



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

Date: July 16, 2025 Time: 6:10PM

- ❖ 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 – Song selection is *God Bless America*
- ❖ Preamble of the Constitution of the ALA
- ❖ 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	E	Historian Mary Beth Martin	P	Executive Committee Janet du Monceau de Bergendal
P	2nd Vice President Bonnie Robertson	P	Sergeant at Arms Stacy Eickhoff	P	Executive Committee Janice Flanagan
P	Secretary Leslie Dinkel	P	Asst. Sergeant at Arms Becky Cooper	P	Executive Committee Dana Johnston
E	Treasurer Laura Farr	E	Jr. Past President Mary Beth Martin	P	Executive Committee Jan Woolford

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

- ❖ Officer Substitutions - None
- ❖ Special Guest
 - Auxiliary member visited from the 1990's
 - Bobbi Renaghan, 1st Vice President - Initiation of New Members The new members were approved.
- ❖ Approval of Minutes – Minutes for the General Monthly Membership Meeting held on May 21, 2025.. Minutes were approved as written.
- ❖ This month Dimes for Times – Girls State for **GIRLS STATE**

REPORTS

- ❖ President, Cynthia Minucci Neal
 - Introduced the 2025 – 2026 Officers and Chairmen present at the meeting
 - Open Chair positions - Children & Youth, Leadership, National Security, Troop Shipping & VA& R
 - Attended the Dept of CA Convention was July 22nd-28th in Visalia. 4 Unit 291 auxiliary members attended as part of District 29. The convention was informative, The new Dept of CA President is Susan Baker.
 - ALA Unit 291 auxiliary member Cindy Edes, Past President, is now District 29 President and led the District 29 caucus.
 - Jr. Past President, Mary Beth Martin was installed as Dept. of CA Jr. Finance
 - Coming up:

- Dept Leadership Workshop - August 8th – 10th in Clovis. For those interested in attending, information is on the flyer table
- The National Convention in Tampa, FL - August 22nd – 28th. I am going and will give a report in September.
- ❖ **1st Vice President / Membership, Bobbi Renaghan**
 - Membership to Date is 2,008
- ❖ **2nd Vice President / Fundraising, Bonnie Robertson**
 - Movie Night Sunday July 27, 2025
 - Bunco Sunday August 31, 2025
- ❖ 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**
 - Gave a presentation on the meaning of the POW/MIA table
 - ❖ Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Jan Woolford – No Report
 - ❖ Chair Covers, Janz Simmons – No Report
 - ❖ Children and Youth, OPEN
 - ❖ **Community Donations, Christine Beilby** – Presented by Heidi Maturino
- 1. Patriot & Paws** **Suggested Donation: \$1,000**
- In the future they want to open a dog kennel. This will provide our Veterans, Active Duty and Reservists, that have no other option to have someone watch/take care of their dog, or cat, they will be able to kennel them with us until they are able to take care of them.
- Patriot & Paw will offer to the public boarding services for a charge and these funds will allow us to kennel the Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists animals at no cost.
- They do not have a current time frame for this; however, they are actively seeking corporate or private sponsors who would be interested in providing the means to make this goal a reality

MOTION: The Executive Board moves to donate \$1,000.00 to Patriots & Paws to help build a dog kennel. **Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.**

2. Project Healing Waters

Suggested Donation: \$1,000

Project Healing Waters helps active military service personnel and Veterans in need through a dedicated, developed curriculum of fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying, and fly rod building. In 2024 alone, they helped 6,820 participants comprised of all service eras through the generous work of 6,329 active volunteers.

They are a leading nonprofit in the area of therapeutic outdoor recreation, using the sport of fly fishing as an intervention. The restorative healing powers of nature and the outdoors are well-documented: for our Veteran and military participants, the Camaraderie, Connectedness, and community found in our programs, alongside the symbiotic relationship between Veteran and volunteer, directly correlate to increased sense of belonging, resilience, and post-traumatic growth

MOTION: The Executive Board moves to give \$1,000 to the Project Healing Waters to continue their efforts in supporting our Veterans in the healing powers of nature. **The motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.**

- ❖ Community Service, Mary Beth Martin - No Report
- ❖ Constitution & Bylaws, Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – No Report
- ❖ Education, Barbara Melum – No Report
- ❖ **Girls State, Caroline Miller**
 - Update Girls State session
- ❖ **Juniors Activities, Stacy Eickhoff**
 - Update on Juniors activities
- ❖ Leadership, OPEN
- ❖ Legislative, Pia Thompson – No Report
- ❖ Music, Mary Ann Leonard – No Report
- ❖ National Security, OPEN
- ❖ Past President Parley, Mary Beth Martin – No Report
- ❖ **Poppies, Bobbi Renaghan**
 - Update on Poppies
- ❖ Public Relations, Heidi Sergeant – No Report
- ❖ Salute to Service, Julie Sanborn – No Report
- ❖ Troop Shipping, OPEN
- ❖ VA & R, OPEN

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

❖ **New Business**

NEXT GENERAL MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING – The next meeting is Wednesday August 20, 2025, in the Main Hall at 6:00pm.

NEXT DISTRICT MEETING – The next District meeting will be on Saturday August 16, 2025 10am - noon at Unit #354 located at 8071 Whitaker St., Buena Park, CA 90621.

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

ADJOURNMENT – Time: 7:10PM