



## Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

### Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2017

- President Vicky Seamon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- Co-Chaplain Nancie McLees led us in prayer; the Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble followed.
- Executive Committeewoman, Karen Stewart, was installed.
- Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
  - **11 Members Present:** President Vicky Seamon, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Jody Borden, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Ketra Slayton-Carter, Treasurer/Secretary Nancy Person, Chaplain Nancie McLees, Maggie Frazier, Sue Gibbons, Amy Koss, Barbara Schmidt, Karen Stewart, and our newest member, Miranda Boshart.
- Minutes from June were sent out electronically; did everyone have a chance to review? Any discussion? Is there a motion to have Minutes accepted as written?
  - ❖ **Motion:** made by Barbara Schmidt to accept Minutes as written.
  - ❖ **Second:** made by Sue Gibbons.
  - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
  - *Minutes approved as written.*
- **Treasurer's / Secretary's Reports (Nancy Person):**
  - Bank balance at the June meeting was \$2,955.99; deposits: \$855.00; disbursements: \$1,921.93; current bank balance is \$1,889.06. Of that, \$454.66 is for our poppy fund and \$1,434.40 is in our general fund.
  - Our Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup> meal was another success. Our gratitude goes out to Miranda Boshart, who spearheaded the dinner, including doing all of the shopping and most of the prep. We sold 40 dinners and brought in \$197. Thanks to the ladies who worked the meal and voted to put the tips back into the pot, we netted \$84.65.
  - Although we never voted, the officers agreed to donate \$100 to American Legion District 22, to help defray the cost of serving lunch on Friday to the almost 1,000 veterans of Stand Down. We have made this same donation since 2011, so we didn't want to forget it this year. It costs the District around \$5,000 for that one meal.
  - I've paid our District Per Capital dues for 2017-18. It's based on our membership at the close of books of 2016-2017 and the total was \$12.75.
  - I've also paid for the six President's Pins that were distributed at this past Sunday's district meeting. Vicky will talk more about them.
  - I've gone ahead and ordered 96 backpacks from Bags-in-Bulk, as well as 96 sets of school supplies already in bags. (We'll be buying four additional backpacks and supplies separately because they came in cases of 24 and I didn't want to order a whole case for the four extras we needed to make 100). I chose not to get the pre-stuffed backpacks because

they were almost \$1.00 more each and I didn't want to spend the extra money. The total came to \$719.73 and I have emailed various posts and units in the American Legion Family, asking for contributions. This is a big amount for our unit to pay by ourselves. When the backpacks and school supplies arrive, I'll need some help stuffing them; so please let me know if you're interested in helping. They will be brought to the Armed Services YMCA for their back-to-school event on August 19<sup>th</sup>, or before. *Please note: the backpacks and supplies have arrived! I am available to get them ready for distribution this coming Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> from 5-6. If you are free and want to help, my address is 5340 Cass St., on the southwest corner of Cass and Van Nuys in North PB.*

- Our end-of-year unit financial audit is scheduled for this weekend or shortly thereafter. Thanks in advance to Ketra for leading the audit and to Marci and Brenda for being additional eyes.
- Once the audit is complete and no issues are found, I'll file our state and federal income taxes online.

- **President's Report (Vicky Seamon):**

- Nancy Person and I attended District 22's Organizational meeting on 7/16. We learned that this year the Department President has chosen the theme "Real Heroes Wear Dog Tags not Capes."
- Based on the annual ALA theme, President's pins are created and sold for \$5 each. See Nancy Person if you'd like to purchase one. Money raised by pin sales will go to our Dept. President's special project, which is Paws for Purple Hearts. *This organization was founded in 2006 as a program of Bergin University of Canine Studies in Rohnert Park, CA (Sonoma County). It was expanded to Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington DC in 2009, and established as its own 501(c) 3 in 2011. They opened facilities in Northern Virginia and Alaska in 2015. Last year they added two more locations: San Antonio and San Diego. Their mission: "We are dedicated to improving the lives of America's Warriors facing mobility challenges and trauma related conditions such as PTSD and TBI by providing the highest quality service dogs and canine assisted therapeutic programs."*
- The Department will be conducting a workshop at Oceanside Unit #146 on September 30. Cost is \$10 /person. The purpose of these workshops is to educate new and senior members on how to work the programs and what this organization is all about. Unit 146 (which is hosting the event) is asking each District 22 Unit to donate 100 small like-items that can be put into take home bags for each person attending. It is recommended that each item show the unit's name and number. Our District 22 officers want to show the Dept. President how cohesive our units are, so they're planning to make these goodie bags. *Jody Borden offered to provide 100 of her snack mixes. She'll make cute labels with our unit name and number, as well as her business info. Thanks, Jody!*
- The District 22 American Legion is working on their website. They're hoping to have it ready soon and plan to have a link to the Auxiliary.
- Our member, Laurice Tomlinson, is having shoulder surgery today and she will be out of commission for a while. We send her our best wishes.

- **Membership Report (Vicky Seamon):**

- July 1 marks the beginning of the 2017-2018 membership drive. That means membership dues need to be paid. The cost is still \$26.00, but we heard at Sunday's meeting that

there is a proposal to increase dues by \$3 for seniors and \$1.50 for juniors. If approved this would not go into effect until 2018-2019.

- I can start submitting renewals online in August, but I have been asked to hold off on new applications (which have to be completed online and mailed) until September.
- We have a new member to vote in. May I please have a motion to vote in Miranda Boshart?

❖ **Motion:** made by Amy Koss to vote in Miranda as a new unit member.

❖ **Second:** made by Maggie Frazier.

❖ **Unanimous vote.**

*Miranda is our newest member! Welcome!*

- Membership benefits - <http://ala.memberdiscounts.co/perks/register>. Simply go to the web address above and use registration code: ALADiscounts. You will then be asked to set up a password.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- **Chaplain & Historian (Nancie McLees):**

- I sent Ken Perry a get-well card from us. He's currently in the hospital due to congestive heart failure.
- If you shop on Amazon, you can have a percentage of each purchase donated to your favorite non-profit. Click onto AmazonSmile and select (or type in, not sure) American Legion Auxiliary.
- Our unit scrapbook has six pages about the Armed Services YMCA. It was great having Phillip Samuli here to enlighten us about this great organization. There are also photos of last month's installation, and our July 11<sup>th</sup> dinner.
- Last month I talked about a possible fundraiser that is the selling of military bracelets. I received bracelet samples so we can pass them around and decide if we should go ahead. We would buy a case of American Veteran wooden tile bracelets (120/case) for \$156 (\$1.30/bracelet) from Wrist Story Products, Inc. and we could sell them for as little as \$5.00/each, making \$600 which would give us a profit of \$444. *Barbara Schmidt came up with the brilliant idea of adding \$5.00 to our Bunco fee and giving each player a bracelet as a party favor.*

❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to purchase one case of the 12-tile bracelets.

❖ **Second:** made by Maggie Frazier.

❖ **Unanimous vote.**

*Nancie McLees will place the order, buying the bracelets that show all the branches of the armed forces, as well as several US. symbols. These are different than the ones being sold at the Kearny Mesa Post.*

- **Girls State (Vicky Seamon for Margaret Smith):**

- Our delegate from Clairemont High School sent a very nice thank-you note to Margaret (*which I've included at the end of these Minutes*).
- Our delegate from Mission Bay High School told her school coordinator that the experience exceeded her expectations and she felt it was a life-changing week.

- **Poppy & Summary of the Dept. Convention (Karen Stewart):**

- At the convention, there was a display of different poppy decorations. There was a certain theme, and they had to be a certain size. I've taken photos which I'll send out on email.

- I went a day early hoping I could sneak in our scrapbook, but they have lots of rules. I took pix of the scrapbooks that were entered. Ours is as nice (or nicer) than the ones that were there. Nancie should be very proud!
- I brought home an application from the CA American Legion Press Association. I believe you get a press badge, so I thought it might help Nancy with our unit's PR.
- Since it was my first time at Convention, I didn't know what was happening. I would have liked to sit in on certain meetings, but since I didn't have a list, I missed the ones that interested me. I would recommend in the future, they have a special person to help newcomers. It was great getting to know our new District 22 President, Maureen (Mo) Giacalone. She is wonderful and was quite helpful.
- In the main assembly hall, we were seated by District number. The Dept. Chairmen read their reports, which was a compilation of all the CA districts together. There was also entertainment, and it was fun watching all the different units/districts perform to the crowd.
- **Public Relations (Nancy Person):**
  - Our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Jody Borden and I finally scheduled a meeting to work on our unit's new website.
  - I will look into membership to the CA American Legion Press Association (thanks, Karen).
- **VA&R (Vicky Seamon for Ketra Slayton-Carter):**
  - Stand Down is this coming weekend; July 21, 22 and 23 the ALA is planning to help with the lunch on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Is anyone here interested in helping out that day? (I learned that the ALA and AL do not have to register online to work the food tent on Friday). I am happy to drive on Friday if anyone would like to carpool with me. Let me know and we can meet at the post at 9:30. *Vicky and Miranda worked together in the food tent, and Vicky sent me a few pix which I've included at the end of these Minutes. I know Amy and Lindsey worked all three days. I found some of Amy's pix on Facebook. I'm not sure how many days Desiree was there. Did anyone else participate?*
  - This year marks 30 years that San Diego has been conducting this event, and there will now be a second Stand Down in Oceanside
- **Old Business (Vicky Seamon):**
  - Sock drive is complete; this year we collected 584 pairs and we purchased 49 pairs of shoes along with numerous bags of clothing that Nancy & I delivered to VVSD. Additional socks have come in since we collected the bins, so I'll save those for the VA Hospital and we can bring them in November when we help with Bingo.
  - Tuesday meals - Our last meal of chicken salad sandwiches was a success. I want to thank Miranda for taking the lead; you did a wonderful job! I also want to thank the kitchen crew, Sue, Nancie M, Maggie and Heather for all their help. Is there anyone who is willing to take the lead in August?
    - ❖ **Motion:** made by Ketra to make BLTs and have potato salad. She offered to be at the post to help put it all together.
    - ❖ **Second:** made by Miranda Boshart, who had fun with the July meal and is happy to help again in August .
    - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

After checking the calendar, we agreed to hold the meal on Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will add watermelon to the BLTs and potato salad and it should make a great meal.

- Ketra suggested that we might consider partnering up with the SONS on their summer barbecues. They can use the help and if we split the money, it could add funds to our bank. If it's something that a few members are interested in, we'll have to talk to SONS Commander Steve Schmidt to see how he feels about it.
- August 24<sup>th</sup> is our Armed Services YMCA Neighborhood Food Distribution in Murphy Canyon. We need to be there from 8:30-12:30. For those of you who have committed to volunteering, I have already sent you notes on what to expect, what to wear, etc. Please remember, you will need to register on-line so please do that ASAP. We RSVP'd for 14 volunteers, but four have dropped out. Anybody interested in coming along?
- Due to time restraints last month, we tabled the discussion of the Holiday party. I would now like to bring this topic to the floor. *There was much discussion. Most of the seasoned members who have been helping with the party since 2010 are ready for a break and would rather assist the Armed Services YMCA with their party for Special Needs Kids. Notes from last month's Minutes about this event: "Our Magical Holiday Party is part of the Exceptional Family Members Program. Many special needs families are stationed in San Diego due to the myriad of resources available here. This event is specifically for these families. This party includes Secret Santas filling family wish lists. We can use lots of volunteers beforehand and during the event. Scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>."* Newer/other Unit 552 members (like Mirranda Boshart and Amy Koss) are happy to continue the holiday party tradition. We know the VFW, American Legion and SONS would all be disappointed if we didn't hold the party. We did not reach a consensus and again ran out of time.

- ❖ **Motion:** made by Ketra to table this discussion until August, where we'll have an ad hoc meeting that's just for the holiday party.

- ❖ **Second:** made by Nancy Person.

- ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

The four unit officers will choose a date and an email will be sent to local members.

- **New Business (Vicky Seamon):**

- Need to talk about this year's fundraisers. I'd like to open the floor for ideas/suggestions.
  - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to have another Bunco fundraiser in September.
  - ❖ **Second:** made by Barbara Schmidt.
  - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

*After checking the calendar, we all agreed on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 12-3. Nancy Person already contacted Jerry Henson on the hall availability and it's a go! Please start collecting your unwanted gifts, extra pieces of jewelry you don't wear, etc., so we can begin to think about raffle baskets. We'll use Barbara's suggestion of including a military bracelet with each paid entry of \$20.*
- **Meals?** *At this point we're taking it a month at a time. August is scheduled.*
- We usually cancel one of our summer meetings. August will be busy with our meal on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the ASYMCA Neighborhood Food Exchange on the 24<sup>th</sup> and an ad hoc meeting at some point to reach a decision about the holiday party.

- ❖ **Motion:** made by Ketra Slayton-Carter to cancel the August meeting.
- ❖ **Second:** made by Karen Stewart.
- ❖ **Unanimous vote.**
- Future dates to remember:
  1. Saturday, October 21- The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance at Balboa Park from 10:30 to 11:30am
  2. Saturday, November 11- Bingo at the VA Hospital we are signed up again to work with Unit 460.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm .
- Our next unit meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**. There is no regular August meeting!
- Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.
- **Dates for Facebook Calendar:**
  - August 22 - ALA \$4.00 meal at the VFW
  - August 24 - Armed Services YMCA Neighborhood Food Distribution 8am-12noon
  - September 23 - Bunco Fundraiser at VFW
  - September 30 - Dept. Workshop held at Oceanside Unit 146
  - October 21 - 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Massing of the Colors/Service of Remembrance; Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park 10:30-11:30
  - November 11 - Bingo and Thanksgiving at the VA Hospital





