



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes November 19, 2014

- 1st Vice Lindsey Bittman called the meeting to order at 6:00pm in President Vicky Seamon's absence (she is ill). Chaplain Nancie McLees delivered an opening prayer.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed. Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **11 Members Present:** Lindsey Bittman (1st Vice), Heather Tidwell (2nd Vice), Treasurer/Secretary Nancy Person, Nancie McLees (Chaplain), Jody O'Donnell (co-Chaplain), Sue Gibbons (Sgt-at-Arms), Trudy Grundland, Larisa Hall, Sandy Kurosky, Jodi Walters, and Janey Wooten.
- Lindsey confirmed that the October 15th Minutes were sent out electronically and asked if everyone had a chance to read them.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Heather Tidwell to accept them as is.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sandy Kurosky
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report (Nancy Person):
 - Bank balance at October's meeting was \$6,230.33; total receipts: \$1,718.00; disbursements: \$3,154.93; current bank balance is \$4,793.40. Of that, \$501.86 is for our poppy fund and \$4,291.54 is in our general fund.
 - We received one new response to the donation request letters sent out in August. The French Gourmet at 960 Turquoise St. sent us a gift certificate worth \$50. This makes donations valued at \$275 to date.
 - Thanks to the generosity of Desiree's company, EMD Millipore, a \$2,500 check was sent to VVSD for Stand Down and we received a really nice thank-you letter.
 - Two donations were approved last month and checks were written. Heather Tidwell received \$200 for the Light Up a Life Fundraiser (to be held on Dec. 14th). The Mission Beach Women's Club got \$150 to help with the shipping costs of the 112 boxes that were sent overseas.
 - To date, we have \$1,610 designated for the holiday party: an anonymous donation of \$1,000; \$100 donation from Latitude 32; \$435 from the Fish Fry; \$75 from the 50-50 Raffle at the Fish Fry. Last year, we ended up with a profit from the party of \$1,769.72. I read through all the Minutes from January through June, and we never talked about what we should do with the money left over from last year's holiday party.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to keep \$569.72 in our bank account, and use \$1,200 for this year's holiday party. This would give us initial working capital of \$2,810 for the party. Our 2013 expenses were \$3,696.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

Last year, we received a \$1,000 donation from the VFW for our holiday party, and a \$2,500 grant from Desiree's company. I know Desiree's company is planning on donating again (\$2,000 this year), but I'm

not sure about the VFW. *I received an email from John Reece after I got home; the VFW did include the \$1,000 in their budget for the holiday party.*

- President's Report (prepared by Vicky Seamon and read by Lindsey Bittman):
 - Amendments to our By Laws and Standing Rules for our Unit were approved at our last meeting, but I have since learned from the District Constitution and Bylaws Chairman that a Unit can only amend sections of the Bylaws with a fill-in section. We are not allowed to change the template portions. For example, Article 3 Section 6 states that all new members are entitled to a membership card, Auxiliary pin, Flag of the United States and a copy of the Unit Constitution and Bylaws and Standing rules. We omitted the flag, because we have never done this, however we have learned that this is required. Therefore I have to re-review our changes and submit new amendments. I plan to have them ready by the next meeting.
- Membership Report (prepared by Vicky Seamon and read by Lindsey Bittman):
 - The 2014-2015 membership dues are coming in and I thank all who have already renewed. However, there are eight members who still need to renew. Remember membership cards expire 12/31. The first challenge set by the Department was 55% (renewals by October). For our unit, that was 23 renewals, and we exceeded that goal!! Currently we have 35 members that have renewed. Good work in getting those dues paid. (New members don't count in the renewal challenge.) We also have six new members, bringing our current paid members up to 41. The Department has set our membership goal at 43 for this year.
- Community Service / VA&R (Lindsey Bittman):
 - WASHINGTON - More than 1.3 million Veterans received decisions on their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation and pension claims in fiscal year (FY) 2014 - the highest number in VA's history, surpassing last year's record-breaking production by more than 150,000 claims. This second year of record-breaking production comes as VA continues to transform the way it provides benefits and services, to deliver faster and higher quality decisions to Veterans, their families and survivors. At the end of the year, the disability claims backlog (defined as any disability claim pending longer than 125 days) was reduced by 60-percent from the peak backlog in March 2013 and is at its lowest number in nearly four years. Veterans waited, on average, 119 fewer days for a decision on their claim than Veterans did in FY 2013. VA is on target to hit its 2015 goal.
Taken from <http://www.sandiego.va.gov/>.
- Education (Heather Tidwell):
 - Since the children at the Light Up a Life fundraiser will be given books, she will include that fundraiser in her Education report.
- Historian/Chaplain (Nancie McLees):
 - The August edition of the American Legion Auxiliary magazine requested units "share the recipe" for their Poppy Spritz Cookie, so I brought copies to distribute.
 - Our unit scrapbook needs to be updated. The last photos are from Stand Down in July. If you have any pictures of our unit's activities since then, please email copies to me ASAP.
mimisd51@gmail.com

- I have submitted my Chaplain and Historian statistics to the District Chairs. I will be helping to write the mid-year reports on November 24th. I will also be attending the next District meeting on December 14th.
- Old Business (prepared by Vicky Seamon and read by Lindsey Bittman):
 - VA bingo was November 8th. Thank you Nancy, Sue, Jody, Janie, Lindsey and Larisa for volunteering. We also had two PB Middle School boys help us (Sean Farrow and Tyler Cenicerros) whose fathers are active military. They were awesome. The boys and their families will be attending our holiday party.
 - The Mission Beach Women's Club sent 112 boxes to women stationed overseas in the Middle East or Africa as part of their SOS program (Support Our Servicewomen). Our unit helped to pay some of the shipping costs.
 - The American Legion Auxiliary VA Hospital Bazar was held on November 13th. We donated a "Campbell's Mm...Mm... Good" basket and 12 stuffed animals.
- Ongoing Business (Nancy Person):
 - Holiday Party is set for Saturday, December 13th. If you want to help decorate the hall and set up tables, please come to the Post at 10:00 on that day. I will have table numbers, a diagram of how the tables should be set up, name tags to put on tables, menus, etc. ready to go. Members available to help serve dinner and work during the party, please show up between 3:30 and 4:00. Sandy confirmed that Meredith will purchase the tree again. Once it's at the Post, it will need to be decorated, but we don't have that date yet. As of now, we have 69 guests coming (26 adults and 43 children). We are still awaiting RSVPs from three other families, which would give us an additional 14 attendees. The RSVP deadline is this coming Sunday, 11/23. Once I have the final guest list, I'll distribute the gift lists evenly (I will keep families together with the same shopper). We already have 16 stuffed animals to give out as children arrive, and Vicky has purchased all of the holiday paper plates and napkins. Mike and Karen Dodge have once again graciously offered to buy one girl's bike and one boy's bike (with helmets) for the kids' (ages 6-10) raffle. We also have a \$50 gift card from The French Gourmet, two free hamburgers at Slater's 50/50, some jewelry, and other nice things for adult raffles. Specialty volunteers have been confirmed: Marcus will play Santa; Lindsey will be an elf; Karen/Harvey Stewart, Nancie/Jerry McLees and the combo of Jody ODonnell/Vicky Seamon will purchase and wrap gifts (please remember to get gift receipts for everything and write the family name on them before you give them to me to put in the family envelopes). I will rent chairs and arrange delivery for Saturday between 10 and 1. Chairs will be put into Heather's garage after the party; Scott will be home to let us in. Pick-up will be scheduled for Monday. We should have enough money again to buy each family a Target gift card. I will man the table at the front door, get all the raffles prepared, and have a family envelope to hand out as each family arrives. The envelopes will hold the gift card and gift receipts.
- Ongoing Business (Heather Tidwell):
 - Light up a Life Fundraiser will be taking place 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, Wrapworks program. This year we plan to support 150-200. It will once again be at Il Fornaio in Del Mar. Your entry fee is either \$40 (in cash or Target/Walmart gift card) or fulfilling one of the children's specific "Letter to Santa" wish lists. I believe there are 12 letters that have not yet been assigned. Contact me right away if you want to buy gifts, so I can save a Letter to Santa for you. See attached flyer for further details on the event.
- New Business (prepared by Vicky Seamon and read by Lindsey Bittman):
 - June Coatney has asked our Unit to help decorate the Veterans home in Chula Vista on November 29. Do I have any volunteers to help out that day? I sent an email out a few days ago, but as of this morning no one has offered to help. We voted last meeting to spend \$150 on

Wal Mart gift cards for these veterans. *Lindsey, Janey, and Jody will all help Vicky at the Chula Vista Veterans Home. Time/place to meet will be determined. Watch for email from Vicky.*

- Committee mid-year reports are due to the district by 12/5. Nancy and I will be working on them 11/24 beginning at 10:00am; any and all are welcome to join us at Nancy's house. Please send me all of your volunteer activities, hours, miles driven, number of Veterans/Active Military served, community service, etc. *Nancie McLees and Jody ODonnell will come to help.*
- New Business (Nancy Person):
 - As we have done in previous years, I would like to make a motion to skip our December meeting due to the work involved with the holiday party.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to skip the December meeting.
 - ❖ **Second:** Heather Tidwell.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- New Business (Larisa Hall):
 - I met with Johnny Pernicano (age 87), the owner of Pernicano's Family Restaurant at 711 Turquoise St. He is constantly supporting various local organizations and is happy to help our ALA unit. Some of the details are: 50% of ticket sales go to the non-profit; tickets/meals cost \$12 (gratuity not included) and include salad, roll, beverage, and one pasta meal that has been agreed upon in advance (all meals will be the same); tickets are good for the entire month, but non-profit chooses a Wednesday or Thursday to be the "party" date when lots of us can be there together; ALA prints and sells tickets in advance so Pernicano's knows how many meals to make on the party date; we do our own marketing. Wednesday, February 4, 2015 has been selected as the party date and dinner will be served between 5-8pm. Larisa will design a flyer and matching tickets and will email members for approval. She will then have 250 tickets printed. The theme will be "Show your love for our military" and proceeds will benefit local active-military and veterans. Specific recipients will be decided at our January meeting.
 - Is anyone available to be a volunteer at Tap Fever's fundraising dance at La Jolla High School on Friday night, 12/19 between 5:30 and 6:30? I need ticket takers and people to work backstage with kids. Please contact me directly at hall.larisa@gmail.com or 858-456-7301.
- Meeting was adjourned by 1st Vice Lindsey Bittman at 7:10.
- The next unit meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.