



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

Date: April 16, 2025 Time: 6:01pm

- ❖ **CALL TO ORDER – Silence your cell phones**
- ❖ **Posting of the Colors**
- ❖ **Placement of POW/MIA Cover-** Sharon Morgan, Chaplain - Presented by Mary Ann Leonard
- ❖ **Chaplain's Prayer-** Sharon Morgan, Chaplain - Presented by Mary Ann Leonard
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance** - Janz Simmons, Sgt-at-Arms
- ❖ **Music** – Mary Ann Leonard, Music Chair – Song selection is God Bless America
- ❖ **Preamble of the Constitution of the ALA** – see Projector screen
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** - Cynthia Minucci Neal, Secretary

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|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| P | President Mary Beth Martin | E | 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 |
| P | Treasurer Laura Farr | P | Jr. Past President Cindy Edes | P | Executive Committee & Parliamentarian Peggy Bengry |

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

- ❖ **Officer Substitutions**

- ❖ **Special Guests**

- Bobbi Renaghan, Poppy chairman – Introduced our new Miss Poppy Kaylie Harlow.
- 25 year + Members - Members were introduced to the membership and honored for their continuous membership from 27 years to 66 years.
- A visit from a 1970's member who gave us a story of the 1970's.
- April is Volunteer Recognition Month.
- Dana Johnston, 1st Vice President - Initiation of 24 new members were initiated into ALA Unit 291. **Motion** to accept the new member candidates into ALA Unit 291. Motion was made, 2nd and motion carried into 291.

- ❖ **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes for the General Monthly Membership Meeting held on March 19, 2025 **Motion** to dispensed the reading of the minutes. Motion was made, 2nd and motion carried. The minutes were approved as read.
- ❖ **This month Dimes for Times** – Children & Youth for Military Children

REPORTS

❖ **President – Mary Beth Martin**

- Track It Forward for Volunteer hours – Will no longer be using Track It Forward. Will now have a sign-in sheet at each event. The General meeting sign-in sheet will be in the back at the flyer table.
- Honor Flight cards have been passed out for signing. Cards will be sent on the Honor Flight next month.
- Sharon Morgan, Chaplain is moving to Utah.
- Thanked Janice Oats for finding more past presidents, only a few left.
 - Extra Money Project - 3 additional Junior College Veterans Resource Centers (VRC) have been added to receive the VRC scholarship: 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 moves to support 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. Motion was made, 2nd and motion carried.

Motion: The Board moves 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. Motion was made, 2nd and motion carried.

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

- Membership to date 1,959 members.
- Membership Dues will increase for the 2025-2026 year \$10 from \$150 to \$160 a year for Facility increase.

Motion: The Board 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. Motion was made, 2nd and motion carried.

❖ **2nd Vice President / Fundraising - Bonnie Robertson**

- April 27, 2025 Quartermania 11am - 3pm – Need items for the raffle of items to make up gift baskets to auction.

❖ **Secretary – Cynthia Minucci Neal – No Report**

❖ **Treasurer – Laura Farr**

- Review and discussion of the fiscal year 2025-2026 proposed budget.

Motion The Board moves to accept the 2025 – 2026 fiscal budget. Motion was made, 2nd and motion carried.

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

❖ **Historian – Susan Lindsey – Updated the members on the Auxiliary history of events since the last General Membership 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**

- Gave a brief history of the U.S. Memorial Day coming up on the last Monday in May. Also thanked everyone who donates old glasses at the meeting.

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

❖ **Chair Covers – Janz Simmons**

- All the old chair covers were given to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 132 Orange. Auxiliary is now using new updated chair covers.

❖ **Children and Youth – Bea Foster**

- Sunday, April 27, 2025 – Month of the Military Child party on base. Need donations of small prizes for ages 4 – 10 years old.
- Sunday, May 11, 2025 – Long Beach VA – Baby shower for 25 moms-to-be has been postponed.
- August

❖ **Community Service – Sharon Morgan - Presented by Mary Ann Leonard**

- April 17, 2025 - Bags of Love has been postponed to April 30 from 11am -1pm. Volunteers needed to fill the hygiene bags for the homeless.

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

- **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 Board moves to donate \$900.00 to Patriots and Paws Golf tournament to sponsor a foursome of veterans. Motion was made, 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 Board 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 made, 2nd, and motion carried.

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

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

❖ **Girls State - Caroline Miller** Sacramento State Universities. Just paid the invoice for sending the 19 girls to Sacramento for 1 week.

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

- 19 Delegates @ \$425 = \$8,075
- 19 Registration @ \$75= \$1,425
- 17 Transportation @ = \$2,890

- Honor Flight for welcome home at the airports in San Diego and Los Angeles. Sending thank you notes to veterans to open on their way home. Next Honor FLught will be in Los Angeles.

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

❖ **Leadership – Cindy Edes - No Report**

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

❖ **National Security – Susan Difonzo**

- Blue star and gold star mothers in attendance. One blue star flag was given to a member in the audience.

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

❖ **Poppies – Bobbi Renaghan**

- April 8, 2025 Poppy Envelope stuffing. Thanked everyone for coming out to stuff poppy envelopes. All the monies made from the poppy sales goes to VA & R.

❖ **Public Relations – Heidi Sergeant**

- Posting photos on Auxiliary Facebook page.
Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AUX29/>
- Photos in Viewing Room Posts on Facebook - Replacing the old posters in the View Room. Troop Shipping, Poppies and VA& R have been selected for the pictures in the View Room.

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

- Saturday May 17, 2025 at 10:00am - Troop Shipping will be held in the West Patio. Names and addresses of the deployed military appreciated.

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

❖ **VA & R – Heidi Maturino**

- Update on US Vets Helping Heroes Program - Gave a brief report on 1 of the veterans she brought requested items during a home visit. Also purchased and took requested items to 1 other veteran. Went shopping and filled US Vets food pantry.
- Updated Long Beach VA – Went to Costco and filled her car to replenish the food pantry and brought the donated clothing collected.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Old Business

❖ **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

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

- April 26, 2025 – Family Day at the Post - Boat rides, cornhole and BBQ
- May 24, 2025 Military Appreciation Night Angels vs Marlins. Tickets on sale!
- Sunday September 21, 2025 Afternoon tea & Fashion Show - Collecting tea cup and saucer sets for the afternoon tea. Have collected 101 tea cups & saucers to date.
- For the Fashion Show - Looking for historic clothing from the past, including uniforms for men & women

- The 100-year Anniversary Online store – Opening soon!

❖ **New Business**

❖ Nominating Committee – Cindy Edes

- Floor opens for nominations

- The Slate: 2025-2026 The nominating committee nominated the following:

President: Cynthia Minucci Neal - No other nominations. Nominations are closed.

1st Vice: Bobbi Renaghan - No other nominations. Nominations are closed.

2nd Vice: Bonnie Robertson - No other nominations. Nominations are closed.

Secretary: Open still open

Treasurer: ~~Open~~ Laura Farr was nominated from the floor. No other nominations.
Nominations are closed

Chaplain: Mary Ann Leonard - No other nominations. Nominations are closed.

Historian: Mary Beth Martin - No other nominations. Nominations are closed.

Sgt-at-Arms: Stacy Eickhoff - No other nominations. Nominations are closed.

A/Sgt-at-Arms: Becky Cooper No other nominations. Nominations are closed.

Executive Committee: - No other nominations. Nominations are closed.

Peggy Bengry

Janet du Monceau de Bergendal

Janice Flanagan

Dana Johnston

Jan Woolford

Nominations for OPEN Secretary will be held at the next General Membership Meeting.

NEXT GENERAL MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING – The next meeting is Wednesday May 21, 2025, in the Main Hall at 6:00pm.

NEXT DISTRICT MEETING – The next District meeting will be on Saturday May 10, 2025 at Unit 327 Leisure World located at 1353 Seal Beach Blvd., Seal Beach, CA Clubhouse meeting location (TBD)

- ❖ **Closing Prayer – Sharon Morgan, Chaplain** Presented by Mary Ann Leonard

ADJOURNMENT – Time: 7:40PM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ *The Post/Parking Lot Access Policy* has been updated. It is posted on the American Legion website at www.AL291.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Post-Access-Policy.pdf
- ❖ *The Post/Rules Policy* has been updated/ It is posted on the American Legion website at www.al291.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03Post-Rules-2025.pdf
- ❖ 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.

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 \(www.ala291.com\)](http://www.ala291.com)
- ❖ Looking to Volunteer? Check out our website (Above) and go to the Member page to *SignUp Genius*
- ❖ ALA 291 Facebook [ALA Unit 291 | Facebook291 Newport Harbor \(ala291.com\)](https://www.facebook.com/ala291.com) Join our Facebook page for up-to-the-minute news.
- ❖ RENEW your 2025 online at MyAuxiliary Membership Portal - www.legion-aux.org
- ❖ National ALA website – [Home \(legion-aux.org\)](http://www.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>