



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

**Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2012**

10 Members Present: Desiree Herrera (President), Victoria Seamon (1st Vice), Jody O'Donnell (2nd Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Heather Marzan (Sergeant-at-Arms), Nancie McLees (Historian), Karen Stewart (Chaplain), Lindsey Bittman, Sue Gibbons, and Marilyn Prosser.

- 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 minutes are accepted as is.
- Desiree Herrera - President Report:
 - Although it is five months away, Stand Down is a big topic of conversation by the American Legion. The Legion is asking all of their units, as well as the Auxiliary units, to donate \$200 each to Stand Down.
 - The next District 22 Auxiliary meeting will be held at Post 365 in Vista on Sunday, April 15th. Year-end reports will be due at this meeting.
 - Dept. of CA Convention will be in Redding, CA from June 22nd through June 24th.
 - National Convention will be in Indianapolis from August 24th through August 30th.
- Nancy Person - Treasurer/Secretary/PR Report:
 - Bank balance at last meeting (Jan. 18th) was \$2,139.56. Total receipts: \$325.00; disbursements: \$235.79. Current bank balance is \$2,228.77. Of that, \$266.01 is for our poppy fund, and \$1,962.76 is for our general fund.
 - I finalized our holiday party expenses. We have a small profit and will donate it to a military children's organization. I have contacted Ann Marie Brown and asked if she has any suggestions.

- All photos from the holiday party were put on Facebook at the end of January. The DVD that Wes made is also available to borrow. Lindsey has it now. Contact her if you'd like it next.
- Our Feb. 3rd dinner was a success and we had a nice profit.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to donate all net 2/3 profits to VVSD, to help with their winter shelter expenses.
 - ❖ **Second:** Lindsey Bittman.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- At the Feb. 12th District Meeting, I received a CD and booklet created by the La Mesa Police Dept. to help parents monitor their children's activities on the internet. Please let me know if you or friends of yours would like to borrow them.
- I will be attending the Feb. 22nd Immigration/Naturalization ceremony with several ALA members. I am driving so let me know if you'd like to carpool. I have one confirmed rider so I have room for two or three more.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Vicky Seamon to have our unit pay for the parking fee downtown on 2/22 (it's either \$10 or \$20).
 - ❖ **Second:** Jody O'Donnell.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Thanks to all for your generosity.*
- Lindsey Bittman was recognized at the Feb. 12th District Meeting for her volunteer work done on Dec. 10 in Oceanside. She helped to restore the home of Marine Sergeant Jason Swofford, as part of the H3 program (Healing our Heroes' Homes). We asked if this might be a good organization to which we could contribute. Lindsey and Heather both agreed that the organization was too new, and we had to be more certain of where our funds would go if we donated. Lindsey volunteered to act as contact person and to keep us informed on how the organization grows.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Vicky Seamon to hold off on donating any funds to H3 for the time being, but to keep in on the back-burner.
 - ❖ **Second:** Lindsey Bittman.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Vicky Seamon - 1st Vice/VA&R/Membership Report:
 - Confirmed what Desiree said about each unit being asked to donate \$200 to Stand Down.
 - Bingo is still happening every month at the La Jolla VA Hospital. We have been scheduled to co-host with June Coatney's unit (460) once again for the November program. It looks like the June 9th event does not yet have a unit assigned to host.
 - Our unit received two Membership Awards at the Feb. 12th District Meeting; one was for Early Bird Membership, and the other was for being a Goal Unit.
 - Mention was made earlier about donating our meal profits.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Vicky Seamon to designate a specific organization to which our funds will be donated before we have our fundraising events, such as our meals, rummage sale, etc., so that we can advertise the organization in our PR and at the event.
 - ❖ **Second:** Jody O'Donnell.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
 - Unit decided to start designating donors right now for a few of our future events.

- ❖ **Motion:** made by Jody O'Donnell to donate profits from our March 4th brunch to Stand Down 2012.
- ❖ **Second:** Heather Marzan.
- ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
A quick count was taken as to who will be available to assist at the March 4th brunch. Karen, Lindsey, Heather, Desiree, and Vicky will all help Nancie and Nicole (the main chefs). Nancy will try but is not sure of availability right now. Nancie will work with Nicole to finalize menu, but most members present agreed that an egg scramble and fruit salad would be a nice meal base.
- ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to designate March as Stand Down month and to also donate profits from our March 24th rummage sale to Stand Down 2012.
- ❖ **Second:** Jody O'Donnell.
- ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
Nancy brought in a draft of the rummage sale flyer to be passed around. Adjustments were made and the final flyer is attached to these minutes. Please post a copy at work, give out to friends, drop off some at local businesses, etc. A copy will go up on the post bulletin board too.
- Since Stand Down will be the recipient of profits from both of our March events, Heather offered to make a poster board with photos from Stand Down 2011 to be displayed during both events. Nancy will bring poster board to the post on Friday.
- Jody O'Donnell - 2nd Vice Report
 - She asked her brother (Two-Star General who runs Miramar Air Base) to advise about how much of the money raised by local military organizations actually goes to the cause versus administration fees. He informed her that 30% of money raised by Wounded Warrior's goes toward administration fees. On the other hand, only 3% of contributions go toward admin. fees in the Semper Fi fund. We'll keep this information in mind for the future.
- Nancie McLees - Historian Report
 - Nancie completed her tablecloth made from the linen napkins donated by June Coatney. In large black letters, it says The American Legion Family, Pacific Beach, CA. This tablecloth will be used at our Rummage Sale, at future meals (not for food, though) and other events where we want the attendees to know who we are. We will have pamphlets about us, membership forms, our photo album, etc. in plain sight for the public to peruse. Hopefully, some people will ask questions and we may get some new members. Nancie has enough napkins left to make another, so she will. She'll just need to purchase additional letters. Thanks, Nancie, it looks terrific!!
- Karen Stewart - Chaplain/Poppy Report
 - Karen found 175 additional poppies from last year's supply.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Vicky Seamon to use poppies to make corsages for Mother's Day brunch.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote**
Karen happily agreed to accomplish this, since there's almost two months until Mother's Day.

- New Business brought up by Desiree Herrera.
 - Post 282 in La Mesa will be having a Rummage Sale this Saturday, 2/18. She will attend to see how it's set up, and to get ideas on what we might do during ours.
 - She visited VVSD last week and spoke to several female clients who live there (of the population of a little under 200, 170 are men and 15 or so are women). The one thing that all women expressed a need for is a haircut!
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Vicky Seamon to look into the possibility of providing haircuts at the VVSD facility.
 - ❖ **Second:** Nancy Person.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote**
Heather will find out how/if there would be any way several of our members could go down to VVSD and provide haircuts. Nancie McLees and her daughter both cut hair and are willing to volunteer their services. Heather will get back to us.
- Mark, the primary cook for the Sons of the American Legion meals, came in to ask for help in the kitchen for the upcoming VFW birthday party (March 10th) and for the St. Patrick's Day meal (March 17th). Several ALA members offered to assist him in the kitchen and/or with serving, etc. on both dates.
- Please remember that all year-end reports are due at the April 15th District meeting. They are no longer allowed to be transmitted electronically, due to matters of confidentiality. Committee Chairs, please start putting together your data and forward to all other Committee Chairs so info. can be shared among committees. All portions of data (mileage, hours, type of activity) except for money spent can be shared. Money can only be designated to one committee. Be sure to note on which committee the money will be logged so there's no overlap. In addition, there is no longer a spot to record mileage on the actual report format. Please be sure to include mileage driven in your supplemental report.
- (An especially moving) closing prayer was delivered by Chaplain, Karen Stewart.
- Meeting was adjourned by our President at 7:00pm.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Nancy Person.