



## Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

### Meeting Minutes November 16, 2011

**13 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, Jane DuVall, Sue Gibbons, Brenda Hamett, Nancie McLees, and Marci Williams.

- 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:** Nancy Person.
  - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**Last month's meeting minutes are accepted as is.
- Membership Report by Vicky Seamon:
  - Currently we are at 63% with 22 renewals and three new members since July 1st. We are awaiting dues from 10 past members. Our membership goal is 38 and we have 25 paid up.
  - The Escondido Auxiliary is giving up their charter in the next few months. Nancy Person sent an e-mail to Nancy Hanson, District 22 Treasurer who is from the Escondido unit, inviting her and any other members from her unit to come and join PB Unit 552.
  - Dept. will be raising their dues next year from \$12 to \$16. We must consider if and how much we will raise our unit dues to accommodate this increase.
- Community Service Report by Heather Marzan:
  - The VVSD is opening a new homeless shelter near Sports Arena for the four months of winter. The shelter opening and initial intakes will be on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be 250 beds and many services will be offered. All clothes donated to the post will be brought here by Heather.
    - ❖ **Motion:** made by Vicky Seamon to donate any leftover money from the holiday party or from our next meal to this shelter.
    - ❖ **Second:** Jody O'Donnell
    - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

- Heather 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 14<sup>th</sup> is her deadline.
- VA&R Report by Vicky Seamon (Lindsey and Desiree helped recap Bingo Day):
  - Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> Bingo at the VA Hospital was a huge success. Desiree, Jody, Nancy, Sue, and Lindsey all volunteered. Our cohosting unit 460 cooked a complete Thanksgiving dinner. We all helped serve the food. Desiree, Sue, and Lindsey went upstairs to one of the locked psych wards and worked there. Lindsey called Bingo and of course, the patients loved her! Nancy and Jody stayed downstairs in the multi-purpose room. All patients were very grateful for our time and for the food. This was one of the largest turnouts yet; 38 upstairs and around 50 downstairs.
  - The budget for the psych unit has been cut to almost nothing. Nurses are bringing videos/DVDs and playing cards from their homes to help keep the patients occupied. They are hoping to have more consistent visits from volunteers, such as us. Maybe we can try to go once a month on our own. We'll talk more about this after the holiday party.
  - Volunteers are still 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.
- Poppy Report by Karen Stewart:
  - Thanks to Vicky for placing the order for this year's poppies. They haven't arrived yet.
  - The Poppy Usage Contest (formerly known as Poppy Corsage Contest) will be held this year at the unit and the district levels. Each unit member who wants to compete, take an 8x10 photo of your poppy entry (whatever you created using our paper poppies). It will cost each unit member \$1.00 per vote on each entry they vote for. A photo of the entry that gets the most votes (dollars collected) will be forwarded to the district Poppy Chairman for district voting at the December 11<sup>th</sup> district meeting. All monies collected will be sent on to National for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Karen will update the wreath she made last year and that will be our unit's entry. *We didn't talk about donating money, so maybe each member can donate a few dollars since money was supposed to be raised by voting.*
- President's Report by Desiree Herrera:
  - The next district meeting will be held at the Vista post on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.
  - Desiree was asked to be Deputy Representative of the VA and she has accepted the position.
- Treasurer's/Secretary's Report by Nancy Person:
  - Last month's bank balance = \$2,610.64; Deposits made = \$85.00; Checks written = \$469.77; Banking charges = \$16.00 ; Current bank balance = \$2,209.87 (of which \$270.00 is designated for our Poppy Relief Fund).
  - At the beginning of this meeting, there were still five President pins available for purchase at \$5.00 each. Although we voted to distribute them to new members, all five pins were purchased at this meeting. Jane, Nancie, Nicole, and Karen bought one for themselves, and Desiree bought one as a gift for Lindsey. We have now sold all seven pins! Thanks, ladies.

- Several members have mentioned their dislike to our unit being charged \$16.00 in banking fees each month by Bank of America for our checking account. I've done a little research at other local banks and credit unions. There are other options where we can pay a little less each month, but since we don't maintain a high balance, there are monthly fees required by all institutions for a business account. Frances Fleet contacted me and suggested I call her friend at Union Bank. I did and he has agreed to waive banking fees for us.

❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to change our checking account to Union Bank.

❖ **Second:** Brenda Hamett.

❖ **Unanimous vote.**

I will begin the process after the first of the year, when my schedule slows down a bit.

- **Holiday Party Update (very similar to last month's notes):**

- 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, Nancie McLees, Jody O'Donnell, and Nicole DeClercq will split up the duties for gift shopping and wrapping. The maximum to be spent on each child is \$30.00. Gifts will be grouped by family this year, instead of age.

❖ **Motion:** made by Vicky Seamon to once again purchase animal puppets at Costco and to provide coloring books and crayons on the tables.

❖ **Second:** Nancy Person.

❖ **Unanimous vote.**

*Karen bought 64 animal puppets and Vicky bought the coloring books and crayons.*

- Tricia Smith will bring Santa's "throne" to the post the morning of the party.
- There are 13 volunteers to come to the post at various times during the day on the 10<sup>th</sup> and decorate, set up tables, etc. They are Nancy Person, Sue Gibbons, Heather Marzan, Nancie McLees, Lindsey Bittman, Marilyn Prosser, Jody O'Donnell, Nicole DeClercq, Marci Williams, Karen Stewart, Vicky Seamon, Brenda Hamett and Desiree Herrera. Although Heather Jones was not present, she is very willing to do whatever is needed before or at the party: just let her know.
- **Desiree will contact Tricia Smith (or other units if Tricia can't help) re: borrowing chairs instead of renting them. *These need to be narrow chairs, not the wide black ones we already have at the post. Simple folding chairs would be the best. We need 80.***
- Nancy Person will create menus and one will be placed at each place setting. Diners will simply circle the food they want and write their name at the bottom. ALA volunteers will be runners and will pick up and deliver the food to all diners.
- Elf costumes were received. Nancie McLees will strengthen the seams before they're worn. Desiree will check with Jerry to see how he feels about having a second elf.
- Our next unit meeting (and final one of 2011) will be held on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm at the home of Karen Stewart: 4970 Whipple Way, San Diego, CA 92122. Her phone # is 858-452-1947. This will be a potluck so please RSVP to Karen by December 11<sup>th</sup> and let her know if you're coming; and if so, what you're bringing. [karenstewardsd1@gmail.com](mailto:karenstewardsd1@gmail.com)
- Closing prayer was delivered by our chaplain, Karen Stewart.
- Meeting was adjourned by Desiree Herrera at 6:56pm.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Nancy Person.