



## Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

### Meeting Minutes October 19, 2011

**14 Members Present:** Desiree Herrera (President), Victoria Seamon (1<sup>st</sup> Vice), Jody O'Donnell (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Karen Stewart (Chaplain), Heather Marzan (Sgt-at-Arms), Lindsey Bittman, Nicole DeClercq, Cheryl Dolmage, Sue Gibbons, Nancy McLees, Marilyn Prosser, Margaret Smith, and Tricia Smith.

**3 Guests Present:** ALA District 22 Past President June Coatney, American Legion District 22 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Chuck Camarato and Lauree Adams, Jockey Comfort Specialist (and Chuck's fiancée).

- 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.
- Past President June Coatney greeted our unit.
  - June brought us a gift of 75 lovely cloth napkins. *Thank you for your continued generosity to our unit, June.*
  - She also reminded us that we will be co-hosting (with her unit 460) the November 12<sup>th</sup> Bingo at the La Jolla VA Hospital. Unit 460 will be making a full Thanksgiving meal for the Veterans. Unit 552 will be responsible for bringing paper products: 100 each of entrée plates, dessert plates, forks, knives, spoons, and napkins; as well as six pumpkin pies and whipped cream.
  - Finally, June informed us that we will be co-hosting the February 12, 2012 District Meeting with unit 460. She will be in touch before then to let us know what we should bring.
- Lauree Adams told us about a great way to fundraise. She is a Comfort Specialist for Jockey and holds personal clothing parties (like Tupperware or jewelry parties). She has offered to turn over 100% of her profits to our unit for each party of four to six guests that one of us hosts. Please see attached flyer for more information, and sign onto [www.jockey2p.com](http://www.jockey2p.com) to preview the online catalog. Desiree recommended we hold a unit Jockey party at the post; there will be further discussion about this.
- American Legion District 22 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Chuck Camarato thanked us for all we do for our military community. He also told us about a Service Commission in which he, Desiree, and two other AL members are working to frame the future of the American Legion in our district.
- Reading of last month's minutes:
  - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to dispense with reading of last month's minutes.
  - ❖ **Second:** Tricia Smith.
  - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**  
Last month's meeting minutes are accepted as is.
- VA&R Report:
  - If units have extra money that they'd like to donate to local Veterans' organizations, it is suggested we contribute to the VA Hospital for their Christmas Fund, or the WAVE Clinic for their holiday and dinner funds. Both of these organizations are far below their normal intake of donations and could use the money.
  - The Women Veterans program will hold a Breast Cancer Awareness program on **Oct. 27th** at the La Jolla VA Hospital. They are asking for donations of store-bought pink-iced cookies.

- Don't forget about Bingo at the La Jolla VA Hospital on **Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>**. 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 Thanksgiving dinner to all attendees.
- The VAVS Bazaar will be held on Tues., **11/15** at the VA Hospital. District 22 has already reserved tables. Volunteers are needed to help put the Silent Auction baskets together on **Sat., 11/5 at 10:00am**. This will take place at Post 6, 3563 Adams Avenue, San Diego, CA 92116.
- Mon., **11/21** is the Thanksgiving Dinner at the WAVE Clinic. Volunteers are needed to help serve.
- Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Chula Vista Veterans Home for the holidays this year. They are aiming to do it between **Nov. 30 and Dec. 4**. Contact Lois Cornish (619-427-3966) or Dee Diaz at (619-205-1410) if you're interested in helping.
- **Membership Report:**
  - Currently we are at 63% with 21 renewals and three new members. Our three new members for this year are Nancy McLees, Lindsey Bittman, and Celia Treamer. We know of three members who will not be renewing their membership this year. Our membership goal is 38.
  - Vicky recommended reading the book On Call in Hell written by a Marine. She will pass it around when she's finished with it.
- **President's Report and Announcements:**
  - When bringing a guest to our meetings, please be sure to have them sign in (next to the daily quarter drawing book) in the bar area.
  - Thank you to Cheryl Dolmage, for acting as unit Chaplain since March of 2010. We can't thank you enough for all that you've done. Welcome to our new Chaplain, Karen Stewart.
  - Welcome to our new Historian, Nancy McLees.
  - There will be a Warrior Care Month Luncheon held on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at the NMCSDBalboa Liberty Center to support the Army Wounded Warriors recovering from their wounds at WTC Bravo, Balboa. The estimated cost of the luncheon is \$250. The American Legion is asking each post in District 22 to donate \$10 (26 posts = \$260). Desiree has asked if we are willing to donate \$10, as well, from the Auxiliary.
    - ❖ **Motion:** made by Vicky Seamon for our unit to donate \$10.
    - ❖ **Second:** Margaret Smith.
    - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

*Treasurer will write a check and send to the appropriate Post Commander.*
  - Our local Boy Scouts are having a fundraiser to buy snacks to send to our military personnel serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. For every \$35.00 donated, \$24.50 goes back to the local Scout troops, and the remainder funds the snacks to be shipped overseas. Is our unit interested in participating?
    - ❖ **Motion:** made by Tricia Smith to donate \$35.
    - ❖ **Second:** Jody O' Donnell.
    - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

*Desiree made the "Military Product Donation – Silver Level" of \$35.00 online and will be reimbursed from our account.*
  - At the 2012 Stand Down, District 22 American Legion Auxiliary will only be serving lunch on Friday. Dinner is no longer on our service agenda.
  - American Legion is asking for donations for next year's Oratorical Lunch, February Bingo, and July Stand-Down.
  - Be sure to read the ALA update in the November VFW newsletter for information on a new National Army Museum and on Social Security benefits for Veterans.
- **Treasurer's/Secretary's Report:**
  - Last month's bank balance = \$2,405.64; Deposits made = \$824.75; Checks written = \$603.75; Banking charges = \$16.00 ; Current bank balance = \$2,610.64 (of which \$360.00 is designated for our Poppy Relief Fund).
  - This year's Western-themed President's Pins are here. We are expected to purchase seven pins at \$5.00 each from District. Hopefully, our members will buy them so our unit will not have any outlay. Jody and Nancy each bought one, so there are five left. Please let me know if you'd like one.
  - We've received two books of raffle tickets for upcoming Dept. events. It is suggested we buy one book of 11 tickets (\$10.00) for Junior Conference, and one book of 12 tickets (\$10.00) for Annual Convention.

- ❖ **Motion:** made by Cheryl Dolmage to spend the \$20.00 and buy both books of tickets.
- ❖ **Second:** Jody O' Donnell.
- Unanimous vote.**
- I set up online banking with our account at Bank of America. Desiree, Vicky, and Jody were all given access information. Should we go paperless and stop having statements sent to the post?
  - ❖ **Motion:** made by Heather Marzan to go paperless.
  - ❖ **Second:** Jody O' Donnell.
  - Unanimous vote.**
- Are there any changes to the proposed 2011-2012 budget I e-mailed to members?
  - ❖ **1<sup>st</sup> Motion:** made by Vicky Seamon to remove the \$434.00 listed under Projected Expense for "Post 552 Membership Dues" (since it's actually income); and to add \$100.00 under Projected Expense for donations to "Wounded Warrior/Fisher House."
  - ❖ **Second:** Nancy Person.
  - Unanimous vote.**
  - ❖ **2<sup>nd</sup> Motion:** made by Cheryl Dolmage to increase the Projected Expense for "Chaplain" to \$250.00. Apparently, she had never submitted any of her 2010-2011 expenses for reimbursement, so I was unaware of how much she spent during the year.
  - ❖ **Second:** Margaret Smith.
  - Unanimous vote.**
  - ❖ **Final Motion:** made by Nancy Person to accept budget for 2011-2012 as is with all above changes.
  - ❖ **Second:** Jody O'Donnell.
  - Unanimous vote.** *Please see attachment for our new, annual budget. I will also put a copy up at the post on our bulletin board.*
- I found a non-profit organization called Thanks-A-Bunch ([www.thanksabunch.org](http://www.thanksabunch.org)) that sells items specifically geared to thank our military personnel for their service. One of these items is a \$50.00 restaurant gift card (called Thanks-A-Bucks). Basically, anyone can purchase these gift cards for \$10.00 each, and then distribute them to the military. The card says "Thanks-A-Bunch for keeping us safe" and "We want to thank you for your service, commitment and sacrifice to our country by presenting you with this restaurant gift card. It's a small token of our gratitude and appreciation." Each card entitles the holder to \$50.00 worth of food and drink purchased at over 300 local restaurants. The holder can spend all \$50.00 at once, or use it in small increments. Once the user activates the card online, a balance is kept at each point of usage until all \$50.00 has been used. My husband bought two of these cards to donate to our unit for distribution.
  - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to purchase one card for each family that attends our holiday party.
  - ❖ **Second:** Vicky Seamon.
  - Unanimous vote.** *Once we have a final guest list, I will order the remaining cards needed. They come from Camarillo and will only take two days to get to San Diego.*
- A second item distributed by Thanks-A-Bunch is a "Smiles Over Miles" access card. This is a free card given to military personnel or their families to establish a one-year video e-mail account. Each video can be up to one hour, and it is stored on a database, so the recipient can access the video as many times as desired. For more information, check out [www.smilesovermiles.com](http://www.smilesovermiles.com). *I will also order one of these cards for each family attending our holiday party. They are free of charge.*
- **Community Service Report:**
  - Heather Marzan will begin working at an Emergency Homeless Shelter downtown in November. All clothes donated to the post will be brought here by Heather.
  - She is also working with Fire Station 21 to collect toys for the Marines' Toys for Tots program. Please contact Heather to drop off any unused, unwrapped toys to her so she can deliver them to the fire station. December 15<sup>th</sup> is the toy deadline.
- **Holiday Party Update:**
  - SALS will take care of getting and cooking all food.
  - Nancy Person and Wes Williams are the two contact points on our holiday party flyers. Nancy will keep guest list and create seating plan for diners.
  - Once our final list is complete with children's name, ages, and gift requests, Karen Stewart, Nancy McLees, Jody O'Donnell, and Nicole DeClercq will split up the duties for gift shopping and wrapping.

- Vicky Seamon will make goody bags again this year.
- Tricia Smith will bring Santa's "throne" to the post the morning of the party.
- There are 10 volunteers to come to the post early on the 10<sup>th</sup> and decorate, set up tables, etc. They are Nancy Person, Sue Gibbons, Heather Marzan, Nancy McLees, Lindsey Bittman, Marilyn Prosser, Jody O'Donnell, Nicole DeClercq, Vicky Seamon and Desiree Herrera.
- Desiree will look into borrowing chairs from other units instead of renting them.
- Last year all the food was served from the one small kitchen window. It was a real hassle for everyone and the line was very long and slow. It was suggested that this year, each table have a # and there will be a paper menu with all available food items for each diner. Guests will simply circle the foods they want and write their names on the menu (table #s will already be preprinted along with the food). We will have at least one designated server for each table to get the food from the kitchen and deliver it to the diner. This way moms can stay with kids, etc. Everyone liked this idea. Nancy Person will create the menus.
- Vicky continued the discussion that was started last month by Cheryl about the elf costume for this year. We talked about the pros and cons of buying, renting, etc. Someone had a catalog with different costumes. There was a very appropriate elf costume available in regular and plus sizes. The cost for one of each size (two total) would be around \$50.
  - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to buy two costumes, one in each size.
  - ❖ **Second:** Margaret Smith

**Unanimous vote.** *Vicky Seamon will purchase costumes through catalog online.*
- Our next unit meeting will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.
- Closing prayer was delivered by our chaplain, Karen Stewart.
- Meeting was adjourned by Desiree Herrera at 7:20pm.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Nancy Person.