



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

- **Call to Order/Silence your cell phones** – 6:05 p.m.
- **Officer Substitutions** – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal for Stacy Eickhoff, Heidi Maturino for Leslie Dinkel
- **Chaplain's Prayer** – Mary Ann Leonard
- **Pledge of Allegiance** – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal
- **Roll Call of Officers** - Excused Absence, Leslie Dinkel, Stacy Eickhoff, Laura Farr, Mary Beth Martin, Bonnie Robertson
- **Approval of Minutes** - August General Meeting minutes were approved with the following corrections to Constitution and Bylaws – Should read “discussed rational for reinstating PUFL (Paid Up For Life) membership for ALA291, there was a typo under “Girls State” correction from “Stat” to “State”, and also under “Old Business” should read that a motion was made at the May 8th E-Board meeting to implement a 10-hour volunteer requirement for auxiliary members to keep their Access Card active. This was approved at the May 21st General Meeting. Also, under Approval of Minutes – it should read Aug. 14th not Aug. 17th.
- **Reports**
 - **President** – Cynthia Minucci Neal – Meeting protocols were discussed such as time limits, raising hands and waiting to be acknowledged, identifying yourself, etc. Capacity issues at our General Meetings was discussed. Because of the large number of attendees – we will not have tables at the General Meetings, just rows of chairs. The problem of having too many members attend meetings was discussed at length. Other ways to earn 10 hours of volunteer service was discussed. The possibility of changing the 10-hour requirement to include volunteering for an activity/event and eliminating hours earned by attending meetings was also discussed. Members who have not registered on Sign-up Genius are attending the meetings. Using Facebook and email notifications to communicate with members was discussed. Barbara Taylor will now be managing our Sign-Up Genius. General Meeting special guests were briefly discussed. Service Officer, Cory Vigil will be making a presentation on Military Family 101 at our next General Meeting. In addition, our Coastline Community College veteran student needs to change schools due to the requirement of class studies. The VA requires that students must attend in-person classes, no online classes are permitted. She has transferred to Santa Ana Community College to stay in compliance with this requirement. \$1000 of the Grant Funds has been awarded – their question is – do we want to transfer the Grant funds to Santa Ana College or do we want the Grant funds to come back to us. This was out of last year's budget, so we do not want it to come back. We prefer that the Grant be transferred to Santa Ana College – Cynthia will work on an amendment to the Grant Contract. Motion was made to authorize the transfer of Grant funds from Coastline Community College to Santa Ana Community College to continue to benefit our veteran student. There was no further discussion, motion was 2nd, motion passed.
 - **1st Vice President/Membership** – Bobbi Rehaghan – We have 2008 members, 43 Juniors for a total of 2051 members. We have 686 Seniors who have renewed so far this year.
 - **2nd Vice President** – Bonnie Robertson – We have 27 vendors for the Holiday Boutique scheduled for Nov. 20th. She is looking for more vendors (no food vendors please). Spaces are \$70 – please let her know of any vendors that may be interested. Jan Woolford is assisting with this event.
 - **Secretary** – Leslie Dinkel (Excused) – No Report
 - **Treasurer/Finance** – Laura Farr (Excused) – No Report
 - **Chaplain** – Mary Ann Leonard – No Report
 - **Historian** – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal for Mary Beth Martin – In an effort to honor our veterans here at Post 291, Mary Beth would like to have photos of some of our currently living Post 291 veterans displayed throughout the Post with a possible quote or brief description of their service. She is requesting an increase in her budget to help facilitate this effort. Mary Beth will also speak without Post Commander to get approval for this project. She is hoping to have this completed by Veterans Day. On behalf of Mary Beth Martin – Janet made a motion to increase the Historian's budget by an additional \$500 to pay for the development of photos. The motion was 2nd, and the motion passed.
 - **Executive Committee** – Peggy Bengry, Janet du Monceau de Bergendal, Janice Flanagan, Dana Johnston, Jan Woolford – 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** – Myra Alvermann - She had questions regarding the Children’s Halloween Party supplies, pictures, games, procedures, etc. Other Auxiliary members provided her with some information, and she will contact Bea Foster for additional information regarding Children and Youth.
- **Community Service** – Open Position
- **Constitution & Bylaws** – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – PUFL (Paid Up For Life) membership was discussed. Any member in good standing can choose to become a PUFL member. Cost would be determined by their age and how much dues are at the time they make their decision to become a PUFL member. Rational - There is no record on file for not allowing this type of membership at ALA291 and there was no record on file of eliminating this either. We currently have only one PUFL member at ALA291. Annual fees for this membership are minimal – National gets \$18 per year, Department gets \$10 and District receives 50 cents. Janet made a motion to reinstate PUFL (Paid Up For Life) membership at ALA291. No transfers of PUFL members from other Units will be accepted. – motion was 2nd – motion passed.
- **Donations Recommended by the Board** – Heidi Sargeant
 - ❖ San Clemente Military Family Outreach – Their mission is to provide emergency assistance to qualifying (enlisted E1–E6) military families on Camp Pendleton. Families in crisis find a safety net in SCMFO. Funds provide items such as diapers, food, clothing, gas, car repairs, medical/dental expenses and other unexpected financial challenges. Motion was made to donate \$1,000 – motion was 2nd – motion passed.
 - ❖ Active Valor – This is a combat veteran run 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to giving new purpose to veterans by pairing them as mentors to children of our nation’s fallen heroes, referred to as Gold Star Children. Motion was made to donate \$1,000 – motion was 2nd – motion passed.
 - ❖ Warrior Foundation Freedom Station – This organization is committed to supporting our warriors in a variety of ways providing quality-of-life items and numerous support services designed to assist them and their families during recovery. Over 100 bikers will join the 72-mile Patriotic Motorcycle Ride from Irvine CA to St. Soledad National Veterans Memorial in San Diego on Oct. 12, 2025 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Motion was made to donate \$1,000 – motion was 2nd – motion passed.
- **Education** – Barbara Melum – No Report
- **Girls State** – Caroline Miller - She is currently contacting the schools – our current cap will be 20 schools. Cost is increasing about \$100 per student this year. Total cost is approximately \$16,000 for the girls to attend. We are looking at new sites to host – our contract with Sacramento is done. UC Davis and UC Riverside are possible new locations. We currently have identified 18 girls that will participate.
- **Juniors** – Stacy Eickhoff – No Report
- **Leadership** – Dana Johnston – No Report
- **Legislative** – Pia Thompson – No Report
- **Music** – Mary Ann Leonard – No Report
- **National Security** – Karen Schaeffer – The Blood Drive for Oct. 13th is set. Flyers will be available at the General Meeting. We currently have 18 donors scheduled. Blood drive dates are set for next year (Feb. & Oct.). Sept. is “Emergency Preparedness Month” – informational flyers will be available.
- **Past Presidents Parley** – Mary Beth Martin – No Report
- **Poppy** – Bobbi Renaghan – No Report
- **Public Relations** – Heidi Sargeant – No Report
- **Troop Shipping** – Teri Adams – No Report
- **VA & R** – Roseann Freilich, Marilyn Anania – A veteran at Post 291 has been selected to go on the next Honor Flight “Tour of Honor” on Sept 19–21, 2025. His daughter is an ALA291 member and will accompany him on the trip has his guardian. The cost for his guardian to attend is \$750. Marilyn made a motion to donate \$750 to Honor Flight Southland to pay for this veteran’s daughter, who is an ALA291 member, to accompany him on this trip as his guardian. Motion was 2nd, motion passed. In addition, she has contacted 3 of the 5 food pantries and plans to provide supplies soon. Peggy Bengry also stated that she had several hand-made quilts that can be given to our veterans. These quilts are made by the Costa Mesa Senior Center Quilting Group.
- **Old Business** - None
- **New Business** – The next E-Board Meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The next District meeting will be this Saturday, Sept. 13th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Los Alamitos Post 716.

- **Prayer by Chaplain** - Mary Ann Leonard
- **Adjournment** – 8:09 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi Maturino for Leslie Dinkel
Secretary, Unit 291