



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

**Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2013**

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by President Vicky Seamon. Chaplain Karen Stewart was not in attendance so we skipped an opening prayer. President Vicky spoke about The **Four Chaplains**, also sometimes referred to as the "Immortal Chaplains." These were four United States Army chaplains who gave their lives to save other civilian and military personnel during the sinking of the troop ship USAT *Dorchester* on February 3, 1943, during World War II. They helped other soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship. As is done in February in the American Legion family, we had a moment of silence to remember them. The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed.
- Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **9 Members Present:** Vicky Seamon (President), Heather Marzan (1st Vice), Jody O'Donnell (2nd Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Lindsey Bittman (Sgt-At-Arms), Nancie McLees (Historian), Sue Gibbons, Desiree Herrera, and Sandy Kurosky.
 - **1 Guest Present:** Kimberly Lostetter, President of Project Safehouse Auxiliary.
- Vicky confirmed that January's Minutes were sent out electronically and asked if everyone had a chance to read them.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Sue Gibbons to accept them as is.
 - ❖ **Second:** Jody O'Donnell.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report:
 - Bank balance at last meeting (January 16, 2013) was \$2,791.15; total receipts: \$548.72; disbursements: \$735.12; current bank balance is \$2,604.75. Of that, \$350.25 is for our poppy fund, \$965.63 is profit from our 2012 holiday party which we are saving for the 2013 party, and \$1,288.87 is for our general fund. For the past few months I have been reporting an error in our poppy fund; I was mistakenly citing the balance as \$255.75, instead of \$350.25.
 - I have created an ongoing Profit and Loss Worksheet for the current fiscal year, so we can easily see (in detail) where our money has come from and where it has gone throughout the year.
 - The February 9th Sweetheart Dinner was a huge success. We were able to give a \$300 check to American Legion District 22 for meals at Stand Down. As was decided last month, we will also donate profits from the March 23rd rummage sale to Stand Down.
 - The ALA Mission Training two-disc DVD set has arrived. Unfortunately, Vicky reported that the second disc is not viewable. I will order a replacement set.

- DVDs were made from the photos taken at our holiday party. Copies were sent along with thank-you letters to the large donors, as well as to the Dodges, the Olive Café, VFW, American Legion and SALS. I have a few extra that are available to borrow if you'd like to view it.
- Girls State Report:
 - In Margaret's absence, I gave a quick update. Candidates are being considered from four local high schools: Clairemont, Madison, Mission Bay, and Preuss. Margaret, Tricia, Vicky and I have been reading essays submitted by interested Juniors at these schools. Candidates will be selected by the end of this week. The three girls from Clairemont have already been selected. Thanks to the generosity of the Smith family, this will be the first time our unit is sending four young women to represent us at Girls State. We usually only send two or three.
- President's Report:
 - Meredith's surgery was postponed once again. Please keep her in your thoughts. If you'd like to send her an e-mail, she can be reached at bratsurf@yahoo.com. If you'd like to send her a note or card, please contact Nancy for her address.
 - The first DVD of the Mission Training DVD Set basically reviewed all ALA programs. Vicky was especially interested in the various options given for National Security. She will do some further research on four that our unit might get involved with: Operation Yellow Ribbon, Operation Home Front, Operation Comfort Warriors, and Operation Family Readiness. Desiree informed us that Operation Comfort Warriors is very similar to Operation Wounded Warriors, but without the marketing and PR. She also said that this program is the pet project of the National American Legion Commander, and that American Legion Post 552 made a donation to Operation Comfort Warriors. Vicky will get back to us with more information on these four programs and our potential involvement
 - Dept. of CA's convention will be held June 26-29 in Palm Springs this year. Vicky, Nancy, Heather, Lindsey, Sue, and Nancie all expressed an interest in attending. Heather will investigate renting a large house nearby the El Doral, where the convention is being held. Apparently, that timeframe is low season and Heather has rented a house before in the summer for a very affordable rate. The El Doral is already completely booked. Vicky also contacted Ketra to see if the Marriott might have a hotel nearby for which we could get a discounted rate. Desiree told us about the hospitality suites that each American Legion District reserves for the entire convention, and which is kept well-stocked with food and beverages.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Desiree Herrera to think about donating money toward District 22's hospitality suite at The Riviera Hotel.
 - ❖ **Second:** Jody O'Donnell.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote**
 - End-of-year reports are due at the April 14th district meeting. Please e-mail Vicky or Nancy with your activity, hours, miles, money spent, etc. We will put all the activities together and make sure they get posted to the correct reports.
 - Our rummage sale is scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd between 7am and 12 noon. 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.
 - Donation slips are needed for donations made to any VA-related facility (La Jolla VA Hospital, WAVE clinic, Chula Vista Veterans Home, VVSD, etc). Vicky had some that were handed out, and she can always get more. Please use the VFW address of 853 Turquoise St., SD 92109 on the form, and give the form back to Vicky to turn in.

- Membership Report:
 - Our unit has 27 paid renewals, two PUFLs, and seven new members, bringing our current paid-up membership to 36. There is only one member on the roster who has not yet paid her 2012-2013 dues.
 - Our unit received four membership recognition awards at the February district meeting. We reached all four milestones; three of the four ahead of schedule. We are over 100% goal!
- Kimberly Lostetter, President of Project Safehouse Auxiliary, spoke to our unit:
 - First and foremost, she thanked the ALA for her Girls State experience in 1981! It had a very positive impact on her life. She represented a unit in Downey. She also thanked us for our \$100 donation last month which went to their new parenting skills/child behavior program.
 - The Center for Community Solutions, which was started in 1969, is the overseeing agency to Project Safehouse (PS). PS has a secret location in order to keep its clients completely safe from their abusers.
 - PS currently has 10 members; about half are women from the beach communities, and the others are from East County.
 - Clients are from all over the country, since PS is connected to the National Domestic Violence Hotline.
 - PS is an organization of women helping women and children. They offer holiday events, shelter programs, provide haircuts and other personal necessities, and can personalize their services to fulfill specific client needs (many clients arrive with nothing). Their welcome bags include toiletries, pajamas, books, and more.
 - Each arriving abused woman is assigned a family advocate who helps her make the most of her 28-day (maximum) stay at PS. Individual plans of action are developed for each client. Transitional housing is an option after the 28 days.
 - In the 2011-2012 year, 97 women and 50 children spent 2,973 nights in PS; four women and three children spent 1,100 nights in transitional housing.
 - Majority of donations goes to clients (transportation vouchers, food or Target gift cards, clothing) but shelter maintenance (replacing old air conditioning units, painting, etc.) is also put into the budget; for the comfort of the clients, as well as support staff.
 - Focus is also put on community outreach and building partnerships with other nonprofit organizations (such as the ALA). PS will be hosting a Game Night at the Mission Beach Women's Club on Wed., 3/13 (see attached flyer) and also teamed up with the San Diego Repertory Theatre to offer a night of theater at a discount, with a percentage of sales going back to PS.
 - Thank you, Kimberly, for coming to enlighten us about your organization and the wonderful work you are doing!
- VA&R Report:
 - Heather purchased toiletry items for the VVSD winter shelter with the \$100 we donated to them last month. She was able to purchase 105 large items which will last each guest a very long time. They needed toiletries more than sweaters or jackets.
 - VVSD is partnering more with Heather and calling her directly when a veteran is transitioning to VASH housing. Just today, our unit provided a dining room table and chairs, two large living room chairs, pots/pans, comforter/pillows, TV, and kitchen items to Jim. He has been homeless for nine years, and just completed an eight-month stay at VVSD. He is very grateful for our help!
 - Heather would find it very helpful to have ALA business cards.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to have unit pay for Heather's business cards.
 - ❖ **Second:** Nancy Person.

❖ **Unanimous vote.**

Heather will do some investigation re: getting business cards made.

• Community Service Report:

- Lindsey filled out an application with Jewish Family Services (JFS) to get involved on behalf of the ALA. JFS has many wonderful programs, but the one that caught Lindsey's eye is how they go to Camp Pendleton and Miramar Air Station once a month to help feed active military families who don't have enough food. When she gets more information, she will advise us on how we can all get involved.
- She is also investigating Stand Up For Kids, a volunteer organization that helps homeless children. Nancy is also familiar with this group, and already has a call in to their director to see how we can help.

• Historian's Report:

- Nancie reports that the unit cookbook is coming along nicely. She already has 44 recipes but needs at least 100 more. The next big questions are how many books should be ordered and how much should we sell each book for?

• New Business from the President:

- We have no fundraisers scheduled past the rummage sale. Should we plan a meal for April? After checking the post's and our personal calendars, April 27th was selected as a possible date.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to have a unit dinner on 4/27.
 - ❖ **Second:** Jody O'Donnell.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- What we will serve was not decided. Nancy will ask Chef Gary if he'll be willing to cook again.
- What about a Mother's Day brunch?
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancie McLees to continue our tradition of a Mother's Day brunch.
 - ❖ **Second:** Jody O'Donnell.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- What about a Father's Day brunch? After checking the calendar, it was noted that Father's Day will be the third Sunday of June, which is when Ketra and Rick have their omelet brunch. We will check with Ketra to see if we can help in some way.

• American Legion Business from Commander Desiree Herrera:

- Boys State interviews will take place on Wednesday evening, March 13th at the Post. They'll begin at 6:15pm and usually last about one-and-a-half hours. It is requested that an ALA representative be present to help make the decision. Is anyone interested and available?
- On Sunday, February 24th, there will be a District 22 Leadership Training Seminar at American Legion Post 731. The location is 7245 Linda Vista Road and it will take place from 1-4pm.
- Raffle tickets and restaurant discount cards are being sold by A.L. Unit 552. Desiree suggested that this year, maybe the ALA purchase several of each to give away at various functions. Idea will be tabled until next meeting. If you would like to buy either for yourself or family/friends, contact Desiree.

- Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm. Next meeting will be March 20th, 2013 at 6:00pm.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.