



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2013

- With the absence of President Vicky Seamon, meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by 1st Vice Heather Tidwell. Co-Chaplain Desiree Herrera led us in a prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed. Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **8 Members Present:** Heather Tidwell (1st Vice), Jody ODonnell (2nd Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Lindsey Bittman (Sgt-at-Arms), Desiree Herrera (Co-Chaplain), Sue Gibbons, Larisa Hall, and Janey Wooten.
 - **2 Guests Present:** District 1st Vice June Coatney and Unit 460 1st Vice Maureen Swanson.
- Heather confirmed that the September 11th 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 \$2,045.88; total receipts: \$1,531.00; disbursements: \$483.53; current bank balance is \$3,093.35. Of that, \$597.25 is for our poppy fund (we purchased 100 poppies for \$18.00), \$965.63 is profit from our 2012 holiday party which we are saving for the 2013 party, and \$1,530.47 is in our general fund.
 - I still have ALA Dept. President's Pins for sale at \$5.00 each. In addition, there are pin ribbons for sale at \$10.00 each.
 - The Bunco fundraiser was a big success. We had 27 participants, all of whom had a great time. We raised a total of \$740.00 (including entry fees, cookbook sales, and opportunity drawing tickets); food cost was \$40.26 (the rest was donated), so we netted \$699.74. Of that money, around \$200.00 was spent on school supplies that were shipped to the flood victims in Colorado.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to wait until the November meeting, when there are more members present, to decide how to distribute the remaining \$500.00 earned.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
 - We have already sold 81 cookbooks. We gave several as gifts and used one for the "Let's Get Cooking" basket at Bunco (which will actually be used at the holiday party for the mom's raffle). Therefore, we still have 141 to sell and only need to sell 25 more to pretty much break even. Please feel free to take a bunch; you don't need to pay me until you've sold them. Let me know if I can

drop some off to you. We presented one cookbook to June Coatney as a gesture of gratitude and appreciation for all she does for and with our unit.

- Vicky completed making the POW/MIA table shadowbox and it's wonderful. There are battery-operated lights inside with a switch on the bottom so the lights are not on all the time. Please stop by and view it on the wall outside the kitchen at the post. Turn the light on to be sure you see the amazing detail inside, and then please turn them off when you're done. National Day of Remembrance was September 20th.
- I talked with Smitty about this Saturday's Oktoberfest. The hall decorations are done; there was an Oktoberfest party last week and the party-givers agreed to leave up their decorations for a week. They will pick them up after the 12th. We will still use the few we bought. Margaret will be making her famous German cookies. Nancie McLees will be playing her accordion along with a small band. Smitty confirmed that the hall set-up, cooking, and cleaning are pretty much handled. What he needs most from our unit is helping to guarantee a large attendance. Please bring lots of friends and family members with you when you come to enjoy the festivities on the 12th, between 2:00 and 7:00. Price is \$12.00 per person.
- Special Report by June Coatney:
 - Just a reminder that November 9th is the date that Units 460 and 552 (along with the Juniors of Unit 310) collaborate on making Bingo Day at the VA Hospital extra special. June will be cooking five turkeys with all the trimmings. The patients really appreciate the attention they get and the amazing food that is served. This year the Spinal Cord unit at the hospital will also be included. Please come and volunteer your time; plan to be there around noonish. Besides setting up and serving the food in the multi-purpose room, patients need to be brought down and food needs to be brought up to patients. As of last month's meeting, 11 of our members indicated they would be participating. Watch future e-mails for carpool info.
 - June introduced us to the new 1st Vice of Unit 460, Maureen (Moe) Swanson.
- Membership Report:
 - As of today, we have one new member, two PUFLs (paid up for life members), one transfer, and 21 renewals. This brings our current membership up to 25 which exceeds the district's early-bird goal of 19. We ended last year with 38 members. Our unit goal set by district for this entire year is 40. We're more than half-way there!
- 1st Vice Report:
 - Heather will be participating in San Diego Center for Children's "Walk for Kids." This 5K walk takes place on November 2nd at Crown Point Shores. To register or for more information, check out www.sdwalkforkids.org. Registration opens at 7am and the walk starts at 8am. All the money raised goes directly to foster children living in group homes. The motto for the SD Center for Children is "Transforming Children's Lives Through Behavioral Healthcare Excellence."
 - As mentioned last month, the Chula Vista Veterans Home is asking for volunteers to come help decorate on Saturday, December 7th. Since June and Unit 460 have already committed to going, she has invited any of us who are interested in joining her group. Contact June if you would like carpooling info. wj.hernandez@att.net or 858-335-6909. Plan to get down there around 9am.
 - Our unit's annual holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, December 14th. We are looking for a new Santa since Jerry is unable to attend this year. The Santa costume is cleaned and ready to go. If Brenda is unable to be an elf, Lindsey offered to take her place. Once again, we need volunteers to buy and wrap the gifts. June offered to wrap gifts if we are short-handed. Members at the meeting agreed to keep the cost of gifts at \$30 per child, as we did last year. In the next week, I will send out e-mail invitations to those families who attended last year. Larisa offered to provide

a tap dancing troupe for entertainment. Her "Feverettes" have a holiday routine ready to go. I will check with Smitty to see how he feels about this since the Sons collaborate with us on this event.

- VA&R Report:

- Heather is still working with VVSD to provide furniture, small appliances, kitchen utensils, etc. to the veterans transitioning to VASH housing. Last month alone she helped supply three veterans with needed items. One, in particular, cried when he saw all the items he was getting. He had been sober for seven years, homeless for 11, and this was the first time in 15 years that he was getting his own place to live. We really are impacting lives positively! Unfortunately, it has gotten a little more difficult for Heather to coordinate receiving and distributing the items because she is now working full-time, and AmVets has become one of the organizations picking up items for VVSD. AmVets wants Heather to just leave the items in the alley, but of course she can't do that because of the homeless people who live in the alley behind her apt. If you have large items that need to be picked up and brought to Heather's garage, please contact our member Gina Meadows. She and her husband have generously offered to use their pick-up truck for this purpose. Gina's contact info. is ginamariemeadows@gmail.com or 619-804-6084.

- Community Service Report :

- Lindsey checked on-line for future dates of the Murphy Canyon food distribution through Jewish Family Services but could not find any. She did find dates for Camp Pendleton. There will be an emergency food distribution there this coming Tuesday, 10/15 due to the government shut-down. Contact Lindsey if you can make it and she'll give you the details. Otherwise, the next Camp Pendleton regular distribution will be Sunday, Oct. 27th. They usually take place the 3rd or 4th Sunday of every month. Heather will contact a friend to find out about Murphy Canyon.
- The Dept. Community Service Chair contacted Lindsey about the Walk/Run/Roll Project. Dept. is trying to encourage local units to organize and host a fundraising event to bring awareness to the community of veterans' needs and local Auxiliary units. Members agreed to table further discussion until after the holiday party.

- Poppy Report:

- Our unit purchased 100 poppies.

- New Business from American Legion Commander Desiree Herrera:

- Desiree has secured another corporate grant for our holiday party.

- Other New Business:

- We were informed by the Canteen Manager at the post that we can no longer hold our meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month due to the Surf Club's standing meeting that night (they've held that date for 15 years). If we wish to continue holding our meetings at the post, the only date that will not conflict with other groups' meetings is the 3rd Wednesday of the month, which is when we used to meet.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to move the meeting back to the third Wednesday of the month, beginning with November 20, 2013.
 - ❖ **Second:** Lindsey Bittman.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- As a current member of the Mission Beach Women's Club, I am Co-Chair of the S.O.S. (Save Our Soldiers) Committee. Each year in November, we send boxes of supplies to soldiers in the Middle East. This year the MBWC wants to focus on female soldiers. The husband of Unit 460's 1st Vice Moe Swanson (who is at the meeting tonight) is currently stationed in the Middle East. Last year he was the contact person for receiving and distributing all the toiletries Unit 552 purchased. He has agreed to be the contact person this year for the MBWC. The primary request by the combat females in the Middle East is toiletries, (female-oriented) magazines, and books. The magazines do

not need to be new, but they do need to have the name/address cut out of the cover for security purposes. Therefore, I am putting out a request for toiletries, magazines, and book donations. Please contact me if you have any of the above to contribute. We will be filling the boxes at the November 11th MBWC meeting and they will be shipped the next day.

❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to donate \$100 for buying toiletries.

❖ **Second:** Desiree Herrera.

❖ **Unanimous vote.**

Moe Swanson has graciously offered to come with me to buy the toiletries.

- Larisa Hall gave us an update on creating a website for our unit. After several calls and many contacts made, she found a company that she feels will give us the best value for the money, Brass Ring Multimedia. For a basic site with excellent security, the cost would be \$500.00. She would be willing to maintain and update the site, once it was set up. Desiree and June both confirmed that there are no Auxiliary units that have their own site; it is always an American Legion site with links to the Sons and the Auxiliary. Desiree will propose going forward with this with A.L. Post 552, and Heather will ask Smitzy to talk to Sons Squadron 552. If the three groups agree, we would each only need to pay 1/3 of the cost, which would be much more affordable.
- Desiree Herrera offered a closing prayer.
- Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm. **Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 20th at 6:00pm. Please note that this is the THIRD Wednesday of the month.**
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.