



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2014

- President Vicky Seamon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed. Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person. Beginning meeting prayer was waived because Chaplain was delayed.
 - **9 Members Present:** Vicky Seamon (President), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Nancie McLees (Chaplain), Sue Gibbons (Sgt-at-Arms), Ketra Slayton (Executive Committeewoman), Larisa Hall, Sandy Kurosky, Mary Sumner, and Janey Wooten.
 - **3 Guests Present:** Our top three District 22 Officers were in attendance this evening: President June Coatney, 1st Vice April Kochur, and 2nd Vice Donna Smith.
- Vicky confirmed that the June 18th Minutes were sent out electronically and asked if everyone had a chance to read them.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Sandy Kurosky to accept them as is.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report (Nancy Person):
 - Bank balance at June's meeting was \$3,660.12; total receipts: \$55.00; disbursements: \$129.46; current bank balance is \$3,585.66. Of that, \$687.06 is for our poppy fund and \$2,898.60 is in our general fund.
 - I have completed a detailed Profit & Loss Statement for the 2013-2014 year. It shows every dollar we received and spent. Although the timing on some of the transactions throws off the final balance (for example, we received a large corporate donation for Stand Down in July but we had already given the money to VVSD out of our own account in June), this report shows a profit of \$1,897.04 for the year.
 - A draft of the 2014-2015 budget has been prepared. It will be e-mailed along with the minutes from this meeting for members' comments. If any member finds areas they feel need amending, they can e-mail their suggestions to all unit members so electronic discussions can take place. I will have a revised draft at the next meeting based on member input; then we can vote on it.
 - Cookbook sales stand at 158 sold, leaving us a profit of \$518.80. There are still nine books unaccounted for. If anyone has books at home or knows of a member who may have books available for sale, please let me know. I only show Vicky holding 55 books.
 - A unit audit of our books will be held on Sunday, August 10th at the post. Ketra, Marci, and Brenda were appointed by President Vicky Seamon as our audit committee.
- Introduction of guests by President Vicky Seamon:
 - I'd like to introduce our distinguished guests - June Coatney is this year's District 22 President; April Kochur is our District 1st Vice; and Donna Smith is District 22's 2nd Vice. At this time I will turn the meeting over to them.

- District 22 President June Coatney:
 - First, I want to congratulate your unit on exceeding your 100% membership goal last year. I brought a cake and champagne for us to celebrate!
 - This year's Department theme is CRAFTS: Creating Relationships Assisting Families Through Service. The Dept. President's special project is TFA, the temporary financial assistance fund for veterans. If there is a veteran your unit would personally like to help, feel free to complete an application; and also to send an e-mail to our District Secretary, Lois Cornish, and she will distribute it to all District 22 units. You never know how much money could quickly be raised this way.
 - The next District meeting will be held on Sunday, August 3rd at Post 149 in Escondido. Immediately following this meeting we will hold a beginning-of-the-year Organizational Workshop. If you plan to attend both, please bring a bag lunch so you can participate in the grab-bag lunch; you will not eat your own lunch. It will be a long day, probably ending mid-afternoon.
 - I will be attending a Dept. Training Workshop on August 16-17 in Clovis, CA.
- District 1st Vice April Kochur:
 - I will be holding a Membership pow-wow at my home in Poway this coming Tuesday, August 22nd. There will be two separate meetings; one at 2:00 and another at 6:00 so more people can attend. All District 22 members are invited; you do not need to be a Membership Chair. We will be brainstorming ideas on how to raise money, increase membership, etc. Please RSVP as soon as possible to 858-433-7435 or kochur.april@yahoo.com.
 - One item our unit has included in our Standing Rules is a \$5.00 charge to replace membership cards.
- District 2nd Vice Donna Smith:
 - I am really excited about the upcoming year. I think we can do great things together.
- Old/Ongoing Business (Larisa Hall):
 - I attended the Dept. Convention held in Santa Clara. Here are a few of my thoughts. Most of Friday was spent listening to reports given by the District Chairs of all committees. Saturday was fun because all CA Districts walked in a parade. The main thing I took away from Convention is the need to get more younger people involved in the ALA. *A short discussion took place at this meeting on how to find Juniors to join our unit. We also talked about letting female veterans (especially those involved with Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom) know they are eligible to join the ALA (in addition to the AL or VFW).* How can we possibly get our name into the local schools?
 - 500 generic business cards were made for Unit 552 so our members can hand them out at garage sales, meetings, etc. They will be left with President Vicky so please contact her if you'd like a stack. There is a place on the back to write in your personal contact info.

We took a short break so our guests could enjoy some refreshments before they left, and then we proceeded with the remainder of the meeting.

- President's Report (Vicky Seamon):
 - At last month's meeting, I announced that Darren Walters received a \$500 school grant at the District meeting. His application was sent on to Department and Darren received an additional \$1,000 educational grant from the state of CA. I understand his application has

also been forwarded to National, so let's hope he is surprised with more financial assistance to help fund his enrollment at San Diego State for their new program in counseling veterans.

- Stand Down is this week: July 18, 19 and 20. The Legion, Sons and Auxiliary will be helping distribute the meals on Friday, July 18. I will be going that day to help out. Desiree will also be there. Lindsey will be a tent leader again this year, and will spend three days (24 hrs/each) on campus. Ketra will be there on Saturday, and will try to make it Friday night after work. Please take photos to share if you go!
- The Executive Board members have each reviewed our Bylaws and found a few things that need to be corrected or amended. It appears that when the Bylaws were first created in 2010, we simply followed a Dept. template. I will set up a meeting so we can agree on changes that will then be brought to meeting for a vote. No changes will take place until they have been brought up at two consecutive meetings.
- Several officers will not be available for an August meeting, so I would like to have a motion to not have a meeting in August.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to cancel the August 20th meeting.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sandy Kurosky.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Membership Report (Vicky Seamon):
 - I have the new membership cards for the 2014-2015 year. Several members have already paid their \$26 dues tonight, and I gave them their new card.
 - The Dept. shows our membership at 44 as of July 1, 2014. Thank you all for keeping your membership active and continuing to support our unit.
- Community Service (reported by Vicky Seamon in Lindsey Bittman's absence):
 - Our unit is signed up to help at the August 10th Hand Up Food Pantry in Murphy Canyon, put on by Jewish Family Services. Lindsey still has not received any commitments for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, contact her directly: 775-722-0091 or lindseybittman@gmail.com.
- Historian (Nancie McLees):
 - I really need ongoing photos to keep in our unit scrapbook. If you attend an ALA event, please take pictures and e-mail them to me. I have no way of keeping photo records otherwise.
- Old/Ongoing Business (Vicky Seamon):
 - Our next Bunco fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 20th from 11am-2pm. Please begin gathering items you can donate for raffle baskets or prizes.
 - Nancy Person has \$250 worth of electronic gift cards that her husband received for test driving a car. I will work with her to select some items to be used at either Bunco or the holiday party.
 - VA bingo will be in November (date not set but it's usually the second Saturday).
 - Holiday Party is set for December 13th.
- New Business (Nancy Person):
 - Sue Gibbons and I worked with the Soroptomists International of Mission Bay on July 5th making felt hats for children in Mexico; a total of 61 were made that day. This wonderful group of women is trying to have 1,500 hats ready to deliver when they do their massive "Train to Tecate" donations in January. The next gathering will be at a SIMB member's house in PB on Sunday, August 17th beginning at 10:30am. You do not need to know how to sew, knit, or crochet; these hats are made by simply making knots. Come for camaraderie

and put time into our Children & Youth and Community Service programs! Contact me if you'd like the address, or want to reserve a spot in my carpool.

- Several unit members attended the District 22 installation this past Saturday. There was a discussion about providing backpacks again for military children. I checked on-line at the place we bought them two years ago. They are having a sale and we can buy a case of 24 for \$90, or \$3.75/each. We can also buy a complete set of school supplies to fill each backpack for \$4.50 per backpack, or \$108 for a case of 24. That means, for \$8.25, we can have a completely stuffed backpack, ready to go.

- ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to purchase two cases of backpacks and school supplies. I will also contact the Soroptomists to see if they'd like to partner with us on this activity, as they did two years ago. If they do, our total cost will be \$198.00. If not, we will still pay less than \$400.00 to provide 48 backpacks with school supplies.

- ❖ **Second:** Ketra Slayton.

- ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

Since we will either have 24 or 48 backpacks to distribute (depending upon whether the SIMB partner with us), it was decided that Ketra will use her contacts at Veterans Community Services to choose the children most in need.

- New Business (Ketra Slayton):

- In early June, the 25 Cities Initiative, a 100-day campaign funded by the VA, was launched in San Diego, and Ketra is the Housing Navigator. The goal is to place 150 homeless veterans in stable housing by September 17th. On July 1st, two temporary downtown shelters were closed and 410 veterans were once again out on the streets. PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) has set up Connections Housing, a service and residential community designed to reduce street homelessness in the downtown neighborhoods by helping people who are living on the street move into permanent housing. Connections Housing provides 223 housing units, a health center and numerous social services all conveniently located in one building. Connections Housing is one part of downtown's larger strategy to end homelessness. PATH is asking for financial donations to make move-in kits for these 150 veterans. Kits will include kitchen utensils, dishes, sheets, towels, pillows, etc. PATH also needs volunteers to help put these kits together. Ketra confirmed that she has surveyed 1,040 homeless veterans in downtown San Diego, looking for the 150 most likely to be successful.

- Chaplain Nancie McLees led us in a closing prayer about freedom.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:30
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.