



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes September 19, 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.
 - **10 Members Present:** Victoria Seamon (President), Heather Marzan (1st Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Lindsey Bittman (Sgt-At-Arms), Karen Stewart (Chaplain), Nancie McLees (Historian), Jane DuVall, Sue Gibbons, Desiree Herrera, and Lisa Shreve.
 - **2 Guests Present:** District President Barbara Love, and District 2nd Vice and Past President June Coatney.
- Vicky confirmed that last month's Minutes were sent out electronically and asked if everyone had a chance to read them.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Karen Stewart to accept them as is.
 - ❖ **Second:** Lindsey Bittman.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report (*although entire report was not given at once, I am taking the liberty to list everything together here*):
 - Bank balance at last meeting (August 15) was \$2,176.37; total receipts: \$2,712.00; disbursements: \$234.68; current bank balance is \$4,653.69. Of that, \$444.75 is for our poppy fund, and \$4,208.94 is for our general fund.
 - As required, federal and state taxes were both filed electronically before the September 15th deadline. In addition, Fidelity Bond has been paid to the Dept. and the District per capita has been paid to District 22 Treasurer.
 - We met the deadline of August 30th for the audit of Unit 552's books for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Audit was completed on August 26th by Ketra Slayton, Lindsey Bittman, and Marci Williams. There were no discrepancies and an Audit Report was signed and submitted to the District 22 Treasurer.
 - All mandatory donations to Dept. and National must be received by December 15th. I questioned whether I should go ahead and submit them in the same amount as last year, which was \$10.00 each.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman for me to send out checks to all required committees in the same amount.

- ❖ **Second:** Karen Stewart.
- ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- As promised last month, in honor of National Preparedness Month I created a Unit 552 phone tree for our members who live in-state. Copies were handed out at the meeting, but there is also one attached electronically to these Minutes. Instructions are at the bottom of that page.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Heather Marzan to hold a "phone tree drill" on Saturday morning, 9/29, at 10:00am.
 - ❖ **Second:** Lindsey Bittman.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- **President's / Membership Report:**
 - The VA's Summer Sports Clinic is underway; dates are 9/16-9/22. Disabled veterans from all over the U.S. are invited to participate in varying sporting events, from surfing to sailing, and more. Events take place at several locations, such as the La Jolla Cove, Mission Beach, and the Marriott Hotel. Many volunteers are on-hand at all locations to assist the once avid sportsmen and women who have lost limbs and/or have other limitations as a result of war injuries. The Clinic is a way to give these veterans back confidence in their physical abilities.
 - Pacific Beachfest is coming up on Saturday, October 6th. This is an event to promote community awareness about what PB has to offer. The American Legion and our unit will be sharing a table. We have decorations, stickers for the kids, and our scrapbook will be on display so people can see what kinds of things we do. It runs from 11a to 7p on the boardwalk between Diamond and Thomas. We need volunteers to man our table in shifts of 2-3 hours each. Please contact Vicky Seamon at victoria.seamon@va.gov if you can assist. It's at the beach, ladies!
 - This Friday is our spaghetti and meatballs dinner from 5-7pm. Sue and Vicky will do the food shopping on Friday morning. Volunteers are needed at the post beginning at 1:00 to help with the food prep. Once the meatballs are made and the sauce is cooking, helpers won't be needed back until around 4:00. Please show up if you can help.
 - Vicky received and distributed (via e-mail) a wish list from the Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH) and the Wave Clinic. The CVVH needs big-ticket items so cash may be the best way to assist them. The Wave Clinic needs things similar to what we give to VVSD: clothing, toiletries, etc.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to donate the money made at Friday night's dinner to the CVVH.
 - ❖ **Second:** Nancy Person.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
 - The Oktoberfest we'll be cohosting with the SALS has been moved to Saturday, October 13th. We will provide a German fare buffet, including bratwurst. Vicky will contact Smitty, the SALS Commander, to find out how we can help. Vicky will make a sign about this meal to be displayed at this Friday's dinner, so our diners know what's coming next.
 - November 10th is the date we'll be volunteering at the VA Hospital's Bingo. We'll be working alongside June Coatney and unit 460 from Kearny Mesa. Like last year,

we'll bring enough paper products for 100 people, plus pumpkin pies and whipped cream. Unit 460 will be providing a complete Thanksgiving dinner! It will be especially meaningful since the next day is Veterans' Day. Please be there by 12:30 to help set up; Bingo begins at 2:00. *To our unit members who volunteer: please be sure to get a handful of thank-you cards from Karen Stewart to pass out to veterans who attend Bingo and/or the meal.*

- Ketra and Jerry will be making a Thanksgiving dinner at the post this year. It is free to all veterans. Our unit will have to decide how/what we might donate, but they are asking for turkeys and hams.
- December 8th is our Make Them Smile holiday party. I will send out our official invitation flyers to the families who attended last year and will also try to start getting the children's wish lists. I will also contact our member, Marilyn Prosser, because last year she had great recommendations for table and chair rentals. With some of the grant money Desiree was able to obtain, we may rent round tables and smaller, lightweight chairs to have more room in the hall with a full-house.
- Current membership is 33; welcome to our newest member, Katie Urbas. Please give or send Vicky your renewal checks for \$26.00 ASAP.
- Unit 552 received a ribbon for donating to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation at the 100% membership participation level last year.
- **VA&R Report:**
 - Heather emphasized how important our participation at the Nov. 10th Bingo will be in honor of Veteran's Day on the 11th.
 - We are the only people in San Diego County who are actively and consistently assisting veterans who are moving from VVSD housing into their first-time apartments (through VASH housing) with household items. These transitioning veterans are incredibly grateful for our support; and knowing the community is rooting for them and actively helping them has encouraged them to stay off drugs and alcohol, and be successful on their own. We do make a difference! Please save your old kitchen items (dishes, glassware, flatware, small appliances), towels, furniture, etc. and bring them to Heather. She is happy to store them in her garage so when the next veteran is ready to be on his own, we have items to give him. VASH provides an apt. and a small stipend, but nothing to put inside the apt.
 - Heather has stayed friendly with three homeless vets of Stand Down who live in PB. She brings them food and helps them in other ways when she can. All three plan to attend Thanksgiving at the post and are thrilled to have this opportunity.
- June Coatney reported that she is the District 2nd Vice this year.
 - She has a personal goal of trying to raise \$5,000 for the veterans this year. Any money she gets will be split between the La Jolla VA Hospital and the Chula Vista Veterans Home.
 - She will be actively helping Nancy Park Brown run for National President.
 - If we plan to donate money for Canteen Books to the VA Hospital in the future, please send it to the District Treasurer and earmark it "VA Canteen" so the district can keep track of it.
 - June presented our President Vicky Seamon with hand-made orange and yellow booties.

- District 22 President Barbara Love shared her ALA history, provided Dept. guidelines, and communicated her thoughts/ideas for a successful year.
 - She has been an ALA member for 23 years. She spent seven years as Chaplain of unit 255 in National City. She then transferred to unit 310 where she was Historian, an E-Board member, 1st Vice, and President. She also chaired several committees. At the district level, she has chaired Poppy, VA&R and Membership, and has held the 1st Vice and 2nd Vice positions before becoming District President.
 - The Dept. theme for this year is Magical, Mystical Fantasy. The Districts have been named as Kingdoms; and District 22 is the Kingdom of Amor. Our colors are red, orange, and yellow; bright and vibrant.
 - We need to bring in new, younger members to all units. President Barbara encouraged us to involve new members on the committees, and especially as Chairs so they take an active role in their participation.
 - Our membership cards this year do not have the number of years we've been an ALA member; instead they show the year we joined. Any other errors, please contact Dept. Secretary Julie so all information is current and accurate. No cards will be reprinted this year but Dept. should have correct information for next year's card printing. Julie can go back as far as 1992 in the ALA system.
 - Please be sure to file all taxes on time, and to pay the Fidelity Bond to Dept. Units have gotten into trouble for being delinquent on these things. *She wasn't present to hear that our unit is up-to-date on everything.*
 - The next district meeting will be held at La Mesa Unit 282 on Sunday, October 14th. She encourages our members to attend as many district meetings as possible.
 - Vicky presented Barbara with a gift from our unit, to welcome her as our new President and to thank her for coming to our meeting.
- Poppy / Chaplain Report:
 - May is poppy month. The District Poppy Chair has asked that all units purchase 25 additional poppies this year since that will bring in much money for the veterans who assemble the poppies and earn 10¢ per poppy. Therefore, our unit is ordering 525 poppies, an increase of 25 over last year.
 - The District Chaplain has named this year's theme, Wings of Love, to carry our prayers with devotion, compassion, understanding, and reverence.
- Historian Report:
 - We still need to form a Cookbook Committee but it was tabled again for a future meeting. A suggestion was made to at least have a sign at this Friday's dinner, asking for recipes. I will make this sign.
 - Nancie brought the unit scrapbook in for our perusal.
- Community Service Report:
 - Homes for Heroes (H3) began restoring another home in Lemon Grove. It was for an ex-Staff Sergeant in the Marines who was wounded in Iraq. Lindsey was one of the primary 50 working volunteers. The upgrades are not only for the homeowner, but also for visitors, since this wounded veteran has started his own non-profit to assist other veterans. He holds meetings in his home so it's being outfitted to accommodate wounded visitors, as well. What usually takes one weekend will be completed this coming weekend.

- New Business from Desiree:
 - She is selling raffle tickets for the American Legion to raise money for veterans. They are one for \$3, or two for \$5. She had 10 left at the meeting and sold some. Check with her if you'd like to buy any.
 - She is also selling discount cards for restaurants. They cost \$10 each (usual cost is about \$20) and there is a long list of restaurants where it can be used. She had 20 left at the meeting.
 - There is a new, free phone app for iPhones and Androids (smartphones). It's called legionclaimcoach and it will answer many of your questions about services available to veterans. It will also direct you to people who can help.
 - Desiree knows of 20 active duty navy personnel who are looking for volunteer work. Contact her if you need help or know of a person or organization that does.
- Meeting was adjourned by President Vicky at 7:15pm. Closing prayer was delivered by Chaplain Karen. Next meeting will be October 17th at 6:00pm.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy.