



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2018

- President Vicky Seamon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- Co-Chaplain Jody ODonnell led us in prayer. We then recited the Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble.
- Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **14 Members Present:** President Vicky Seamon, 1st Vice Jody Borden, Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Person, Chaplain Nancie McLees, Chaplain Jody ODonnell, Mirranda Boshart, Laura Dorris, Maggie Frazier, Sue Gibbons, Sandy Kurosky, Margaret Smith, Laurice Tomlinson and Heather Wilson. Larisa Hall joined us via telephone.
 - **3 Guests:** Clara William and Robyn Wilkinson, two of our four 2018 Girls State Delegates. Also, we have Maggie Campbell, who expressed an interest in joining our unit a few months ago.
- Before we begin our business meeting, let's welcome our three guests: Clara William (Mission Bay HS) and Robyn Wilkinson (University City HS), two of our four 2018 Girls State Delegates, who came to share their experiences with us. We also have a potential new member, Maggie Campbell.
 - Clara (Mission Bay HS): First, thank you for the opportunity to go to Girls State. It was such an amazing experience; a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I met so many girls from different parts of CA, many areas I never even heard of! I was elected to be a city clerk. I worked with the city, county & state governments, helping with elections & processes. I also participated in the talent show. Although it was terrifying, it was an excellent experience. I was planning on a ballet routine I was very familiar with but since the stage was so small I changed it at the last minute and did something pretty new.
 - Robyn (University City HS): Honestly, I was scared going into Girls State. Government/politics is not really my field and I thought I wouldn't fit in. I was wrong; there was so much positive support. I was elected to be a county auditor/recorder. I worked on the city map. We had fun, filling it with puns. There were many alumni there since this is the 75th anniversary of Girls State. One cool thing was that I got to play Taps for the POW/MIA ceremony. I play trumpet but I had never played it in front of so many people who were touched and moved by it. It was the first time I had an influence people, with so many involved with the military.
 - Maggie Campbell: I've been meaning to come to one of your meetings for a while but my schedule prevented me from getting here. I was President of an ALA unit in Northern CA. I moved to San Diego in 2014. I am the first woman in the State Assembly for this district in a very long time. I just won my election in June. In November I'll be running against Todd Gloria. I am also a navy veteran. I have a private counseling practice; I work with individuals and in groups. I am also an ordained pastor. Everything I do is to help other people.

We will now begin our regular meeting.

- Minutes from June were sent out electronically. Did everyone have a chance to read them? Any discussion? Is there a motion to have Minutes accepted as written?
 - **Motion:** made by Jody ODonnell to accept June Minutes as written.
 - **Second:** made by Miranda Boshart.
 - **Unanimous vote.**

Minutes approved as written.

- **Treasurer's / Secretary's Reports (Nancy Person):**

- Bank balance at the June meeting was \$5,754.82; deposits: \$124.13; disbursements: \$793.06; current bank balance is \$5,085.89. Of that, \$688.31 is in our Poppy Fund, 16¢ is in our Children & Youth (piggy) fund, leaving \$4,397.42 in our general fund.
- The small red piggy bank for our C&Y fund broke apart. It was really too small for us anyway. Therefore, I have a new piggy bank that we will begin using starting this month. His name is Harley, as in Harley Davidson.
- As was approved last month, I sent a \$150 donation check for the Dept. Legacy Scholarship Fund. I took \$130 from our C&Y Piggy Fund and the remaining \$20 from our general fund. That's why we're starting out this new year with only 16¢ in our Piggy Fund. That will change tonight, of course.
- In addition to last month's large contribution from one of our members, which was used to purchase new shoes, we also received a \$100 donation for Stand Down from another of our very generous members. Since it was received after Stand Down, our unit sent a check for \$100 to VVSD to help with their 2018 Stand Down costs.
- As agreed in June, I purchased six cases of patterned backpacks (72 for boys and 72 for girls) for the active-duty kids attending Camp Hero. The total came to \$543.06. I have not yet ordered school supplies because I wasn't sure how much we should spend. Our choices are \$338.40 for a 7-piece package per child or \$590.40 for a 12-piece package. Both packs have a pencil case, pencils & pens, an eraser and sharpener, a glue stick and small box of crayons. The larger pack has extra pencils, pens and erasers, as well as a 2-pocket folder, a highlighter, 70-page spiral notebook and a 12" ruler. I wanted to get a consensus of how much money we should spend; I didn't want to make the decision on my own. We are most likely getting a \$350 donation from the SONS from their July 6th event for our backpack program. Their meeting is tomorrow so hopefully Commander Steve will let me know soon.
 - **Motion:** made by Miranda Boshart to purchase the smaller packs of school supplies.
 - **Second:** made by Sue Gibbons to buy the smaller packs.
 - **Unanimous vote.**

I will buy the 7-piece packages of school supplies. When they arrive, I'll send out an email so we can have a backpack stuffing party at Jody ODonnell's, where the backpacks are being stored.

- We received a nice thank-you letter from Shelter to Soldier for our \$545 donation.

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

- I know I stated at our last meeting that starting in July, I was going to begin our meeting with 5 to 10 minutes of training about the ALA and the programs it supports. However, with the addition of guest speakers this month I didn't want the meeting to go much beyond the

hour allotment. In addition, our District is holding an Organizational Workshop on Sunday 7/22 and I would like to wait and see what materials they have to share.

- Just a reminder that we have signed up to help the Armed Services YMCA food distribution on July 26th. The hours will be 8:30-12:30, from setup to cleanup. Volunteers should arrive no later than 8:30am and plan to stay until close at 12:30. Volunteers are asked to wear close-toed shoes and dress and behave appropriately for a family environment (e.g., no really revealing tops or shorts, no offensive language on T-shirts, etc). They encourage you to wear clothing with your logo to make your presence and support known to the families, so please wear your ALA t-shirts and badges. This is an outdoor event that happens rain or shine; hats and sunscreen are appropriate. Lastly, volunteers are requested to register online and agree to the photo and liability releases contained in the registration form, as well as provide emergency contact information. This is a one-time set-up, so if you're interested in going again in the future, volunteers will have an account and can place themselves on the schedule for the event. Please go to this link to complete your registration: <https://www.volgistics.com>. If you have previously registered as a volunteer for the ASYMCA, you can also just email Dan Zeller and ask him to add you to a function, since you're already in his database. dzeller@asymca.org. So far, we have myself, Mirranda, Evelyn, Laurice, Jody B, Sandy and Amy. We have two other volunteers from other units who will be helping, as well. We could always use a few more volunteers.

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

- July 1 marks the beginning of the 2018-2019 membership drive. Please remember, this year's dues are \$30.
- We begin the year with one member, BJ Coleman, transferring from Alpine; we met her last month. We also have one new member, Kimberly Barron. As soon as I get notice from Department, I will be submitting their applications.
- I already have our new membership cards so feel free to pay your dues and you'll get your card.
- For 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):**

- We have a lot of new members in our unit. I'm passing around a list of suggestions of things we can do to make them feel welcome. *A copy is attached to these Minutes.*

- **Children & Youth (Larisa Hall):**

- The Tap Fever Studios annual show at Mariner's Park is on August 18th. Do we know yet if the ALA will be able to fund the Bounce House again? The cost is about \$125. *Nancy Person confirmed that the unit has enough money to cover it.*
- It's time to pass around the Children & Youth piggy for this month's collection.

- **Girls State (Margaret Smith):**

- Thank you again to Clara William and Robyn Wilkinson for speaking tonight.

- **Public Relations (Nancy Person):**

- Here's your monthly reminder to check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ALAAunit552 and "Like" photos and posts. If you have any photos to share,

please send them to me so I can post them. Our District 22 PR person, Mary Thorsten, will also be happy to add them to the District Facebook page and upcoming website.

- Once again, here is the link to our website, which is in development.
<https://sites.google.com/site/pacificbeachalaunit552/> Feel free to contact Jody Borden, our 1st Vice if you have things to add or corrections to make.

- **VA&R (Mirranda Boshart):**

- Stand Down was June 29 - July 1st. I was there along with Vicky and Laurice, working the food tent. Amy and Lindsey worked all three days. The medical staff is still using the backpacks we donated over five years ago. The turnout this year was quite low, so we're hoping that means that less people need help. Also, there are so many veteran shelters now that maybe these homeless veterans can get their needs taken care of throughout the year. One new thing this year was that each veteran got a personal shopper to help them find clothes. They also received nice canvas bags to hold their new clothing.

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

- Our sock drive is complete. This year we collected 1,063 pairs along with numerous bags of clothing. We also purchased 56 pairs of new shoes. This was all delivered to VVSD.
- We have the two other children's tables and chairs for the Children's Corner at the Chula Vista and Sorrento Valley VA clinics. I'm just waiting for the social service department to set some dates for delivery. If you remember, we've already created a Children's Corner at the VA Hospital, the VA Clinic in Mission Valley, and the VA Clinic in Oceanside. We're getting so many books (about 30 a week) donated by the Friends of the La Jolla Library; we haven't spent a penny on books yet.
- Tuesday meals - Our next meal is July 31 and Larisa Hall along with dancers from Tap Fever Studios will be handling the meal. Larisa confirmed that they will either be getting pizza donated or they will make a pasta dish. There will also most likely be salad, maybe garlic bread, and dessert.
- Last month it was decided to hold our Holiday party on December 1st. I spoke to Steve Schmidt, Commander of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 552. He assured me that his group would be happy to purchase and prepare all the food for a holiday party. Since 12/1 is less than five months away, we should start planning. Please look at this check list. If you'd like to take one or more jobs, please email Nancy Person and let her know so she can put you on the list. We need multiple volunteers for some jobs, such as gift shopping, putting up/decorating the tree, decorating the hall, etc.

2018 Holiday Party Check List

	Assignment	Person(s) Responsible	Due Date
1	Clean Santa and Elf suit		11/25
2	Inventory donated toys/gifts		11/15
3	Compile list of children with ages	Nancy Person	11/1
4	Shop for presents & wrap/label the ones you buy	Jody B,	11/25

5	Buy Batteries needed in toys		11/25
6	Buy \$50 gift certificates and envelopes for 14 and older children		11/25
7	Santa Volunteer		12/1
8	Elf volunteer		12/1
9	Elf helper Volunteers (3)		12/1
10	Put up and decorate tree		11/30
11	Decorate hall	Jody B,	11/30
12	Make drawing tags for moms for gifts	Nancy P	11/25
13	Make drawing tags for Bikes, & misc. gifts	Nancy P	11/25
14	Make table place cards for families	Nancy P	11/25
15	Shop for table cloths, napkins, plates, cups, eating utensils, and drinks	Maggie F	11/25
16	Assemble goodie bags for children	Jody B,	11/25
	December 1, 2018		
1	Deliver gifts, and goodie bags to VFW		
2	Organize packages in numerical order on table in back of room		
3	Set up tables and decorate		
4	Decorate hall		
5	Decorate Santa's Chair		
6	Place out names for seating arrangements	Nancy P	
7	Organize drawing		
8	Organize gift certificates for older children		
9	Put up Reserved Parking signs		
10	Greet guests & give out family envelopes	Nancy P	
11	Take pix of arriving families		
12	Walk families to assigned tables		
13	Teardown	Nancy P	
14	Cleanup		
	Be contact for rental chair pick-up and meet truck at post		12/3

- Did anyone bring any items for Stand Up for Kid (homeless teen center)? The 2nd Tuesday of every month they are accepting sample size toiletries, gently used teen clothing and feminine hygiene products. These items along with dinner are brought to the teen center downtown.
- Box Tops Education - collecting these for local schools.
- Military families serving abroad - collecting coupons that they can use in the commissary.
- **New Business (Vicky Seamon):**
 - As I mentioned earlier, our District is holding an Organizational Workshop this Sunday, 7/22 from 2:00-4:00. It will take place at Post 460 in Kearny Mesa. Nancy Person and I plan to attend. Is anyone else interested in coming? *1st Vice Jody Borden will come too.*

- Miranda said that Lorenzo from the ASYMCA is available on Sept. 7th or the 14th to do his Karaoke. After much discussion, we decided to have the event after dinner hour so we don't need to provide a full meal. We can definitely have snacks. *After checking with Jerry Henson and Steve Schmidt, this fundraiser is scheduled for Friday night, Sept. 7th! We will not be charged a hall rental fee as long as we clean up after ourselves and mop the floor.*
- We've reserved August 28th for our Tuesday dinner. Laurice, Laura and Heather will be taking the lead for a Taco Bar.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm .
- Our next unit meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 15, 2018.**
- Our "Pass the Pig" collection for Children & Youth tonight was \$25.00.
- Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.
- **Dates to remember:**
 - Thursday, July 26th / Volunteer opportunity at the ASYMCA Neighborhood Food Exchange
 - Tuesday, July 31st / ALA \$4.00 meal
 - Tuesday, August 28th / ALA \$4.00 meal
 - Saturday, December 1st / "Make Them Smile" Holiday Party at the VFW

WELCOME!

Welcome your new American Legion Auxiliary members, and give them a sense that they belong. Here are some things you and your fellow American Legion Auxiliary members can do to help assure new members that they're part of an amazing, worthwhile mission.

- **Listen more than you speak.** Be attentive and really clue in to your new members' interests and what ignites their passions. Through natural conversation, try to discover what your new members really would like their ALA experience to become.
- **Invite, invite, invite.** Take every opportunity to invite and include your new members in what you are doing. This helps you see what they really enjoy doing. Just because they say "no" to one event, it doesn't mean they won't be interested in another.
- **Be considerate.** Cultivate and maintain a spirit of goodwill at all times. You never know who is observing your words and deeds.
- **Extend grace and forgiveness when others miss the mark.** Heaven knows we all need it reciprocated at one time or another.
- **Be reliable.** Consider your capacity before making a commitment to an event or activity. Commit only to what you can truly do, and then above all, keep your commitments.
- **Adhere** to the American Legion Auxiliary's strong values, for God and country.
- **Be flexible.** Sometimes plans have to change; extend understanding in those situations.
- **Maintain a good reputation.** Every person and organization has a history. Make sure the story you're sharing about others and your ALA unit/department is a positive one.
- **Be on time, always!** And if you just can't arrive on schedule, notify those expecting you in advance that you'll be delayed and why.
- **Keep confidences.** As you get to know a new member, she may confide in you. Don't share her business. She trusted you with something important to her.
- **Put some thought into your communications.** Perhaps you've received an email and interpreted it to have a nasty tone, only to discover later that's not what the sender intended. And in social media, there are cultural norms, expectations, and standards that govern user actions. Take care to go above and beyond to extend goodwill in all of your exchanges.