



## Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

### Meeting Minutes July 18, 2012

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by President Vicky; Chaplain Karen shared a prayer; Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble were recited by all.
- Attendance was taken by Secretary.
  - **8 Members Present:** Victoria Seamon (President), Heather Marzan (1<sup>st</sup> Vice), Jody O'Donnell (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Karen Stewart (Chaplain), Nancie McLees (Historian), Sue Gibbons, and Desiree Herrera.
- Vicky confirmed that last month's Minutes were sent out electronically and asked if everyone had a chance to read them.
  - ❖ **Motion:** made by Heather to accept them as is.
  - ❖ **Second:** Jody.
  - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

*Please note that some of my Treasurer's Report actually came in the middle of the President's report, but to provide a smoother flow, I'm keeping them separate. Although the order of these written Minutes might be different than at the meeting, the information is the same. It is easier for me to write it this way, and I believe more pleasant for you to read.*

- President's Report:
  - This is the first meeting of the new fiscal year. Unit 552's goals for 2011-2012 were to focus on Wounded Warriors, Homeless Veterans, and Children & Youth. We held six meals and one rummage sale to raise money, and hosted the holiday party for children of active military. We also volunteered at the VA Hospital and Stand Down. This unit met or exceeded its goals.
  - Installation for District 22's new officers was held on July 8. Our new District President is Barbara Love. Other officer details will be sent shortly by District Secretary Lois Cornish. Desiree Herrera is the new American Legion Commander of Post 552!
  - Desiree and Tricia Smith were our unit's delegates at the Dept. Convention. They have nothing to report at this time. Next year's convention will be in Palm Springs.
  - There will be a Dept. Workshop on Saturday, August 11 from 9a-4p. It will be held at J.B. Clark Unit 149, 230 Park Avenue, Escondido. Topics will include unit and district information on all programs, and answers to tax filing questions. Cost of

\$7.00 is to cover lunch and snacks. Reservations are due no later than August 1. Make check payable to ALA Unit 149 and mail to Cathy Wathen, 230 East Park Ave., Escondido 92025. Call 760-247-5559 with questions.

- The canvas bags we purchased for the medical team working at Stand Down were greatly appreciated. Brian McMillion, the VA Hospital RN who coordinated the Stand Down medics, wrote a very nice letter (which was read at the meeting) thanking us for this donation. He mentioned how perfect the red crosses were (thanks to Lisa for making them, and to Nancie for sewing them on the bags); they made the roaming team members instantly recognizable and saved a lot of time for the crew working in the medical tent. *Heather gave a personal anecdote confirming the benefits of these bags. This year, when she had a medical emergency in the tent where she was Tent Leader, she simply had to look for someone wearing a medic bag and the Veteran received instant medical attention. Last year, she had to run to the medical tent, find someone to help, and bring them back to her tent.*
- Vicky was contacted by a friend at the VA Hospital who is a member of Soroptimist International of Mission Bay (SIMB), a women's service organization that raises money and volunteers their time to help women and children. SIMB was interested in partnering with Unit 552 and doing something to focus on military women and/or children. Vicky and Nancy met with four women from this group on July 5 and told them about our upcoming projects. They offered to work with us on purchasing and assembling backpacks and school supplies, since they had experience doing this. Their monthly meeting happened to be that night, so when the same four women (with a few husbands) came to our All-American Cookout on 7/6 (the profits of which had already been earmarked for this project), they told us their group had committed \$500 toward this effort! With the money we netted at the dinner, and the little bit left from Stand Down income, we knew we could match this. One of their members had a connection for heavy-duty and inexpensive backpacks, so she ordered two cases. Vicky, Nancy and two of their members met at Big Lots on July 14 to see the assortment of school supplies that were available. Big Lots had an enormous selection, and was starting a 20% off school supplies sale that evening. The manager agreed to give us the discount early, so in a whirlwind, we ended up buying supplies to fill 50 backpacks. Assembly will be on Monday, August 13 from 5-7pm at the post, so please come and help. We will set up an assembly line, but there are MANY items to sort, stuff, etc. We can use as many hands as we can get. Backpacks will be distributed at the Back-to-School Readiness Resource Fair put on by Marine Corps Community Services, MCRD San Diego. This fair will be held on Friday, August 17 between 11a and 2p at the MCRD Fieldhouse and Lawn (near Old Town). Unit 552 and SIMB (and other ALA units) will be provided tables. Two chairs will be delivered along with each table, so if we have more than two unit members attending, we do need to bring additional chairs. Nancy, Jody and Lindsey have all expressed an interest in going. Names must be submitted to the MCRD School Liaison around two weeks prior to event for security clearance. *Nancy will make this contact, so be sure to let me know if you plan on going.*
- Treasurer's/Secretary's Report:
  - Bank balance at last meeting (June 20) was \$3,336.36; total receipts: \$345.00; disbursements: \$1,393.91; current bank balance is \$2,287.45. Of that, \$444.75 is for our poppy fund, and \$1,842.70 is for our general fund.

- Recap of FY 2011 unit donations (not personal): Fisher House/Wounded Warriors = \$371; Homeless Veteran Outreach/VVSD = \$787; Support our Troops = \$35; A.L. Child Welfare Foundation = \$35; Armed Services YMCA = \$200; VA Hospital Canteen Coupons = \$202; VA Hospital Events = \$107.
- Stand Down financial statistics: \$1,000 cash donations collected; \$600 earned at March fundraisers (breakfast and rummage sale); \$500 given to District 22; \$635 spent to buy new shoes; \$200 spent to buy medic bags; *remainder for MCRD backpack program*. Stand Down clothing drive statistics - what we collected and donated: 640 pieces of used clothing or linens (including 143 pairs of used shoes and 67 pairs of used socks); 114 misc. new toiletries, 458 pairs of new socks, 36 pairs of new shoes. The value of items donated is around \$4,650.
- Proposed budget for FY 2012-2013 was completed and passed around for approval.
  - ❖ **Motion:** made by Karen to accept proposed budget as is.
  - ❖ **Second:** Sue.
  - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- I started a contact list with names, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc., for people in the community we've started to work with, outside of ALA members. I am sending a copy of this list along with the Minutes. Please let me know if there are any other people who should be added to this list. Since we are reaching out into the community more and more, these contacts are vital.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice/VA&R Report:
  - Heather wanted to make it clear that our presence at Stand Down, and the items we donated (especially the medic bags), really made a tremendous impact on many Veterans' lives. She and Lindsey were Tent Leaders on all three days, and like last year, the experience was amazing. Nancy, Jody, and Desiree volunteered on Friday.
- Membership Report:
  - We have 30 members at this point.
  - Please remember that dues for this fiscal year will be \$26 (up \$1) and can be turned in at the post or mailed to Vicky Seamon, c/o VFW 5985, 853 Turquoise St., San Diego, 92109.
- Chaplain Report:
  - Karen ordered 100 thank-you notes (at no charge) that have been signed by ALA members around the country. They can be handed out at our events, at the VA Hospital, or anywhere you encounter a Veteran or someone in the military. Ask Karen for cards if you'd like to "thank a hero" for their service.
- Historian Report:
  - Nancie has started a unit cookbook. So far, she has four recipes from meals we've held. There are extra copies of each in case anyone would like one. I don't know which recipes she has, so contact her if you're interested. In addition, feel free to e-mail her your favorite recipes to include. If the book gets big enough, we might make bound copies and sell them as a fundraiser.
- New Business
  - Desiree is on District 22's Executive Board. She was just appointed the new Chair of the Conflict Resolution Committee. She said that her appointment was in large

part due to the special way our unit works in harmony with the VFW, A.L., and SALS. Congratulations, Desiree.

- It was recommended that officers obtain ALA business cards. Desiree has offered to order them for officers. Vicky and Nancy expressed an interest and will send Desiree the information they'd like on their business cards.
- Since August will be a busy month with backpack assembly and the Back-to-School Readiness Resource Fair, there will be no meal held in August. Future suggested meals are something in September (themed back-to-school), and working with the A.L. on their Oktoberfest bratwurst meal; helping them to make it a big event. More discussion will be held in August.
- Meeting was adjourned by President Vicky at 7:00pm. Next meeting will be August 15 at 6:00pm.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Nancy Person.