



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

Date: April 10, 2025

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

P	President Mary Beth Martin	E	Chaplain Sharon Morgan	P	Executive Committee Jan Woolford
P	1 st 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
P	Treasurer Laura Farr	P	Jr. Past President Cindy Edes	P	Executive Committee Peggy Bengry

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

- ❖ **Approval of Minutes** –The minutes for the Executive Board Meeting held on March 13, 2025. The minutes were approved as corrected.

REPORTS

- ❖ **President – Mary Beth Martin – See Executive Board Package #1**
- See Board package #3
- **Photograph Storage** – looking into photo storage to store all of the Auxiliary photos now and in the future. Need a method to store ALA photos from our events and everyday Auxiliary happenings. The selected system must be cloud based, accessible to all members to upload and download photographs. Looking for a free system.
 - ◆ Shutterfly – To upload and everyone uses same login and password. Anyone can modify. Free.
 - ◆ Band Us – Can be used on computer and/or cell phone. Can make folders, similar to Facebook. Everyone would have to join American Legion Auxiliary Newport Harbor and will also see who uploaded the photos. It is monitored after the fact similar to Facebook. It is a closed group, and it would be only our members. People responsible would be the Historian, Public Relations, administrators (similar to Facebook) that can take photos down that do not meet the criteria.

- ◆ Google (photo compression issues, cost after reaching a storage limit) photo restraint on how many photos, size of photos, storage constraints and quality constraints. Cost involved. More research will come back next month.
- ◆ Track it forward (Volunteer hours) –Coming due in June. Out of 2,000 members only 33 members are using the program. When you have an event, have a sign in sheet to track the number of people. Going back to paper and sign in sheets at events.

Motion to eliminate and no longer pay for Track It Forward. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

- ◆ Extra Money Projects – 3 additional Junior Colleges Veterans Resource Centers (VRC) have been contacted: Santa Ana College, Santiago Canyon College and Fullerton College. The monies will go to each school and will distribute the scholarships per our written protocol including monitoring the students. Each school will sign the document.

Motion. The Board approves the supporting of the Veterans Resource Center for scholarships for female Veterans at the following schools: Fullerton College, Santiago Canyon College and Santa Ana College for fiscal year 2024-2025 for a total amount of \$36,000. The motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

Motion: The Board approves to support the 4 schools (including Coastline Community College) to support their Veterans Resource Centers with female Veterans receiving the scholarships for 2025-2026 for a total of \$48,000. The motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

❖ 1st Vice President / Membership – Dana Johnston

- Update on Membership 1,924.
- Initiation will be at the General Monthly meeting. We will have 40+ new members initiated.
- Membership Dues increase

Motion: Membership moves that the annual membership dues for the American Legion Auxiliary Newport Harbor Unit 291 be increased by \$10, bringing the total to \$160, effective for the 2025-2026 membership year. Discussion was held. Motion was moved, 2nd and carried. 1 No

- Shared the ALYC Duffy boat rides information.

❖ 2nd Vice President / Fundraising, Bonnie Robertson

- April 27, 2025 Quartermania 11am-3pm
- Requesting donation of raffle baskets for raffling off at event

❖ Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal – No Report

❖ **Treasurer – Laura Farr**

- Motion to accept the 2025 – 2026 fiscal budget. There was a discussion on the fiscal year 2025-2026 budget.

Motion: The board moves to increase the budget deficient in the amount of \$31,648 to the proposed budget for the 2025 – 2026 fiscal year as presented. The motion was moved, 2nd, and motion carried.

❖ **Chaplain – Sharon Morgan** – No Report

❖ **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

STANDING COMMITTEES

❖ **Americanism – Carol Markel** – No Report

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

❖ **Chair Covers – Janz Simmons** – Possible event in June for chair covers.

- Old chair covers need home. Cindy to check with Orange Post.

❖ **Children and Youth – Bea Foster** - No report

❖ **Community Service – Sharon Morgan** – Presented by Jan Woolford

- April 17, 2025 – Bags of Love 1pm – 4pm- Volunteers needed

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

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

- See Community Donations Board Packet Attachment 1

▪ **Patriots and Paws** **Re: Patriots and Paws Golf** **Suggested Donation:**

\$900 Patriots and Paws provides practical home goods and furnishings to Veterans, Active Duty and Reservists at no cost with our Provision for Patriots Program. They serve all of Southern California. Their Paws

Program is working on creating a kennel where the same demographics can kennel their animals at no cost, when they have a need. All provided at no cost

MOTION: The Donation Committee moves to donate \$900.00 to Patriots and Paws Golf tournament to sponsor a foursome of vets. Motion was moved, 2nd and motion carried.

▪ **Sons of the American Legion Post 291 Sons Fairway to Honor Golf Tournament**

Suggested Donation: \$1,500

The national Sons of the American Legion was formed in 1932 as a program of the American Legion to involve Sons and Grandsons of Veterans. They are the largest Squadron in the world and believe that to whom much is given, much is required. They work hard to raise money and donate it to worthwhile smaller organizations that are doing great work towards our Veteran community, PTSD management, children and education.

Motion: The Donation Committee moves to donate \$1,500 to SONS Fairway to Honor Golf Tournament to sponsor a foursome of vets and sponsor the 9th hole. Motion was moved, 2nd, and motion carried.

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

❖ **Girls State - Caroline Miller** check received

➤ See Girls State Board Package 2

- Total for Girls State check = \$12,390

19 delegates @ \$425=\$8,075

17 Transportation @ \$170=\$2,890

- Orientation will be on Sunday April 13th at Garden Grove Elks Lodge
- Possible introduction of Alternates at General meeting or other ideas. There are 15 alternates. The alternates will be invited to the May General Monthly meeting for introduction. A recommendation letter and a certificate will be given to each alternate.

❖ **Juniors – Stacy Eickhoff - No Report**

❖ **Leadership – Cindy Edes** under review

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

❖ **Music – Mary Ann Leonard - Song selection for the General Monthly meeting is God Bless America**

❖ **National Security – Susan Difonzo – No Report**

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

- (See Executive Board Report Package # 2)

❖ **Poppy – Bobbi Renaghan**

- April 8, 2025 Poppy Envelope stuffing - Thanked all or coming and helped with the envelope stuffing

- Miss Poppy Kaylie Harlow to attend the General Monthly meeting and will - be introduced

❖ **Public Relations – Heidi Sergeant**

- April 5, 2025 – Attended Fran Ursini (Newport Rib Co) funeral service

- Sent 10 request to media outlets for Salute to Service. Recommended to reach out to city council.

- Posters at Newport Rib Co need to be replaced. Discussed the programs to be on the posters. Will use Troop Shipping and VA&R

- Barbara is having a contest in the schools for Poppies.

Troop Shipping – Janice Flanagan & Janet du Monceau de Bergendal

- ❖ May 17, 2025 - Update on Troop Shipping - Need addresses
- ❖ Salute to Service - Jeannie Celeketic & Julie Sanborn Presented by President Mary Beth Martin
- Received a \$6,000 on grant from Segerstrom for this year's Salute to Service
- ❖ **VA & R – Heidi Maturino**
- Update Helping Heroes Program - 1 of her veterans passed away, and visited her female veteran
- Update Long Beach VA Food Pantry –Filled the food pantry and took additional jackets and sweatshirts.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

❖ **Old Business**

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

- April 26, 2025 – Family Day boat rides, cornhole and BBQ
- May 24, 2025 Military Appreciation Night Angels vs Marlins. Tickets on sale
- Afternoon tea - Collecting tea cup and saucer sets for the afternoon tea.. Now have collected 67 to date.
- Online store – Closer to opening, showed sample of the 1st item 100 year in the store – A 15 oz coffee mug with logo.
- Nominate a veteran for recognition at May 24th Military Appreciation Night Angel game – Will honor a veteran. The Board agreed to Commander Brian Fleming and Service Officer Corey Vigil.

➤ **Member to Member – Cynthia Minucci Neal**

- Next round of cards for spring are going out to members born 1941 – 1945
- 3 committee members are contacting 5 each of the original group members.

❖ **Nominating Committee – Cindy Edes**

- April 16, 2025 General Monthly meeting - Floor opens for nominations at the GM meeting
- The Slate: 2025-2026

President: Cynthia Minucci Neal

1st Vice: Bobbi Renaghan

2nd Vice: Bonnie Robertson

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Open

Chaplain: Mary Ann Leonard

Historian: Mary Beth Martin

Sgt-at-Arms: Stacy Eickhoff

A/Sgt-at-Arms: Becky Cooper

Executive Committee:

Peggy Bengry

Janice Flanagan

Jan Woolford

Janet du Monceau de Bergendal

Dana Johnston

- Reminded all
 - Officers need to have someone nominate them
 - You do not need a second
 - You can run for more than one office but can only serve in one position

❖ **New Business**

- **Janz Simmons** – Online store will not sell as much. Need inventory of Tee shirts and other items at every function with the 100-year anniversary
- **Dana Johnston** - Legion had nominations last night. All positions had no additional nominations except for Member-at-large had 3 for 2 open positions.
- **Cindy Edes** - Good Deed Award - Blake Hartfelder – Contacting him. Only has email address

❖ **NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** – The next meeting is May 8, 2025. It will be held in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm.

❖ **NEXT DISTRICT MEETING** – The next District meeting will be on April 12, 2025 at Unit 133 8071 Slater Ave, Huntington Beach, CA on 2nd floor

❖ **Closing Prayer – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain** – Presented by Jan Woolford

ADJOURNMENT – Time: 7:55pm