



## Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

### Meeting Minutes January 15, 2014

- President Vicky Seamon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Co-Chaplain Nancie McLees led us in a lovely prayer for the new year. The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed. Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
  - **10 Members Present:** Vicky Seamon (President), Heather Tidwell (1<sup>st</sup> Vice), Jody ODonnell (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Nancie McLees (Co-Chaplain), Jane DuVall, Sue Gibbons, Sandy Kurosky, Karen Stewart, and Janey Wooten.
  - **1 Guest Present:** Bill Bartle, VFW Trustee
- Vicky confirmed that the November 20<sup>th</sup> Minutes were sent out electronically and asked if everyone had a chance to read them.
  - ❖ **Motion:** made by Sue Gibbons to accept them as is.
  - ❖ **Second:** Jody ODonnell.
  - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Guest Speaker, Bill Bartle:
  - Wanted to thank our unit for helping distribute gifts to the VA Hospital patients on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - VFW Commander Van Alstyne has started planning early for the Buddy Poppy Street Program. It will take place the last weekend in May (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) and the VFW is asking for our help in distributing poppies. If we are looking for a good spot, make sure there's a lot of foot traffic. If we have an idea for a new location, check with John Reece who will check it out and get permission, as needed. Finally, please work in pairs or more - do not work alone.
  - There is a Super Bowl Buddy Poppy Board up at the bar.
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report:
  - Bank balance at November's meeting was \$5,097.88; total receipts: \$2,440.00; disbursements: \$4,365.95; current bank balance is \$3,171.93. Of that, \$597.25 is for our poppy fund and \$2,574.68 is in our general fund.
  - We have sold 127 cookbooks so far, for \$1,270. This gives us a current profit of \$208.80.
  - Our Christmas party was fabulous. Thanks so much to all of the members who volunteered their time and/or donated money. If there are any other expenses that need reimbursement, please let me know ASAP so I can pay you.
  - As I mentioned at the November meeting, I have had a few emails with the head of the IT Dept. at Mission Bay H.S. re: getting a website created for us by one of their

seniors. He is very happy to oversee this as one of their senior projects, but I need to do certain things before they can begin. I apologize but I have not yet registered with Grassroots.org which is the first thing on my list. It is on the top of my priority list for this month.

- President/Membership Report:

- Happy New Year! We have had a very productive first six months of this fiscal year and I want to thank the members who continue to do such great work.
- As of today, we have three new members, two PUFLs (paid up for life members), one transfer, and 28 renewals. This brings our current membership up to 34. We ended last year with 38 members, and the district set our goal this year at 40. If the eight or so members who have not yet paid their dues for this year do submit their money, we will be over goal for the year!
- Our unit received two membership awards at the December district meeting. One award was for meeting the Early Bird Goal, and the other was for reaching 70% of goal. Well done!

- Chaplin/Historian Report:

- Unit scrapbook is up-to-date.
- Greeting cards are being mailed regularly to members.

- Poppy Report:

- The veterans making poppies at the Chula Vista Veterans Home and the Wave Clinic have made 28,500 so far. They need to make 32,000 more to fulfill all the orders. They should be finished by April.

- Girls State (reported by Vicky in Margaret's Smith absence):

- We will be sponsoring girls from four schools this year. Applications are being accepted now. Vicky will be going out to the schools to perform the interviews. She could use some help so if anyone would like to volunteer, please contact her. Tricia and Margaret Smith have created a wonderful cheat-sheet of questions to ask the candidates, so any of our members can do it. The interviewers are the ones who make the selections of who our unit will send to Girls State. Choices need to be made by the end of February. The interview process will probably be completed in one or two days, and will most likely be scheduled in the afternoon.

- Community Service (Lindsey sent in her report since she could not attend meeting; Vicky read it):

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day is this coming Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. The ALA has set aside this day as a National Day of Service. Ocean Discovery is a non-profit organization established six years ago to help students learn about Science. It's located on Pacific Beach Drive near Campland by the Bay. Ocean Discovery is looking for volunteers to put together classroom kits on 1/20 between 1:00 and 4:00. Lindsey needs to have our names by tomorrow, Thursday. Vicky, Sue, Jody, and Nancy volunteered at tonight's meeting. If you'd like to be involved but were not at the meeting, contact Lindsey ASAP at 775-722-0091.
- The Jewish Family Services Food Pantry is not currently in need of any volunteers to pass out food at their Camp Pendleton or Murphy Canyon locations. Lindsey has sent an e-mail inquiring about future needs.

- National ALA is encouraging units to hold a Walk or Run to raise awareness of veterans' support needs. Members at the meeting did not have any interest in pursuing such an event at this time.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice/VA&R Report:
  - So far this fiscal year, 12-14 veterans have been assisted by our unit with furnishings and household items for their VASH apartments. The latest veteran we helped is Winston. He is a Viet Nam vet who was homeless for 20 years and lived at VVSD for two years. He was ecstatic with all the things we provided, and he told Heather that our unit is famous; the vets at VVSD refer to us as "Heather and her angels." Apparently, as soon as a new veteran finds out he will be transitioning out of VVSD with VASH, he visits Heather's VVSD contact so we are alerted to their need. Ronald will be the next veteran we assist, so let Heather know if you have anything to donate.
  - The VVSD veterans' needs will be increasing because there are less VASH vouchers being distributed due to budget limitations.
- New Business:
  - Gina and JT Meadows (and their San Diego Pizza Company) will be hosting another pizza fundraiser at the post. On February 1<sup>st</sup> from noon until 4:00, come on down and enjoy all you can eat pizza, live music, raffles and more for only \$10/per person. Proceeds will benefit the Phoenix Patriot Foundation, a national non-profit organization with local chapters. PPF helps severely wounded warriors in their recovery. Of every dollar received, 90 ¢ goes directly to these injured veterans.
    - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to donate \$100 to JT and Gina for the Phoenix Patriot Foundation.
    - ❖ **Second:** Heather Tidwell.
    - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
  - Last year's Bunco fundraiser was very successful and there have been many inquiries as to when our unit will be holding another. Nancy already checked dates with Jerry and Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> was available.
    - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to go ahead and schedule the Bunco party.
    - ❖ **Second:** Jody ODonnell.
    - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

We should have at least eight card tables (we used seven at our September event) so please let us know if you have one to lend. *Sandy Kurosky and Karen Stewart will lend one table each; we will also use Jane Duvall's two smaller rectangular tables already at the post (so that's four). In addition, Nancy will contact the people we borrowed from before. She can get dice again and she already has the score sheets and instruction pages. We will need items to make Opportunity Drawing baskets again. Nancy volunteered to gather items needed for another Tool Set Basket and for a Movie Night Basket. Suggestions for a Cooking Basket and a Candles/Lotions basket were made. Unit approved using funds from our bank account, if needed. We also still have several Target gift cards and "mom's" gifts left over from the holiday party, which can be used for prizes and/or baskets. Karen offered to do her*

magic with beautifying the baskets again. Nancy will make flyers and e-mail a copy to all members. She will also notify the Mission Beach Women's Club, the Soroptomists International of Mission Bay, and the Van Nuys Vamps (a local neighborhood group). Please spread the word to your friends and family. We agreed to hold it earlier this time since there is a potential evening party at the post. Members also decided they preferred to hold it earlier. Unless there is a change, it will take place from 11:00 until 2:00. Like last year, we will provide light refreshments (food contributions by members are happily accepted). Fortunately, we will have one more ALA meeting before 2/22, so last minute details can be worked out.

- Do we want to hold another Rummage Sale this year? The last two years it was held the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in March. Again, it is a very profitable fundraiser.

- ❖ **Motion:** made by Jane DuVall to hold a Rummage Sale.

- ❖ **Second:** Jody O'Donnell.

- ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Like in previous years, several hours of organization and planning will be done on Friday night at the post.

- Other Business:

- One of Heather's clients, a single mom, needs a high chair for a one-year-old. Please let Heather know if you have one or know of one available.
  - Steve Smitz, SALS commander, is asking for people to make a pot of chili for the post's Super Bowl Chili Cookoff on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contact Smitz for details.
  - Please be aware that there is a rash of internet scamming going on relating to the military. Bogus e-mails are being sent to people asking for money, apparently from officers or military offices. They look like they're on official forms and stationery. The military does not solicit funds via e-mail and never requests money in exchange for sending a soldier home to the US.
  - Vicky is asking you to please contact her if you have any information on any non-profits where veterans or children are the beneficiary. She is always on the lookout for new organizations for our unit to assist.
- Meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.
  - Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.