



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes June 20, 2012

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by President Vicky Seamon; Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble were recited by all.
- Attendance was taken by Secretary.
 - **8 Members Present:** Victoria Seamon (President), Heather Marzan (1st Vice), Jody O'Donnell (2nd Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Nancie McLees (Historian), Sue Gibbons, Marilyn Prosser, and Lisa Shreve. Glad to have finally met you, Lisa!
- President's Report:
 - Vicky and Jody attended the June 3rd District 22 meeting. Awards were given out for end-of-year reports. Out of the 15 reports our unit submitted, we earned nine awards! Several certificates have been posted on our bulletin board at the post. Here is the complete list:
 - 🍁 Americanism (First Place) - Special Activities with pictures; also received a \$15.00 Starbucks card with this one;
 - 🍁 Education (Third Place) - Best Overall Program;
 - 🍁 Girls' State (Second Place) - Margaret Smith ;
 - 🍁 Legislative (Third Place) - Nancy Person - Unit Supplemental;
 - 🍁 Membership - Highest percentage of members above goal **142.86%** ;
 - 🍁 Poppy - Certificate of Participation - also received a red poppy hat;
 - 🍁 Public Relations - First Report Received with Supplemental and News Clippings - Nancy Person;
 - 🍁 Unit Activity Report (Second Place) -Desiree Herrera - also received two patriotic dish towels;
 - 🍁 VA&R - (First Place) - Victoria Seamon.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to put all (paper) honors into unit scrapbook.
 - ❖ **Second:** Jody O'Donnell.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

All honors bestowed to our unit or unit members can eventually be seen in our unit scrapbook; see historian Nancie McLees.
- District 22 has made two projects their 2013 priority: Operation Military Kids Backpack Project and the Buddy Basket project (for Vets who get their first apartment and need basic supplies). Our unit will get involved in both.
- Two members were recognized recently: Desiree Herrera was given an engraved glass vase that read "Desiree Herrera - ALA Unit 552 President 2010-2012;" and Heather Marzan was gifted with chocolate-covered strawberries in honor of her college graduation.

- Desiree Herrera and Tricia Smith could not be at tonight's meeting because they're attending the National Convention in Redding, CA.
- Lindsey Bittman could not come tonight due to school, but she sent several messages. First, Stand Down already has 1,500 volunteers confirmed for this year's event. The only jobs/time slots still needing help are security or baggage check. The shifts available are 6pm-midnight or midnight-6am. Lindsey also reported that the organization she volunteers for (H3 - Healing our Heroes' Homes) recently received a \$25,000 grant so they're looking for Veterans' homes to remodel and/or retrofit.
- Many thank-you notes have been received from the various organizations to which we've donated money.
- 1st Vice Report:
 - As previously reported, Stand Down is only in need of volunteers for the night and early morning shifts. Contact VVSD if you're interested in taking one of these time slots. Around 1,000 homeless Veterans are expected to participate in Stand Down this year. Heather and Lindsey both plan to work all three days.
 - VVSD is very grateful for the assistance our unit continues to provide in helping to furnish apartments for Veterans gaining VASH housing. We have been their primary resource! Heather is happy to be the contact person and can collect/hold things in her garage for short periods of time until the items are needed.
 - Father Joe's Village provides help and services through eight different programs. They work closely with VVSD on the two of their programs that are geared toward Veterans. Heather is going to explore how our unit might get involved with these programs too.
 - Dept. of Veteran's Affairs is planning a food drive. The VA Hospital will be the drop-off point. Vicky will look into this and provide more information.
- Historian has updated our unit scrapbook. She brought it to the meeting, and will plan to bring it to future meetings. Be sure to ask Nancie to see it- it's amazing!!!
- Treasurer's/Secretary's Report:
 - Bank balance at last meeting (May 16th) was \$3,063.60; total receipts: \$842.00; disbursements: \$569.24; current bank balance is \$3,336.36. Of that, \$444.75 is for our poppy fund, and \$2,891.61 is for our general fund.
 - \$190.00 profit from 6/17 Father's Day brunch was donated to Fisher House.
 - I've been playing phone tag with Amanda Cross of the Armed Services YMCA, but she did send me an e-mail letting me know that they do not have a formal backpack program each year. Some years there is an organization which sponsors a program. I will talk with Amanda and see how we can get involved for this summer. *I did speak with Amanda Cross after the meeting. They have a Neighborhood Exchange Program which involves 120-180 families and meets the 4th Thursday of every month. Although they focus on giving out food, they do like to have periodic special gifts to show their appreciation to these military families. Backpacks would be ideal for August. We'd need at least 100 generic backpacks (no characters, not gender specific) filled with school supplies and she could hold a lottery so most families could get one. I'll call Ann Marie Brown and see if maybe several ALA units can do this together, since Ann Marie was very involved in the backpack program last year. I'll get back to you on this.*
 - I've been matching up several of our community contacts to help each other. For example, Project Safehouse (an abused woman's shelter that gave furniture to one of our veterans) will be working with Second Chance to place their clients who have passed their one-month stay deadline in low-cost apartments. In addition, Sudie Phillips, the

Cosmetology Department Chair at San Diego City College (who came to our Rummage Sale and offered free haircuts) has agreed to also provide free haircuts to the Second Chance graduates ready to look for jobs.

- I will write up a draft of the 2012-2013 budget shortly and send it on to the officers for approval.
- New Business
 - Last month Vicky mentioned that there is a need for 14 backpacks to be used by the medical team at Stand Down. We talked about still having (March fundraiser) money designated to Stand Down that has not been spent. Vicky said she would find out details of size, color, etc. of what is needed. She brought in three printouts of websites that sold backpacks that would meet the VA's requirements. Members who were present reviewed the print-outs.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to order the 14 needed backpacks from ArmyNavyUSA.com which had the largest size backpack at the lowest price per unit.
 - ❖ **Second:** Heather Marzan.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
 - Vicky also mentioned that the backpacks should have a red cross on it so Veterans can easily spot the medical team members. Nancie volunteered to investigate buying red cross decals or buying red material that she would cut herself. Once she buys one or the other, she and Lisa Shreve will share the sewing duties and each sew on seven crosses. Thanks ladies!
I ordered the backpacks and they were shipped out from NY on Friday, 6/22. They should arrive by next Friday, 6/29
 - Our next meal will be an All American Cook-out on Friday night, July 6th from 4:30pm until 7pm. We're starting a little earlier than usual to catch the bar crowd who is ready to eat early and leaves by 5:00. Nancy will buy hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, chips, and apple pie. Nancie will make potato salad. Jody will make cole slaw. We're hoping to move the barbecue to the front part of the parking lot and have a table with our banner so we can attract pedestrians. Vicky will check with Jerry about the barbecue location. Vicky will also make a nice gift basket to be raffled off.
 - We need Committee Chairs for the new fiscal year. Here is a list of who has already agreed to chair some committees, and which chairs we still need.
 - Vicky Seamon will chair three committees: Membership, Constitution & Bylaws, Leadership;
 - Heather Marzan will chair VA&R;
 - Nancy Person will chair three committees: Legislative, National Security, Public Relations;
 - Lindsey Bittman will chair Community Service and will be our Social Media Coordinator (Facebook).
 - Karen Stewart will chair Poppy;
 - Committees with no confirmed chairs are Americanism, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Children & Youth, Education, General, Girls State, Junior Activities, and Past President's Parley. We're hoping the members who chaired these committees last year (Desiree, Tricia & Margaret) will take on their roles again this year. They were not present at the meeting, however, to ask them.
- There was no closing prayer since our Chaplain Karen could not attend the meeting.
- Meeting was adjourned by President Vicky at 7:00pm. Next meeting will be July 18th at 6:00pm.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Nancy Person.