



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes September 11, 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.
 - **12 Members Present:** Vicky Seamon (President), Jody ODonnell (2nd Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Lindsey Bittman (Sgt-at-Arms), Desiree Herrera (Co-Chaplain), Nancie McLees (Historian/Co-Chaplain), Jane DuVall, Sue Gibbons, Larisa Hall, Sandy Kurosky, Delora Riccio, and Karen Stewart.
 - **1 Guest Present:** Destry Whitney, Executive Director of Go Green 4 Education.
- Vicky confirmed that the August 14th Minutes were sent out electronically and asked if everyone had a chance to read them.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to accept them as is.
 - ❖ **Second:** Jody ODonnell.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report:
 - Bank balance at last meeting was \$2,862.14; total receipts: \$590.00; disbursements: \$1,406.26; current bank balance is \$2,045.88. 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 \$465.00 is in our general fund.
 - Budget for this year was amended to include the cookbooks, and now is complete. There is one copy in the Treasurer's binder and another posted on our bulletin board at the post if you would like to see it. Let me know if you would like one e-mailed to you.
 - Just a reminder, I have ALA Dept. President's Pins for sale at \$5.00 each. In addition, there are pin ribbons that were made by Maureen Swanson of Kearny Mesa Unit #460 (June's unit) for sale at \$10.00 each.
- Membership Report:
 - As of 7/1/13, we have one new member, two PUFLs (paid up for life members), 16 renewals and one transfer. This brings our current membership up to 20, which makes the early-bird goal of 19. Well done, ladies!
- President's Report:
 - Lindsey Bittman received a Certificate of Appreciation for the MANY hours she put in at Stand Down this year; over 30 at the three-day event and countless hours before the weekend became a reality.

- Nancy Brown Parks is the new National President. She is the first National leader to be from CA. The ALA will be holding a Homecoming in her honor 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.
- VVSD sent us two thank you photos from Stand Down. The 8x10 is a group shot of all who worked there, and the small one highlights the banner, confirming Unit 552's sponsorship. Ketra has volunteered to frame the large photo and mount it on the wall.
- "The Mess Hall is Open" cookbooks are ready to sell! Sue, Nancie, Nancy, Jody, and Vicky helped to insert the section tabs.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to sell them for \$10.00 each.
 - ❖ **Second:** Desiree Herrera.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
This will give us a profit of over \$1,000.00.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to give one cookbook to Unit 460 (June Coatney's unit) as a gift.
 - ❖ **Second:** Nancy Person.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- September 20th is National Remembrance Day for POWs and MIAs. Most posts have a memorial table but due to our hall being rented frequently, ours does not. Vicky has been looking into making a shadow box in place of the MIA/POW table. She visited Ms. Peggie's Place, the dollhouse and miniature store at 5063 Cass St., (858) 483-2621. The two women there were very excited to assist in a project honoring veterans, and will be donating the box worth \$60. They will also help Vicky collect the required items for this project.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Desiree Herrera to budget \$100 for the items needed to complete the shadow box.
 - ❖ **Second:** Lindsey Bittman.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
I offered Gary's services to obtain and attach a piece of acrylic to seal the box so it would not be open to the elements. (I haven't told him yet).
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to present a cookbook to each of the two women who work at Ms. Peggie's Place.
 - ❖ **Second:** Nancy Person
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- The Bunco Fundraiser is scheduled for 9/28 between 1:00 and 4:00. We have several gift baskets ready and tagged for the opportunity drawings. We also have prizes for the winners. Instruction sheets and score cards are also complete. We have eight card tables at this point, and will try to borrow four more, for a total of 12 tables. That's being very optimistic since we only have seven reservations right now. Nancy passed out mini-flyers to PB Elementary teachers, the Mission Beach Women's Club, her neighborhood group, and her Bunco group. Vicky distributed flyers to her VA Hospital coworkers. PLEASE make copies of the large flyer (let me know if you need another one e-mailed to you) and put one up at your local Starbucks, laundry, etc. We are really hoping to get a large turnout.

- The Sons will be holding their annual Oktoberfest at the post on Saturday, October 12th. Nancie will be playing her accordion and is working on getting other musicians to participate. Vicky bought decorations. We have been asked by Smitzy to help with entertainment, decorating/set-up, desserts and clean-up.
- Ketra and Rick will both be out of town on the third Sunday of October (10/20) so they won't be holding their monthly omelet breakfast. They asked if we would be willing to pick up that date and provide breakfast. There are so many people who look forward to that monthly meal and Ketra is hoping not to disappoint them. Unfortunately, after discussion at the meeting, there were very few ALA members who were available that day to help.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Karen Stewart to pass on Ketra's request and not make breakfast.
 - ❖ **Second:** Nancy Person
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

Sorry Ketra, we tried.
- 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. Our unit provides the paper goods, pumpkin pies and whipped cream, while June's unit will make all the other food. Volunteers are needed between noon and 4:00 to help serve food in the Multi-Purpose Room, to bring some up to patients who are bedridden, to pass out thank-you notes (kudos to Karen for thinking of bringing them to the meeting), to wheel patients down from their rooms, etc. Once you're there, be sure to find the sign-in sheet so you can write your name, our unit number, and the number of hours worked so our District will get the proper credit. There are 11 members planning on volunteering: Nancie, Lindsey, Larisa, Sandy, Jane, Desiree, Jody, Karen, Sue, Vicky, and me - wow!
- As mentioned last month, the Chula Vista Veterans Home is asking for volunteers to come help decorate on Saturday, December 7th. Also, our unit's annual holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, December 14th. More details to follow on both once it gets a little closer to December.
- Community Service Report :
 - Lindsey asked if we are still interested in helping out at the Hand Up Food Pantry each month. We said yes, as long as it's in Murphy Canyon, not Camp Pendleton. She will confirm the upcoming dates for us so we can mark our calendars. She will also put in a reservation for four people to the next one (and let us know the date).
 - Lindsey also asked the group if she should look for more activities/events for which we could volunteer. There was a unanimous "yes" on increasing our Community Service so she will do a little research and get back to us on options.
- Historian Report:
 - Nancie has made a brand new scrapbook which now includes photos from the fundraiser for Disabled American Vets (held on 8/13 at the post with the veteran from Florida), and also pictures from the surprise lunch celebrating my birthday.
- Poppy Report:
 - Our unit will only be purchasing 100 poppies this year, since we really don't do much with them except to make corsages for Mother's Day and the Naturalization ceremony. We still have some left over from last year's batch.
- New Business from American Legion Commander Desiree Herrera:
 - The IRS has been looking into non-qualifying applications for membership to the VFW and AL where the members have been accepted, although they are not really eligible. All of our affiliates (VFW, AL, Sons, ALA) need to be extra careful when considering new members. Be sure to check the DD214 of the veteran before accepting a new member.

- The American Legion is still looking into possibly expanding the Auxiliary to include all people who would like to assist the AL mission, not just wives/daughters/granddaughters of veterans.
- **Other Business:**
 - Larisa questioned if we had made any progress with setting up a website. Desiree mentioned there was an old site for AL Post 552 but it was very outdated. Vicky had a few new names of people to contact about website creation; Larisa agreed to make the initial calls.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to combine the VFW, AL, Sons, and ALA onto one website, once it's created.
 - ❖ **Second:** Nancy Person
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

I will get Larisa a list of all posts in District 22 so she can research others units websites. Desiree will address the subject of a joint website at the next AL meeting and Vicky will talk to the Sons and VFW commander about this joint venture.
 - Destry Whitney, Executive Director of Go Green 4 Education, made a short presentation. This organization was started 18 months ago to fund arts/music/enrichment programs in the three PB elementary schools: Kate Sessions, Crown Point, and Pacific Beach. Based on current revenue projections for this year alone, this recycling program will generate approximately \$36,000 to donate. Once you are signed up, you will receive a heavy-duty crate to collect your glass bottles, plastic bottles, and cans (no cardboard or paper, please). A GG4E team member will come to your house once a week to pick up your stash and leave you an empty crate. They have zoned PB so the pick-up truck makes the most amount of stops in the smallest distance; they will assign you a pickup day dependent upon your address. For more information or to sign up (if you live in the 92109 zip code), go to gogreen4education.org or email Destry at gogreen4education@gmail.com. On a personal note, my job as Intervention Specialist at PBE is one of the enrichment programs they can now offer thanks to the money they receive from GG4E. So GG4E partially pays my salary! Education is one of most important resources - please help to keep it funded.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm. **Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 9th at 6:00pm.**
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.