



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes October 15, 2014

- President Vicky Seamon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Chaplain Nancie McLees delivered an opening prayer.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed. Due to the absence of Secretary Nancy Person (who is on vacation), attendance was taken by 1st Vice Lindsey Bittman.
 - **9 Members Present:** Vicky Seamon (President), Lindsey Bittman (1st Vice), Heather Tidwell (2nd Vice), Nancie McLees (Chaplain), Jody ODonnell (co-Chaplain), Sue Gibbons (Sgt-at-Arms), Larisa Hall, Ketra Slayton, and Karen Stewart.
 - **1 Guest:** District 22 President June Coatney.
- Vicky confirmed that the September 17th 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 (conveyed by Lindsey Bittman, in Nancy Person's absence):
 - Bank balance at September's meeting was \$5,685.97; total receipts: \$975.00; disbursements: \$430.64; current bank balance is \$6,230.33. Of that, \$501.86 is for our poppy fund and \$5,728.47 is in our general fund.
 - We still need to get the \$2,500 donation from EMD Millipore to VVSD.
 - Cookbook sales remain the same as last month; we have 52 available to sell.
 - We received two more responses to the donation request letters sent out in August. North Shores Printery at 926 Turquoise St. sent us a gift certificate worth \$50 in printing services. Latitude 32 Pub House & Grill at 5019 Cass Street sent us a check for \$100. This makes donations valued at \$225 (including the Pilates Plus gift certificate received last month). We made back our expenses, with a little extra.
- Introduction of our guest, June Coatney:
 - Saturday, November 8th, is VA Bingo and our annual Thanksgiving dinner for the veterans. June's unit and the SALS will take care of the cooking. Unit 552 has been asked to bring paper products (plates, napkins, etc.), as well as to-go containers, dinner rolls, and a variety of pies for dessert. We will be serving an estimated 150 Veterans.
- President's Report (Vicky Seamon):
 - The Executive Board members met on July 31st to create Standing Rules and review our Unit Bylaws. The first reading of these proposed changes were read at the September meeting and copies were distributed to all members. I will read an outline of these

changes to the bylaws. I have not heard any objections to the proposed changes prior to this meeting, and do not hear any now. Therefore, I would like to ask for a motion to approve the Bylaws revisions and new Standing Rules.

❖ **Motion:** made by Sue Gibbons to accept these Bylaws changes and Standing Rules.

❖ **Second:** Heather Tidwell.

❖ **Unanimous vote.**

- Membership Report (Vicky Seamon):

- I have the new membership cards for the 2014-2015 year. The first membership challenge set by Department is a 55% renewal by October; 23 renewals are needed for us to make that goal. Currently we have 29 members who have renewed. Good work getting those dues paid! (New members don't count in the renewal challenge). We also have six new members, bringing our current paid members to 35.

- We have three new members to vote in: Marissela McKee, Trudy Grundland, and Linda Anderson. May I have a motion to accept their membership?

❖ **Motion:** made by Jody O'Donnell to accept these three new members.

❖ **Second:** Karen Stewart

❖ **Unanimous vote.**

- Department has set our membership goal at 43 for this year. This was changed this month; the previous report that was posted in August listed it at 41.

- Community Service / VA&R (Lindsey Bittman):

- The VA Medical Center still has a large wish list that was reviewed at the district meeting. In addition, planning has already started to decorate the Chula Vista Veterans Home for the holiday season. If anyone has any ideas for a community service project, please contact Lindsey (lindseybittman@gmail.com)!

- Education (Heather Tidwell):

- Light up a Life Fundraiser will be taking place again this year on December 14th from 4:00-7:00. Last year the fundraiser was able to support almost 100 families receiving services at the San Diego Center for Children, Wrap works program. Families were able to receive gifts from children's wish lists and food baskets for the families

❖ **Motion:** Made by Karen Stewart to donate \$200 towards the Light up a Life Fundraiser again this year.

❖ **Second:** Ketra Slayton.

❖ **Unanimous vote.**

- Historian/Chaplain (Nancie McLees):

- Nancie shared information about the American Gold Star Mothers; mothers of children whose lives were lost while serving in the military. Nancie also shared brochures related to a cutlery fundraiser opportunity for members to consider.

- Poppy (Karen Stewart):

- Poppies have been ordered! There will be a poppy contest at the April 12th District meeting, the unit with the best poppy-pants outfit wins!

- Old/Ongoing Business (Vicky Seamon):

- The Bunco fundraiser was a bit disappointing. We only had 18 players but still earned money. Here are the details: total player fees - \$270; additional donations - \$120;

raffle tickets sold - \$173; total income - \$563; total expenses - \$86; net profit - \$477. The one we had back in February netted us \$628.

- The Oktoberfest was not the big success we hoped for. Although 51 meals were sold, the overhead was high and Steve reported that there was no profit made.
- New Business (Vicky Seamon):
 - VA Bingo is November 8th, and volunteers are needed. We have been asked to arrive between 12:00 and 12:30; set-up is from 1:00 - 2:00. Bingo takes place from 2:00 - 3:00, and the meal will be served between 3:00 and 4:00. Please remember to ask friends and neighbors for leftover Halloween candy, as this was a big hit when we visited the patients' rooms last year.
 - ❖ Volunteers signed up for VA Bingo; Nancy, Vicky, Lindsey, John, Larissa, Sue. Karen volunteered to do shopping. Please email Vicky if you would like to volunteer. **Parking can be tricky, plan for extra time.**
 - The Mission Beach Women's Club is planning to send boxes to active-duty military women stationed overseas (Support Our Servicewomen - SOS) again this year and I would like our unit to help out. We've already received many donations of toilet articles from Tim McMullen which will help to fill the boxes. Last year, postage cost them around \$1,500, and we gave them \$100. I would like a motion to use some of the money raised at Bunco to help pay for postage.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Karen Stewart to donate \$150 towards the SOS postage.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
 - The American Legion Auxiliary VA Hospital Bazaar will be held on November 13th. Last year we donated two baskets that were used in their raffle, and we will be doing the same this year. Nancy's husband, Gary, will be making another "Home Improvement" basket. A neighbor donated some Campbell's Soup items (cookie jar, cracker holder, dishes, etc.) which I plan to put together and make a basket called "Mmm, mmm good."
 - Plans are being made to decorate the Chula Vista Veterans Home during the first week in December. Last year we spent \$150 on Walmart gift cards for these veterans. This money came out of our Bunco profits. May I have a motion to do the same thing this year? Are any unit members planning on going down to help decorate?
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Ketra Slayton to purchase \$150 in Walmart gift cards.
 - ❖ **Second:** Heather Tidwell.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
 - The holiday party is set for December 13th. We will need volunteers to buy presents, wrap them, decorate the hall, set up, clean up, etc. We also need someone to play Santa again this year, and an elf.
 - There will be a Friday Night Fish Fry on November 7th, half of the profits will go to benefit the Holiday Party for active duty military and their families! Dinner will be \$8 for a 6-8 ounce portion of fresh cod. Ketra needs volunteers early for set-up at 2:00 or later for clean-up at 7:30.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:00
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person, based on notes taken (and updates made) by Lindsey Bittman. Thank you, Lindsey!!