



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 291
215 15TH STREET, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Date: August 14, 2025

- ❖ **CALL TO ORDER - Silence your cell phones** Time: 6:02 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
P	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	P	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 July 10, 2025. Minutes were approved as written.

REPORTS

❖ **President – Cynthia Minucci Neal**

- New Executive Board members introduced Teri Adams -Troop Shipping; Karren Schaeffer-National Security; Marilyn Anania – VA & R chair, and Dana Johnston - Leadership
- Children and Youth- still OPEN
- Sign Up Genius – All Executive Board members need to sign in/ sign up for General membership meetings
- Special guests for GMM- scholarship recipient from Santa Ana Community College and 3 guests Cory Vigil- Service Officer for Post 291- possible program/ workshop called Family Training 101; how we help our military families.
- Clovis workshop Discussed the knowledge learned at the Leadership workshop including the rules on raffles in California. **Jr. Past President Mary Beth Martin stated 100% of raffle money must stay I th estate of California, only10% of the money can be used for expenses. Must have general fund money to pay for raffle if costs are over 10%.**

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

Membership is closed for now; numbers are being updated

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

- Upcoming events-Bunco Aug. 31st; Tea Party and Fashion Show September 21st Ticket price is \$45.00; 100 Year Gala October 18th Ticket price is \$75.00; Boutique is November 18th

❖ Secretary – Leslie Dinkel -No Report

❖ Treasurer – Laura Farr – No Report

❖ Chaplain, Mary Ann Leonard – No Report

❖ Historian, Mary Beth Martin – No Report

❖ 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 – by President Cynthis Minucci Neal**

- On August 4th 45 backpacks were filled with school supplies; 5 boxes of additional school supplies were distributed to 5 schools in our community.

❖ Community Service – Mary Beth Martin – No Report

❖ Constitution & Bylaws – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal

- **Discussed rational for reinstating PUFL membership for ALA Unit 291**

❖ **Community Donations – Christine Beilby**

- **Name of Charity - CELL DOGS**

Suggested Donation \$1,000

Recommended by: Kendall Madsen

They rehabilitate juveniles and adults in correctional institutions by teaching responsibility and imparting crucial life and job skills. In becoming contributing members of the community, the people who grow through their programs are far less likely to reoffend. The state of California typically spends upwards of \$90,000 each year to house and care for a single inmate. By heading off future incarcerations, their program saves taxpayer dollars.

Some special canine graduates become service dogs and help their human partners enjoy a fuller, more independent life. Their valuable skills benefit individuals with emotional, psychological and physical challenges and disabilities, changing the lives of entire families. Most recently, they have been training service dogs to support veterans and first responders with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

MOTION: Donate \$1,000 to Cell Dogs in order to continue their valuable work for humanity. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

❖ **Name of Charity - H.O.P.E. Food Bank**

Suggested Donation \$750

5201 Evergreen Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630

- Since 1976, this all volunteer organization has been dedicated to serving families in need. H.O.P.E. focuses on providing assistance to families residing within our parish boundaries with food and infant supplies. H.O.P.E. distributes these food items on the first and third Saturdays of each month.

H.O.P.E.'s programs are supported by tax deductible donations from individuals, local businesses, schools, food banks, service clubs, parish members and fundraising efforts. Approximately 72 tons of food is donated annually. Financial donations aid in making this possible, as well as helping support our Christian Service Office in being able to distribute food bags to the homeless and to provide temporary assistance with transportation, shelter, and utility bills for individuals and families in need.

If you, or someone you know, wants to learn more about H.O.P.E.'s twice monthly food distribution

RATIONAL:- They serve the local Cypress community, including Veterans, with food distribution twice a month. Heidi Maturino, VA & R Chair, and her family donate their time to distribute food at the food bank and have first-hand experience on the benefits.

MOTION: Community Donations moves to donate \$750 in September to help the H.O.P.E. Food Bank with bank to school and upcoming holiday food needs. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.

❖ **Education, Barbara Melum**

- Barbara is organizing an Auxiliary-member volunteer liaison committee for 21 local schools

❖ Girls State, Caroline Miller - No Report

❖ Juniors, Stacy Eickhoff - No Report

❖ Leadership, Dana Johnston – No Report

❖ **Legislative. Pia Thompson**

- Discussion on incorporation of Unit 291

❖ **Music – Mary Ann Leonard**

- Song selection for the General Monthly meeting is America the Beautiful 1st verse

❖ National Security – Karren Schaeffer - No Report

❖ Past President Parley, Mary Beth Martin - No Report

❖ Poppy, Bobbi Renaghan - No Report

❖ Public Relations – Heidi Sargeant - No Report

❖ Salute to Service - Julie Sanborn - No Report

❖ Time Keeper – Mary Beth Martin - No Report

❖ Troop Shipping – Teri Adams – No Report

- ❖ VA & R – Marilyn Anania, Chair – No Report

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

❖ **Old Business**

- Discussion was held on the (10) Auxiliary Volunteer hours for the calendar year 2025 which must be completed in order to retain the gate access card for 2026. A motion for the (10) volunteer hour requirement was approved by the Executive Board on May 8, 2025. The motion was then approved by the General membership on May 21, 2025.
- The Department of CA American Legion Baseball Program donation motion made by the board on July 10, 2025 was rescinded.

Motion: The Executive Board moved to rescind the motion to donate \$1,000.00 to the Dept. of CA American Legion Baseball Program due to not bringing this item forward to the general membership on July 16, 2025, for approval. Motion was made, 2nd, Motion carried.

❖ **New Business - None**

- ❖ **NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** – The next meeting is September 11, 2025. It will be held in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm.

- ❖ **Closing Prayer – Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain**

ADJOURNMENT – Time: 7:45 PM

Red = Corrections