



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 291
215 15TH STREET, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663
GENERAL MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: March 19, 2025

Time: 6:05

- ❖ **CALL TO ORDER – Silence your cell phones**
- ❖ **Posting of the Colors**
- ❖ **Placement of POW/MIA Cover-** Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **Chaplain's Prayer-** Sharon Morgan, Chaplain
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance -** Janz Simmons, Sgt-at-Arms
- ❖ **Music-** Mary Ann Leonard, Music Chair – Song selection is 1st Verse of America (My Country tis of thee)
- ❖ **Preamble of the Constitution of the ALA –** see Projector screen
- ❖ **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
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	P	Jr. Past President Cindy Edes	P	Executive Committee Peggy Bengry

P=Present E=Excused A=Absent General Quorum = 19

- ❖ **Officer Substitutions: None**
- ❖ **Special Guests**
 - **A visit from a member from the 1960's.** She gave a brief report of history of the 1960's.
 - **Girl's State - Caroline Miller** – Introduced this year's Girls State delegates. The delegates will be going to Sacramento State in June for a week at Girls State. There are (19) delegates this year.
 - **1st Vice President - Dana Johnston** - Initiation of new members. Motion to accept the new members into the Auxiliary. Motion was moved, 2nd, and motion carried.
- ❖ **Approval of Minutes**
 - Minutes for General Monthly Membership Meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2025. A motion to dispense the reading of the minutes was moved, 2nd, and motion carried. The Minutes were approved as written.
- ❖ **March Dimes for Times** – Community Service for Community Service

REPORTS

- ❖ **President – Mary Beth Martin**
 - Volunteer Opportunities – Sign up on Signup Genius. 2 ways to sign up. !.) Go to our website www.ala291.com and then to the Members page. 2.) Monthly Newsletter sent out via email.
 - Front Door Access – Volunteers needed

- ❖ **1st Vice President / Membership – Dana Johnston**
 - Membership to date: 1,907 members have paid 2025 dues. 97.4%
- ❖ **2nd Vice President / Fundraising - Bonnie Robertson**
 - Updated on February 22nd Roaring 20's Party. Had a great event. Thanked everyone that volunteered to help.
 - Next event: April 27, 2025 - Quartermania 11:00 - 3:00pm Call the office to purchase ticket(s)
 - **Raffle tickets - Mary Ann Leonard-** No Report
- ❖ **Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal – No Report**
- ❖ **Treasurer – Laura Farr – No Report**
- ❖ **Chaplain – Sharon Morgan**
 - Updated on the well wishes and condolences since February General Monthly meeting
- ❖ **Historian – Susan Lindsey**
 - Updated on the Auxiliary events since the last General Monthly meeting.
- ❖ **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**

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**
 - April 27, 2025 – Month of the Military Child party on base
 - May 11, 2025 – Long Beach VA Baby Shower – Asking for donations. Need by April 24th
- ❖ **Community Service – Sharon Morgan**
 - April 17, 2025 Bags of Love 10:30am – 1:00pm – Volunteers needed
- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal**
 - Gave a pop quiz on Constitution & Bylaws. Played a fun game answering 10 questions from our Constitution & Bylaws.
- ❖ **Girls State - Caroline Miller – No Report**
- ❖ **Juniors – Stacy Eickhoff – No Report**
- ❖ **Leadership – Cindy Edes – No Report**
- ❖ **Legislative – Pia Thompson**
 - Update on incorporation
 - Gave a brief report on the legislation followed by the legion.

❖ **Music – Mary Ann Leonard**

- Music Scholarship Award – Gave a \$2,000 Music Scholarship award to TeWinkle Middle School at the Roaring 20's gala/

❖ **National Security – Susan Difonzo**

- Gave a blue star flag to Carol Markel

❖ **Past President Parley – Cindy Edes**

- March 27, 2025 – The Presidents will gather for Lunch to discuss “Member of the Year”
- Update on the \$4,000 Nursing Scholarship

❖ **Poppies – Bobbi Renaghan**

- April 7, 2025 10am – 4pm Poppy Envelope stuffing

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

Troop Shipping – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal

- May 17, 2025 at 10am to pack the Troop Shipping boxes
- Looking for help - Need more deployed addresses

❖ **Salute to Service - Jeannie Celeketic & Julie Sanborn**

- Update on Salute to Service Last year was the 1st Salute to Service. On May 19, 2025 we will host Salute to Service for high school seniors entering the armed forces after graduation. Volunteers needed.

❖ **VA & R – Heidi Maturino - Read 3 thank you notes. Get report**

- Update on US Vets filled food pantry and gave them jackets, sweatshirts, tees and games
- Update Orange Coast College VRC – filled food pantry
- Update Helping Heroes Program - Went to 2 of the helping hero veterans
- Update Coastline College VRC – filled food pantry filled food pantry
- Hero's Landing – filled food pantry and gave them jackets, sweatshirts, tees and games
- Made a \$2,500 Contribution to Honor Flight

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

❖ **Old Business**

➤ **Nominating Committee – Cindy Edes, Chairman**

- Reading of the Slate – The Slate was read.
- President Cynthia Minucci Neal
- 1st Vice President Bobbi Renaghan
- 2nd Vice President Open
- Secretary Open
- Treasurer Open
- Chaplain Sharon Morgan
- Historian Mary Beth Martin
- Sgt-at-Arms Stacy Eickhoff
- A/Sgt-at-Arms

- Executive Committee
 - Dana Johnston
 - Jan Woolford
 - Janice Flanagan
 - Peggy Bengry
 - Mary Ann Leonard
- Next month the floor is open to nominations

- **100-year Anniversary – Cynthia Minucci Neal**
 - Updated on 100-year Anniversary Merchandise
 - Creating an online store to purchase – Print on Demand, no inventory required
 - 100-year Anniversary Calendar of Monthly Events
 - February 27, 2025 - Poppy Making – Learn to make the poppies we send out in Poppy Envelope stuffing
 - Saturday March 29, 2025 - American Legion *Vietnam Welcome Home Party* 5pm – 10pm \$35 pp call the office for RSVP at (949) 673-5070 ext. 1100
 - Saturday May 24, 2025 - Military Appreciation Night - Angels vs Mariner's game starts 7:07pm
 - Sunday September 21, 2025 11am to 3pm - High Tea Luncheon. Asking for donations of Tea cups with matching saucers for the event. Bring to the next meeting.
 - Saturday October 18, 2025 100-year Anniversary Dinner / Dance
 - **Motion**

The following motion has been approved by the Executive Board to move forward to the General Monthly Meeting for membership approval.

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 100th 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 Board moves to request \$2,500 to purchase a block of 100 tickets for the 100-year Anniversary May monthly event. The motion was moved, 2nd, and motion carried. 1 nay.

- **Member to Member – Cynthia Minucci Neal**
 - Sending out the next 148 Spring cards to those born 1941 – 1945.
 - **Volunteer opportunity** – Connecting with our members. Join one or both committees.

Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month. Next meeting is Monday March 24, 2025, in the Fireside Room. Member to Member is 4pm – 5:30pm and 100-year Anniversary is 5:30pm – 7:00pm

➤ **Reserve Fund Special Project – Mary Beth Martin, President**

The following motion has been approved by the Executive Board to move forward to the General Monthly Meeting for membership approval.

- **Coastline Community College, student Tiana Ngo** **Suggested Donation \$12,000
with a renewable 2nd year**

The Auxiliary's Special Project to assist a Veteran in a life-changing way that needs to meet the criteria we are looking at accomplishing. The Auxiliary has a longstanding commitment to supporting Veterans. One important phase of a Veterans life is their transition into civilian life. One way the Auxiliary can assist a Veteran is to emphasize the importance of education and career development. Tiana Ngo, a dedicated and hard-working paralegal student, has demonstrated exceptional determination and potential. By providing her with the necessary financial support, this will ease her burden, allowing her to focus on her studies and achieve academic success.

Motion - The Board moves to donate \$12,000 and renewable for a 2nd year to the Coastline Community College Foundation Veterans Resource Center for Tiana Ngo, a Veteran student at Coastline Community College for the Auxiliary's Special Project to help assist with school and living expenses as per the written procedure. Funding shall be paid to the Coastline Community College Foundation. The motion was moved, 2nd, and motion carried.

❖ **New Business**

NEXT GENERAL MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING – The next meeting is Wednesday April 16, 2025, in the Main Hall at 6:00pm.

NEXT DISTRICT MEETING – The next District meeting will be on Saturday April 12, 2025 at 9:00am located at Unit 133 Huntington Beach located at Memorial Hall 1718 Orange Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

❖ **Closing Prayer and removal of POW – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain**

ADJOURNMENT – Time: 7:56pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ *The updated Post/Parking Lot Access Policy* has been updated. It is posted on the American Legion website at 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.
- ❖ Military Lifetime Pass for the National Parks – free lifetime admission pass to current military, US Veterans, and Gold Star family members. For more information go to: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm>

MEETING PROTOCOL

- ❖ President raps gavel 3 times to stand up and 1 time to sit down
- ❖ Auxiliary has been changing to a microphone on the floor instead of at the podium to speak. However, when called to the podium to speak, go to the left side of front table, face the flag and place your hand over the heart to salute. Go to the podium and when completed go back the same way.
- ❖ The President is referred to as Madame President or The Chair.
- ❖ When the meeting is in session do not approach the front table.
- ❖ Once the POW cover is on the chair it is sacred ground. Do not sit anything on the chair.
- ❖ When a meeting is in session and if you have a question, raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged by the chair. Once recognized by the chair, the Sargeant of Arms or Assistant Sargeant of Arms will bring a microphone. Stand, state your name and the question.
- ❖ Do not speak over others because it is difficult to take minutes.
- ❖ If someone asks a question and the President does not know right away, do not shout out the answer
- ❖ Auxiliary meetings are about what is going on at the Auxiliary, and what volunteer opportunities are coming up
- ❖ Keep table chatter to a minimum

IMPORTANT SITES TO VISIT

- ❖ Auxiliary Unit 291 website for info & events [American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291 Newport Harbor – American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291 Newport Harbor \(ala291.com\)](http://American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291 Newport Harbor – American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291 Newport Harbor (ala291.com))
- ❖ Looking to Volunteer? Check out our website (Above) and go to the Member page
- ❖ ALA 291 Facebook [ALA Unit 291 | Facebook291 Newport Harbor \(ala291.com\)](https://www.facebook.com/ALA291NewportHarbor) Join our Facebook page for up-to-the-minute news.
- ❖ RENEW your 2025 online at MyAuxiliary Membership Portal - www.legion-aux.org
- ❖ Track your volunteer time - www.TrackItForward.com/site/american-legion-auxiliary-unit-291
- ❖ National ALA website – Home (legion-aux.org) - Create your account using your membership#.
- ❖ Department ALA News is at <https://www.calegionaux.com>
- ❖ District ALA News is at **D29 ALA Group Facebook** - What is happening at various ALA units
- ❖ American Legion Flag & Emblem Sales - <https://emblem.legion.org>