



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes September 17, 2014

- President Vicky Seamon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Chaplain delivered an opening prayer.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed. Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **9 Members Present:** Vicky Seamon (President), Lindsey Bittman (1st Vice), Nancy Person (Treasurer/Secretary), Nancie McLees (Chaplain), Jody ODonnell (co-Chaplain), Sue Gibbons (Sgt-at-Arms), Larisa Hall, Sandy Kurosky, and Karen Stewart.
 - **1 Guest Present:** Dana Avgil, Unit 552 Girls State delegate from University City High School.
- Vicky confirmed that the July 16th 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.**
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report (Nancy Person):
 - Bank balance at July's meeting was \$3,585.66; total receipts: \$3,476.00; disbursements: \$1,375.69; current bank balance is \$5,685.97. Of that, \$501.86 is for our poppy fund and \$5,184.11 is in our general fund.
 - One of the reasons we had such high income, is we received a belated \$2,500 check from EMD Millipore (the company for whom Desiree works) to be used for Stand Down. Vicky and I will be delivering it to VVSD in the next few weeks.
 - Our unit books were audited and were signed off with no questions or problems. Thank you to the audit committee: Ketra, Marci, and Sandy.
 - I filed our Federal and State income tax reports and copied the District Treasurer, as required.
 - I have not heard any comments or questions about my budget draft. If I don't hear anything at tonight's meeting, it will be adopted as our 2014-15 budget. *Budget is adopted and attached for your reference.*
 - Current cookbook sales are 165; we have 52 available. At Nancie's suggestion, I entered the Morris Press Cookbook Contest and had to send one sample book. If we advance to the next round, I will need to send in four more cookbooks for judging. The first place winner will get \$2,500; second place - \$1,000; and third place - \$500. Thanks to

Nancie's incredible efforts, I think our cookbook is quite special and I believe we have a chance to win!

- In August I sent out 48 donation request letters to the local businesses on Turquoise and Cass Streets. I included a self-addressed, stamped envelope coming back to the post. Our District Treasurer told me that several units have been successful at this kind of PR so I thought I'd give it a try since we are not holding as many meals as we used to. To date, we have received one gift card from Pilates Plus for five group classes (valued at \$75) which we will use as part of one of our raffle baskets at Bunco this Saturday. I'm hoping we receive at least a few more donations of cash, gift cards, or merchandise.
- Introduction of our guest, Dana Avgil (see photo at end of Minutes):
 - Dana came to the US from Israel about eight years ago with her family. They are trying to become citizens but there continues to be paperwork hold-ups.
 - She has interned at a law firm (family law and immigration law) for several summers. She now realizes that corporate law holds her interest.
 - It was an honor for Dana to be selected to represent PB Unit 552 and she felt Girls State was an experience of a lifetime. She enjoyed every aspect of it and she was very appreciative of this opportunity.
 - She feels like she made friends for life who share her interests of government, law, and democracy.
 - *She was intelligent, bubbly, warm, and enthusiastic, and I think a superb selection by Vicky and Karen to represent our unit.*
- President's Report (Vicky Seamon):
 - The Executive Board members met on July 31st to create Standing Rules and review our Unit Bylaws. I will read the tentative Standing Rules and then open the floor for discussion. A copy will also be sent out electronically along with the minutes from tonight's meeting. Please e-mail or call me with changes you feel are necessary. I will now read the Bylaws changes. Again, a copy of the proposed new Bylaws will be distributed electronically, so all members have a chance to review them. They will be read at two meetings before adoption. Please be sure to contact me if you're not happy with something. *A few changes to the Standing Rules were made at the meeting, so the attached copy represents those adjustments. Please be sure to contact Vicky if you have any questions or concerns with the Standing Rules or Bylaws revisions.*
- Membership Report (Vicky Seamon):
 - I have the new membership cards for the 2014-2015 year. The district's first membership goal is a 55% renewal by the middle of October. We currently have 18 renewals and need 23 to reach this goal.
 - We have three new members to vote in: Kathy Blades, Danielle Grant, and Amy Stowers.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to accept these three new members.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sandy Kurosky.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
 - I have some very bad news to share about one of our members. Delora Riccio is critically ill at Sharp Memorial Hospital in La Jolla. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

- Community Service/VA&R (Lindsey Bittman):
 - Our unit passed out 72 backpacks with school supplies, along with food at the August 10th Hand Up Food Pantry in Murphy Canyon, put on by Jewish Family Services. The families were ecstatic to receive the backpacks.
 - The remaining 24 backpacks (we bought 96) were given to Ketra to distribute to families being assisted by Veterans Community Services.
 - The 2014 local phase of the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition ended on March 28. Approximately 120 veterans (winners from across the country) will exhibit their artwork or perform musical, dance, dramatic or original writing selections in a variety show in Milwaukee, WI in November. This competition is open to Veterans who are enrolled at a VA Medical Center or Outpatient Clinic BEFORE entering the local competition. We might want to consider donating money to the La Jolla VA Hospital for the 2015 competition. VA medical facilities incorporate creative arts into their recreation therapy programs to further the rehabilitation for both inpatients and outpatients. This annual competition recognizes the progress and recovery made through that therapy, and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's veterans after disease, disability or life crisis.
 - Although 2014 Stand Down San Diego is a thing of the past, there are other fairly local Stand Down events coming up in case our unit would like to donate money or get involved somehow. The Orange County Stand Down will take place from 9/25-9/28 in Tustin, so it's a little late for our involvement. However, the Los Angeles Stand Down will be 12/20-12/22 at the LA Convention Center. Surprisingly, there are actually more homeless veterans in LA than in San Diego.
 - The VA sent out a wish list of programs they need help funding. Three items caught my eye that I wanted to share:
 - ❖ The "From Warrior to Soul Mate" retreats are relationship-building retreats for veterans and their significant other. These retreats are designed to help couples learn effective communication skills and gain emotional wisdom to help them strengthen and/or re-build their relationships.
 - ❖ The Aspire Center is a 40-bed residential treatment facility aimed at promoting recovery in service members, particularly those returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Center provides temporary housing for veterans who do not need inpatient care, but would benefit from rehabilitation services for an average of 60-120 days. *I work here and I know how beneficial it is.*
 - ❖ Bus passes are desperately needed to help veterans get to their medical appointments.
 - Would you like me to talk to Desiree about getting involved in a beautification program alongside the PB Town Council? Let me know your thoughts, please.
- Historian/Chaplain (Nancie McLees):
 - This year's ALA theme is CRAFTS: Creating Relationships Assisting Families Through Service. District 22 is planning on making a large quilt and each unit is asked to make one 12"x12" square. I purchased a quilt piece and some different "beachy" fabrics so we could start planning our quilt square. I will send out an e-mail with a few possible dates so those who would like to be part of the creative process can get together.

- I saw an ad for a fundraiser selling kitchen knives and other kitchen products. I will request a free information brochure to see if it's something our unit might want to try.
- Old/Ongoing Business (Vicky Seamon):
 - This Saturday, Sept. 20th from 11am-2pm is our Bunco fundraiser. Several of us met at Karen Stewart's house and put together nine raffle baskets. We also have four nice prizes; for most wins, most losses, most Buncos, and last Bunco. Thanks to Karen, Nancy, Lynn, Connie, Larisa, and myself for donating items for the raffles and prizes. We'll have some nice refreshments available too. Please come and play!
 - VA bingo will be on November 8th. We have been asked to arrive between 12:00 and 12:30 to help set up between 1:00 and 2:00. Bingo will be played from 2:00 to 3:00, and the full Thanksgiving meal will be served from 3:00 to 4:00. Current volunteers are Larisa, Karen, Nancy, and me. Can anyone else help?
 - Holiday Party is set for December 13th. Nancy will send out a save-the-date e-mail to the families who attended last year.
- New Business (Larisa Hall):
 - Tap Fever Studios will be holding a fundraiser at the Mission Beach Women's Club on Wednesday night, Oct. 29th from 8-10pm. It will be a Halloween-themed show. We need volunteers to help with decorating, pouring wine, tearing tickets, etc. Please contact me if you are available to volunteer.
- New Business (Vicky Seamon):
 - The Sons will be holding their Oktoberfest at the post on Saturday, Oct. 11th. They will do all the cooking, but need our help with decorating, serving, clean-up, and providing desserts. The time is not set yet, but it will most likely start in the late afternoon. All profits will go toward the "Make Them Smile" holiday party food.
 - The next district meeting is Sunday, Oct. 12th at the Armory in Escondido. If anyone would like to join me, please let me know. As of now, I'm going alone. It usually runs from 9am-12 noon.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:20
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.



President Vicky Seamon, Girls State Delegate Dana Avgil, and Girls State Unit Chair Margaret Smith.