



American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 291
215 15th Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663
EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

Date: January 8, 2026 Time: 6:08 PM

CALL TO ORDER - Silence your cell phones

- ❖ **Officer Substitution –**
- ❖ **The colors are posted.**
- ❖ **Chaplain’s Prayer – Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain**
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance – Stacy Eickhoff, Sgt-at-Arms**
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers – Leslie Dinkel, Secretary**

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| P | President Cynthia Minucci Neal | P | Chaplain Mary Ann Leonard | E | Executive Committee & Parliamentarian 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 | E | Asst. Sergeant at Arms Becky Cooper | E | Executive Committee Bobbi Renaghan |
| 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 November 13, 2025 stand approved as read.

Officer Substitutions-Heidi Maturino for Christine Beilby

REPORTS

❖ **President, Cynthia Minucci Neal**

Dept of CA DEC meeting- Jan. 8-11th in Marina will be attended by Cynthia, Mary Beth Martin, Caroline Miller and Cindy Eads.

Dept. of CA Leadership Workshops 2025-2026- arrange for organizer to come to Unit 291; no cost to us other than providing lunch. Could be open to membership as a learning opportunity.

SignUp Genius-at GMM Executive members do not sign in. That will open up 30 additional spots for general members.

2026 Military Families-continues to be successful. The 201 course is awaiting certification.

Updating membership data across ALAMIS, Constant Contact, and SignUp Genius to ensure accuracy.

Storage- looking to rent a new storage unit to accommodate our various committees- Fundraising, Children and Youth, Troop Shipping

- ❖ **1st Vice President / Membership, Bobbi Renaghan – REPORT-** Membership Update- As of 01-08-2026 we have 1,646 members renewed; 2,035 members; 44 juniors. Bobbi suggested offering training classes to help members navigate our website and the National website, including how to access membership cards.

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

Upcoming events: Palm Royale Gala on March 7th; Quartermania on April 26th; Mad Hatter Tea Party on August 22nd; Christmas Tree and Veterans Workshop on Dec. 5th.

Raffle ticket sales for the Gala are currently at \$22,800.00. Our goal is to double that.

- ❖ **Secretary, Leslie Dinkel** – No Report
- ❖ **Treasurer, Laura Farr** – No Report- Financial Update- sent by email to all Board members
- ❖ **Chaplain, Mary Ann Leonard** – No Report
- ❖ **Historian, Mary Beth Martin** – **REPORT**-Update on Veterans' Day Project.
Mary Beth will start collecting photos for a 2026 display.
- ❖ **Parliamentarian, Peggy Bengry** – No Report
- ❖ **Executive Committee – Peggy Bengry, Janet du Monceau de Bergendal, Janice Flanagan, Bobbi Renaghan, Jan Woolford** – No Report
- ❖ **Junior Past President, Mary Beth Martin** –**REPORT**

Mary Beth reported that we have one nursing scholarship application. The scholarship is open to eligible members, veterans, or their relatives and can be used for undergraduate through advanced nursing degrees. The state level award is \$4,000, with a \$1,000 unit-level award (if state award is not received.)

STANDING COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Americanism- OPEN**
- ❖ **Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Jan Woolford** – No Report
- ❖ **Chair Covers & ALA 291 Merchandise, Janz Simmons** – No Report
- ❖ **Children and Youth, Myra Alvermann** – No Report
- ❖ **Community Donations – Heidi Maturino**

Charity 1: Infinite Hero Foundation

Suggested Donation \$ 1,000

Infinite Hero Foundation exists to connect our military, veterans and military family members with innovative and effective treatment programs for service-related injuries. They have served 85,000 of our nation's heroes and their family members at no cost to them. They believe in what's possible.

Five Pillars- Physical Rehabilitation; Leadership Development: Brain Health; Family Support; Suicide Prevention

MOTION: The Executive Board moves to donate \$1,000 to Infinite Hero Foundation in order to continue their valuable work for our military and family members that are struggling with service-related injuries. Motion was 2nd. Motion carried

Charity 2: Tierney Center for Veteran Services

Suggested Donation \$ 1,000

Goodwill of Orange County founded the Tierney Center for Veteran Services in 2016. The Tierney Center for Veteran Services has served more than 11,500 veterans since its inception. They are a comprehensive resource center serving veterans and their families at no cost. This is a service for veterans, created by veterans. The service helps with housing, basic needs such as food/clothing, health services, legal assistance, employment assistance, behavioral health services and emergency financial assistance to name a few. They also provide peer support services.

MOTION: The Executive Board moves to donate \$1,000 to The Tierney Center to support their continued efforts to help veteran in need. Motion was 2nd. Motion carried

Charity 3: Paralyzed Veterans of America, CA Chapter

Suggested Donation \$ 1,000

CA Chapter is based at Long Beach VA. They have an in-patient spinal cord injury unit with 12 members + hospital based and outpatient paralyzed veterans that they support. They have a list of about 400 members. The donation will help PVA CA Chapter provide a super bowl party in February and for other services that support paralyzed veterans that either live at or are served by the PVA CA chapter at Long Beach VA.

MOTION: The Executive Board moves to donate \$1,000 to PVA CA Chapter at Long Beach VA to support their efforts to work with veterans. Motion was 2nd. Motion carried

Community Service, Heidi Sargeant – **REPORT**—**Project Bearable**-Monday January 26, 2026, a meeting to finish

Bears. Heidi will contact some hospitals, nursing homes to see who needs bears.

- ❖ **Constitution & Bylaws, Janet du Monceau de Bergendal** – No Report
- ❖ **Education, Barbara Melum** – No Report
- ❖ **Girls State, Caroline Miller** – No Report
- ❖ **Juniors, Stacy Eickhoff – REPORT-** Juniors are having a Valentine Bag stuffing meeting on January 25th, 9AM- 12 PM
- ❖ **Leadership, Dana Johnston** – No Report
- ❖ **Legislative, Pia Thompson** - No Report
- ❖ **Music, Mary Ann Leonard-** No Report
- ❖ **National Security, Karren Schaeffer -REPORT-** Update-Next Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, February 16th, in the Main Hall from 10 AM-4PM.
Past President Parley, Mary Beth Martin –REPORT- Update- Past Presidents Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2026, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM
- ❖ **Poppy, Bobbi Renaghan – REPORT-** Update-Poppy envelope stuffing on March 9th, at 10AM in the main hall
- ❖ **Public Relations, Heidi Sargeant -REPORT-**Update-Heidi set up a partnership with Wreaths Across America. Our unit gets back \$5.00 for each wreath purchased by the end of the year; about \$2,500. Also, Heidi would like to have a PR/Community Outreach committee which will take information/ flyers to community services and businesses to alert them of events occurring in the community.
Time Keeper, Mary Beth Martin -REPORT – Update-Mary Beth- No rollover of hours. Discussion of service hours for members who are turning age 80 in 2026.
Salute to Service, Julie Sanborn Update- Salute to Service will be held on Friday, May 15, 2026. This is a dinner held for HS seniors who are going into service.
- ❖ **Troop Shipping, OPEN** – No Report
- ❖ **VA & R, Marilyn Anania – REPORT**—Update- distribution of donations to veterans

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- ❖ **Old Business** -None
- ❖ **New Business** – Julie Sanborn suggested making posters as a way of showing how donation money is used; a visual presentation to document expenditure of funds and to show the community what we do for Vets
- ❖ **NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** – The next meeting is February 12, 2026. It will be held in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm.
- ❖ **NEXT DISTRICT MEETING** – The next District meeting will be on Saturday, January 17, 2026.
- ❖ **Closing Prayer – Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain**

ADJOURNMENT – Time: 8:07 PM