



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 291
 215 15TH STREET, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663
 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
 Date: July 10, 2025**

- ❖ **CALL TO ORDER** –Please silence your cell phones Time: 6:05 PM
- ❖ **Officer Substitution** – None
- ❖ **Chaplain’s Prayer** – Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance** – Stacy Eickhoff, Sgt-at-Arms ❖ **Roll Call of Officers** – Leslie Dinkel, Secretary

P	President Cynthia Minucci Neal	P	Chaplain Mary Ann Leonard	P	Executive Committee Peggy Bengry
E	1 st Vice President Bobbi Renaghan	P	Historian Mary Beth Martin	P	Executive Committee Janet du Monceau de Bergendal
P	2nd Vice President Bonnie Robertson	P	Sergeant at Arms Stacy Eickhoff	E	Executive Committee Janice Flanagan
P	Secretary Leslie Dinkel	E	Asst. Sergeant at Arms Becky Cooper	P	Executive Committee Dana Johnston
E	Treasurer Laura Farr	P	Jr. Past President Mary Beth Martin	P	Executive Committee Jan Woolford

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

Approval of Minutes –The minutes for the Executive Board Meeting held on May 8, 2025 stand approved as written

REPORTS

❖ **President – Cynthia Minucci Neal**

Cynthia attended Dept of CA Convention June 22-28th in Visalia

Upcoming events: Clovis Leadership Conference-August 8-10, 2025 in Clovis

National Convention August 22-28, 2025 in Tampa, FL Confidential

Board Information has been updated.

Please use Mary Beth Martin’s personal e-mail for now- “califorange@aol.com” Reminder-mid-year reports from Chairs are due in mid-December.

Calendar dates- please get to Cynthia before/by July 17th

Positions still open: Children & Youth; Leadership; National Security; Troop Shipping: VA&R

❖ **1st Vice President / Membership – Bobbi Renaghan**

Membership report presented by Dana Johnston. Our current membership is at 1989. Membership is now closed.

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

Upcoming events: July 27, 2025 5:30 PM-8:30 PM Movie Night in the Main Hall, featuring “Princess Bride”.

Popcorn and candy will be available for viewers. FREE

Sunday, August 31, 2025 Bunco 10am-2pm Limit of 24. \$20.00 to play so buy in early

Sunday Sept. 21, 2025 11am-3pm Afternoon Tea & Fashion Show. A buffet of afternoon tea treats, including small sandwiches will be offered.

Saturday Oct. 18, 2025 5pm-10pm 100 Year Anniversary Dinner/Dance

❖ Secretary – Leslie Dinkel NO REPORT

❖ Treasurer – Laura Farr NO REPORT

❖ Chaplain – Mary Ann Leonard NO REPORT

❖ **Historian – Mary Beth Martin**

Continue with our Veteran’s slide show prior to the start of monthly General Monthly Membership meetings.

Has updated the slide presentation with additional existing and new members’ Veterans Parliamentarian

– Peggy Bengry NO REPORT

❖ Executive Committee – Peggy Bengry, Janet du Monceau de Bergendal, Janice Flanagan, Dana Johnston, & Jan Woolford- NO REPORT

❖ Junior Past President – Mary Beth Martin 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 – OPEN POSITION**

Halloween and Christmas parties have already been scheduled.

❖ **Community Service – Mary Beth Martin**

Promote the Auxiliary by offering volunteer opportunities in the community. Some examples explored were assisting with Meals- On- Wheels by delivering meals to our local veterans; assisting as Docents at local HS schools. Bags of Love and Vials of Life programs will be discontinued unless someone wants to take the programs.

Constitution & Bylaws – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal NO REPORT ❖ **Community Donations –**

Christine Beilby – Community Donations

- See Community Donations Board Packet Attachment 1
- Patriots and Paws Suggested Donation \$1,000
 - **MOTION:** Community Donations moves to donate \$1,000.00 to Patriots & Paws to help build a dog kennel. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
- Project Healing Waters Suggested Donation \$1,000
 - **MOTION:** Community Donations moves to donate \$1,000.00 to **Project Healing Waters** to continue their efforts in supporting our Veterans using the healing powers of nature. Motion was made, 2nd, motion carried

❖ Education – Barbara Melum NO REPORT

❖ Girls State - Caroline Miller

Working on a presentation for the August meeting. Caroline said the girls walked over 180,000 steps, approximately 49 miles! Our girls did really well- one became a Supreme Court Justice. Caroline is working on a presentation, possibly for August.

❖ Juniors – Stacy Eickhoff

Stacy is working on updating Juniors' activities and volunteer opportunities.

❖ Leadership – OPEN POSITION

❖ Legislative – Pia Thompson NO REPORT

❖ Music – Mary Ann Leonard - Song selection for the General Monthly meeting is “GOD BLESS AMERICA” ❖
National Security – OPEN

❖ Past President Parley – Mary Beth Martin

Encourage one (1) Nursing Scholarship application, with a recipient preferably from Unit 291. It was brought up that there is a possible Nursing scholarship applicant. Funds to be taken from the Past President Parley budget to be set aside \$1,000 for the Auxiliary applicant.

Discussion on awarding our Nursing scholarship recipient a monetary gift.

MOTION: The Past President Parley donation to be given to our Auxiliary unit programs and/or District 29 programs. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried

❖ Poppy – Bobbi Renaghan NO REPORT

❖ Public Relations – Heidi Sergeant NO REPORT

❖ Salute to Service - Julie Sanborn NO REPORT

❖ Time Keeper – Mary Beth Martin

Mary Beth suggested a program to track volunteer hours. What constitutes volunteering? Ways for members to volunteer from home; how to find more hours.

MOTION: Time Keeper moves to purchase the SignUpGenius Gold Premium Plan for \$269.89 annually for Volunteer signups. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried

Mary Beth also discussed how to acquire Volunteer hours specifically for use of the gate access card. Outside volunteer hours can be reported to Community Service Chair.

It was suggested that Facebook postings and pictures be sent to PR Heidi Sergeant for approval BEFORE posting on our ALA website.

- ❖ **Troop Shipping – OPEN POSITION**
- ❖ **VA & R – OPEN POSITION**

SPECIAL COMMITTEES ❖

Old Business

- **100-year Anniversary- REFER to report by 2nd Vice President**
- Member 2 Member NO REPORT
- **PUFLs Chart-** Motion tabled for further discussion

❖ **New Business**

❖ **Special Executive Board meeting- Changes to Chase Bank procedures**

Regular meeting suspended at 7:26 PM; reopened at 7:29 PM

When the meeting resumed, Dana Johnston made a motion

MOTION: Dana Johnston made a motion that the Executive Board moves to remove Mary Beth Martin from all of the Auxiliary banking accounts and replace her with Cynthia Minucci Neal, President 2025-2026, Leslie Dinkel, Secretary 2025-2026 and Laura Farr, Treasurer 2025-2026.

Dana Johnston- Dept of California American Legion Baseball program. Suggested a donation of \$2,000.00 as approved last July. After discussion as to whether the donation is one time or annually recurring, Dana rescinded her motion. Jan Woolford made a motion.

MOTION: The Executive Board moves to donate \$1,000.00 to the Dept of California American Legion Baseball program. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

- ❖ **NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** – The next meeting is Thursday, August 14, 2025. It will be held in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm.
- ❖ **NEXT DISTRICT MEETING** – The next District meeting will be on AUGUST 16, 2025, at 10:00 AM at Unit 354 Buena Park. Location- 8071 Whitaker St. Buena Park, CA 90621
- ❖ **Closing Prayer – Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain**

ADJOURNMENT – Time: 7:48 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Dinkel, Secretary