



## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 12, 2026

- **Call to Order/Silence your cell phones** – 6:03 p.m.
- **Officer Substitutions** - Heidi Maturino for Leslie Dinkel
- **Chaplain's Prayer** – Mary Ann Leonard
- **Pledge of Allegiance** – Stacy Eickhoff
- **Roll Call of Officers** – Excused were Leslie Dinkel, Secretary; Laura Farr, Treasurer; Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain; Janice Flanagan, Executive Committee; Dana Johnston, Executive Committee
- **Approval of Minutes** - Motion made to approve January Minutes with two corrections: 1) Page 1 under "Roll Call of Officers" remove Bobbi Renaghan's name from "Executive Committee" and replace it with Dana Johnston. 2) Page 2 under "Executive Committee" remove Bobbi Renaghan's name and replace it with Dana Johnston. Motion was seconded, and the motion passed.
- **Reports**
  - **President** - Cythia Minucci Neal – Square point of sale is up and running. Discussed members who would have access. Currently there are 17 items on Signup Genius. If we pay an additional \$270 we will have unlimited events with no advertisements. Jeremy, our technical person, will be moving ALA291 to a new domain. We need to know who would like an ALA291 email address. Each email address costs \$84 annually. We will need a motion to approve this cost. We have two upcoming events, the March Ruck and the Elks Veterans Stand Down. There will be several volunteer opportunities for these events. The March District meeting will be held here at Post 291. This will take place on March 14<sup>th</sup> with special guest, Department President, Susan Baker. Breakfast will be served and we will need volunteers to help with the set-up. Theme for the Department is "Hats Off" – colors are red, white and black. Cynthia will send out an informational email for this meeting.
  - **Budget Review** – Each chairperson should email Cynthia their estimated program budget needs for the upcoming fiscal year. A line item will be added for Wreaths Across America. Also, for batting and quilting materials for the Costa Mesa Senior Citizens Quilting Group. They make handmade quilts which we give to our veterans and military children. There was discussion regarding various program budgets. A need for Google Docs was expressed – currently we do not know the cost. This can be used for such things as signing in members for activities, document sharing, etc. Some members raised worries regarding how user-friendly it would be for those less comfortable with technology. She then introduced the new Troop Shipment Chairperson – Maureen Madigan.
- **Motions:**
  - 1) Motion made to increase the budget for Sign-up Genius to \$550 annually for their premium package. This will allow us to list unlimited events with no advertisements. The advertisements were causing confusion with some of our members. This motion was seconded, and the motion passed.
  - 2) Motion was made to purchase ALA291 email addresses for 10 users at a cost of \$84 each for total of \$840 (we are currently moving our domain over to a new host). This motion was seconded, and the motion passed.
  - 3) Motion was made to purchase batting and other quilting materials for the Costa Mesa Senior Citizens Quilting Group at a cost of \$750. The quilts are all handmade by this group and are given to the veterans and military children. This motion was seconded, and the motion passed.
- **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Membership** – Bobbi Renaghan – 1,738 seniors have renewed and 34 Juniors for a total of 1,772. Discussed possibly reopening new membership in March. The Laguna Legion is dissolving, and she suggests that we should allow the Auxiliary members to transfer over to us. There was further discussion about members who have not paid their membership. National dictates that we must carry them for 2 years before we can remove them from our rolls and place them as "expired".
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** – Bonnie Robertson – March 7<sup>th</sup> is the Palm Royale Gala – she encouraged everyone to get tickets. Quarter Mania is on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, Mad Hatter Tea Party is Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Holiday Boutique will be in October and will include Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, and Saturday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> will be our Christmas Tea and Workshop. It was recommended that we promote these events on Facebook. There was discussion regarding minimum and maximum number of people at these events. All were asked to promote these fundraising events.
- **Secretary** – Leslie Dinkel - Excused
- **Treasurer/Finance** – Laura Farr - Excused
- **Chaplain** – Mary Ann Leonard – No Report
- **Historian** – Mary Beth Martin – No Report
- **Executive Committee** – Peggy Bengry, Janet du Monceau de Bergendal, Janice Flanagan, Dana Johnston, Jan Woolford

## Standing Committees:

- **Americanism** – Diane Torrence – Absent – No Report
- **Auxiliary Emergency Fund** – Jan Woolford – No Report
- **Chair Covers** – Janz Simmons – Absent – No Report
- **Children and Youth** – Myra Alvermann – Discussed baby shower items at Camp Pendleton and the need to not open boxes for safety reasons (baby items). There was discussion about whether it would be appropriate to include the Coast Guard in some of our events such as the Christmas Party. The consensus was “Yes” we should include them.
- **Community Service** – Heidi Sargeant – Excused (Report given by Cynthia Munici Neal) She has added two people to her Community Service Committee. This past Sunday, we hosted a Superbowl party at the LBVA and Paralyzed Veterans of America. It was a great event. There were 26 veterans present. Barbara and Cynthia discussed how rewarding it was to work this event in the Spinal Ward. Members were asked to please bring plastic bags for Heidi M. to take to the Hope Food Pantry. Bags are used for produce distribution. Ronald McDonald bottle caps are also ready to be delivered.
- **Constitution & Bylaws** – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – We are officially accepting PUFL memberships (Paid Up For Life). PUFL memberships from other units are not eligible for transfers. They must originate from ALA291. Update on corporation status was given. This is recommended by National to protect us from individual lawsuits. We are in good standing and want to have corporation effective July 1, 2026. This will affect taxes that we pay (tax exempt). She will be updating the Standing Rules over the next few months.
- **Donations Recommended by the Board** – Christine Beilby, Heidi Sargeant, Heidi Maturino
  - ❖ Motion made to donate \$1,000 to Post 291 March Ruck for Veteran Suicide Awareness – The Ruck is from Huntington Beach Pier to Post 291. The donation will go towards paying the registration fee of \$22 for those veterans who want to participate but cannot afford the fee. It will also help with the expenses of the BBQ and ceremony at Post 291. This motion was seconded and the motion passed.
  - ❖ Motion made to donate \$2,000 to the Newport Beach First Battalion – First Marines at Camp Pendleton Mess Night on March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Balboa Bay Resort. This will cover the cost for a table of 10 military members to attend. The First Battalion – First Marines is one of the most highly decorated and distinguished units in the Marine Corps stationed at Camp Pendleton. This motion was seconded, and the motion passed.
  - ❖ Motion made to donate \$1,000 to Strong Families, Strong Children. Their mission is to improve the health and well-being of veteran families, military families, and their children throughout Orange County. This motion was seconded, and the motion passed.
- **Education** – Barbara Melum – No Report
- **Girls State** – Caroline Miller – Discussed schools that are participating in this years’ Girls State. We have a total of 26 schools. Girls are currently submitting their applications. She will introduce the girls at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. District 29 orientation is on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Garden Grove Elks Lodge. The send-off dinner is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> and the awards banquet will be August 10<sup>th</sup> with Boys and Girls State together.
- **Juniors** – Stacy Eickhoff – The Juniors decorated and stuffed 50 goody bags for the veterans Valentine project at the LBVA. This project was done in conjunction with VA & R which provided all the items for the bags.
- **Leadership** – Dana Johnston – Excused – No Report
- **Legislative** – Pia Thompson – Absent – No Report
- **Music** – Mary Ann Leonard – No Report
- **National Security** – Karen Shaeffer – The blood drive is scheduled for next Monday – Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. All slots are full and the next blood drive will be in October 2026.
- **Past Presidents Parley** – Mary Beth Martin – No Report
- **Poppy** – Bobbi Renaghan – We will be making poppies on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. This is on Sign-up Genius. March 9<sup>th</sup> is poppy envelope stuffing. The first session is from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and the second session is from 1 – 4 pm.
- **Public Relations** – Heidi Sargeant – Absent – Promoted the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual March Ruck from HB Pier to Post 291 on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. John Araganda, Legion Historian, is organizing this Ruck and the Auxiliary will assist in this event.
- **Salute To Service** – Julie Sanborn – No Report
- **Time Keeper** – Mary Beth Martin – We have members who have not paid dues but are doing volunteer hours. It was recommended that that if they are not a member in good standing – any volunteer hours should not count. This should be posted on Facebook and the ALA291 website.
- **Troop Shipping** – Maureen Madigan – Introduced herself. She has two sons who are currently serving. She will be doing a small troop shipment on March 12<sup>th</sup> for a small squadron. The goal is 20 boxes and she will need volunteers. She is currently working on names and addresses for this shipment.
- **VA & R** – Marilyn Anania & ~~Rosanne Feilich~~ Rosanne Feilich – We are currently supporting six food pantries. We spent \$1,921.87 on food pantries this month. Discussed the LBVA and their needs. Volunteer hours were discussed. Peggy Bengry received a call from the District to do Bingo at the LBVA on Veterans Day.
- **Special Committees** – Janet Du Monceau de Bergendal – Discussed the need for this years’ Nominating Committee which needs to consist of three board members and two general members. Stacy Eickhoff, Bobbie Renaghan and Becky Cooper volunteered. We will then need two additional general members. We will also need a motion to accept these members at the General Meeting.
- **Old Business** – The Storage shed was discussed. Cynthia is looking for additional outside storage.
- **New Business** – Stacy requested that all chairpersons pay attention to the agenda at the General Meetings and be ready with their reports and as it gets closer to your time, please get closer to the podium.
- **Next E-Board Meeting** – March 12<sup>th</sup> and our next District Meeting is Saturday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at the Anaheim Post.
- **Prayer by Chaplain** – Mary Ann Leonard
- **Retirement of Colors**
- **Adjournment** – 8:16 p.m.