



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes September 19, 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 the ALA members with birthdays in September (Margaret Smith - 9/13; Jody ODonnell - 9/28). We then recited the Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble.
- Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
- **13 Members Present:** President Vicky Seamon, 1st Vice Jody Borden, Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Person, Executive Committeewoman Karen Stewart, Chaplain Nancie McLees, Chaplain Jody ODonnell, Miranda Boshart, BJ Coleman, Maggie Frazier, Evelyn Garza, Sue Gibbons, Sandy Kurosky and Laurice Tomlinson.
- **1 Guest:** District 22 President Susie Tozier.

Before we start our general meeting, I would like to introduce, Susie Tozier, our District 22 President. Susie is from Unit 6 and has come all the way from Lakeside to visit our unit. She will speak at the end of our meeting.

- Minutes from August 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 August Minutes as written.
 - **Second:** made by BJ Coleman.
 - **Unanimous vote.**

Minutes approved as written.

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

- Bank balance at the August meeting was \$5,147.80; deposits: \$708.00; disbursements: \$533.15; current bank balance is \$5,322.65. Of that, \$688.31 is in our Poppy Fund, \$45.16 is in our Children & Youth (piggy) fund, leaving \$4,589.18 in our general fund.
- The August 28th Taco Bar dinner was very well received. Everyone loved the food! We took in \$303 and had expenses of \$223.34, leaving us a net profit of \$79.66.
- I did not receive any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding this year's Budget.
 - ❖ **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to accept the Budget Draft as this year's Final Budget.
 - ❖ **Second:** made by Jody Borden.
 - ❖ **Unanimous vote.**

Unanimous Vote - Budget is accepted and will be posted on our Bulletin Board.

- We paid \$130 for a Bounce House for the August 18th Tap Fever Studios summer performance. This donation will go towards Community Service.
- Our unit donated a brand new crock pot to the VFW Post. Vicky found a great deal at Tuesday Morning, only paying \$32.31. This will be included in our VA&R report.
- As was voted on last month, I purchased another batch of Veterans-12 bracelets to be used as our current fundraiser. The price went up since last year. It cost us \$150 for 100, so if we sell them all at \$5.00 each, we will earn \$350. Please be sure to take at least 4-5 each to try and sell. The best way for this to be a successful fundraiser is for all of our members to participate.
- I've sent this year's Per Capita fee of \$12.50 to the District Treasurer.

- Finally, thanks to Miranda for spearheading our Karaoke fundraiser. We raised \$403.00 that will be donated to the Armed Services YMCA. She also sold our first few bracelets. Best of all, the evening was a lot of fun!

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

- The American Legion Auxiliary was established in 1919, so next year will be our centennial year. There are Auxiliary T- Shirts on sale. Would anyone be interested in purchasing one? (See flyer).
- As we mentioned last month, this will be the year of learning. Today's lesson - We often talk about working the programs and there are 5 major programs often referred to as the **PEARLS** of our organization. **MAJOR PROGRAMS: P-POPPIES; E-EDUCATION; A-AMERICANISM; R-REHAB (VA&R); L-LEGISLATIVE; S-SERVICE (CHILDREN & YOUTH).** A lot of the other programs such as Community Service and National Security overlap, so when Units focus on the PEARLS they usually will have all bases covered.
- Just like our Unit, the District plans to increase our knowledge of the American Legion Auxiliary. Unfortunately, the District's first School of Instruction program scheduled for September 22 at Post 460 has been postponed. I will let you know when it's rescheduled.
- I would encourage all members to go to the web site for a short 10 minute video that walks you through the history of the ALA. <https://www.alaforveterans.org/About/History/>

- **Membership (Vicky Seamon):**

- Membership currently stands at 13 renewals, 1 transfer and 2 PUFL (paid up for life), for a total of 16 paid. 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.
- Don't forget to check out <http://ala.memberdiscounts.co/perks> to learn about ALA benefits.

- **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Americanism (Jody ODonnell):**

- No Report

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

- I sent out cards this month. I'm about to send them out for October.
- The scrapbook is up-to-date; please look at it.
- In the ladies' room of this VFW, there is a beautiful three-panel painting of poppies. Thanks so much to Larisa for obtaining this artwork for us. It's a lovely reminder of what poppies mean to the American Legion and VFW family, and it really brightens up the bathroom.

- **Children & Youth (Vicky Seamon for Larisa Hall):**

- It's time to pass around the Children & Youth piggy for this month's collection.

- **Community Service (Vicky Seamon for Heather Wilson):**

- No Report

- **Education (Jody Borden):**

- I asked the teachers at Birdrock Elementary to have their students write thank-you letters for the veterans attending Honor Flight. Several teachers have agreed to do this.

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

- 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 (Maggie Frazier):**

- There are 80 World War II and Korean War veterans who will be going back to Washington DC for the weekend as part of Honor Flight San Diego. They'll be returning on Sunday, Sept. 30th at Terminal 2 around 2:30pm. They're asking for volunteers to come and meet them. It's a very moving experience. Many of the veterans (in their 90s) cry with gratitude at the reception they receive. Information is attached. I am happy to drive if you want to carpool. We can meet here at the VFW Post at 12:45, to arrive at the airport by 1:30. Please wear red, white & blue, bring banners/signs welcoming them home, etc.

- **Poppy (Evelyn Garza):**
 - Poppy orders must be in by October 1st. Do we order 100, as usual, or should we increase the order this year? *Members agreed to increase the order to 200 (they only cost 18¢ each), so we have more available to use for different things.*
- **Public Relations (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 (Mirranda Boshart and Vicky Seamon):**
 - Bingo will be at the VA Hospital on Sunday, November 11th. This is the first time it's on a Sunday, instead of Saturday, but the 11th is Veteran's Day! 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. Last year Maggie made beautiful bags with Fall and Thanksgiving decorations; she's agreed to do it again this year. Please remember, we also collect Halloween candy between 10/31 and 11/10. Before Bingo begins on 11/11, we 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):**
 - Karaoke Night was held September 7th and you heard the details in Nancy's report. A huge thank you to Mirranda for setting this event up and getting us so many wonderful raffle prizes.
 - 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. We voted last month to donate the water. I will be delivering 200 bottles of water at 3pm the day of the event.
 - Tuesday meals - Our Taco meal last month was terrific; we sold 58 meals and there were many compliments to the chef. Thanks, Heather, for taking the lead and thanks to Laura, Laurice, Sue and Nancie for all their help.
 - Our next meal will be on 9/25 and it will be lobster ravioli with salad and garlic bread. I will be taking the lead for this meal. We will need someone to collect the money. Nancie McLees has already volunteered to help and Sandy said she would help shop. Of course, I can use all the help I can get.
 - Holiday party is on December 1st. Is there anything we need to discuss at this time?
 - (Nancy P): Zack Nola from STEP has kept in communication, and his non-profit is working on matching active-duty families with several local holiday parties (including ours). He should be providing contact information to me soon.
 - (Vicky): I already have Star Wars action figurines that were donated. I also still have some leftover toys/gifts from last year which I will go through.
 - (Jody O [after the meeting]): My friend Bobby will be happy to be our Santa this year.
 - Did anybody bring donations for Stand Up For Kids? It's a wonderful organization downtown that's open to homeless teens/kids. They can shower there, get food and clothing, obtain counseling services, resume writing help, etc. The PBWC still needs toiletries, sunscreen, towels, and snacks for their 2nd Wednesday of the month deliveries to SUFK.

- The PBWC is still collecting coupons for our military. If donating coupons please cut and separate 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. Finally, bring in your Box Tops 4 Education which are being collected for local schools. I will get them to the PBWC for distribution to the PB schools.
- 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.

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, Jody B	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
2	Organize packages in numerical order on table in back of room		
3	Set up tables and decorate	Nancy P, Jody B	
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	Jody B	
9	Greet guests & give out family envelopes	Nancy P	
10	Take pix of arriving families	Maggie	
11	Walk families to assigned tables		
12	Be our Santa Claus	Bobby Clayton (Jody O's friend)	12/1
12	Teardown/Cleanup	Nancy P, Jody B	
13	Cleanup	Jody B	
	Be contact for rental chair pick-up and meet truck at post		12/3

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

- Meal for October? Since we will be helping with Oktoberfest, maybe we can wait to see if the Tuesdays in October are spoken for by other groups. There are several new people who have been making meals, so we might be able to skip a Tuesday meal next month. If not, let's think of something easy to do toward the end of the month, if we can.
- Oktoberfest - 10/6: I have already bought some new decorations. We will need volunteers to set up, bake desserts and clean up. The SONS will be paying for and cooking the food. All proceeds will benefit our holiday party!
- The PBWC is holding a BUNCO on 10/20 (see flyer).
- Chula Vista Veterans Walk is on 11/ 3. Who would like to participate this year? If we have enough people for a team, I'll need to register online ahead of time. It's a 4-mile walk with some small hills, but there is always a shuttle that runs back and forth through the course if you can't finish on your own. We start at the Chula Vista Veterans Home and end at the VFW Post in Chula Vista, where lunch is served.
- Any other projects that the members would like to get involved in/talk about?

- **New Business (BJ Coleman):**

- We are in the process of putting together the Veteran's Day edition of the District 22 Legionnaire Magazine. We are looking for articles, photos, or any interesting tidbits. Deadline for submissions is 9/26.
- I have been in touch with Jose Payne King, Commander of La Jolla Post 275. This is our closest American Legion Post. Their next meeting is this coming Thursday, Sept. 27th. Although it was originally scheduled to be at the La Jolla Shores Restaurant, the location has been changed to Hennessey's Restaurant, 7811 Herschel Avenue, La Jolla (in the Village). Post 275 has a special arrangement with Hennessey's for a 20% discount on food on the menu. Hennessey's manager Dan has agreed to provide the dining room for the Post 275 meeting. That 20% off on food really takes the cost down, not to mention allowing people to pick whatever they can afford off the menu. And with the Hennessey's happy hour pricing on drinks, the cost for the evening is more like going to a Post than out for dinner in La Jolla. The plan for this meeting is to include the Post 275 Officers installation and a dinner honoring La Jolla Boys Staters. Start time is 6 p.m. We are all welcome and encouraged to join them and show our support. Post 275 is trying to increase membership so if you know any veterans who live in and around La Jolla, please pass the word around; there is no Auxiliary at this post.
Please note, some of the above has changed since our Meeting, so this is the latest information from BJ.

- **District 22 President Susie Tozier:**

- Our District 22 units really need to toot their own horn! Please send photos (with a blurb describing the event and naming the participants) to Mary Thorsten (our District 22 webmaster), Art & Ruby (the Dept. webmasters), and also, to National.
- Lois Cornish is no longer the District Treasurer. She just has too much on her plate and needs to slow down. Mary Thorsten is taking over for her.
- There is an ALA University on the National website. There are five courses one can take. It's a great way to learn about our organization from your own home, whenever you have the time. You will receive a certificate for completing all the courses. At the end of this year (in June), there will be an award for the state that has the most members with this certification of completing all five courses.
- Sandiegohistory.org has some great information on all kinds of things. You can search for ALA or AL and see wonderful events that took place in the past with the American Legion family.
- Another tool for membership is door hangers. Get information on the ALA National Website. I am attaching a copy to the Minutes.
- Dept. President is visiting us at the October District meeting. Oct. 14th. Her Special Project is (TFA) Temporary Financial Assistance with a focus on female homeless veterans, especially those with

children, so if your unit plans to donate to her special project this year, you might want to bring it to the meeting and present it to her in person.

- The District is planning a fundraiser in February or March for Scholarships.
- This is my 3rd term as President, and it will be my last term.
- I am also the hospital rep, and the VA Hospital is doing fine.
- My year is the "year of learning." Be a mentor, don't be an abuser. Share your knowledge. Nurturing new members is an important focus this year for District 22.
- Thank you, Unit 552 - keep up your great work!
- **Meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm .**

- Our next unit meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 17, 2018.**
- Our "Pass the Pig" collection for Children & Youth tonight was \$20.
- Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.

- **Dates to remember:**
 - Sept. 25th / ALA Tuesday night meal at the VFW
 - Sept. 26th / PAESAN in Crown Point
 - Oct. 6th / Oktoberfest at the VFW
 - Oct. 17th / Monthly ALA meeting
 - Oct. 20th / Domino Tournament at the VFW
 - Oct. 20th / PBWC Bunco Fundraiser at the PB Women's Club
 - Nov. 3rd / Chula Vista Veterans Walk
 - Nov. 11th / VA Hospital Bingo & Thanksgiving Meal at the La Jolla VA Hospital
 - Dec. 1st / "Make Them Smile" Holiday Party at the VFW

- **Attachments:**
 - ALA Centennial Shirts flyer
 - Door Hanger examples
 - PAESAN flyer
 - Oktoberfest flyer
 - Domino Tournament flyer
 - PBWC Bunco flyer

Honor Flight Needs You

Eighty Korea and WWII-era veterans are returning home from a Tour of Honor at San Diego Airport on Sept. 30. A wonderful way to show support is for as many people as possible to be at the airport to give them a heroes welcome.



They will be arriving on American Airlines Flight 9459 at 2:30 p.m. at Terminal 2 baggage claim at the San Diego Airport. Plan to arrive at 1:30 p.m.

Also, Honor Flight folks have asked us to carry Welcome Home signs, hand-held America flags, or wear red-white-blue shirts, as well as a big smile to welcome these veterans home.
