



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 291  
215 15<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663  
GENERAL MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

Date: August 20, 2025 Time: 6:00pm

- ❖ CALL TO ORDER – Silence your cell phones
- ❖ Posting of the Colors
- ❖ Placement of POW/MIA Cover, Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain
- ❖ Chaplain's Prayer, Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance, Stacy Eickhoff, Sergeant at Arms
- ❖ Music, Mary Ann Leonard, Music Chair – America the Beautiful, Verse 1
- ❖ Preamble of the Constitution of the ALA
- ❖ Roll Call of Officers, Leslie Dinkel, Secretary

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

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

- ❖ Officer Substitutions - None

❖ Special Guest

- We had a visit from an Auxiliary member from the year 2000.
- The membership was able to meet two (2) of our veteran student recipients of the Auxiliary's Veteran Scholarship Awards Kevin Reyes from Santa Ana College and Zaidy Armas from Fullerton College. Zaidy Armas was presented the 4<sup>th</sup> and last scholarship at the meeting.
- Introduced the new chairman Leadership Dana Johnston, National Security Karren Shaeffer, Troop Shipping Teri Adams and VA & R Marilyn Anania. We are still looking for Children & Youth and Community Service.
- Dana Johnston – Initiation. The new members were initiated into the Auxiliary. A motion to accept the new members was made, 2nd and motion carried.

- ❖ Approval of Minutes – Minutes for the General Monthly Membership Meeting held on Wednesday, July 16, 2025. A motion was made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to waive the reading of the minutes. Motion carried. The minutes were approved as written.

- ❖ This month Dimes for Times – AEF/ Leadership / PPP / Public Relations for Junior Activities

**REPORTS**

❖ President, Cynthia Minucci Neal

- District and Department awards were handed out.
  - Dept Award: Bobbi Renaghan for Poppy Best overall report

- National Award: Mary Beth Martin Certificate of Participation in National President Trish Ward Fun History Charter project.  
Department Awards: (2) Americanism Essay contest winners
- Clovis Workshop - August 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> were accepted by our Americanism Chair Carol Markel.
- ❖ **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President / Membership, Bobbi Renaghan**
  - Update on Membership is currently closed. We have 2,019 senior and 42 juniors and for 2026 we have 597 paid members to date.
- ❖ **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President / Fundraising, Bonnie Robertson**
  - Update on upcoming events
    - August 31<sup>st</sup> 11am – 2pm Bunco a few seats available
    - September 21<sup>st</sup> - Afternoon Tea & Fashions from the Decades, Wear a hat or fascinator too!
      - Donation of Raffle baskets still needed
      - Volunteers needed for prior and after decorating and take down - See SignUpGenius
    - October 18<sup>th</sup> - 100-year Anniversary Gala
      - Red, white & blue theme
      - Volunteers needed to help set up and take down
      - Need donations of Silent Auction items for this event
    - November 20<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Boutique 3pm – 7pm
      - Raffle baskets needed
      - Open to the public
- ❖ Secretary, Leslie Dinkel – No Report
- ❖ Treasurer, Laura Farr - No Report
- ❖ Chaplain, Mary Ann Leonard – No Report
- ❖ **Historian, Mary Beth Martin**
  - Historical Fashions: 1980's – 2020's Contact Mary Beth Martin at [pastpresident@ala291.com](mailto:pastpresident@ala291.com)
  - Has worked on the Past President list. We had a list from 1985 forward. Missing 2 Presidents from 1970 to 1975.
  - Upload pictures on Band.com
- ❖ 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**
  - September has 2 holiday Labor day and Less know Sept 19th POW/MIA
- ❖ Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Jan Woolford – No Report
- ❖ Chair Covers, Janz Simmons – No Report

❖ **Children and Youth, OPEN POSITION – Presented by Cynthia Minucci Neal, President**

- Packed backpacks for the start of school

❖ **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:** The Executive Board moves to donate \$1,000 to Cell Dogs in order to continue their valuable work for humanity. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** Executive Board 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> and motion carried.

- ❖ Community Service, OPEN
- ❖ Constitution & Bylaws, Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – No Report
- ❖ Education, Barbara Melum – No Report
- ❖ **Girls State, Caroline Miller**
  - Gave a brief description of what is Girls State. The Auxiliary sent 19 girls this year.
- ❖ Juniors Activities, Stacy Eickhoff – No Report
- ❖ Leadership, Dana Johnston – No Report
- ❖ Legislative, Pia Thompson – No Report
- ❖ Music, Mary Ann Leonard – No Report
- ❖ National Security, Karren Schaeffer – No Report
- ❖ **Past President Parley, Mary Beth Martin**
  - Discussed the Nurses \$4,000 scholarship at National level
- ❖ Poppies, Bobbi Renaghan – No Report
- ❖ Public Relations, Heidi Sergeant – No Report
- ❖ Salute to Service, Julie Sanborn – No Report
- ❖ **Time Keeper, Mary Beth Martin**
  - Discussed upcoming volunteer opportunities. Will show how to log in after the meeting. We are no longer using Track It Forward. Has updated the Auxiliary Volunteer Hours.
- ❖ Troop Shipping, Teri Adams – No Report
- ❖ VA & R, Marilyn Anania – No Report

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- ❖ **Old Business**
  - Member to Member – No Report
  - 100-year Anniversary – No Report
    - See 2nd Vice President Report

#### **New Business**

None

**NEXT GENERAL MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING** – The next General Monthly Membership meeting is on September 17, 2025, in the Main Hall at 6:00pm.

**The NEXT DISTRICT MEETING** will be on Saturday September 13, 2025 11am – 1pm at Unit 716 located at 3252 Florista St., Los Alamitos.

- ❖ **Closing Prayer & Removal of POW/MIA Cover - Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain**

**ADJOURNMENT Time: 7:57pm**