



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

**Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2013**

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by President Vicky Seamon. Instead of an opening prayer, Chaplain Karen Stewart shared the CD "America - Why I Love Her" narrated by John Wayne, with the Star Spangled Banner playing in the background. It was quite poignant. The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed.
- Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **11 Members Present:** Vicky Seamon (President), Heather Marzan (1st Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Lindsey Bittman (Sgt-At-Arms), Karen Stewart (Chaplain), Nancie McLees (Historian), Sue Gibbons, Desiree Herrera, Sandy Kurosky, Barbie Lewis, and Margaret Smith.
- Vicky confirmed that November's Minutes were sent out electronically and asked if everyone had a chance to read them.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Heather Marzan to accept them as is.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report:
 - Bank balance at last meeting (November 14) was \$6,230.07; total receipts: \$1,061.58; disbursements: \$4,500.50; current bank balance is \$2,791.15. Of that, \$255.75 is for our poppy fund, and \$2,535.40 is for our general fund.
 - The holiday party was a huge success. Thanks so much to all who contributed time and/or money. Although we bought decorations, gifts for 53 kids, sent Target gift cards to families who were turned away, etc., we didn't spend all the money we collected.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to save remaining money for next year's party.
 - ❖ **Second:** Margaret Smith.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
 - The ALA has a Mission Training two-disc DVD set available. Each segment covers a different pod, providing an overview of programs and practical ideas that units can use to more simply accomplish mission outreach. Each set is \$9.95 (shipping included).
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Desiree Herrera to purchase one set for our unit.
 - ❖ **Second:** Lindsey Bittman.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.** I will place the order.
 - We still have \$100 that was donated by American Legion Post 552 to be spent on Children & Youth. Our unit has become involved with Project Safehouse Shelter, part of the Center for Community Solutions. Their Family Advocates have a new program that specifically works with

the mothers and children staying at their shelter. Mothers are taught parenting skills, and children are taught accountability, structure, and empowerment.

- ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to donate the money to this organization.
- ❖ **Second:** Desiree Herrera (American Legion Post 552 President).
- ❖ **Unanimous vote.** I will also invite my Project Safehouse contact, Kimberly Lostetter, to come speak at our February meeting.

- **President's Report:**

- Saturday, February 9th will be Legion Day at the VA Hospital; volunteers are always needed. There is a conflict (see next bullet point). Desiree, Heather M., and Lindsey have volunteered and will represent our unit on Legion Day.
- Our next meal will be a "Sweetheart's Dinner" on Saturday, February 9th. Gary Wasserman (Nancy's husband) will be doing the cooking. Volunteers are needed beginning at 3:00, throughout dinner, and afterwards for clean-up. Dinner will be served from 5-7pm, or until the food runs out. Sue, Sandy, Barbie, Nancie and I will all be at the Post at 3:00 to set up tables, decorate, etc. Vicky, Desiree, Lindsey and Heather M. will come for a later shift. We can certainly use more volunteers, especially for clean-up. Gary will be making some kind of pork tenderloin, potatoes, a vegetable, and salad. Sue will make cheesecake and Margaret will bake cookies.
- Mid-year reports were all turned in on time at the December 9th district meeting. Accolades were given since we were one of the very few units who heeded the deadline, and also for the caliber of our reports.
- The toiletries we purchased were put into 50 zippered plastic pouches and given to Unit 460's Secretary, Maureen Swanson. Her husband is serving in Afghanistan and the shipment will be sent to him for distribution. June was ecstatic at how much was donated, since this was her unit's program.
- Our unit will be having its second annual rummage sale on Saturday, March 23rd from 7am until 12 noon. Please bring all items to the Post no later than Friday, March 22nd. Sorting will take place on the 22nd from 2pm until it's completed. We will have tables organized by price, as we did last year. Anything not sold will be donated to VVSD, AmVets, or another local charity.

- **Membership Report:**

- Our unit has 25 paid renewals, two PUFLs, and six new members, bringing our current membership to 33. There are still three members on the roster who have not yet paid their 2012-2013 dues.

- **VA&R Report:**

- Heather is continuing to collect items for VVSD and VASH housing.
- Every Denny's Restaurant in San Diego is currently collecting items for the VVSD winter shelter. Please bring socks, shoes, blankets, jackets, long pants, etc. to your local Denny's.

- **Community Service Report:**

- Lindsey emphasized that the VVSD winter shelter is in desperate need of items for their boarders. Although Denny's is collecting items, the shelter needs donations from many different sources. It's been a very cold winter.
- ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to donate the \$100 profit made at the January 15th SALS dinner (which Commander Steve Schmitz generously gave to our unit) to buy items for the shelter.
- ❖ **Second:** Heather Marzan.
- ❖ **Unanimous vote.** Lindsey texted the head of the shelter to find out what specific items are needed the most. Heather will shop for them.

- Historian's Report:
 - Nancie is collecting recipes for the unit cookbook; she has only received 12. PLEASE e-mail her your favorite recipes! This cookbook is a fundraiser and we're hoping to have it ready by Thanksgiving.
 - Nancie sent lots of unit photos to the Dept. Historian, Carol Fuqua in December. Carol sent back a thank-you note and encouraged our unit to keep up the great work we're doing.
- Girls State Report:
 - There will be a total of 515 girls this year at Girls State. Margaret has talked to contacts at four local high schools, all of which will send a Girls State candidate to represent our unit. Mission Bay, Clairemont, Madison, and Preuss high schools will participate. Margaret has asked for five girls from each school to be selected for interviews. Interviews will take place between the end of January and February 14th. Vicky and I both volunteered to participate in the interviews, as we did last year.
- New Business from Desiree:
 - Stand Down needs money! They are looking to collect \$5,800 from District 22. On the volunteer front, we will be helping to prepare and serve both lunch and dinner on Friday, July 12th; last year we only helped with lunch.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to donate money earned at the March 23rd rummage sale to help fund meals served at Stand Down.
 - ❖ **Second:** Desiree Herrera.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to donate money earned at Feb. 9th dinner to Stand Down, as well.
 - ❖ **Second:** Margaret Smith.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
 - Monday, January 21st is National Day of Service. Desiree will be volunteering at the Chula Vista Veterans Home all day. She will be painting curbs. I expressed interest in volunteering, and Desiree said she would find out if more volunteers are needed.
 - On December 29th, 2012, Desiree attended the CA Past Commander's Outpost meeting at Post 731 in Kearny Mesa. While at the meeting, she was given an old flag embroidered with the words, "Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit 552." Apparently, it is an old flag and it's embroidered on both sides with these words. Several members would love to see it framed and hung in our Post hall. Vicky took it home for now; not sure what the plan is for it, but it's very cool!
- Other New Business:
 - Come watch the Superbowl at the Post on February 3rd. There will also be a chili cook-off.
 - Hawthorne Elementary (where Tricia Smith teaches) is starting a knitting club. There are already 15 members. They are looking for donations of yarn. If you have any extra yarn around the house, contact Margaret Smith at 858-274-4708/home or 619-417-9204/cell to arrange a pick-up.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm. Next meeting will be February 20th, 2013.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy.