



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes May 20, 2015

- President Vicky Seamon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. In honor of poppy month, co-Chaplain Nancie McLees delivered a lovely opening prayer about Flanders Field and poppies.
- The Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed. Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **12 Members Present:** Vicky Seamon (Pres), Lindsey Bittman (1st Vice), Nancy Person (Treas/Sec), Nancie McLees (co-Chaplain), Jody ODonnell (co-Chaplain), Sue Gibbons (Sgt-at-Arms), Larisa Hall, Desiree Herrera, Nancy Kennedy, Sandy Kurosky, Ketra Slayton, and Janey Wooten.
 - **2 Guests:** Maggie Frazier, future member; and Carol Blomstrom, prospective future member.
- Vicky Seamon confirmed that the April 15th 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 Sue Gibbons to accept them as is.
 - ❖ **Second:** Nancy Kennedy.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Treasurer's / Secretary's Report (Nancy Person):
 - It was a quiet month financially. Bank balance at the April meeting was \$3,241.73; no deposits; disbursements: \$39.95; current bank balance is \$3,201.78. Of that, \$501.86 is for our poppy fund and \$2,699.92 is in our general fund.
 - We are officially a Live Unit, which means that our Membership Chair can access the Dept.'s membership figures, add new member information on-line, etc. Vicky has been doing this for almost a year, but I finally paid the ALAMIS fee.
 - Ketra Slayton will once again be heading up the annual audit of our unit's books. It is scheduled for Saturday, June 6th at the post. She will assign two other members to complete the audit with her.
- President's Report (Vicky Seamon):
 - We received two thank-you letters from the VA hospital for the arts and crafts kits, and for the magazines donated last month. If you have any magazines or paperback books to share, you can always leave them at the post and I will pick them up (just let me know they're there). I make a trip to the VA Hospital about once a month.
- Membership Report (Vicky Seamon):
 - Unit membership still stands at 45.
- Chaplin/Historian (Nancie McLees):
 - I made some poppy cookies to celebrate poppy month. Please enjoy them!
 - I also purchased a book "The Poppy Lady" for our unit. I think it's important for our members to know the story behind Moina Belle Michael, the women who almost singlehandedly launched a campaign to establish the red poppy as a symbol to remind us of the sacrifice and courage of the American soldier. It is being passed around so all members who are interested can read it.
 - Finally, I found some awesome military-themed fabric which I will use to make pillow cases.
- Community Service (Lindsey Bittman):
 - Three members participated in the PB Town Council's Graffiti Clean-up on Saturday, May 2nd.

- Seven members made it to the Murphy Canyon Hand-up Food Pantry distribution on Sunday, May 10th. Veronica and Sean Farrow (mom and son, respectively) also assisted. The Farrow family has attended every one of our five holiday parties. It's been a joy to watch Sean grow up. He is now in middle school!
- The next Murphy Canyon Hand-Up Food Pantry distribution will be on Sunday, July 14th. I have reserved five volunteer spots. Is there anyone interested in joining me? *Jody, Sandy, Maggie, and Vicky will volunteer alongside Lindsey.*
- VA&R (Lindsey Bittman):
 - Stand Down 2015 is scheduled for July 17-19 at San Diego High School. As we do every year, we will be collecting new socks, gently used clothing, and buying new shoes for the deserving veterans who attend. Sock bins will be placed at six locations this year: VFW Post 5985, Tap Fever Studios, Olive Café, Pernicano's, House of Jewels, and Jane Swan Hair Salon. Flyers are being passed around tonight (with all the addresses) and will also be sent with the Minutes via email. Please distribute them to your family and friends, post them at local retailers, etc. If you want to volunteer at the Friday lunch at Stand Down (the first hot meal of the weekend), contact Desiree and she'll put you on the list. If you're interested in doing some other job that weekend like working in the clothing tent or data entry (to name a few) sign onto vvsd.net and view the volunteer opportunities. At the top menu, select "Support Stand Down" and then click on "Volunteer for Stand Down" to get a list and description of available jobs. You can also call 619-393-2011 and leave a message. Finally, you can complete an online application and someone will get back to you.
Desiree had some additional Stand Down information for us:
 - Her company, EMD Millipore, will be donating \$500 which will be arriving shortly. It will be payable to the ALA and we are authorized to use this money to purchase new shoes for the veterans.
 - She has also applied for a larger grant to help with the cost of the Friday meal. Last year, the meal cost \$5,600. Andrew, of Post 434, is working on getting better food for less money.
 - It is customary each year for all District 22 posts and units (Sons of the American Legion, Riders, and American Legion Auxiliary) to donate \$100 to the American Legion for Stand Down.
 - **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to donate \$100 tonight.
 - **Second:** Jody O' Donnell.
 - **Unanimous vote.***Check was written after the meeting and given to Desiree.*
- Girls State (Nancy Person for Margaret Smith):
 - The Girls State Tea was held on Saturday, May 2nd in Oceanside. Two of the four delegates we'll be sending to Girls State were in attendance. One girl alerted us in advance that she was taking the SATs that morning, and wouldn't be able to make it. I brought all the baked goods made by Margaret and they were much appreciated. When the orientation mentor went over what a typical daily schedule might look like, I was amazed at how busy it was. I know the girls who attend have fun, but they work very hard, as well!
- Poppy (Vicky Seamon for Karen Stewart, who is home sick with Bronchitis): *Feel better, Karen!*
 - May is poppy month and this coming weekend is the VFW's poppy distribution. It is set for Saturday and Sunday, May 23rd and 24th. Volunteers are still needed to man tables at various locations in and around PB. Please check the sign-up sheet at the post if you are available to take a slot. Contact John Reece with any questions, 858-272-0674. This is the VFW's biggest fundraiser of the year, so let's support them.
- Old Business (Vicky Seamon):
 - The 96th annual Department convention will be held in Ontario, CA from June 25th-28th. The convention is a good way to become more familiar with the proceedings of the American Legion

Auxiliary. Meetings on the first day are especially informative. Based on our unit membership, we are required to pay for three delegates (at \$20 per person). I have not heard back from any member expressing an interest in attending. Therefore, we'll most likely submit three officers' names as our delegates, even if they don't go.

- To review, we have named our Committee Chairmen for the 2015-2016 year. Here are the appointments:
 - ❖ Americanism - Jody O'Donnell (she will take over from Tricia Smith, who asked to be removed from this position)
 - ❖ 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 Maggie is a member)
 - ❖ Poppy - Karen Stewart
 - ❖ Public Relations - Nancy Person
 - ❖ VA&R - Lindsey Bittman
 - 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):
 - At last month's meeting we held our officer nominations. It is time for elections. May I have motions to elect the following?
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Lindsey Bittman to elect Karen Stewart as Executive Committeewoman.
 - ❖ **2nd:** Nancy Person.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Desiree Herrera to elect Ketra Slayton as 2nd Vice.
 - ❖ **2nd:** Sandy Kurosky.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Sue Gibbons to elect Lindsey Bittman as 1st Vice.
 - ❖ **2nd:** Jody O'Donnell.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Ketra Slayton to elect Nancy Person as Treasurer/Secretary.
 - ❖ **2nd:** Janey Wooten.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Kennedy to elect Vicky Seamon as President.
 - ❖ **2nd:** Ketra Slayton
- Officers' installation will take place at the next meeting, June 17th. District 22 President June Coatney is planning on attending.
- Since we've decided not to hold any large meals for a while, is anyone interested in helping out the Sons and taking on a Tuesday night meal? These are lower-key and simpler. *Consensus was to make a \$3.00 dinner; date chosen was July 7th. Meal will be sausage and peppers on rolls, with a side salad. Members who committed to helping that night are Jody, Nancie, Vicky, Sue, Lindsey, and Maggie. Mark your calendars!*
- New Business (Larisa Hall):
 - Tap Fever Studios will be holding a fundraiser at Pernicano's on Wednesday, June 3rd. Money earned will be spent on dance scholarships for lower income students, college students, and people with disabilities who might have medical expenses too. Tickets are \$12.00 each and you

may buy as many as you'd like. They are good the entire month of June, as well as on take-out food. Contact Larisa for tickets: 858-456-7301 or hall.larisa@gmail.com. The meal will be served between 5:00 and 8:00. If you come early, you'll also get to see some of the Tap Fever Studios dancers perform around 5:15.

- New Business (Desiree Herrera):
 - The next District 22 Meeting will be held on June 7th at Post 731 in Linda Vista.
 - District 22's Installation will be on Saturday, July 11th at 1:00pm; location is Post 255 in National City. *Epecially because Desiree will become the District Commander, let's plan for several members to be there and support her!*
 - There has been an ongoing conflict on whether to keep renting space in San Francisco for the Department office, or move it to Sangar, CA (east of Fresno) and erect a brand new building. This will be a hot topic at the Dept. meeting.
 - I will be attending a retirement party for Commander Rod Van Orden, who has served 30 years in the police dept.
 - The District 22 American Legion has announced an endowment to San Diego State University for \$50,000. The money will sit in a fund earning interest, and every year two scholarships will be awarded to students who have served in the military. The money came from the Legion's Disaster Relief Fund. This will be an ongoing gift.
 - On Saturday night, June 13th, from 5:00-9:00pm, Post 731 will be holding their first Dinner & Laughs 4 Warriors. This event will benefit Us for Warriors Foundation. It should be a fun evening!
- Meeting was adjourned at 6:56.
- The next unit meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015.
- Minutes are respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.



Delicious poppy cookies made by Nancie.



Awesome fabric that will make pillow cases.