



## Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

### Meeting Minutes February 19, 2014

- President Vicky Seamon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Co-Chaplain Nancie McLees led us in a prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed. Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
  - **8 Members Present:** Vicky Seamon (President), Jody O'Donnell (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Lindsey Bittman (Sgt-at-Arms), Nancie McLees (Co-Chaplain), Sue Gibbons, Sandy Kurosky, and Karen Stewart.
- Vicky confirmed that the January 15<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 O'Donnell.
  - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report (Nancy Person):
  - Bank balance at January's meeting was \$3,171.93; total receipts: \$660.00; disbursements: \$737.58; current bank balance is \$3,094.35. Of that, \$597.25 is for our poppy fund and \$2,497.10 is in our general fund.
  - Have not sold any more cookbooks since our last meeting; still at 127.
  - I joined Grassroots.org (and started to do the research on what was needed to get free web hosting) when Grassroots.org e-mailed me that we were not eligible to join because we were a 501(c)19 and not a 501(c)3. Mary Thorsten of the Oceanside unit (and the District 22 PR Chair) is retired and has time, and she has offered to do some research for me on what's available to military related non-profits. Thank you, Mary!!
  - We continue to receive thank-you notes from the La Jolla VA Hospital for all of the items we donate.
- President/Membership Report (Vicky Seamon):
  - Elections are coming up soon. Not everyone has the time or desire to be an officer, but rotating positions can bring new ideas and energy to this unit. Now that a lot of us have had four years of experience under our belt, the seasoned members can be a tremendous support to anyone who would like to step into an Officer or Chairman position. Please give it some thought...
  - At the last District meeting, past ALA Department President Linda Fercho, who was visiting, spoke about membership. She said members can be broken down into three types: A, B & C. The A members (administrators) are the elected officers and chairmen. These are the members who work hard to organize events, turn the

reports and paperwork in on time, and relay District and Department information back to unit. The B members (busy bees; or I would prefer to call them the backbone of a unit), always volunteer. They may not want to be an officer but can be counted on to do just about anything. Then there are the C members (card carrying members) who are the members we may never see. They always pay their dues and therefore support the unit and its mission. Whatever type of member you may be, and some may even be several, all members are a value to the unit!

- Our unit received three awards at the recent District meeting. One went to Heather for her VA&R mid-year report of all activities related to the VA and Veterans. The second and third were both for membership; our unit reached the District 22 goal of 85% and the Dept. of CA 55% goal.
- There will be an all-day Leadership Workshop at Post 460 in Kearny Mesa on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will focus on how to write reports, how to run elections properly, and more. There is no cost and food is provided by the post. If anyone is interested in attending with Vicky, let her know so you can carpool.
- As of today, we have four new members, two PUFLs (paid up for life members), two transfers, and 32 renewals. This brings our current membership up to 40, which means we've reached 100% of the district goal. Woo hoo!
- Our unit no longer has any Junior members since Heather Jones turned 18. If any of our members has a granddaughter, think about purchasing a gift membership (only \$2) for her. These can be purchased at birth, and are good until the girl turns 18. You can start their path of volunteerism and giving service early.
- Our newest member, Tracy Yates, was referred by Jerry. She needs to be voted in tonight.
  - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to accept Tracy as a new member.
  - ❖ **Second:** Lindsey Bittman.
  - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice/VA&R Report (given by Vicky in Heather Tidwell's absence):
  - There is one veteran who has completed the VVSD rehab program and received VASH housing. He is desperate for a bed. Margaret Smith has a sleeper sofa she'd like to donate but it's too heavy for her husband, Bill, to manage. Volunteers are needed to assist lifting it onto Bill's truck and then unloading it into Heather's garage in the alley behind the post. Call Vicky if you have a friend or family member who can help this Saturday morning. She will check with Heather and Margaret to get the details on time, need, etc.
  - The new Aspire center opened in Old Town on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. It is a 40-bed residential treatment facility aimed at promoting veteran's recovery, particularly those returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Center will provide temporary housing for veterans who do not need inpatient care, but would benefit from rehabilitation services for an average of 60-120 days.
- Chaplin/Historian Report (Nancie McLees):
  - The unit scrapbook is current.
  - A Paratrooper Poppy Field Memorial t-shirt is available for \$26.00. Is anyone interested in ordering one?

- Girls State (reported by Vicky in Margaret Smith's absence):
  - Currently, there are two appointments scheduled for interviews with potential Girls State candidates. One is at Madison HS and the other, Clairemont HS; tentatively set for 2/26. Margaret is still working on getting appts. set for University HS and Mission Bay HS. Nancy and Vicky are on the interview committee with Margaret.
- Poppy (Karen Stewart):
  - There is a group of poppy workers who are spending their own money on supplies, such as glue sticks. Lois Cornish received authorization at the recent District 22 meeting to take \$75.00 out of the Poppy Production Fund so the people can be reimbursed.
- Community Service (Lindsey Bittman):
  - The Ocean Discovery Institute has ongoing volunteer opportunities. Right now they are seeking Assistant Instructors in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes, one to two mornings a week. If interested, contact Joel Barkan at [JBarkan@OceanDI.org](mailto:JBarkan@OceanDI.org). ODI is also hosting two "Watershed Avengers" Events (Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 9a-1p) at Hamilton Elementary School, 2807 Fairmount Avenue, SD 92105. These are outdoor physical clean-up activities that engage young people, their families, and neighbors to actively transform local canyons into safe and healthy environments.
  - USO San Diego, in partnership with the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, is proud to announce the grand opening of the new USO Neil Ash Airport Center. Spanning nearly 10,000 square feet, this facility is the largest USO airport center in the world. Open every day of the year from 6 a.m. to Midnight, and is host to more than 120,000 visits by military members and their families each year. Volunteers will assist with day to day activities including but not limited to answering phones, checking emails, filing, greeting service members and many more. If this is something you are interested in hearing more about, contact Lindsey directly at [lindseybittman@gmail.com](mailto:lindseybittman@gmail.com).
  - In more than 5,200 communities and 20 countries, Relay for Life events comprise the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Each Relay for Life event is special to its community, but the movement's true power lies in the combined commitment of thousands of participants, volunteers, and supporters to help the American Cancer Society save lives from cancer. There will be a Relay for Life in both PB (May 17<sup>th</sup>) and La Jolla (June 7<sup>th</sup>). One of Vicky's neighbors is very involved with the La Jolla event, so if we decide to do anything, let's participate in that one. It is a 24 hour relay. The first hour is the "survivor's walk". After sunset there is a lighting of the lights, and a big screen displaying personal survival stories. We can volunteer at the Relay, or create a team. Vicky will talk to Desiree and Smitzy to find out if the American Legion or Sons of the American Legion might be interested in teaming up with us. There will be a kick-off for La Jolla on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Vicky will try to get more info.
  - Lindsey spoke with the Hand Up Food Pantry Coordinator via email, and it looks like they have all the volunteers they will need for the next several months. At the same time, we are still registered as potential volunteers and will be contacted if they are in need of support.

- New Business:
  - Bunco fundraiser is happening this Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11a-2p. We have 11 tables, and almost 30 RSVPs. Seven opportunity drawing baskets are ready to go and there will be three prizes given out. Cookbooks will be for sale and light snacks will be available. Come to the post around 10-10:30 if you can help set up. Even if you have not RSVP'd, come and play - it's fun!
  - Our unit will be making corned beef & cabbage for a pre-St. Patrick's celebration on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm. Dinner costs \$7.00 per person. Volunteers are needed for setup, serving, and clean-up.
  - Rummage Sale has been scheduled for Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Start asking friends and family members for donations. We'll take anything from clothing, sporting goods, knick-knacks, tools, games, etc. We will need volunteers to come in on Friday night at around 5:00 to start sorting and organizing items.
  - April 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the next Immigration/Naturalization ceremony at Golden Hall downtown. District 22 is asking each unit to make 50 poppy corsages and/or patriotic ribbons (both with pins) to distribute at the ceremony. Our two creative geniuses, Karen and Nancie, will think about possible designs.
  - Starting this year, the ALA Foundation Veteran Projects Fund is an active fund where donations will be received and then granted to benefit Auxiliary programs at the national, department, and unit levels. Grants awarded from the ALAF Veteran Projects Fund will be in small amounts that specifically support special, short-term mission-outreach projects directly benefitting veterans, military, and their families. The 2014 ALA Parade of Checks will take place on Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the ALA Washington DC national conference. Our national president, Nancy Brown-Park (who is from CA) has chosen this as her president's project with a goal of raising \$30,000.
    - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to donate \$50.
    - ❖ **Second:** Lindsey Bittman.
    - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
  - Do we want to do something financially to help out the post? Many posts charge the ALA rent, or even take a portion of their profits. We are fortunate that we are allowed to hold our meetings and events here at no charge. The post recently had a new air conditioning/heating system installed. They have other building expenses, as well.
    - ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to donate \$100 to the Building Committee.
    - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons.
    - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

Nancie will bring a thank-you card to Bunco for us all to sign. A check will be inserted into the card before it's delivered to Jerry, Sam, or John.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.