



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2012

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by President Vicky Seamon; Chaplain Karen Stewart shared a prayer; Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble were recited by all.
- Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **12 Members Present:** Victoria Seamon (President), Jody O'Donnell (2nd Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Lindsey Bittman (Sgt-At-Arms), Karen Stewart (Chaplain), Nancie McLees (Historian), Ketra Slayton-Carter, Cheryl Dolmage, Sue Gibbons, Brenda Hamett, Desiree Herrera, and Margaret Smith.
 - **2 Guests Present:** American Legion 1st Vice Gary Dolmage, and Karen Healy (a friend of Brenda), our newest member. Welcome Karen!
- Vicky confirmed that last month's Minutes were sent out electronically and asked if everyone had a chance to read them.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy to accept them as is.
 - ❖ **Second:** Cheryl.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Treasurer's/Secretary's Report:
 - Bank balance at last meeting (July 18) was \$2,287.45; total receipts: \$16.00; disbursements: \$127.08; current bank balance is \$2,176.37. Of that, \$444.75 is for our poppy fund, and \$1,731.62 is for our general fund.
 - Federal and state taxes have both been filed electronically using e-Postcards. Form 990-N was sent to IRS and 199N was submitted to the CA Franchise Tax Board. Copies of both confirmation receipts have been forwarded to our District Treasurer, Susie Tozier, as required.
 - Based on information I received at the most recent District Meeting (8/5), an annual audit of our books must be done within 60 days of fiscal year end. This means the audit is due by August 30th for the 2011-2012 year, which ended 6/30/12. Ketra explained the procedure of having three Trustees (including one officer) prepare the audit. Ketra, Margaret, and Lindsey volunteered; when a date/time was scheduled, Brenda replaced Margaret due to timing constraints.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Ketra to have ALA Unit Handbook available during audit.
 - ❖ **Second:** Brenda.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

Audit is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, August 26th at 3:00, at the post. I will bring the necessary documentation and will be present for questions. Vicky gave Lindsey a copy of the handbook.

- President's Report:

- CA's ALA theme for this year is magical mystery fantasy. Dept. is looking for a theme song, so if anyone feels creative, send it to our new Dept. President, Terry Mikesell, for her consideration.
- At last month's meeting, we acknowledged that we met our 2011-2012 goals of focusing on three areas: Wounded Warriors, Homeless Veterans, and Children & Youth. We did not set goals for this year, however. Any thoughts?
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy to change the three areas to Veterans (which would include Wounded Warriors and Homeless Vets), Children & Youth, and add Community Service geared organizations.
 - ❖ **Second:** Cheryl.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- September is National Preparedness Month. There are several things to think about. First, have a plan ready in case of a disaster, which would include setting up a meeting place for family members. Second, who in your neighborhood/community might need extra help in time of emergency. Next, it's a good idea to have an emergency kit already put together. Creating a phone tree is an excellent tool for contacting families, coworkers, or any other groups, during a disaster.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Desiree to have a Phone Tree Drill in September.
 - ❖ **Second:** Brenda.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.** Vicky will help Nancy create a Unit 552 phone tree (including sample scripts of what to say) and we'll have a drill next month.
- The VFW Un-Met Needs fundraiser party is this Saturday, 8/18. Tickets are \$25 at the door. Lunch will be served starting at noon, and there will be music beginning at 1:00. At this point, only 35 advance tickets have been purchased, so unless Jerry hears otherwise, he's planning to cook enough for 60 people.
- Our new District President, Barbara Love, will be visiting us at our next meeting, September 19th. Please try to come so we can show her a warm welcome. Karen Stewart will buy light refreshments for the meeting.
- Girl's State applications are due October 1st. For the first time this year, a CA delegate was elected Girls Nation President. Alauna Sessoms-Hall from Modesto held the honor. Congratulations from San Diego!
- BeachFest is scheduled for Saturday, October 6th. This is an event sponsored by the PB City Council to let the community know what's going on in PB. Tables are set up along the boardwalk and there is food, music, crafts, and more. Our unit expressed interest in having a table (it's free) last year the date conflicted with an annual Post function.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy to have a table this year.
 - ❖ **Second:** Ketra.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.** Vicky will submit an application and find out if there will be power available. If so, Ketra will add music to the PowerPoint presentation about the ALA that Vicky got off the internet (we currently

have a tabletop flip chart paper version) and we will display it as a looping slideshow above the table. We will check with the VFW, AL, and SALS to see if they'd like to join us at the table.

- We're at the beginning of a new year, so please remember to keep track of your activities. Much of what you do (such as donate clothing, donate blood, and fly an American flag) can be reported on one or more of our committee reports. It's so much easier to start writing your activities down now than to try to remember them when the Mid-Year Reports are due in December. Feel free to e-mail Vicky your notes and she'll keep track for you: victoria.seamon@va.gov
- Historian Report:
 - As mentioned at last month's meeting, Nancie has started collecting recipes for a unit cookbook. She purchased a Cookbook Kit which provides instructions on how to make one and sell it as part of a fundraiser. Sample books were passed around the meeting room. Since it takes about a year to compile recipes and complete, we're aiming to have it ready to sell before Christmas 2013.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Ketra to create a raffle as an incentive for people to submit recipes. As an example, a recipe contributor would receive a raffle ticket for each recipe submitted. When book is complete, winning ticket would be pulled for a prize; maybe the original book? maybe \$?
 - ❖ **Second:** Nancy.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.** Cookbook Committee will need to be formed, but we'll do this at the September meeting.
- Membership Report:
 - We have two new members since last meeting, including Karen Healy who is here with us tonight. The other, Barbara Lewis, is a friend of Soroptimist International of Mission Bay (SIMB), with whom we're partnering on Operation Backpacks. Our new total is 32 members.
 - Please remember that renewal fees for this year (\$26) are due now. Please turn yours in at the post or mail to Vicky Seamon, c/o VFW 5985, 853 Turquoise St., San Diego, 92109. Do not wait for your renewal notice; only delinquent notices will be sent out. If we can get 17 paid members by November 1st, we will meet the Early Bird goal and receive an award from the district.
- VA&R Report (although Heather was absent, Nancy and Lindsey had items to discuss):
 - November 10th is when our unit will be helping out with bingo at the VA Hospital. Like we did last year, we'll be working alongside Unit 460 (June Coatney's unit). Once again, we've been asked to provide pumpkin pies, whipped cream and all the paper products to complement her complete Thanksgiving meal.
 - The Chula Vista Veterans Home is in need of monetary donations for many of their programs. Please be sure to send any money to the district, but earmark the check for the Home. They also can use volunteers to help decorate their facility at Christmas. Dates will be announced later. I suggested that maybe we can designate profits from a future meal to go to the Home.
 - VVSD is holding a dance on August 24th. They are looking for donations, such as gift baskets/gift certificates/gift cards, to be given out as raffle prizes at the dance. Contact Rick at 619-393-2098 if you have questions or want to help.

- Community Service Report:
 - Homes for Heroes (H3) will begin restoring its next home at the end of October. They're holding a fundraiser on the USS Midway on October 20th to help raise funds for this project. Ex 4 Vets II is an hour-long outdoor physical fitness and kickboxing event. Participants will raise money by collecting sponsorships for their participation. Please check out ex4vets.org for information on registration and more.
- New Business
 - Desiree submitted an application for a grant (for local volunteer work helping one's community) from her company for our holiday party. She was awarded \$2,500, which should be received shortly. She had two thoughts about how some of this money might be used. First, we might rent round tables and smaller chairs. If we do it far enough in advance the cost could be minimized. Second, maybe we could utilize a local restaurant that's helped us in the past, and have them cater some of the meal. Both ideas are open for discussion, as are all other ideas/suggestions. Congratulations and thank you, Desiree!
 - Cheryl let us know that we overlooked acknowledging Ketra as our unit's Charter President. She expected June to be at tonight's meeting to present Ketra with a Past President pin.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Cheryl to order a Past President's pin for Ketra.
 - ❖ **Second:** Nancy.
 - ❖ Vicky will look into purchasing this.
 - I brought up the possibility of having a See's Candy fundraiser in the future. It's quick, easy, and profitable.
 - On Friday, 8/17, Nancy, Jody, and Lindsey will be attending the MCCS Back-to-School Readiness Fair at the MCRD base. We'll have a table set up with our "American Legion Family of Pacific Beach" tablecloth, a flip-chart of who/what the ALA is, and we'll help distribute the backpacks we bought and stuffed with supplies. Thanks to our partnership with SIMB, we have 50 backpacks to give out. *By the way, we were commended at the recent District 22 meeting for reaching out to another non-profit group to work with us on this project.*
 - Vicky, Jody and I will be participating in a Bunco fundraiser sponsored by SIMB on Saturday, 8/18. It will be held at LiveWell San Diego, 4425 Bannock Avenue, SD 92117 (Clairemont) starting at 10:00am. Tickets are \$10. Feel free to show up and buy your ticket at the door. Many of the SIMB members are supporting the A.L. family by coming to many meals at the post. Let's try to show them our support, as well.
 - Ketra informed us that thanks to the generosity of a recently-departed VFW member, the post will be getting an updated kitchen. She wouldn't give us any details (it's a surprise), but many know that a brand new commercial refrigerator already graces our location. The kitchen will be closed for several weeks in September during the work. Ketra's omelet brunch on Sunday, Sept. 16th will be the first meal to inaugurate the new kitchen. Don't miss it!
 - Requests keep coming in for another ALA spaghetti and meatballs dinner.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy to hold another dinner.

- ❖ **Second:** Brenda.
- ❖ **Unanimous vote.** After checking the calendar, Friday, Sept. 21st was the date selected. Mark your calendars. We'll have our usual menu of spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread, salad, and some kind of dessert.
- American Legion 1st Vice Gary Dolmage shared with us how proud he is of our unit. He never anticipated we would be so productive. He congratulated us on our many successful activities.
- Ketra announced that she and Jerry will be providing a free Thanksgiving dinner this year at the post; held on Thanksgiving Day. They plan to make six turkeys (about 20 lbs. each), three spiral hams, and all the fixings. There will be enough food for 150 people. They are hoping to get food and/or financial donations to help defer the costs.
- Meeting was adjourned by President Vicky at 7:20pm. Closing prayer was delivered by Chaplain Karen. Next meeting will be September 19th at 6:00pm.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy.