



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes August 14, 2013

- Meeting was called to order at 6:02pm by President Vicky Seamon. Co-Chaplain Nancie McLees led us in a prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed. Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **10 Members Present:** Vicky Seamon (President), Heather Marzan Tidwell (1st Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Desiree Herrera (Co-Chaplain), Nancie McLees (Historian/Co-Chaplain), Sue Gibbons, Larisa Hall, Sandy Kurosky, Ketra Slayton, and Karen Stewart.
 - **1 Guest/New Member Present:** Welcome to Janey Wooten who is transferring into our unit from Northern CA.
- Vicky confirmed that the June 12th Minutes were sent out electronically and asked if everyone had a chance to read them.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Karen Stewart to accept them as is.
 - ❖ **Second:** Ketra Slayton.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report:
 - Bank balance at last meeting (June 12, 2013) was \$4,272.78; total receipts: \$2,523.71; disbursements: \$3,934.35; current bank balance is \$2,862.14. Of that, \$615.25 is for our poppy fund, \$965.63 is profit from our 2012 holiday party which we are saving for the 2013 party, and \$1,281.26 is in our general fund.
 - The annual audit of our unit's books was completed on July 28, 2013. Everything was found to be in order. A copy of the audit report is in the Treasurer's binder.
 - I have filed our federal and state income taxes for fiscal year 2012-2013. Copies of filing confirmation have been sent to District 22 Treasurer, Susie Tozier.
 - I have also already sent our annual per capita tax to Susie.
 - Members received an e-mail copy of the Profit and Loss Statement for the year just ended. This report lists, in detail, where our income came from, and where we spent our money. Based on these figures, I drafted a budget for 2013-2014. The only addition needed is to add the cost of the cookbooks, which will be \$1,061.20 (I will round the number in the budget).
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to accept budget as drafted, with the addition of the cookbook expenses.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

- The total expenses for Convention came to \$690.06; \$90.06 over the \$600.00 that was budgeted. At our April 17th meeting, we voted to wait until after Convention to determine if we were willing to pay more than the budgeted amount so attendees would not have personal out-of-pocket expenses.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to pay the additional \$34.56 to Vicky, and to pay Nancy the \$55.50 she spent on gas for round-trip travel.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

I will reimburse the additional \$90.06.
- Each year the ALA Dept. President sets a new theme for California. President's Pins are specially designed to display the theme. I have 10 pins for sale at \$5.00 each. They will be available for purchase at the end of this meeting. Any unsold pins can be purchased at a future time.
- I am also selling ribbons made to hold several years' worth of pins. These were made by Maureen Swanson of Kearny Mesa Unit #460 (June's unit) and we purchased five of them at Convention. They are \$10.00 each and I only bought five to start. I can always get more. All the money we pay goes toward Americanism for Unit 460.
- A fundraiser was held at the Post last night (8/13) during the Tuesday night dinner. The entire VFW/American Legion family of Pacific Beach came out strong to support Vietnam Veteran Glen Russell, who made a solo cross-country trek from Florida (on a custom three-wheel motorcycle) to raise money for Disabled American Veterans and Wounded Warriors. After an e-mail inquiry from our President, there was a unanimous decision to donate \$100 from the ALA, which we did. Although Glen has started heading back to FL, he is still in fundraising mode. If you would like to make a personal donation, you can contact him at GPRUSSELL@TAMPABAY.RR.COM or 863-698-9944.
- Membership Report:
 - As of now (fiscal year began 7/1/13), we have one new member and two PUFLs (paid up for life members). The district has set an early-bird goal for our unit of 19 paid members by November 30th. If we can meet this deadline, we will earn a membership ribbon to add to our flag. Although our membership cards state that we are in good standing through 2013, dues are collected beginning July 1st for each new year. Therefore, please pay your \$26.00 annual dues ASAP. You can drop them off at the Post or mail them in; please mark the envelope to the attention of Vicky Seamon, 853 Turquoise St., SD 92109.
- Old Business from our President:
 - The Father's Day brunch was a huge success. Thanks to all who volunteered their time!
 - Dept. Convention was held in June and three of our members attended. The first day was very productive and helpful, with lots of ideas shared in the different committee workshops. The other days were primarily Dept. Chairs reading their reports, which were compiled from the 17 district reports in CA. These reports were not that informative. A highlight of Convention, though, was that Unit 552 received many awards. The biggest surprise was our 1st place win (for all of CA) for the mid-year Community Service report. We earned three certificates and two ribbons for reaching all of the membership milestones for 2012-2013. Karen Stewart received Honorable Mention for her work as Poppy Chair; she made many creative items with the poppies. Finally, our historian, Nancie McLees, was given a Citation of Recognition for our unit scrapbook.
- Community Service Report (in Lindsey's absence):
 - Several members participated in the Jewish Family Services Hand Up Food Pantry this past Sunday, August 11th. We provided food for 175 active military families; this was a record number. Check out our Facebook page or the September VFW Bulletin (coming out shortly) for a few photos.

Every Sunday from 10am until noon, JFS is looking for volunteers at their Balboa Avenue location, to help assemble and distribute bags of shelf-stable food. Their contact info. is on the web.

- Our unit members have continued to collect clothing (men's, women's, children's), toiletries, and baby formula. Recent donations have been made to Project Safehouse (the domestic violence shelter) and Second Chance San Diego (rehabilitates and trains challenged populations to get back in the work force).

- Historian Report:

- A new unit scrapbook has been started for 2013-2014.
- "The Mess Hall is Open" cookbooks are being printed right now. Vicky helped Nancie complete the books. They ended up costing us \$4.70 per book (including shipping), and we placed the minimum order of 220 books. There are a total of 323 recipes in the cookbook, as well as some cute stories. We will not set a selling price until we can see the finished product. They should arrive sometime in September. If, by chance, we end up selling out, we can always order additional copies from the printer.

- Poppy Report:

- There have been several new Poppy Resolutions passed. First, poppies can now be made by outside volunteers, not just veterans. The veterans will still be the only ones receiving a stipend for their time. Second, poppy funds are available to use on veterans, active military, or families of both. Finally, the entire month of May has been designated as National Poppy Month.

- Americanism (in Tricia's absence):

- Our unit participated in the Naturalization Ceremony on June 19th in downtown San Diego. We handed out poppy corsages made by Karen Stewart and other District 22 members.

- VA&R Report:

- Our unit purchased craft kits (models to assemble and paint-by-numbers) with the profits earned at the Father's Day Brunch. Vicky delivered them to the La Jolla VA Hospital and the Rehabilitation Dept. was ecstatic. District 22 has been notified of the need for more kits so hopefully the word will get out.
- On November 9th our unit will collaborate with Unit 460 to provide a full Thanksgiving meal and help the veterans play Bingo at the VA Hospital. Volunteers are needed between noon and 4:00.
- The third Friday in September is National Remembrance Day. We are encouraged to remember MIAs and POWs of all wars. Most posts have a memorial table but currently ours does not. It was suggested that since we do not have a lot of room at our post, we look into making a shadow box in place of the MIA/POW table. There is a dollhouse/miniature store on Cass Street near Loring, where we could probably buy the supplies. Ketra has made shadow boxes in the past and offered to make this one. I will research the items required since they are quite specific.
- There are several veterans transitioning into VASH housing this month and VVSD is in need of furniture, small appliances, linens, etc. to help supply apartments. Please contact Heather if you have anything to donate. She has room in her garage to store small items and will get them to VVSD. She is planning on making business cards to pass out at neighborhood yard sales in the hope of getting unsold household items donated to the ALA.
- Heather took away some good ideas from the VA&R Workshop at Convention, such as bringing scarves and hats in the winter to nursing homes that are geared to veterans; or holding baby showers for expectant vets/active military woman or wives of active military men who are deployed.

- New Business from American Legion Commander Desiree:

- At the recent DEC (Dept. Executive Committee) meeting in Northern CA, there is talk about opening the American Legion Auxiliary to people who would like to volunteer but do not have a familial connection to a Veteran. So far, most of the talk is positive.

- In the future, please refer to the Sons of the American Legion as the Sons, not the SALS.
- On Thursday, Sept. 26th from 5:00 - 7:30, O.M.B.A.C. will be holding their 33rd annual "Police and Emergency Services Appreciation Night." It will be a community BBQ picnic held at the North Crown Point Shores Rotary Pavilion. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available at the PB Town Council office, 1706 Garnet Avenue.
- The ALA will be holding a Homecoming for National President Nancy Brown Park from Oct. 17-20 at the Anaheim Hilton (across from Disneyland), 777 Convention Way, 714-740-4252. Some of the activities include dinners at different Posts, tour of Reagan Library (and lunch at Air Force One), Disneyland (group-rate) tickets, and tour of Hollywood. Make your hotel reservations directly with the Anaheim Hilton, <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/AmericanLegionAuxiliary> and ask for the ALA rate of \$129 per night. Questions, contact Homecoming Chairman, Linda Fercho at 805-890-4602 or fercho93012@verizon.net.
- New Business from our President:
 - The new ALA Dept. President, Anita Biggs, has set the CA theme for 2013-2014 based on her favorite sport, basketball: H.O.O.P.S. for our Veterans (Honoring Our Opportunity to Provide Service). Based on this theme, District 22 President Karen Bobren has established our district colors as black, gold, and red, and our district will be known as the San Diego State Aztecs.
 - Thanks to District Public Relations Chair Mary Thorsten, District 22 now has a Facebook page. She has linked it to our page. Please check out their page at American Legion Auxiliary District 22 and "like" it. Once you have "liked" it, you should be notified of updates. The American Legion is also in the process of setting one up for them, and may combine both the Legion and ALA into one.
 - Sandy Kurosky was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her generous commitment of time and effort, not only for the ALA, but also for the AL, Sons, and VFW. She is a relatively new member and she volunteers with just about every function for all four groups. She is amazing!
 - We have been talking about having a Bunco fundraiser, and it's time to make a decision whether we will go ahead with it. It will cost very little, and the things we will need most are a loan of 10-12 card tables, and small, donated items to combine into nice "opportunity drawing" baskets, as well as a few prizes. Vicky already has items to make a "Halloween" basket, Nancy will put together a "home improvement" basket, Karen has volunteered to make a succulent garden in a pretty vase, and Kimberly Lostetter of Project Safehouse has committed to donating two other goodie baskets. Sarah (owner of the Olive Café) has offered to make brownies, and maybe our resident baker, Margaret, will also bake up something yummy.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to hold the Bunco fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 28th from 1:00 until 4:00.
 - ❖ **Second:** Heather Marzan Tidwell.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

At the meeting, I passed around a full-page flyer and a page of four, small flyers that I drafted. Copies will be attached to these Minutes, so please print them out and distribute them. Hang the large flyers at laundromats, Starbucks, community bulletin boards, etc. Invite your family and friends; all are invited to play! Carry the small flyers in your purse so you have them ready to distribute. We will need volunteers to combine the donated items and make baskets. We'll check the calendar and see if the night of our next meeting (9/11), the hall might be empty when we're through. If so, we can assemble the baskets then. Vicky will follow-up with an e-mail.

- Mark your calendars for two upcoming holiday-related activities. The Chula Vista Veterans Home is asking for volunteers to come help decorate on Saturday, December 7th. In addition, our unit's annual holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, December 14th.

- Other New Business:
 - Larisa updated us on the creation of a unit website. The person who created the Tap Fever website is just too expensive. Larisa met another person whose rate for a standard, no-frills site is \$495.00. Do we want her to look into this? She would be willing to maintain it if it was created using Wordpress, a software she is familiar with. Larisa feels strongly that we should move forward with having a website, which would be instrumental in getting the word out about our unit's activities. We could have a calendar of events, notify the public when VVSD is in need of household items, and even to have a page displaying our unit's certificates or awards. I mentioned that Unit 460 has worked with somebody who may be willing to do the work for free. I will see if I can get further information on this person.
 - The Soroptimist International of Mission Bay and the Friends of the Pacific Beach Library are jointly hosting a Craft Fair, and Book/Bake Sale on Saturday, Sept. 14th from 9:00 - 4:00. It will be held at the PB Library, 4275 Cass Street (south of Grand, between Thomas & Reed). There will be unique handmade gifts, opportunity drawings, a book sale and a bake sale. Proceeds will help support community projects that improve the lives of women and girls, as well as library events and materials.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm. **Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 11th at 6:00pm.**
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.