



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, UNIT 291
215 15TH STREET, NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Date: November 13, 2025**

- ❖ **CALL TO ORDER** - Silence your cell phones Time: 6:00 PM
- ❖ **Officer Substitution** – Becky Cooper, Asst. Sargeant at Arms for Stacy Eickhoff, Sargeant at Arms
- ❖ **Chaplain’s Prayer** – **Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain**
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance** – **Becky Cooper, Assistant Sargeant 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	E	Sargeant at Arms Stacy Eickhoff	P	Executive Committee Janice Flanagan
P	Secretary Leslie Dinkel	P	Asst. Sargeant 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 October 9, 2025 were approved as corrected (correction on pages 2 and 4)

REPORTS

- ❖ **President – Cynthia Minucci Neal**
Mid-year reports due to the District by Dec. 1st but please get them in by Nov. 30th
E- Board Holiday Gathering at Jan Woolford’s home on Dec. 9, 2025 from 5 PM to 9 PM. Please RSVP by December 1.
A lengthy discussion took place regarding new volunteer policies/ hours to be effective January 1, 2026.
- ❖ **1st Vice President / Membership – Bobbi Renaghan**
Update on Membership- Current membership: 2,008 seniors; 44 juniors; Renewals paid to date: 1,294.
New membership-earliest enrollment would be February, 2026
- ❖ **2nd Vice President / Fundraising, Bonnie Robertson**
- ❖ Upcoming Events for 2026: March 7, 2026 Palm Royale Gala; April 26, 2026 Quartermania; August 15, 2026 Mad Hatter Tea Party; December 5, 2026 Christmas Tea (with stocking decorating for the troops.
- ❖ Immediate event: Holiday Boutique November 20, 2025 3PM to 7PM \$5.00 admission with wristband
- ❖ Secretary – Leslie Dinkel - No Report
- ❖ Treasurer – Laura Farr – No Report
- ❖ Chaplain – Mary Ann Leonard – No Report
- ❖ **Historian – Mary Beth Martin** - Update on Veterans’ Day Project

Veterans' Day Photo Project will be displayed until January 6, 2026. Take down scheduled for January 6, 2026 from 9:30 AM- 12:30 PM

- ❖ Parliamentarian – 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-** Needs help on Dec. 31, 2025 at 10:00 AM for New Year's Eve set-up
- ❖ **Children and Youth – Myra Alvermann- Update**
December 7, 2025 Children's Christmas Party at Post 291. Santa will be there.
December 20, 2025 Camp Pendelton Children's Party. Toy and pajama donations needed by December 15th.
Boxes for the items are located at the Post
- ❖ **Community Service – Bonnie Pollack-** Presented by Jan Woolford - Update on Project Bearable
- ❖ Constitution & Bylaws – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal- No Report
- ❖ **Community Donations – Christine Beilby**
 - **Name of Charity: You Are Worth It** **Suggested Donation \$1,000**
Recommended by: Janet du Monceau de Bergendal
You Are Worth It Foundation exists to always remember our veterans by taking them on memorable returns to battlefields, and having them share their military experiences with schools, military installations and civic organizations. Ensuring we never forget our active duty through our morale boosting programs of BBQs, family picnics, changes of command and promotion ceremonies, birthday balls and Thanksgiving and Christmas parties. And we welcome home all of our service members through our transition program and helping with VA disability ratings and assisting homeless veterans and their families.
MOTION: The Executive Committee moves to donate \$1,000 to support their continued efforts in supporting our veterans. Motion was made. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.
 - **Name of Charity: Veteran Association of North County (VANC)** **Suggested Donation \$1,000**
VANC Veterans for Veterans and active duty service people and their families to help them navigate life during and after service. We serve as a one-stop resource center for all active-duty military, veterans, and their families. We centralize services from diverse agencies to assist with jobs, education, benefits, health, and wellness. We also support our local community by providing an exceptional space perfect for meetings, banquets, workshops, presentations and more.
Motion: The Executive Committee moves to donate \$1,000 to VANC to support their efforts
Motion was made. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

▪ **Name of Charity: Robyn's Nest** **Suggested Donation \$1,000**

The mission of Robyn's Nest is to provide at-risk and homeless students, who often lack parental support, with the resources necessary to complete high school and pursue a path to self-sufficiency. Our students are referred to us by the Huntington Beach and Newport Mesa school districts. Students must be drug free. Our students lack the support from their parents to meet their emotional and basic needs. These students continue to attend school in search of a place to belong that offers security, a routine and meals. Our mission to keep students in school is a proactive approach to steer unsupported youth away from a life of drugs, homelessness, human trafficking or early parenthood. We have the opportunity and responsibility, as a community, to care for these students and not leave them behind.

Motion: The Executive Committee moves to donate \$1,000 to Robyn's Nest to support their efforts with at-risk and homeless students. Motion was made. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

▪ **Name of Charity: San Clemente Military Family Outreach** **Suggested Donation \$2,000**

Every year the SCMFO has provided 1,000 turkeys and all the trimmings for enlisted families living on base at Camp Pendelton. The cost is \$44,000 for this year.

Each family gets a frozen butter ball turkey with all the trimmings. This will provide for a struggling E1-E6 family to have a home cooked meal in their homes. 1,000 families show upon base at the commissary building to check in and provide their military credentials. This is a huge undertaking and a huge blessing to these families every year.

Motion: The Executive Committee moves to donate \$2,000 to San Clemente Military Family Outreach to support their Thanksgiving meal program for enlisted veterans at Camp Pendelton. Motion was made. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

- ❖ Education – Barbara Melum – No Report
- ❖ **Girls State - Caroline Miller** – Update- Girls' State 2026 will be held at the University of California, Riverside campus from June 22 through June 27, 2026.
23 schools will be sending representatives.
- ❖ Juniors – Stacy Eickhoff – No Report
- ❖ **Leadership – Dana Johnston**-Update. Dana proposed having a class "Auxiliary 101" to explain the workings of the Auxiliary and our different committees.
- ❖ Legislative – Pia Thompson- No Report
- ❖ **Music – Mary Ann Leonard** - Song selection for the General Monthly meeting is America (My Country 'Tis Of Thee Verse 1
- ❖ National Security – Karren Schaeffer- No report
- ❖ Past President Parley – Mary Beth Martin- No report
- ❖ Poppy – Bobbi Renaghan -No Report
- ❖ **Public Relations – Heidi Sergeant** – Marilyn Anania gave a report for Heidi.
Wreaths Across America – Buy 2 wreaths for \$ 17 and get 1 free. \$5 will go back to the Unit
- ❖ Salute to Service - Julie Sanborn- No Report

❖ **Time Keeper – Mary Beth Martin** - Made recommendations for categories for how members CAN earn volunteer hours-

- Front door/gate shifts (Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday)
- Auxiliary 101-member training classes
- Beach cleanup events
- Two (2) general membership meetings at 2 hours each (4 hours total)
- Two (2) ALA Academy classes at 1 hour each (2 hours total)
- Working at events (setup, breakdown, during event)
- Committee work and meetings
- Veterans' lunches, Memorial Day activities
- Decorating for holidays

What Members CANNOT Earn Hours For:

Attending fundraising events (boutique, galas, tea parties, etc.) unless working
Attending parties (Halloween, Christmas) with children unless working the event

All events must use Sign Up Genius for volunteer registration. Members with excess hours are encouraged to let others needing hours to sign up for shifts.

MOTION: Time Keeper moves that hours be given for attending Auxiliary 101 training classes; beach clean-up; 2 General Membership Meetings at 2 hours each and attending ALA Academy classes. Members will no longer receive hours for attending parties or fundraising events. Motion was made. Motion was seconded. Motion was carried.

❖ **Troop Shipping – Teri Adams**- No Report

❖ **VA & R – Marilyn Anania**- Update on November distributions.

Marilyn needs more membership help with acquiring items for the various pantries.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

❖ **Old Business**

❖ **New Business** - Mary Ann Leonard shared that discount Forever stamps are available at discountstampsplus.com

❖ **NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** – The next meeting is on January 8, 2026. It will be held in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm.

❖ **NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**- The next meeting is on January 21, 2026 in the Main Hall at 6:00 PM

❖ **NEXT DISTRICT MEETING** – The next District meeting will be on January 17, 2026 at 10:00 AM at Richard Nixon Library located at 18001 Yorba Linda Blvd., Yorba Linda

❖ Closing Prayer – Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain

ADJOURNMENT – Time: 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Dinkel, Secretary, Unit 291