



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2015

- President Vicky Seamon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Co-Chaplain Nancie McLees delivered a lovely opening prayer about Children, since April is the American Legion month of Children.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed. Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **9 Members Present:** Vicky Seamon (Pres), Nancy Person (Treas/Sec), Nancie McLees (co-Chaplain), Jody ODonnell (co-Chaplain), Sue Gibbons (Sgt-at-Arms), Larisa Hall, Nancy Kennedy, Karen Stewart, and Janey Wooten.
 - **1 Guest:** Maggie Frazier, former VFW Auxiliary member and future member of our unit. She is also the wife of Zeke Frazier, who belongs to the VFW and American Legion. Welcome, Maggie!
- Vicky Seamon confirmed that the March 18th Minutes were sent out electronically and asked if everyone had a chance to read them. There were no questions, corrections, or discussion.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Jody ODonnell to accept them as is.
 - ❖ **Second:** Sue Gibbons.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report (Nancy Person):
 - Bank balance at the March meeting was \$3,571.10; total receipts: \$2,180.00; disbursements: \$2,509.37; current bank balance is \$3,241.73. Of that, \$501.86 is for our poppy fund and \$2,739.87 is in our general fund.
 - I wrote a \$10 donation check to the Friends of Pacific Beach Elementary (FOPBE), as a follow-up to the cookbook drive we held at PBE. We offered to give back half of our \$10 earnings, for every cookbook sold at PBE. Since we only sold two, we owed them \$10. I confirmed that the cookbook drive would last through the end of the school year, and I will keep one copy of the book at school for potential buyers to peruse.
 - We still have 37 cookbooks available for sale for \$5 each. Please ask your family and friends if they'd like to buy one.
 - All End-Of-Year reports are complete and copies were distributed to the District Chairmen. Our Unit Chairmen received electronic copies and were asked to put a hard copy in their program binder. I will keep copies of every report in the Secretary Binder. If any member would like to see any of these reports, please contact me.
- President's Report (Vicky Seamon):
 - At last month's meeting, we agreed to donate some of the money we earned from the Pernicano's fundraiser to both the La Jolla VA Hospital and the Chula Vista Veterans Home. In order to count these donations in this year's EOY reports (which were due to the District by April 10th), I contacted both places to find out what was at the top of their wish lists. The Executive Committee authorized me to pursue this and to make the donations. Here are the details of my communications and our donations:

- ❖ When I spoke with Ellen Bormann, Director of the Recreation Dept. at the VA Hospital, she confirmed that they lost their contract for arts and crafts kits, and the long-term patients were really suffering for it. Larisa Hall had contributed some art supplies last month, so I combined her stash with newly purchased items and our unit donated 20 model kits, 10 paint by number kits, one set of colored pencils, one air brush kit and one set of paints; total spent was \$346.10.
- ❖ I was also in contact with Lois Cornish, who is the District Hospital Rep. at the Chula Vista Veterans Home. The number one item on their wish list is outside tables with built-in covers so the residents can have some shade. One table with cover costs a little under \$300. Therefore, I delivered a \$300 check to Lois at the April 12th district meeting.
 - Thank you to all who donated magazines. I brought 130 magazines up to the VA hospital. If anyone has magazines or paperback books and would like to donate them please contact me as I usually go to the hospital once a month. Also paperback books can be dropped off here at the Post and shared with fellow Legion and Post members.
- Membership Report (Vicky Seamon):
 - Unit membership is currently 45.
 - Maggie Frazier will be joining our unit in the next few months.
- Community Service (Vicky Seamon for Lindsey Bittman):
 - The next Murphy Canyon Hand-Up Food Pantry distribution is on May 10th. We have seven reserved spots for us to volunteer. Here are the members who are planning on going: Nancy P., Nancy K., Sue, Maggie, Jody, Lindsey, and me. I confirmed the time with Lindsey; food will be passed out beginning at 2:00pm. Volunteers are asked to be there at 1:00 and clean-up usually winds down between 3:15 and 3:30. The address is 3200 Santo Road in Tierrasanta. Since we have a date conflict and there is so much interest in attending this event, our unit agreed to forego a Mother's Day Brunch this year.
- VA&R (Vicky Seamon for Lindsey Bittman):
 - Camp Pendleton is introducing a new transition assistance program for veterans returning to the civilian world.
 - At the district meeting, we learned about a national organization called USA Cares that will be opening a chapter in San Diego. They are based in Kentucky and were started in 2003. They assist military families in crisis. They have a 48-hour turnaround, and 80% of their money goes directly to veterans. They primarily raise funds for four programs: Job Assistance (will pay for transportation and hotels for vets going on job interviews, and moving expenses for a new job); Emergency Assistance for military families; Housing Needs; and Treatment for veterans coming out of active duty. You can check them out at usacares.org.
- Poppy (Karen Stewart):
 - We received our poppy order. Veterans making the poppies receive ten cents a poppy, and they use that money for food and transportation. The District has asked that we keep this in mind when ordering for next year (in other words, please increase our order). In the past, we have only ordered 100 each year since we don't take to the streets with them like the VFW. Our unit primarily uses poppies as decorations, or to make corsages for new citizens or Mother's Day. We'll consider ordering more next year.
 - The VFW has set the dates for their poppy distribution: May 23-24. This is their biggest fundraiser of the year, and they are always looking for assistance. Vicky, Sandy, and Nancie have all volunteered in the past. ALA members are usually paired up with ROTC boys who are full of energy, and it's an enjoyable few hours. Locations range from Albertson's (now Hagen's), Vons, or even Liberty Station storefronts. Please contact John Reece if you are available to man a table for a few hours. h#858-272-0674, jwreece@att.net.

- There has been a shortage of vets making poppies this year, due in part to many finding jobs. To offset this deficiency, Auxiliary members are now allowed to help make poppies; of course, they don't get paid. If you're interested in assisting, contact Lois Cornish, who is the Poppy Production Chair. h#619-427-3966, c#619-623-5723, gloiscorn@cox.net.
- Girls State (Vicky Seamon for Margaret Smith):
 - The Girls State Tea (orientation) will be held on Saturday, May 2nd in Oceanside. Margaret will be baking desserts to bring. Nancy is planning on going with Margaret, and all are welcome. Contact Nancy or Margaret if you'd like to attend.
 - Names of our four selected delegates have been submitted to Dept. and paid for.
- Historian (Nancie McLees):
 - I have started a new scrapbook for 2015.
- Old Business (Vicky Seamon):
 - This Saturday is the Soroptomists Bunco fundraiser at the Live Well Center in Clairemont, located at 4425 Bannock Ave, 92117. It costs \$15 to play and runs from 1-4. Several of us are going. Contact me if you'd like to carpool.
 - Amendments were approved at our last meeting and copies were sent to the Department Chairman Michelle Soares on 2/3 for approval and signature. Signed copies were received by Nancy (our C&BL chair) yesterday. She has distributed copies to the appropriate district officers and will keep a copy in the Secretary binder.
 - Reminder that the PBTC Graffiti clean-up is Saturday, May 2nd. Contact Desiree Herrera for meeting time or more information. c#858-750-0595, herrera.552@gmail.com
 - Be sure to sign onto this link to learn about the membership benefits available to us: <http://ala.memberdiscounts.co/perks>. Once you have established an account, you will receive regular updates.
- New Business (Vicky Seamon):
 - The 96th annual Department Convention will be held in Ontario, CA this year, June 25th to the 28th. The convention is a good way to become more familiar with the proceedings of the American Legion Auxiliary, especially the first day. Our unit (based on membership) is required to pay for three delegates (\$60). Our unit has budgeted money to help pay for gas and room accommodations if anyone would like to attend. Larisa attended last year. Nancy, Heather and I went the year before, and Desiree in 2012. Nancy and I will both be out of town on those dates (not together) and cannot attend. Is anyone interested in going? If so, please contact me ASAP so we can get the paperwork prepared.
 - Nominations of new officers for 2015-2016 need to be made this evening. Can I please have someone begin the nominations for the elected officers:
 - ❖ **Nomination:** made by Jody ODonnell for Vicky Seamon as President.
 - ❖ **2nd:** Sue Gibbons.
 - ❖ **Nomination:** made by Karen Stewart for Lindsey Bittman as 1st Vice President.
 - ❖ **2nd:** Jody ODonnell.
 - ❖ **Nomination:** made by Nancy Person for Ketra Slayton as 2nd Vice President. *Although Ketra was not present at meeting, she had already agreed to accept this position.*
 - ❖ **2nd:** Jody ODonnell.
 - ❖ **Nomination:** made by Sue Gibbons for Nancy Person to be Treasurer/Secretary.
 - ❖ **2nd:** Jody ODonnell.
 - ❖ **Self-Nomination:** Karen Stewart offered to be Executive Committeewoman.
 - ❖ **2nd:** Nancy Person.
 - Nominees will be voted in at the May meeting and officers will be sworn in at the June meeting.
 - There are also appointed officers that need to be named:
 - ❖ Nancie McLees, will you continue to be our Historian? Nancie agreed.

- ❖ Nancie McLees and Jody O'Donnell, will you both continue to be co-Chaplain? They agreed.
- ❖ Sue Gibbons, will you continue to be our Sgt-at-Arms? Sue consented.
- Our member, Janey Wooten is going back to school and has applied to Southwestern College. I have submitted an application through the district for a book grant for Janey. Just a reminder, there is money available to ALA members who are going back to school, including scholarships for nursing, as well as non-traditional scholarships.
- We have named our Committee Chairmen for the 2015-2016 year. Here are the appointments:
 - ❖ Americanism - Tricia Smith
 - ❖ Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) - Nancy Person
 - ❖ Children & Youth - Margaret Smith
 - ❖ Community Service - Larisa Hall
 - ❖ Constitution & Bylaws - Nancy Person
 - ❖ Education - Margaret Smith
 - ❖ Girls State - Margaret Smith
 - ❖ Leadership - Vicky Seamon
 - ❖ Legislative - Vicky Seamon
 - ❖ Membership - Vicky Seamon (who will be mentoring Lindsey Bittman in this position)
 - ❖ National Security - to be co-chaired by Nancy Kennedy & Maggie Frazier (once she is a member)
 - ❖ Poppy - Karen Stewart
 - ❖ Public Relations - Nancy Person
 - ❖ VA&R - Lindsey Bittman

Thanks to all who volunteered!
- If you are an Amazon user, you can now donate money to the ALA (and other non-profits like Tap Fever Studios) while you shop. Sign on to smile.amazon.com with your regular Amazon user ID and password, and you can designate 0.5% of your purchase to be donated. Larisa will put this information onto our Facebook account.
- New Business (Maggie Frazier):
 - Honor Flight San Diego's next "Tour of Honor" to Washington D.C. will take place during the weekend of May 1-3. If you'd like to welcome back the WWII vets to San Diego, meet at Terminal 2, Baggage Claim 1-3, on Sunday, May 3rd at 2:00. The plane will arrive sometime between 2:00 and 3:00. It's a very moving experience!
- New Business (Larisa Hall):
 - Tap Fever Studios will be holding a free Hop-Hop dance class for ages 55+ this Friday, April 17th from 12:00 until 12:45. Her new studio is on Garnet Avenue, near Olney, on the north side of the street.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:05.
- The next unit meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.