



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes August 17, 2011

11 Members Present: Desiree Herrera (President/Historian), Victoria Seamon (1st Vice), Jody O'Donnell (2nd Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Cheryl Dolmage (Chaplain), Heather Marzan (Sgt-at-Arms), Sue Gibbons, Brenda Hamett, Heather Jones, Nancy McLees, and Margaret Smith.

2 Guests Present: Soon-to-be new member Lindsay Bittman and Girls' State representative Phuong Tran.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Desiree Herrera. Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble were recited by all.

Attendance was taken by Secretary.

Reading of last month's minutes.

- **Motion:** made by Brenda Hamett to dispense with reading of last month's minutes.
- **Second:** Jody O'Donnell.
- **Unanimous vote.**

Last month's meeting minutes are accepted as is.

Treasurer's Report:

- Last month's bank balance = \$2,485.84
- Deposits made = \$136.05
- Checks written = \$33.70
- Monthly bank service charge = \$16.00
- Current bank balance = \$2,572.19 (which includes \$360.00 designated for our Poppy Relief Fund).

President Desiree Herrera's Report:

- Preprinted membership cards for 2012 are here and were distributed. *If you would like yours laminated, give it to Vicky after you've signed it.*
- Sue Gibbons received a reward for her Historian's Year-End Supplemental Report.
- Our unit now has its own gavel, another Handbook, and a CD for making ALA certificates. Check out <http://emblem.legion.org> (American Legion Flag and Emblem Online) for all of your ALA needs.
- A summary of District President Gigi Manno's report (from the August 7th district meeting) was given.
- There will be a private service at Fort Rosecrans for one of the local Navy SEALs who was recently killed. All VA organizations are invited to be part of the procession. Desiree is pretty sure it will be held on Tuesday, August 30th at noon.

1st Vice Vicky Seamon's report covering our VA&R and Membership Committees:

- Department finally has our membership list up-to-date. We are still working on reconciling the dues discrepancy but at least our members are correct. Counting Lindsay Bittman, we now have 37 members.
- Wounded Warrior Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org) has opened a new office in Liberty Station. The address of this 4,700 square foot space is 2468 Historic Decatur Road, Building 905, Suite 150. It will initially employ a staff of 12 with room to grow. Check out their website for all fundraisers, including several within the next few weeks.
- Thanks again to Margaret Smith for using our left-over \$50 Target gift card and purchasing drawing/arts and crafts supplies to be donated on our behalf to the La Jolla VA Hospital, to help keep the children occupied while they wait for their parents to complete their appointments.

Phuong Tran, who will be entering her senior year at Mission Bay High School, shared her experiences at Girls' State.

- With only two days' notice from her school counselor, she learned about and was interviewed for Girls' State; she was the student selected to represent MBHS.
- Once at GS, Phuong tried to win (but didn't) both a city position and a county position. She was, however, thrilled to be elected Secretary of State.
- She met many generous and helpful young women with whom she has stayed in touch. She felt the week-long encounter was very positive.
- Phuong feels more patriotic since attending GS and has gotten involved with Operation Military Kids. She helped to fill up backpacks and write letters to children of military families which were delivered to Camp Marston in Julian.

Unfinished business:

- Holiday party is definitely set for Saturday, December 10th. Nancy needs to update the flyer ASAP and get it to Brenda to post on Facebook. Heather J. volunteered to work on decorations. Nancy M. and Jody offered to help buy the presents.
 - **Motion:** made by Cheryl Dolmage to reduce maximum number of attendees to 75.
 - **Second:** Nancy Person.
 - **Unanimous vote.**
- Our unit is still trying to figure out how to best increase our exposure. We will look into having a table at a local farmer's market, a street fair, or other similar events. Vicky, Sue, and Nancy P. will all ask friends who are members of other non-profits who have done this form of PR.
- At this point, a yard sale is not being scheduled. There is too much uncertainty in terms of the legalities and logistics; and Jerry isn't thrilled with the idea.
- Since we have done no fundraising for several months, are we ready to tackle another meal? There is high demand at the post for the ALA ladies to cook again. Dinners seem to be more profitable than breakfasts. Sundays might be a problem due to football. Friday dinners are well-attended.
 - **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to schedule another dinner.
 - **Second:** Brenda Hamett.
 - **Unanimous vote.**

After checking the calendar and our personal schedules, Sept. 23rd was selected as our next dinner. As always, it will be served between 5:30 and 7:30.
- Heather Marzan updated us on her follow-up with homeless veterans. She continues to assist over 10 individuals by driving them to appointments, bringing them clothing (especially shoes), and just making sure they know they're cared about. About half live in Pacific Beach, and the other half live downtown. She has begun to take a general survey of their needs. If she can collect 100 completed surveys, she will use these to accompany a grant request from the National Coalition of the Homeless.
- Our next unit meeting will be held on September 21st at 6:00pm.
- Closing prayer was delivered by our chaplain, Cheryl Dolmage.
- Meeting was adjourned by Desiree Herrera at 7:00pm.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Nancy Person.