



**American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 291**  
**215 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Date: March 12, 2026 Time: 6:00pm**

- ❖ **CALL TO ORDER - Silence your cell phones**
- ❖ **Officer Substitution** – Veronica Andler-Lopez for Leslie Dinkel, Secretary
- ❖ **The colors are posted.**
- ❖ **Chaplain’s Prayer – Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain**
- ❖ **Pledge of Allegiance – Stacy Eickhoff, Sgt-at-Arms**
- ❖ **Roll Call of Officers –Veronica Andler-Lopez for Leslie Dinkel, Secretary**

P	President Cynthia Minucci Neal	P	Chaplain Mary Ann Leonard	E	Executive Committee & Parliamentarian Peggy Bengry
P	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President Bobbi Renaghan	P	Historian Mary Beth Martin	E	Executive Committee Janet du Monceau de Bergendal
P	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bonnie Robertson	P	Sergeant at Arms Stacy Eickhoff	E	Executive Committee Janice Flanagan
E	Secretary Leslie Dinkel	P	Asst. Sergeant 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 February 12, 2026 were approved as corrected.

**REPORTS**

❖ **President, Cynthia Minucci Neal**

- Year End reports are due to the District no later than April 10, 2026. Forms are on the Dept website. The following have reports due: Officers -Historian & Chaplain Chairs - Americanism, AEF, Children & Community Service, Constitution & Bylaws, Education, Girls State, Jr. Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Membership, National Security, Music, Past President Parley, Public Relations & VA & R.
- March 14, 2026 - The District meeting will be held at the Post this month. Dept President Susan Baker will also be attending as her official District 29 meeting.
- March 21, 2026 is the March Ruck. We are having an official visit from National President. Coordinating the visit.
- Discussed everyone finalizing next year’s budget with Laura Farr, Treasurer

❖ **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President / Membership, Bobbi Renaghan**

- Current membership numbers seniors 1,796 and 34 Juniors

❖ **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President / Fundraising, Bonnie Robertson**

- Discussed the Palm Royale Party fundraiser. 138 people came to the event.

- May 17, 2026 Quartermania. Will need raffle items for the event. Lunch will be served.
- August 22, 2026 – Mad Hatter Tea Party. Possible fashion show with old Bridesmaid dresses.
- October 22, 2026 Holiday Boutique – Will include Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Christine spoke to Dennis regarding licensed & packaged food to sell at the Boutique.
- December 5, 2026 – Have not decided yet between Christmas White Elephant or a Christmas Tea Party.
- Thanked everyone for helping
- ❖ Secretary, Leslie Dinkel – No Report
- ❖ Treasurer, Laura Farr – No Report
- ❖ Chaplain, Mary Ann Leonard
  - Gave a report of Condolences
- ❖ Historian, Mary Beth Martin – No Report
- ❖ 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 – No Report

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

- ❖ **Americanism, Diane Torrence** - No Report
  - Introduced Diane to the Executive Board.
- ❖ 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 – Christine Beilby**

#### **1. Charity: Patriots & Paws**

**Suggested Donation: \$1,000**

##### **Patriots & Paws Gold Tournament Date: March 2026**

RATIONAL: In 2025, Patriots & Paws celebrated their 15th year and have helped over 20,000 Veterans, Active Duty and Reservists, providing them a very conservative value of \$22.5 million of home goods and furnishing. They reduce psychological and financial stress to our Veterans as they transition into civilian life from Active Duty Reservists as they are returning from deployment, by providing basic home furnishings and necessities at no cost, resulting in hope and dignity.

Because of your participation in this special golf event, you allow the ability to continue our mission and help even more Veterans.

**MOTION:** The Donations Committee moves to give \$1000 in order for four veterans to participate in the annual golf tournament on June 9th. Motion was made, carried and motion carried.

## 2. Charity: Sons of the American Legion

**Suggested Donation: \$1,600**

Fairways of Honor 2026 Golf Tournament March 2026

SONS 291 Mission is to empower veterans through coming together and engaging in the simplest of activities. In becoming a sponsor of the SONS (our) Annual Fairways of Honor Golf Tournament, you will be helping a veteran! You will be assisting them to adjust to their lives back home so they will be become successful in their own mission. This fun filled weekend to simply bring veterans together and help raise funds so that we may be able to assist them during crucial moments in their lives.

**MOTION:** The Donations Committee moves to donate \$1,600 in order for foursome of veterans to participate in the tournament and to sponsor the 9th hole. Motion was made, carried and motion carried

### ❖ Community Service, Heidi Sargeant

➤ March Ruck on March 21, 2026 will have news coverage from KTLA and ABC News, and local newspapers. Newport Beach mayor will also be in attendance.

### ➤ Project Bearable, Bonnie Pollack

- Had 39 ladies / 4 tables show up for the February meeting show up ready to sew including sewing machines, cutting, stuffing, hand sewing the bears including the bears faces. Have done over 200 hours. Discussed where the bears have or will be distributed.

❖ Constitution & Bylaws, Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – No Report

### ❖ Education, Barbara Melum

➤ Discussed the themes being done in the schools with ~~American History and the Poppy Poster contest.~~ **Veterans Day and Memorial Day posters.** Giving out teacher grants. Last year's posters will be at the Orange County Fairgrounds. Working on putting together a Police Appreciation Day at the schools with Costa Mesa and Newport Beach Police Depts.

❖ Girls State, Caroline Miller – No Report

❖ Juniors, Stacy Eickhoff – No Report

❖ Leadership, Dana Johnston – No Report

❖ Legislative, Pia Thompson - No Report

❖ Music, Mary Ann Leonard - No Report

➤ Song selection for the General Monthly meeting is Star Spangled Banner

❖ National Security, Karren Schaeffer – No Report

❖ Past President Parley, Mary Beth Martin – No Report

### ❖ Poppy, Bobbi Renaghan

➤ Discussed the next Poppy Envelope Stuffing on March 9, 2026.

### ❖ Public Relations, Heidi Sargeant - Given by Cynthia

➤ Stu News will be publishing an article o the March Ruck. Posting on Facebook

- Article submitted to ALA National Magazine for The Paralyzed Veterans of CA Super Bowl party. Received a letter of gratitude from the PVA Corporate office.
- ❖ Salute to Service, Julie Sanborn - No Report
- ❖ Time Keeper, Mary Beth Martin – No Report
- ❖ Troop Shipping, Maureen Madigan – No Report
- ❖ **VA & R, Marilyn Anania**
  - Gave a report on the distribution to the Food Pantries.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

#### ❖ **Old Business**

- **Stacy Eickhoff, Nominating Chair**
  - Vote was taken to elect the 2026/2027 nominating committee consisting of (3) officers and (2) general members. Stacy Eickhoff, committee chair, Becky Cooper, Assist. Sgt at arms, Bobbi Renaghan, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, Kim Philhart General Member, and Vera Rowe, General member. A motion was made and carried to form the election/teller committee: Kim Philhart, Vera Rowe, and Sheila Tubbs were appointed and have agreed to serve.
  - The election will take place May 20, 2026 from 2pm to 6pm, prior to the General Membership meeting..
- Discussion on Storage unit – Executive Officers and Chairmen will have access to storage unit. Finding the storage solution will happen after our meeting in May during down time.

#### ❖ **New Business**

- Mary Ann Leonard brought a motion to purchase (5) Square card readers for taking credit cards. Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.
- Mary Ann Leonard made a motion, for all Auxiliary accounts must be registered under the Auxiliary by a current Auxiliary officer (i.e. Square, Blue Host, etc.). Motion was made, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and motion carried.
- ❖ **NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** – The next meeting is April 9, 2026 It will be held in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm.
- ❖ **NEXT DISTRICT MEETING** – The next District meeting will be on March 14, 2026 at Unit 291 Newport Harbor located at 215 15<sup>th</sup> St., Newport beach, CA 92663
- ❖ **Closing Prayer – Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain**

**ADJOURNMENT** – Time: 7:38pm