



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes August 15, 2018

- President Vicky Seamon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- Co-Chaplain Nancie McLees led us in prayer, which was followed by birthday wishes for all ALA members with birthdays in August (Barbie Lewis 8/1, Gina Meadows 8/9, Lindsey Bittman 8/10, Lynn Sylvestre 8/10, Laura Dorris 8/18 and Nancy Person 8/20). We then recited the Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble.
- Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **10 Members Present:** President Vicky Seamon, Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Person, Chaplain Nancie McLees, Chaplain Jody O'Donnell, Miranda Boshart, Maggie Frazier, Sue Gibbons, Sandy Kurosky, and Heather Wilson. Larisa Hall joined us via telephone.
 - **1 Guest:** Rara Watanabe, one of our four 2018 Girls State Delegates. She represented Madison High School.

President Vicky: Before we begin our business meeting, let's welcome our guest, Rara Watanabe. She was our Madison High School Girls State delegate this year.

- ✚ Rara: Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend Girls State. At first, I didn't really know much about it. The counselor at our school hardly told us anything so I had no idea it would be such an amazing experience. It was definitely the best experience of my life, without a doubt! I met so many intelligent, warm girls at the Tea so that made me get excited about it. I expected there to be about 100 girls, but there were more like 500 from all over the state. I was so intimidated at first, because I had never been around so many bright and politically-minded females at one time, but we became a family. I loved learning about the local and state governments and how we can be a part of them. My heart is so full from Girls State. I purchased a Girls State sash and I plan to wear it to my graduation. I am so proud to have been selected and to be a part of Girls State. I still can't get over how fortunate I am. I plan to make a big deal of it next year so other girls at Madison will know about it. I think it's a real shame that the counselor doesn't promote it, so I will! Thank you again!

We will now begin our regular meeting.

- Minutes from July 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 Sandy Kurosky to accept June Minutes as written.
 - **Second:** made by Jody O'Donnell.
 - **Unanimous vote.**

Minutes approved as written.

- **Treasurer's [Pansy] / Secretary's [Cornflower] Report (Nancy Person):**
 - Bank balance at the July meeting was \$5,085.89; deposits: \$919.00; disbursements: \$857.09; current bank balance is \$5,147.80. Of that, \$688.31 is in our Poppy Fund, \$25.16 is in our Children & Youth (piggy) fund, leaving \$4,434.33 in our general fund.

- The 144 backpacks with school supplies cost \$900.40. Thanks to the \$350 donation from the Sons of the American Legion, we only had to take \$550.40 out of our bank account.
- We wrote a check for \$210 to Tap Fever Studios; this was the money taken in at the Tuesday, July 31st meal. Thanks again to Larisa and her gang for hosting and providing the food! We hope this will help her non-profit buy jackets for its dancers.
- We will also be funding a Bounce House for the Tap Fever Studios annual summer performance on August 18th.
- Our unit only received three President's pins so far from the District. As usual, they cost \$5. Since our members like to collect them, we're hoping to get more. They're especially lovely this year.
- We received a nice thank-you letter from VVSD for our additional \$100 donation for Stand Down.
- Finally, the 2018-2019 Budget Draft is complete. I will attach a copy to the Minutes this month. Please review and email me with any questions or comments. Remember, this is only a guideline. There is no way to know how much money we will actually collect or how much we will spend. If I don't receive feedback, I will assume you are okay with it and we will vote on accepting it at the next meeting.
- **President's [Lavender] Report (Vicky Seamon):**
 - This year our Department President has chosen the theme, "Freedom blooms when Veterans are served." Each officer and chairmen have been given a flower name. Throughout this meeting and/or in the Minutes, the flower for each position will be identified.
 - This will be the year of learning, both at the District and Unit level. Just like our Unit, the District plans to increase members' knowledge of the American Legion Auxiliary. When we first started our unit in 2010, there were lots of District workshops to attend and we learned a lot. However, during the last few years there haven't been very many. This year, District 22 is hoping to change that. Therefore, they will be holding their first "School of Instruction" program on September 22 at Post 460 in Kearny Mesa (the time has not yet been confirmed). As soon as we know the time, an email will be sent out. I encourage all members to attend.
 - ❖ Today's Unit 552 Lesson: The ALA was established in 1919, so next year will be our centennial year. I would like to encourage all members to go to the website for a short 10-minute video that walks you through the history of the ALA.
<https://www.alaforveterans.org/About/History/>
 - ❖ The ALA is the largest women's patriotic service organization in the nation. Our focus is in three main areas:
 1. Veterans and Military support;
 2. Advocacy for Veterans and their families, and promoting patriotism;
 3. Promoting responsible citizenship.
 - ❖ Our emblem identifies our organization and members should wear our emblem when volunteering (ALA t-shirt, ALA pin, ALA badge). Our emblem stands for the following:
 1. Field of White - represents the Hope of Freedom;
 2. Blue Star - it's the emblem of Service in War. It is also the emblem of Service in Time of Peace;
 3. Yellow Rays - Stand for the principles of the ALA - Loyalty, Justice, Freedom and Democracy / dispelling the darkness of violence, strife and evil.

4. Blue Circle - the unbroken circle represents Unity and Loyalty.

- **Membership [Jasmine] (Vicky Seamon):**

- Membership currently stands at 12 renewals and 2 PUFL (paid up for life). The department has set our goal at 60, so please renew and promote membership. We ended last year with 50 members. Remember that this year's dues are \$30.00.
- Thank you to Nancie McLees who is bringing in most of our new members.
- You can always check out <http://ala.memberdiscounts.co/perks> to learn about ALA benefits.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Americanism [Iris] (Jody ODonnell):**

- No report.

- **Chaplain [Lily of the Valley] & Historian [Forget-me-not] (Nancie McLees):**

- There are t-shirts for sale in the ALA magazine commemorating the ALA's 100th birthday. If you'd like to order one, I'll be happy to embellish it!
- Thank you so much to Larisa, who was able to get a set of three beautiful poppy pictures which are now hung in the VFW women's bathroom. We have received lots of complements already on these. They really brighten up the room.

- **Children & Youth [Daisy] (Larisa Hall):**

- The Tap Fever Studios annual summer show at Mariner's Park (across from 32nd Street NEX) is on August 18th. We do a potluck and we have a Bounce House. Our studio has a lot of military families so many parents were already familiar with the park. Volunteers are welcome!
- It's time to pass around the Children & Youth piggy for this month's collection.

- **Community Service [Bird of Paradise] (Heather Wilson):**

- No Report

- **Education [Goldenrod] (Jody Borden):**

- No Report

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

- Thank you again to Rara Watanabe for speaking tonight.
- Reservations for Girls State 2019 must be in to the District by October 1st. May 19, 2019 is the Orientation Tea. Girls State will take place June 16-22 at Clairemont College in Pomona.

- **National Security [Gladiolas] (Maggie Frazier):**

- No Report

- **Poppy [Poppy] (Evelyn Garza):**

- No Report

- **Public Relations [Crocus] (Nancy Person):**

- The District 22 has a brand new website. It's a great place to see what's happening and will only improve with time. Check it out! www.alad22.org
- Here's your monthly reminder to check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ALAunit552 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 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 [Wisteria] (Mirranda Boshart):**

- Vicky and I set up the last two Children's Corner at the VA Clinics in Sorrento Valley and Chula Vista. They were very well received.
- Bingo will be at the VA Hospital on Saturday, November 10th. We are co-hosting with Unit 460, and as always, they're going to serve a full Thanksgiving meal. Our unit will be responsible for the paper products, drinks, utensils, pies with whipped cream, and the 30 bags going to the locked ward. Please remember, we also collect Halloween candy between 10/31 and 11/10. Before Bingo begins on 11/10, we will visit the wards, thank the patients for their service, and pass out candy and thank-you notes. We are asked to be there around 1:00 but we usually arrive 11ish so we have time to visit the wards. Since last year's November Bingo was cancelled at the last minute, we still have all of the paper goods we bought.

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

- Please remember that our next fundraiser is Karaoke Night on September 7th. We need volunteers to bring in finger food. I know that Nancie M. is making her pigs in a blanket, and Nancy P. will bring meatballs. Please let me know if you can help. We could also use some additional items for raffle baskets. I'll be putting together an "Italian" basket and Mirranda has a \$100 gift card to Kaiserhof German Restaurant in Ocean Beach. *Maggie volunteered to make a basket, and Sandy offered a \$100 gift card to Beaumont's in La Jolla.* Nancy will attach a flyer to these Minutes, so please distribute it widely. If we don't promote this event, we won't raise money to donate to the Armed Services YMCA. It's only three weeks away so please encourage your family and friends to come and join us. It should be a fun night! *Larisa anticipates a nice groups of her dancers and their families will attend.*
- Mirranda, Evelyn, Jody Borden, Laurice, Amy and myself helped with the Armed Services YMCA food distribution on July 26th. It was very rewarding to see so many happy active military service men/women and their families.
- The 144 backpacks were stuffed at Jody O'Donnell's house on August 9th. Thanks to Maggie, Evelyn, Sue, Nancie McLees, Mirranda and Jody for all their help. Also, a special thanks to Nancy Person who ordered all the backpacks and supplies and made cute tags for each bag. They said "Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit 552 wishes you a successful school year! We thank your family for their service." The backpacks will be delivered to the ASYMCA on Aug 17th at around 3pm. Let me know if you are available to help distribute them.
- Our next Tuesday meal is August 28th. Laurice, Heather and Laura will be taking the lead. They'll have a taco bar, with beans and Mexican rice.
- 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. The PB Women's Club just donated a bunch of clothing.
 - If you are donating coupons, please cut and separate them into two groups: food items and nonfood items. They will no longer be accepting uncut coupons as they do not have the volunteers to do this job.
 - Box Tops 4 Education - collecting these for local schools.
 - Military families serving abroad - collecting coupons that they can use in the commissary.

- Our holiday party check list only has a few names on it. Please let Nancy know if you are able to help with any of the activities. By the way, she has already contacted Zachary Nola of STEP and requested contact information for active-duty families that are E5 or lower.

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 (to wear costume)		12/1
8	Elf volunteer (to wear costume)		12/1
9	Elf helper Volunteers (3)		12/1
10	Put up and decorate tree	Maggie,	11/30
11	Decorate hall	Jody B, Maggie,	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	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 Santa's Chair		
5	Place out names for seating arrangements	Nancy P	
6	Organize drawing		
7	Organize gift certificates for older children		
8	Put out chairs with Reserved Parking signs on them		
9	Greet guests & give out family envelopes	Nancy P	
10	Take pix of arriving families	Maggie	
11	Walk families to assigned tables		
12	Teardown	Nancy P	
13	Cleanup		

	Be contact for rental chair pick-up and meet truck at post		12/3

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

- Our District 22 President, Susie Tozier, will be attending our next meeting on September 19th.
- There is an Adrian's Way fundraiser at the National City Post on September 1st from 5-8pm. See attached flyer for details. I met the organizer at the ASYMCA Neighborhood Exchange and I told her I would try to get the word out about the event.
- The Pacific Beach Town Council has asked if we could help with this year's (PAESAN) Police and Emergency Services Appreciation Night on 9/26 from 4 to 6pm. They hold a community picnic to show support and appreciation for these agencies. They are asking us to provide water. They are expecting around 200 people. Can I have a motion to support this program?
 - **Motion:** made by Mirranda Boshart to support and fund this program.
 - **Second:** made by Sandy Kursoky.
 - **Unanimous vote.**

We will buy bottled water for 200 people.
- *We'll be helping the SONS on October 6th with the Oktoberfest. They will provide the food and cook, and we'll decorate the hall, get the paper products, and provide desserts. 1-4pm*
- We need to talk about this year's fundraisers. I'd like to open the floor for ideas/suggestions.
 - Bunco - We'll skip Fall but aim for Spring.
 - Let's buy the Veterans bracelets again as a fundraiser.
- Any other projects that the members would like to get involved in/talk about?

- Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm .

- Our next unit meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 19, 2018.**
- Our "Pass the Pig" collection for Children & Youth tonight was \$20.
- Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.

- **Dates to remember:**

- August 28th / ALA \$4.00 meal
- Sept. 1st / Adrian's Way fundraiser at National City AL Post
- Sept. 7th / Karaoke Night Fundraiser at the VFW
- Sept. 26th / PAESAN in Crown Point
- Oct. 6th / Oktoberfest at the VFW
- Nov. 10th / VA Hospital Bingo & Thanksgiving Meal
- Dec. 1st / "Make Them Smile" Holiday Party at the VFW

- **Attachments:**

- Draft of 2018-2019 Budget
- Adrian's Way fundraiser flyer
- Karaoke Night fundraiser flyer
- PAESAN flyer
- Oktoberfest flyer