



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes March 20, 2013

- Meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by President Vicky Seamon. Chaplain Karen Stewart played Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" (which was a very moving patriotic song) in lieu of saying a prayer. 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), Jody O'Donnell (2nd Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Karen Stewart (Chaplain), Lindsey Bittman (Sgt-At-Arms), Sue Gibbons, new member Larisa Hall (welcome!), Desiree Herrera, Sandy Kurosky, and Margaret Smith.
- Vicky confirmed that February'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:** Heather Marzan.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report:
 - Bank balance at last meeting (February 20, 2013) was \$2,604.75; total receipts: \$1,600.00; disbursements: \$1,600.00; 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.
 - President Vicky and I will be meeting on April 5th to work on the unit's year-end reports. They are due at the April 14th district meeting. PLEASE send me the stats on your volunteer activities for the year; including miles driven, hours spent, money spent, and a small description of each activity.
 - I placed a Craigslist ad and also wrote two Facebook posts about our upcoming rummage sale, scheduled for this Saturday, March 23rd, from 7am until 12 noon. Vicky and I also posted flyers around PB. AMVETS is already scheduled to come pick up all leftovers after 12:30. This gives us a little time to go through whatever is left and decide what we might want to donate to Second Chance, Project Safehouse, etc. Please bring as many small plastic shopping bags as you can, so we can provide them to customers who make several purchases. If you have any large garbage bags around, we can also use these. AMVETS has asked that all items to be picked up be placed in these large plastic bags. Sarah Mattinson, owner of Olive Café, has offered to make scones, coffee cake, or something similar. At first I accepted her offer, but then Margaret Smith volunteered to make cinnamon rolls, which will be given away with coffee in exchange for a possible donation. So, we'll be offering Margaret's cinnamon rolls at the sale.

Lindsey will buy napkins and small styrofoam cups. I'll get singles and quarters for change. We currently have eight volunteers for the sorting party on Friday (2pm until ?) and six volunteers for the actual event, but you know we can use all the help we can get!

- President's Report:

- Meredith Velzy has had three postponements now for her surgery. She is home on extended sick leave, and feeling quite frustrated. Feel free to drop her an e-mail or give her a call. She welcomes any and all communication. bratsurf@yahoo.com or 619-820-0250
- Our thoughts and prayers go out to Nancy Person on the sudden loss of her father, and Nancie McLees on the recent loss of her mother.
- Officer nominations will take place at the April meeting. Elections will be in May. Please begin to think about who you might want to nominate at next month's meeting for our unit officers. We elect President, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Treasurer, and Secretary. Chaplain, Sgt-at-Arms, and Historian are appointed positions.
- Dept. of CA's convention will be held June 26-29 in Palm Springs this year. Vicky, Heather, Lindsey, Sue, and Nancie all expressed an interest in attending. Heather will continue investigating renting a large house nearby the El Doral, where the convention is being held. Our unit budgeted \$600 for convention expenses this year; this will most likely just cover room accommodations.
- There are four potential programs that our unit might look into for future participation: Operation Family Readiness (*I believe the backpacks we bought, stuffed, and distributed last year at MCRD were part of this program*), Operation Yellow Ribbon, Operation Homefront, and Comfort Warriors (similar to Wounded Warriors). Vicky will investigate further.

- Membership Report:

- Our unit has 36 paid members.
- Introduction of our newest member, Larisa Hall, who is the Executive Director and an instructor for Tap Fever Studios at 683 Turquoise Street. Larisa explained that Tap Fever Studios is a non-profit organization that offers all kinds of dance classes, as well as providing unique and adapted programs for seniors (she teaches several classes at Sunrise Assisted Living), and individuals with physical limitations. Our own member, Nancie McLees, will be performing in the next dance show, taking place on April 13th from 3-5pm at La Jolla High School. Tickets are \$10 and all are welcome.

- VA&R Report:

- Heather reported that VVSD currently has a large need for new, white, crew socks for its residents. Anyone wanting to donate socks can contact Heather or Lindsey for pickup.

- American Legion Commander Desiree Herrera:

- Desiree is almost certain a corporate grant from her employer to buy socks for Stand Down is on its way. She is expecting at least \$2,000, and possibly more!
- We were told about one of Desiree's coworkers who is involved with a 5K/10K Run/Walk & Family Festival hosted by ACT TODAY! (Autism Care and Treatment) for military families. This coworker's brother is autistic and his father was a 30+ year Navy veteran. This event will take place at Tecolote Shores Park, Mission Bay on Saturday, April 6. Questions? - contact info@act-today.org or check out their website at <http://acttodayformilitaryfamilies.org>. The festival ends at 11:00am so you'll have plenty of time to get back to the Post for the VFW birthday party! Desiree shared her desire to give back to this man, since he has been instrumental in helping her to get corporate funding to assist our ALA events.
- ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to donate money to this event to support Desiree's coworker.
- ❖ **Second:** Nancy Person; and a **motion modification** for the amount of the donation to be \$100.

- ❖ **Unanimous vote to the modified motion.**
- ❖ Desiree took a survey of how many members donated blood in the past 12 months. There were four people who donated a total of 13 times. *If you did not attend this meeting but donated blood during the past year, please contact Desiree so your participation can be counted.*
- Girls State Report:
 - Candidates have been chosen from four local high schools: Clairemont, Madison, Mission Bay, and Preuss. All paperwork has been submitted for three, and is still pending for Preuss. Payment has been made for all four.
- Community Service Report:
 - Lindsey has signed up our unit to work with the Jewish Family Services (JFS) "Hand-Up Food Pantry." They go to Camp Pendleton and/or Miramar Air Station once a month to help feed active military families who don't have enough food. We have four volunteer slots filled for Sunday, April 28th, and there are eight volunteer slots available for Sunday, May 19th (both from 1-4pm at Camp Pendleton). JFS provides the food, and we help distribute it. In addition, JFS is in desperate need of diapers (size 4 or 5) and pull-ups for these events. If you'd like to donate some, Lindsey will be happy to deliver them on one of the volunteer days.
- New Business from the President:
 - Our next unit meal will be a Mediterranean-themed dinner on Saturday, April 13th from 5-7pm. Chef Gary will be doing the cooking again. So far the menu is Greek salad, skewered chicken, zucchini, rice, and stuffed grape leaves (always subject to change). Margaret has agreed to make baklava.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to use money earned at this dinner to help fund the Dept. Convention for our unit attendees (food, donation to hospitality suite, etc).
 - ❖ **Objection:** made by Karen Stewart, who thinks that diners who attend our meals would prefer their money be used for outside programs and events, not a unit event.
 - ❖ **Modified Motion:** made by Karen Stewart to use part of the money earned at the April dinner for the ACT Today donation, and part to be used for Convention (no specific amount was designated for Convention).
 - ❖ **Second:** made by Jody O'Donnell.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote to amended motion.**
 - In a few months, Ketra would like to take a one-time break from her Sunday breakfasts. She has graciously offered to give up her June date so we can have our Father's Day brunch. Thank you, Ketra! So, our unit will be holding a Mother's Day and a Father's Day brunch, as in previous years.
 - There is a small, clear piggy bank that is being used to collect money for the Military Children's Emergency Fund. Bank was passed around at this meeting but it needs more exposure. Please drop in your excess change when you see it at various Post functions. The deadline for delivery back to District is April 28th.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm. Next meeting will be April 17, 2013 at 6:00pm.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.