



## **Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552**

### **Meeting Minutes September 21, 2011**

**12 Members Present:** Desiree Herrera (President/Historian), Victoria Seamon (1<sup>st</sup> Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Cheryl Dolmage (Chaplain), Heather Marzan (Sgt-at-Arms), Lindsey Bittman, Sue Gibbons, Heather Jones, Nancy McLees, Margaret Smith, Karen Stewart, and Marci Williams. Welcome to our new member Lindsey!

**3 Guests Present:** District 22 President Gigi Manno, SALS Squadron 552 Commander Wes Williams, and Beatrice Brunner, who is a Past District President, Past National Auxiliary Member of the Year, and the wife of the Veteran of the Year, Joe Brunner.

- 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 Heather Marzan to dispense with reading of last month's minutes.
  - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons.
  - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**Last month's meeting minutes are accepted as is.
- Treasurer's Report:
  - Last month's bank balance = \$2,572.19; Deposits made = \$25.00; Checks written = \$138.55; Banking charges (including monthly service fee, returned check and returned check fee) = \$53.00 ; Current bank balance = \$2,405.64 (of which \$310.00 is designated for our Poppy Relief Fund).
- President's Report:
  - Desiree has completed the first phase of her Service Officer Training. As a Service Officer, she will primarily reach out to two groups: people who are already separated from the military; and those close to separating (spouses also have benefits). She will assist in providing information re: what forms need to be completed for benefits, helping to fill out these forms, assisting with claims, etc.
- Membership Report:
  - Our roster is finally reconciled with Dept.
  - We will not have a table at this year's PB BeachFest since it's on the same day as the VFW Commander's Party at the post. Vicky has made contact with the organizers, though, and we'll be ready to participate next year.
  - We are still considering having a table at the Saturday PB Farmer's Market. We will work with the entire American Legion family at VFW Post 5985 to try to set this up.
- VA&R Report:
  - The \$50 worth of books, art supplies, games and play-doh that Margaret purchased last month with our left-over Xmas gift card have been delivered to the social workers and

- occupational therapists at the La Jolla VA Hospital. They were very grateful and said it felt like Christmas! The supplies will be put to good use with the children of Veterans who are waiting while their parents' receive treatment.
- Mark your calendars: November 12<sup>th</sup> is Bingo at the VA Hospital to be sponsored by ALA units 552 (us) and 460 (June's unit). Arrival time in the Multi-Purpose Room is 12:30. From 1:00-2:00 we will be setting up and bringing patients down from the wards. Bingo is played from 2:00-3:00. Finally, we will serve refreshments. Vicky will contact June to coordinate what our unit should bring to eat/drink and final arrangements will be made at our October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - The VA La Jolla Hospital has been designated as this year's contact for the Fourth Annual Summer Sports Clinic. There are more than 100 disabled and/or wounded Veterans participating in the five-day (Sept. 18-23) adaptive clinic hosted by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. This clinic promotes rehabilitation in mind and body, and includes events like track and field, rowing, surfing, sailing, cycling, and kayaking.
  - Girls' State Report:
    - Reservations have been made by Margaret Smith for next year's event.
  - Report by District 22 President Gigi Manno:
    - The next district meeting will be held on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at Post 282 in La Mesa.
    - An unaffiliated member (someone who works with the ALA but is not eligible to join) who has volunteered her time for 13 years has passed away. She left money to District 22's membership fund. Thanks to her generosity, each unit in this district will receive one free membership this year.
    - Due to the decreasing budget, Education scholarships at all levels (National, Dept. and District) have been cut. Only first-borns will now be eligible; no more grandchildren of Veterans.
    - Poppy delivery may be late this year. The main person who was putting them together is no longer available. Volunteers will be needed to help put the poppies together.
    - District VA&R will be sending out a wish list shortly. They've been getting things they really can't use.
    - On April 15, 2012, the new Dept. President will be visiting District 22. This visitation will take place at Post 149 in Escondido. Our unit President is expected to attend, dressed in a western-themed sleazy outfit. "Dress to impress" is the motto.
  - Report by SALS Squadron 552 Commander Wes Williams:
    - He once again thanked ALA unit 552 for helping to make last year's holiday party such a grand success. It's time to get things rolling. Wes requested the flyer for this year be done ASAP. He wants it in time for the upcoming Red Shirt Invasion since the Clampers donated food and money to last year's party. He explained that the Clampers are an all-men historical society group that is responsible for most of the brass plaques we see designating historical sites. This group gets the permits from the city and/or county, gets approval for the plaques, does the background checks, gets the plaques made, and then they have a celebration at each newly designated monument or site. If the initials ECV are on the plaque, we know the Clampers were responsible for that plaque.
    - Wes (and Marci) reminded us how important it is for the ALA gals to support the SALS at their meals. Watch the monthly VFW calendar for upcoming meals at the post. The SALS hold a dinner every Tuesday and since they support our meals so well, it would be nice if we could reciprocate with better attendance at their meals.
  - Guest Beatrice Brunner shared her observations of our unit, as well as other information.
    - First, she was very impressed with our VA&R Chair, Vicky Seamon, and her comprehensive committee report.
    - Beatrice acknowledged how important the Summer Sports Clinic (SSC) is. She was excited that Vicky mentioned it. This year's fourth annual event had 117 injured Veterans (making up 10 teams) participating in the games. The La Jolla VA Hospital Canteen is one of the

- big sponsors of the SSC so she was tickled to hear that we donated money for Canteen Coupons.
- Help Hospitalized Veterans is another organization that sponsors the SSC. Sign onto [www.HHV.org](http://www.HHV.org) to see how you can help. HHV is a national, non-profit organization established for the purpose of distributing therapeutic arts & crafts kits, free of charge, to patients receiving care at Veterans medical centers, state nursing homes for veterans and military hospitals.
  - The San Diego Veterans Day Parade is coming on November 11<sup>th</sup>. (Veteran's Day has been around since 1919). Check out [www.sdveteranparade.org](http://www.sdveteranparade.org) for information on how to participate. The parade staging will take place at the County Administration Building at 1600 Pacific Highway on the morning of 11/11. The parade starts at 11:00am. This is the last year for the route that goes down Pacific Highway toward Seaport Village, which is a little over a mile. You can walk as a group, ride in a car, etc.
  - Relating back to Desiree's report on her Service Officer training, Beatrice confirms that a data form is available for the spouse of a Veteran. If you are one, get a copy of this form and be prepared.
  - What else can we do with poppies? Beatrice has put together a list of ideas which she will send us.
  - The Patch is an online free advertiser. Check out [patch.com](http://patch.com) to list our unit's activities. *I went online immediately after our meeting and posted an ad for our 9/23 dinner! We were reminded to send a copy of all advertisements to Pacita West, the District PR officer.*
  - Finally, her husband Waldo Joe Brunner thanks and acknowledges the hard work of our unit.
  - Cheryl Dolmage (speaking for herself and Brenda Hamett) requested that we do not spend the money cleaning the elf costume for this year's holiday party since it's a very small size and hard for anyone to fit into. Instead she suggested that we rent a costume as needed. Since our meeting was already running late, Vicky Seamon asked if we could table the suggestion until the next meeting, when we'll be talking in detail about our 12/10 event. This is what we did.
  - Final plans were made for our 9/23 dinner, to be held two nights after this meeting. It was also suggested that we should start naming specific charities/organizations to which our meal profits should go. The officers decided after the meeting to donate all net proceeds of our 9/23 dinner to Veterans Village of San Diego, in honor of our goal to help homeless Veterans. *Our spaghetti and meatballs dinner was an unbridled success! We grossed \$397.75, spent \$110.43, and netted \$287.32. A check for \$287.32 was written to VVSD and Heather Marzan will hand-deliver it. Well done, ladies!!*
  - Our next unit meeting will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.
  - Closing prayer was delivered by our chaplain, Cheryl Dolmage.
  - Meeting was adjourned by Desiree Herrera at 7:10pm.
  - Minutes are respectfully submitted by Nancy Person.