



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes October 17, 2012

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by 1st Vice Heather Marzan, sitting in for President Vicky Seamon who was home sick. *Hope you're feeling better, Madam President!* Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble were recited by all.
- Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy.
 - **8 Members Present:** Heather Marzan (1st Vice), Jody O'Donnell (2nd Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Lindsey Bittman (Sgt-At-Arms), Karen Stewart (Chaplain), Nancie McLees (Historian), Sue Gibbons, and Margaret Smith.
- Heather confirmed that last month's Minutes were sent out electronically and asked if everyone had a chance to read them.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Jody O'Donnell to accept them as is.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- President's Report (shared by 1st Vice, from notes written by President):
 - The Emergency Phone Tree test was a bit of a failure. Most of us forgot and weren't prepared, or didn't realize we were supposed to keep calling down the list if someone was not available or only a message was left. Should we try again?
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to try a phone tree test again on Wednesday night, October 24th at 7:30pm.
 - ❖ **Second:** Karen Stewart.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

Therefore, please try to be at home during the phone tree test date/time. If you call the person below you and leave a message or get no answer, please continue calling down the list until you receive confirmation that someone else will continue the phone tree for your branch. The last person in the vertical branch should call back to the top of the branch (Heather, Jody, Nancy, or Karen) who will then contact Vicky to confirm branch has been completed. *A current phone tree is attached with these minutes.*

 - Our last three events have all been successes.
 - ❖ We profited \$260.40 at the 9/21 Spaghetti dinner which was donated to the CA Veterans Home at Chula Vista.

- ❖ BeachFest on 10/6 went very well. There were seven members who manned the table throughout the day. Around 100 comic books which told about the Pledge of Allegiance were passed out to kids; patriotic stickers were distributed; tootsie rolls wrapped in American Flag paper were a hit too. Many applications were taken by passers-by. We were visited by a previous CA Girls' State delegate who gushed about the wonderful experience she had and thanked us again. In addition, a family who attended last year's holiday party stopped to tell her friends that we were the ones who put on the party; and she asked when she'd be getting her invitation for this year. *Invitations were e-mailed on 10/9.*
- ❖ The Oktoberfest meal on 10/13 was a lot of fun! Due to high overhead, we only profited around \$115.00, but that will all go towards the holiday party. We sold 46 dinners and everyone had a blast. A special thank-you goes out to Margaret Smith for baking three kinds of German cookies which were amazing. Also, the German Chocolate Sour Cream Cake baked by Barbie was delicious. Thanks!
- At the October 14th District meeting, a special mention was made as to the importance of the month of November, since the 11th is Veteran's Day. Saturday, Nov. 10th is the date we'll be volunteering at the La Jolla 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! Please be there by 12:30 to help set up; Bingo begins at 2:00. There are seven members currently planning on volunteering on the 10th: Jody, Nancie, Karen, Lindsey, Sue, Heather M. and me. Karen will bring all of the thank-you cards she has so we can pass them out. Lindsey may also have students from one of her classes make some to bring. I am available to drive three others comfortably so let me know if you'd like to carpool. By the way, if you're planning on attending the Veteran's Day Parade, I'm pretty sure it will be held on Monday, the 12th, since that is the federal holiday.
- Finally, on Wed., Nov 14th the VA Hospital will be holding its annual VMAC Bazaar. They are looking for donated prizes to raffle off. Heather will get a list of corporations and organizations that are able to make donations (from Tricia Smith) and she will contact them about potentially making a donation. Heather will then get together with Karen to make a gift basket, if we have the time. If time is running out, we will use any donated gifts towards holiday party raffles and will make a cash donation to the bazaar instead.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to donate \$30 cash if we end up making a cash donation.
 - ❖ **Second:** Jody O'Donnell.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report:
 - Bank balance at last meeting (September 19) was \$4,653.69; total receipts: \$1,041.00; disbursements: \$1,198.89; current bank balance is \$4,495.80. Of that, \$255.75 is for our poppy fund, and \$4,240.05 is for our general fund.

- At the 10/14 District Meeting, the District Treasurer handed out a report showing what various units were delinquent in, such as completing an annual audit, filing federal and state taxes, etc. Unit 552 did not show up anywhere on the list! We are in complete compliance with district and dept. financial requirements.
- Please remember that mid-year reports are due into the district by December 9th. Send an e-mail to Vicky (and copy me) showing all of your activities from July 1st through the end of November (you can estimate activities that you're scheduled to perform in the future). Be sure to include the purpose of the activity, hours spent, money spent, and miles driven. Vicky and I will decide which committee to post the money to since we're only allowed to report it on one report; hours and miles, however, can be reported under multiple committees. We will get the information to the appropriate committee chairs.
- E-mail invitations were sent out on 10/9 to the families who attended last year's holiday party. We already have 34 people confirmed: 15 adults and 19 children. Members agreed to limit the number of guests to 80, like last year. We can have 10 tables (two rows of five) and by using folding chairs (instead of the wide stackable ones at the post) we can comfortably seat eight at each table. Margaret will ask Tricia if we can once again borrow the folding chairs from Hawthorne Elementary. She will also check on Santa's chair. Karen, Nancie and Jody have volunteered to purchase and wrap all the gifts. I will forward them the list of requests as soon as we have RSVPs for our maximum number of guests (or by 11/23, whichever comes first). We all agreed that what we spent last year on gifts (\$35 per child) was an appropriate. Food still has to be discussed with the SALS.
- Americanism Report:
 - Although Tricia Smith was not present, I shared something that was read at the District meeting. Both Vicky and I were quite moved by the message, which is, "Get out and vote!" *If ... we remove a star from the flag for every one million people who didn't vote ... and - If ... we removed a red stripe from the flag for every five million people who didn't register to vote ... and - If ... we removed a patch of blue from the flag for every ten million people who didn't care, what color flag would we be waving? WHITE! A FLAG OF SURRENDER! Please, get out and vote!*
- Poppy / Chaplain Report:
 - According to the District Poppy Chair, only a few units turned in their poppy orders on time. Unit 552 was one of them!
 - Since we have so many poppies remaining from last year, I mentioned the possibility of only ordering 100 poppies next year, instead of maintaining the high volume we've done over the past few years. We will be delivered 525 new poppies in the current fiscal year. To utilize some of the poppies we already have, Margaret Smith has offered to place poppies on the counter of a local grocery store she owns at 37552 Montezuma Valley Road in Ranchita, CA, with a jar for donations.
- Historian Report:
 - Nancie is still trying to collect recipes for the unit cookbook she's planning to put together. PLEASE e-mail her your favorite recipes! It's too late this month since I already turned in my article, but I will make an announcement about needed recipes in December's VFW bulletin.

- Nancie has printed out the photos I e-mailed her from various events recently. They looked fine on her computer but were blurry when they printed. Does anyone know how to fix this problem? Please contact Nancie McLees if you can help!
- I will try to get our latest photos onto Facebook within the next week.
- **Girls' State Report:**
 - Margaret sent in the paperwork for our unit to send three delegates to Girls' State. They will be selected from Mission Bay High School, Clairemont High School, and Madison High School.
- **New Business:**
 - Since our next scheduled meeting falls the night before Thanksgiving, we either need to cancel or move the meeting.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to move meeting one week earlier to Wednesday, November 14th.
 - ❖ **Second:** Nancy Person.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Closing prayer was delivered by Chaplain Karen. Meeting was adjourned by 1st Vice Heather at 6:55pm. Next meeting will be November 14th (one week earlier than usual) at 6:00pm.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy.