



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes June 12, 2013

- Meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by President Vicky Seamon. The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed.
- Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **10 Members Present:** Vicky Seamon (President), Jody ODonnell (2nd Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Desiree Herrera (Co-Chaplain), Nancie McLees (Historian/Co-Chaplain), Jane DuVall, Sue Gibbons, Larisa Hall, Ketra Slayton, and Margaret Smith.
 - **1 Guest Present:** District 1st Vice June Coatney (Unit 460).
- Vicky confirmed that May's Minutes were sent out electronically and asked if everyone had a chance to read them.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Jody ODonnell to accept them as is.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- The installation of our 2013-2014 officers took place tonight. Ketra Slayton filled in for Lindsey Bittman as Sgt-at-Arms. We were honored to welcome June Coatney as our district representative. June is our unit's original mentor and closest advisor. President Vicky Seamon, 2nd Vice Jody ODonnell, Treasurer/Secretary Nancy Person, Historian Nancie McLees, Co-Chaplains Desiree Herrera/Nancie McLees, and Executive Committee Woman Ketra Slayton were sworn in. 1st Vice Heather (Marzan) Tidwell and Sgt-at-Arms Lindsey Bittman were not present, since they are on a road trip traveling back to San Diego from Heather's east coast wedding. We took a short break after the installation to share some refreshments.
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report:
 - Bank balance at last meeting (May 20, 2013) was \$4,309.04; total receipts: \$120.00; disbursements: \$156.26; current bank balance is \$4,272.78. Of that, \$540.25 is for our poppy fund, \$965.63 is profit from our 2012 holiday party which we are saving for the 2013 party, and \$2,766.90 is in our general fund.
 - We took in \$120.00 at the May 21st \$3.00 dinner, where we served lentil soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. Thanks so much to Sue and Vicky for your assistance; I could not have done it without you! Once I have a tally of our expenses, I will write a check to the SALS for our profit from that Tuesday meal.
 - I finally wrote a \$100.00 check (from our rummage sale profits) to the WAVE Clinic and gave it to Lois Cornish, District 22 Secretary, at the June 2nd district meeting. She will complete the proper paperwork and hand-deliver it to the WAVE clinic for us.

- Speaking of the district meeting, Unit 552 received many district honors for our year-end reports. Here is a complete list of how we were recognized from District 22 (which has 18 units in all):
 - ❖ **3rd place** in the district for our **Children & Youth** report;
 - ❖ Tied for **2nd place** in the district for our **Community Service** report;
 - ❖ **3rd place** in the district for our **Historian** report;
 - ❖ **1st place / Best Unit Report** in the district for our **Leadership** report;
 - ❖ Certificate of Participation - **Legislative** Program report;
 - ❖ Certificate of Appreciation - **VA&R** Program report;
 - ❖ Certificate of Appreciation - **Most Innovative Programs Involving Members**.
- On May 26th, Vicky, Larisa, Sue and I welcomed home the WWII Vets of Honor Flight from Washington DC. There were hundreds of people at the airport, including six swing dancers performing, lots of military folk, and many families. It was very moving. You can view photos on Facebook.
- June 19th is the Naturalization/Immigration ceremony at Golden Hall downtown. Karen made 50 poppy corsages that were delivered to Ann Marie Brown at the district meeting. Sue, Vicky, Desiree, and I will meet Ann Marie around 8:00 AM on the 19th, where we will help distribute the corsages and ribbons to the new U.S. citizens.
- As Unit 552's elected delegates to the Dept. Convention in Palm Springs, Vicky and I volunteered to attend several of the workshops. We are expected to take notes and share the information at the August district meeting. Vicky will participate in the Community Service and Children & Youth sessions, and I will attend those for Education and Legislative. We both hope to sit in on others, as well, but these are our district assignments. Heather and Lindsey will audit available workshops as our unit's elected alternates.
- Vicky and I made new sock bins for Stand Down. They are now in four locations (in addition to the VFW Post which has its regular bin): Olive Café (805 Santa Clara Place in Mission Beach); Jane Swan Hair Styling (5151 La Jolla Blvd.), Tap Fever (683 Turquoise St.), and Union Bank (1706 Garnet Avenue, at Jewell). A PR piece for Coe's List (on radio station KGB) about the socks was submitted. She mentioned it on air and printed it on her website last week. Also on Coe's List was a request for a recliner for a Vietnam Vet who has trouble with his legs and needs to have them elevated when he sits. Any interest in chipping in with AL, SALS & VFW to buy one for him?
- Do we want to buy backpacks and school supplies for kids at the MCRD base again? I've contacted SIMB to see if they're interested in collaborating with us again. Their next meeting is at the end of June so they will bring it up then. We will check with Ann Marie Brown at Convention to see what C&Y programs she is currently involved with.
- Congratulations from afar to Heather Marzan, who is now Heather Tidwell. She and Scott got married on June 7th.
- November 9th is our Thanksgiving Bingo at the VA Hospital with Unit 460 (June's unit). Mark your calendars now to make sure you're available to come and help.
- Vicky and I will both be out-of-town on July 10th, which is the next scheduled meeting.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to cancel July meeting.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

Therefore, our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 14th.

- The San Diego Musical Theatre has added an additional performance to each of their shows for their "Boys and Girls Clubs Outreach Program." This allows children on local military bases to attend for free. Not only do the children experience live theatre (many for the first time), but they are also able to ask questions of the performers following the performance. This extra

performance is an additional expense for SDMT so they are looking for monetary support. I asked our members to consider using money from a future fundraiser for this purpose. If the time comes for us to donate, we need to contact 858-560-5740.

- At Monday's Mission Beach Women's Club meeting, I learned about the Amikas Double-Up Program. Amikas House provides transitional housing and support for homeless women and children, giving preference to Veteran women. The Double-Up Program is seeking property owners/managers who want to help Veteran women who need housing. They are seeking two-bedroom rentals to lease to two women Veterans. If you can help or know of somebody who can, please forward this information along. AMIKAS 619-822-2782 www.amikas.org

- Girls State Report:

- Our unit will be sending three delegates to Girls State this year. One girl each is coming from Mission Bay HS, Clairemont HS, and Madison HS. Margaret and Tricia will be leaving on Sunday, 6/16 for a week. Since we paid for four delegates and only three are going, Margaret Smith has offered the extra \$400 as a donation to the Girls State expenses.

- Membership Report:

- Our unit member stats have remained the same: 37 paid members; 27 renewals, two PUFLs, and eight new members this year.
- Vicky suggested for the new fiscal year (beginning July 1st), in addition to focusing on gaining new members, we might try to get our existing non-active members more involved in our fundraisers. Desiree recommended that we talk to members of the American Legion and SALS to see who might have high school-aged kids. Many teens today need a certain amount of community service as part of their high school requirements. They could come and help during our meals and other fundraisers which would give them community service hours.
- Larisa commented that she would get more involved if there was a website with an ongoing calendar for our activities that she could check often. She sometimes forgets what was on the Minutes and does not go back to refer to them after they've been read. Instead, she uses her phone calendar for everything, and if there was an overall calendar of our events online, she would find it easier to see if/when she is free to help us. She will contact the person who designed her Tap Fever website and get an approximate cost for setting-up a simple one for us. Vicky will also contact a few ALA units who already have awesome websites, to see if they can recommend their site designers. She will see if there is anybody willing to work for free or very little. Larisa will be happy to maintain our site, once it is up and running.

- Community Service Report (in Lindsey's absence):

- The next scheduled unit assistance with Jewish Family Services Hand-Up Food Pantry is in the Murphy Canyon location (Tierra Santa). It will take place on Sunday, August 11th so mark your calendars if you're interested in volunteering. Lindsey will provide us with the exact location before then.

- Historian Report:

- Nancie has finished typing all 331 recipes for the unit cookbook. She's getting close to being finished! She's waiting for a "Dedication" and "History" page from me. I've promised these to her by next week.

- Old Business from the President:

- Our Father's Day brunch is this Sunday, June 16th from 9am until 12 noon. We will stick with a Mexican theme, since it has always been well-received in the past. Sue, Desiree, Jody, Nancie, Ketra, Jane, and Vicky will all be working. SALS member Tommy Williamson will be the meal's treasurer and will make coffee. Vicky and Sue will do the food shopping. Those available to do prep the day before, please go to the post on Saturday at 10:00am. Those planning on helping on

Sunday, please arrive at the post at 7:00am. Profits from this meal will benefit the La Jolla VA Hospital - Occupational & Recreational Therapy Departments. The hospital has recently lost all funding for craft kits which are extremely beneficial in the rehabilitation of Veterans, both in the hospital long-term, as well as those coming in for therapeutic treatments. I left six flyers with Vicky to be put on the tables on Sunday so that the diners can see which organization the meal profits will benefit.

- New Business from the President:

- Vicky continues to receive thank-you letters from the La Jolla VA Hospital for the books and magazines we donate. Vicky will plan on going back to the hospital around once a month to donate our books and magazines, so contact her if you have any to give away.
- Let's start thinking about upcoming fundraisers for the remainder of this year. Should we have a spaghetti and meatballs dinner again?
 - ❖ I recommended maybe having a Bunco fundraiser. Bunco is a dice game that is played with tables of four. Participants usually buy in for \$10 or \$15 to play, and there are prizes for highest score, lowest score, and most Buncos. There are also usually raffle prizes that have been donated by unit members. It's fun and raises a lot of money. Vicky, Jody, Barbie and I attended Bunco fundraisers put on by the Soroptomist International of Mission Bay. They offered to lend us all of their Bunco materials.
- Will anybody be attending the post's poker fundraiser this Saturday? Buy-in is \$40.

- New Business from Desiree:

- American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary will be having a joint installation of their 2013-2014 District 22 officers at Post 255 in National City. When Desiree learns the date, time, and other particulars, she will let us know.
- A closing prayer was shared by Desiree Herrera.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm. **Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 14th at 6:00pm.** There will NOT be a July meeting.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.