
- ❖ **Education – Barbara Melum - No Report**
- ❖ **Girls State - Caroline Miller – No Report**

- ❖ **Juniors – Stacy Eickhoff** – No Report
- ❖ **Leadership – Cindy Edes** (See Board Packet #1) Presented by Cynthia Minucci Neal. After a brief discussion the Item was tabled to Apr meeting.
  - **Motion: Blake Hartfelder – Good Deed Award** **Suggested Donation \$200**  
Nominated Blake Hartfelder (17) for the National Good Deed award. Since the age of 3, he along with his mother and brother, have been collecting blankets and towels for shelter and rescue animals. They are used for birthing and warmth, curling up in them during the colder winter months, so they do not freeze to death on the hard, cement floors in the shelters. During the last 7 years, he and his group of 19 volunteers had collected and distributed over 2,000 blankets, towels and t-shirts. His volunteers make dog pull toys out of the t-shirts. He organized a special collection for the recent fire victims’ animals. Funding is from Line item for Good Deeds Awards.  
  
**Motion** Leadership moves to donate \$200 to Blake Hartfelder, recipient of the ALA National Good Deed Award for collecting towels and blankets distributing to animal shelters, including organizing a special collection for the recent fire victims’ animals.
- ❖ **Legislative – Pia Thompson** – No Report
- ❖ **Music – Mary Ann Leonard** – No Report
- ❖ **National Security – Susan Difonzo** – No Report
- ❖ **Past President Parley – Cindy Edes** - No Report
  - (See Board Packet for information on PPP Luncheon & Nursing Scholarship update #1)
- ❖ **Poppy – Bobbi Renaghan**
  - April 7, 2025 10am – 4pm - Poppy Envelope Stuffing will be in the Main Hall. Working on gathering the mailing lists from the Legion and Sal’s to merge with ours to eliminate multiple mailings to same addresses. Will review printed supplies needed and check stock in storage. Cynthia will get the mailing trays from post office for event, and final count needed closer to event. April 7<sup>th</sup> will be verified by Bobbi.
- ❖ **Public Relations – Heidi Sergeant** – No Report
- ❖ **Troop Shipping – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal**
  - Troop Shipping will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> and addresses needed.
  - Troop shipping announced they will be stepping down as Troop Shipping for the coming year.
- ❖ **Salute to Service - Jeannie Celeketic & Julie Sanborn** – No Report
- ❖ **VA & R – Heidi Maturino** – No Report:

## REPORTS

- ❖ **President – Mary Beth Martin** (See Board Packet #2)
  - Budget – 2025-2026 budget to be presented at April meeting.
  - Extra money projects

- Conversation on Coastline Community College for the Auxiliary Special Project to make a life changing difference in a veteran's life. Discussed helping a veteran with school and living expenses as per the written procedures.

**Motion:** The Board moves to donate \$12,000 and renewable for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year to the Coastline Community College Veterans Resource Center Foundation for Tiana Ngo, a veteran student at Coastline Community College, from the Auxiliary Special Project to assist with school and living expenses as per the written procedure. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup> and motion carried.

- Next month looking for more ideas for the Auxiliary Special Project.
  - Mary Beth looking into Santa Ana / Santiago Community Colleges Veterans program.
- Year End Reports – Year end reports are due to District early due to vacations schedule in April. Requesting in by March 31, 2025
  - Year end reports can be found on the Department website under year end reports. Mary Beth will look up and email to everyone their year-end reports. Discussed cross sharing reports. Give Mary Beth a copy also.
  - Front Door Access – Board agreed on front door access duty. Discussed signing up for 4 times per year. Policy has updated regarding private parties
  - Auxiliary incorporation – Pia has been working on incorporation, possibly something by General meeting.
  - Roaring 20's Gala – The gala was wonderful. Bonnie will cover under 2<sup>nd</sup> VP.
- ❖ Executive Committee – Discussion on Executive Committee members helping other board members.
  - ❖ Business cards – Requesting cards - Salute to Service, Constitution & Bylaws, and Music.
  - ❖ National Park Service Pass – Veterans can pick up for free. Go to [www.nps.gov/planyouvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm](http://www.nps.gov/planyouvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm)
  - ❖ **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President / Membership – Dana Johnston**
    - Update on Membership – 1,907 members to have paid 2025 dues. 97.4%
      - Membership application paperwork now has to be signed by Legion and sent to Department for approval on a monthly basis before submittal.
      - Initiation will be at the March General Monthly meeting.
  - ❖ **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President / Fundraising - Bonnie Robertson**
    - Update on Roaring 20's party
      - Thanked everyone for a great party
    - Quartermania – Mary Beth will request April 27, 2025 11am – 3pm
      - Need raffle baskets to
      - Mary Beth suggesting on next years budget do a line item budget
      - **Mary Ann Leonard – Raffle Tickets**
        - The final expenses/income on tickets sold is not complete yet.

- ❖ **Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal – No Report**
- ❖ **Treasurer – Laura Farr – No Report**
- ❖ **Chaplain – Sharon Morgan**
  - Update on the birthdays, well wishes and condolences
- ❖ **Historian – Susan Lindsey – Bobbi Renaghan read a letter announcing stepping down as Historian for the coming year.**
- ❖ **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**
  - **Election Committee – Read by Janice Flanagan**
    - The Election slate proposed by the Nominating Committee; the following positions was read as follows:
      - President Cynthia Minucci Neal
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bobbi Renaghan
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Open
      - Secretary Open
      - Treasurer Open
      - Chaplain Sharon Morgan
      - Historian Mary Beth Martin
      - Sgt-at-Arms Stacy Eickhoff
      - A/ Sgt-at-Arms Janet du Monceau de Bergendal
      - Executive Committee
        - ◆ Dana Johnston
        - ◆ Jan Woolford
        - ◆ Janice Flanagan
        - ◆ Peggy Bengry
        - ◆ Mary Ann Leonard
    - April meeting the floor opens for additional nominations for any position
    - May meeting an Open position may be nominated
    - Discussion regarding Treasurer on the possibility of hiring an accountant to pay the bills and enter data. The Treasurer would still oversee and create a Finance Committee. A bylaw may need to change the bylaws.

➤ **100-year Anniversary– Cynthia Minucci Neal**

- February 27, 2025 The Poppy Making event - Thanked everyone who came out and helped and learned how to make the Poppies we sent out. Had veterans also making poppies.
- Update on 100 year anniversary Merchandise
  - Looking into setting up an online store to sell Print on Demand products for our 100-year Anniversary.
- 100-year Anniversary Calendar of Monthly Events (included in Board packet#3)
  - September 21, 2025 11am – 3pm High Tea Event Have collected a total of 59 tea cups / saucers. Collecting Tea cups / saucers Need donations of more tea cups / saucers for the event
  - Calendar of events
    - ◆ Saturday May 24, 2025 - Military Appreciation Night Angels vs Marlins game interested in pre-purchasing a block 100 tickets to sell at costs so we all sit in the same section..

- **Motion**

**Military Appreciation Night Los Angeles Angel home game Suggested \$2,500.00**

Every month from January to October 2025, the 100-year Anniversary committee strives to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with an event or activity. The monthly event we are planning is purchasing a block of 100 tickets to The Los Angeles Angels Military Appreciation Night and sell the tickets to Auxiliary members, and the “Family”. In order to sit together as a group, pre-purchase of tickets are required.

**MOTION:** The 100-year Anniversary Committee moves to request \$2,500 to purchase a block of 100 tickets for the 100-year Anniversary for the May monthly event. The Auxiliary will be reimbursed by the 100-year Anniversary committee by the sale of the tickets.. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and motion carried.

➤ **Mem2Mem– Cynthia Minucci Neal**

- Committee is busy signing 148 Spring cards to be sent to those members born 1941 – 1945.

❖ **New Business**

❖ **NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** – The next meeting is Wednesday April 10, 2025 It will be held in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm.

❖ **NEXT DISTRICT MEETING** – The next District meeting will be on Saturday April 12, 2025

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

**ADJOURNMENT** – Time: 8:06pm