



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2015

- President Vicky Seamon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Co-chaplain Jody O'Donnell delivered an opening prayer.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed. Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **10 Members Present:** Vicky Seamon (Pres), Lindsey Bittman (1st Vice), Nancy Person (Treas/Sec), Nancie McLees (Chaplain), Jody O'Donnell (co-Chaplain), Sue Gibbons (Sgt-at-Arms), Larisa Hall, Sandy Kurosky, Karen Stewart, and Jodi Walters.
- Vicky confirmed that the November 19th 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 November meeting was \$4,793.40; total receipts: \$3,762.00; disbursements: \$5,638.09; current bank balance is \$2,917.31. Of that, \$501.86 is for our poppy fund and \$2,415.45 is in our general fund.
 - All of our unit donations to the District and Dept. have been made.
- President's Report (Vicky Seamon):
 - I'd like to start today's meeting, by wishing all of you a wonderful New Year. We have accomplished so much in the first six months of our fiscal year, it's amazing. We could never have done any of this without all of your hard work and support. I'd like to mention just a few of our activities: Stand Down (clothes, socks, shoes and time); donated backpacks for active-duty military children and children of the Veterans Outreach program; distributed food to active-duty military families at Murphy Canyon; supported the Mission Beach Women's Club by donating money and collecting goodies for care packages for service members serving in the Middle East and Africa; donated over 100 stuffed animals to various organizations, such as the Polinsky Center, Veterans Outreach program and needy children in Tecate; in addition to making many hats for these children; distributed 150 "Our Country's Flag" comic books to children at San Diego Center for Children; supported the Pacific Beach Town Council by donating a patriotic raffle basket for their fundraiser; and last but not least, we hosted a very successful holiday party for active-duty military families (26 adults, 43 children). Thank you again for making all of this possible.
 - Amendments to our ByLaws and Standing Rules for our unit were approved at our last meeting, but I have since learned from the District Constitution and ByLaws Chairman, Midge Farrar, that a unit can only amend sections of the Bylaws with a fill-in section. We are not allowed to change the template portions. I have re-reviewed our changes (see new amendments). Is there any discussion? I would like to ask for a motion to approve the ByLaws revision and new Standing Rules.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to approve ByLaws revision and new Standing Rules.
 - ❖ **Second:** Karen Stewart
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

- Membership Report (Vicky Seamon):
 - Currently we have 36 members that have renewed, six new members and one transfer, putting our membership at 43. There are six members who still need to renew and their membership status became delinquent on December 31st; their membership cards will expire on January 31st. The Department has set our membership goal at 43 for this year, so we have reached 100%!!!
 - District 22 (our district) and District 25 had a member renewal contest. We won! The District 25 Membership Chair had to do a dance at their meeting.
- Community Service / VA&R (Lindsey Bittman):
 - Legion Day is February 14th at the VA Hospital. We have been asked to bring drinks and take-out containers; Vicky will purchase them. Vicky and I are planning to go. If anyone else is interested in volunteering, let Vicky know. She is checking on the time. It's a very big event each year, with lots of food, speeches, a mariachi band, and of course, bingo.
 - It has been suggested that unit VA&R Chairs reach out to the "Student Vets of America" at the local colleges and universities, to find out if there is any way the ALA can assist them. SDSU definitely has one of these groups and I will look into it.
 - Challenged Athletes Foundation is holding a fundraising cycling event downtown on April 11th and 12th. Volunteers are needed for all kinds of things. Since our District 22 meeting is on the 12th, I will reserve some volunteer spots for Saturday, the 11th. If you want to participate in the ride, check out <http://www.sdgranfondo.com/register/> for details. The course begins on India Street in Little Italy and the first eight miles will be on streets closed for this event.
 - Local libraries are looking for "Veteran Resource Specialists" to volunteer at most branches. They are hoping to have people available during most of the library hours to assist veterans with CAL Vet questions and information. Volunteers will be trained and hours are completely flexible.
 - There will be a Google webcast on January 28th from 4:00-5:00 to help soldiers transition out of the military. Anyone can watch it but you must reserve a spot in advance. If you're interested, look at <http://explore.va.gov/events> and find "Service to Success." This is an online event series about benefits for veterans. You can make a reservation to be a participant.
- Poppy (Karen Stewart):
 - There will be a poppy "pants" contest held at the April 12th District 22 meeting. Pants can be full length, capris, shorts, bloomers, panties, or whatever...as long as they use poppies. Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners.
- Historian/Chaplain (Nancie McLees):
 - I send out electronic cards to those members who use email. When the card is opened by the recipient, I receive an acknowledgement email from the card company. There are many times when it appears our unit members do not open their cards. Please know that I use the jacquielawson.com website, so if you receive an e-mail that says you have received a Jacquie Lawson card, please open it. It's most likely from me.
 - Our current scrapbook is just about full so I will be buying a new one and will start using it this month.
- Old/Ongoing Business (Vicky Seamon):
 - I'd like to thank all who helped put up and take down Christmas decorations at the Veterans home in Chula Vista. The Veterans really appreciated all of our efforts, and thanked us several times.

- All Committee mid-year reports were submitted on time.
- Our next fundraiser is 2/4 at Pernicano's. The cost is \$12 per person for a spaghetti and meatball dinner, including a salad, roll, and beverage. The restaurant will be open to the public that night, so the regular menu is available for diners who do not purchase the fundraiser meal. Tickets will also be sold at the door that evening. We hope to use the money raised to support Veterans at the Chula Vista Veterans home and VA hospital. I have learned that the Chula Vista Veterans home is looking to build shade shelters. They have very nice grounds around their buildings but no place for Veterans to sit in shade when walking outside. The ALA District is looking to fund this project and will be looking for support from the units. Also the VA is still not getting funding for arts and crafts kits and is in need of such items. Please take some tickets to sell; we've sold around 50 and have another 200 to sell. We need everyone's participation.
- New Business (Vicky Seamon):
 - It's with a very sad heart that we must say good bye to Heather. She, Scott and Byron are moving to North Carolina, on to a new chapter in her life. We wish them the best and thank Heather for all of her hard work and assistance. I need a volunteer to step up and finish out her term as 2nd Vice.
 - Are we interested in having a Bunco fundraiser in March? If so, we need donated items to make up raffle baskets. After all the gifts we raffled off at the Holiday party, our on-hand supply of items is at an all-time low. After several minutes of discussion and the calendar checked, it was agreed to schedule a Bunco fundraiser on Saturday, March 7th from 12 noon until 3:00. Karen agreed to make one of her lovely succulent baskets/vases for a prize. Please let Vicky know ASAP if you have anything you can donate for raffle baskets or prizes. We'll buy things if we must, but we'll earn more profits to donate if we don't spend unit money. We're hoping to have four or five raffle baskets and we'll need four prizes. I'll borrow tables and dice. We'll all need to donate food for the light refreshments.
 - The Soroptomists are also hosting a Bunco party in Clairemont on Saturday, April 18th so you'll have two chances to have fun and raise money for local causes. Details to follow.
 - The next District 22 meeting is February 8th in Linda Vista. We were signed up to provide several egg casseroles but since the Department President will no longer be attending, it will be much more low-key. We will probably bring bagels or fruit. Is anyone interested in attending?
 - At this District meeting, there will be new red t-shirts available for purchase at \$20 to remind people we still have soldiers deployed overseas. The district is hoping to celebrate RED Friday every week (Remember Everyone Deployed) by having as many people as possible, wear these shirts. It's a brand new campaign created by the American Legion.
 - Delmar Miller will be honored by a ceremony at Mt. Soledad Veteran's Memorial on January 31st at 11:00am. **This is a surprise so please do not say anything to him about it!** Dell will be receiving a personal memorial plaque which will be placed on the veteran's wall of honored military service people. All are invited to attend, and it is suggested you arrive a little early in order to park. The service should last no longer than 45 minutes. If you have any questions, contact Kevin Monahan (858)337-1324 or Jim Kane (858)649-9187.
 - Are there any other projects that members would like to talk about and/or get involved in? Please let me know.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:13.
- The next unit meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2015.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.