



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes October 17, 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 October (Kaitlin Bowen-10/4; Cheryl Dolmage-10/4; Stella Bowman-10/14/Nancie's granddaughter; Cindy Freader-10/31). Cindy will be turning 60 and is having a party at the post on the 31st. She would love it if some of Unit 552's ALA members came to help her celebrate.
- We then recited the Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble.
- Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
 - **12 Members Present:** President Vicky Seamon, 1st Vice Jody Borden, Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Person, Chaplain Nancie McLees, Chaplain Jody ODonnell, BJ Coleman, Laura Dorris, Sue Gibbons, Larisa Hall, Amy Koss, Sandy Kurosky and Laurice Tomlinson.
- Minutes from September 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 BJ Coleman to accept September Minutes as written.
 - **Second:** made by Jody ODonnell.
 - **Unanimous vote.**

Minutes approved as written.
- **Treasurer's/Secretary's Report (Nancy Person):**
 - Bank balance at the September meeting was \$5,322.65; deposits: \$1,137.00; disbursements: \$388.80; current bank balance is \$6,070.85. Of that, \$688.31 is in our Poppy Fund, \$65.16 is in our Children & Youth (piggy) fund, leaving \$5,317.38 in our general fund. *President Vicky asked for details of the expenses, so they were read aloud.*
 - The September 25th Lobster Ravioli dinner was great. We took in \$245 and had expenses of \$96.35, leaving us a net profit of \$148.65.
 - According to my records, we've sold 27 Veterans-12 bracelets, bringing in \$135. We only need to sell 3 more bracelets to break even. Please be sure to turn in your money when you sell bracelets so I can keep track of the sales.
 - The SONS donated their Oktoberfest earnings of \$517 toward our holiday party. This is our first major donation.
 - We need to make a decision about the \$403 that was raised at our Sept. 7th Karaoke Fundraiser. We will be giving the entire amount to the Armed Services YMCA. Miranda was going to find out if Lorenzo wanted us to mail a check, or if some of our members were going to hand-deliver it at the next Food Exchange, which will be on 10/25. Since Miranda is not here tonight, I'd rather not hold on to the money any longer.
 - **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to send a \$403 check with a nice donation letter to the ASYMCA.
 - **Second:** made by Jody ODonnell.
 - **Unanimous vote.**

I will get the check and letter out shortly.
 - I paid the mandatory 3-year Fidelity Bond fee of \$16.50 to Department, and also the annual \$10 charge for live access to Alamis, the online membership program.

- At last month's meeting, our District 22 President Susie Tozier (who was our guest) suggested that if we planned on making a donation to the Dept. President's Special Project, it might be nice to do it in person at the Oct. 14th district meeting, since she would be visiting. We annually make a donation to the Dept. President's Special Project so Vicky and I presented her with a \$50 check this past Sunday.
- As Secretary, I would like to make a motion that we move our November meeting. Otherwise, it will be the night before Thanksgiving. I thought of cancelling but it's right before the holiday party so we'll need to finalize things. *There was much discussion. The only night the post was available for a meeting would be Monday, Nov. 12th and several of us couldn't make it. We all agreed that we would not have a regular November meeting, but an informal gathering to discuss only the holiday party on Dec. 1st. This will be our last chance to finalize details. Since the post is not available, I offered my house. Therefore, next month's (informal) meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 14th at 6:00 at Nancy Person's house: 5340 Cass Street. It's only a few blocks from the post and there's plenty of parking. Feel free to bring a snack to share. I'll be sure to have wine and beer available.*

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

- The District's first School of Instruction program has been rescheduled for November 18th at Post 460 in Kearny Mesa. I don't have the exact time yet, but will let you know when I do.
- Last month we talked about the 5 major programs often referred to as the PEARLS of our organization. Today I will talk about the first program, Poppy. Here are some Poppy Facts:
 - ❖ In the spring of 1919, amidst complete devastation, the poppies bloomed in abundance on the battlefields of France where so many of our men had fallen in battle. A replica of this poppy has become the Memorial Flower of the American Legion Auxiliary.
 - ❖ The American Legion Auxiliary adopted the poppy as its Memorial Flower at its organizing convention held in Kansas City, in October 1921.
 - ❖ At the time the American Legion Auxiliary adopted the poppy, it pledged 100% of the profits from the poppy distribution to welfare for servicemen and servicewomen and their families.
 - ❖ The memorial poppies are made of red crepe paper, by hand, by disabled veterans in hospitals and poppy workrooms in forty states, and the workers receive pay for each poppy made, the material being furnished free by the Department in the state in which the hospital is located. The poppy production in San Diego is conducted at the WAVE clinic, where disabled veterans are learning job skills. Through the American Legion Auxiliary poppy program, more than \$300,000 is paid annually to needy and disabled service men and service women for making the poppies.
 - ❖ More than 25,000,000 poppies made by disabled veterans are distributed on the streets under the supervision of the American Legion Auxiliary by approximately 125,000 volunteer workers who receive no compensation.
 - ❖ Proceeds from the distribution of poppies annually amount to more than \$2,000,000, every penny of which is devoted to Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation work by both The American Legion and Auxiliary, which includes aid to needy veterans and their families. The method of distribution varies in each Department, depending upon the nature of the demands for help.
 - ❖ The public is given an opportunity each year to help in the significant work of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, as well as an opportunity to pay tribute to all who died in service, by wearing a poppy on Poppy Day. (Memorial Day weekend)
 - Our Unit has not done much as far as fundraising for our Poppy Fund. If we have a meal or other event in the month of May, we usually put poppies out and ask for donations. Annually we have worked alongside the American Legion and the VFW when they do their poppy distribution.

- For the past several years, we have also provided poppies to the PB Christian Church on Loring and Dawes. For years, a couple (who were members of Post 6) brought them in every Memorial Day weekend. Although they're both gone now, their daughter has wanted to continue this tradition, so our unit gives them poppies. They send us a check for any donations that were made.
- Department has suggested that one of the ways to get the poppy message out, is to pass them out when going to VA hospitals. Therefore, we'll check to see how many we have currently so we can pass poppies out on Veterans' Day to the veterans we visit in the wards at the La Jolla VA Hospital. Our new shipment of 200 won't arrive until spring.
- ALA National has an online 5-part course called American Legion Academy. They've put out a challenge to all units. Units that have the most members completing the 5- part online course will receive a monetary award. I encourage all members to check out <https://www.alaforveterans.org/About/History/> and complete the course. Be sure to print out your certificate of completion as I will need to verify before adding your name to the list. I took the 1st one and it only took about 15 min. You will learn so much about the ALA! Maybe we can all take some of the parts at the same time; we'd all need to bring our own laptops but it might be fun to do some of it together.
- Nancy and I attended the District meeting on 10/14 and met Department President, Joan Cannon. Her Special Project this year is TFA (temporary financial aid) for female veterans. Female veterans experience different forms of trauma and physical issues than male veterans. Even the prosthetics that are made are still geared for men. Therefore, she is hoping to raise a lot of money to assist female veterans. As Nancy mentioned, since we always contribute to this fund anyway, we gave the Dept. President a check for \$50 in person at the district meeting. *We also gave her a Veterans-12 bracelet as a gift. She liked it so much she bought four more!*
- **Membership (Vicky Seamon):**
 - Membership currently stands at 22 renewals, and 2 PUFL (24). The department has set our goal at 60, so this puts us at 40%. Please renew and promote membership; remember that this year's dues are \$30.00. If you received an email from me about dues, it means you have not paid this year's dues.
 - Don't forget to check out <http://ala.memberdiscounts.co/perks> to learn about ALA benefits.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Americanism (Jody ODonnell):**
 - Get out and vote on November 6th. It's our civic duty and one of the gifts of being a U.S. citizen.
- **Chaplain & Historian (Nancie McLees):**
 - The scrapbook is up-to-date; please look at it.
- **Children & Youth (Larisa Hall):**
 - It's time to pass around the Children & Youth piggy for this month's collection.
 - I'm working on setting up a performance at the USO with our Junior Dance Team. I'm hoping we can start a schedule of doing a once a month, or once every other month show for them.
- **Community Service (Heather Wilson-absent):**
 - No Report
- **Education (Jody Borden):**
 - I ended up getting a bunch of thank-you letters from Birdrock Elementary students for the Veterans who were part of Honor Flight in September.
 - In honor of Veteran's Day, I will be requesting letters again from our school that we can deliver to the patients at the La Jolla VA Hospital when we're there for Bingo on 11/11. I'm also thinking of asking if they'd like to make posters and/or placemats for that day.
- **Education (Vicky Seamon and Nancy Person):**
 - It's time again to read and judge the VFW essays. They need help! Judging will take place at the post on Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 9:00am until they're done. *The more volunteers they have, the quicker the*

job gets done. The Voice of Democracy theme is "Why My Vote Matters" and the Patriot's Pen theme is "Why I Honor the American Flag." No need to RSVP - just show up with your reading glasses.

- **Girls State (Nancy Person for Margaret Smith):**
 - Reservations for Girls State were submitted before the October 1st deadline. Once again, we're sponsoring girls from four local high schools. May 19, 2019 is the Orientation Tea. Girls State will take place June 16-22 at Clairemont College in Pomona.
- **National Security (Nancy Person for Maggie Frazier):**
 - Maggie and Miranda went to Lindbergh Field on Sunday, Sept. 30th to meet the returning veterans who were part of Honor Flight. As always, it was a very moving experience. See the few pix below.
- **Poppy (Vicky Seamon for Evelyn Garza):**
 - I ordered 200 poppies (an increase of 100 over last year) and the order was submitted by the October 1st deadline.
- **Public Relations (Nancy Person):**
 - 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 continues to develop: <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 (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 11/1 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 most of the paper goods we bought. I will inventory them and make a list of what we need to buy.
 - In the past, there was a table set up with quilts, socks, writing tablets, blank Christmas cards with stamps (for the patients to send out), or other things the veterans might be able to use. If you have anything to donate, let me know.
- **Old Business (Vicky Seamon):**
 - Tuesday meals - You heard our lobster ravioli meal netted us a nice profit. Thanks to all who helped make it a success and that includes the members who came and bought dinners. I know that we all can't help with cooking and food prep, but your attendance means a lot in supporting our unit. Our next meal is 10/23 and it will be Nancie's delicious chicken pot pies. We could use a few hands in assembling the pies; right now I only have myself, Nancie and maybe Miranda signed up to volunteer. We already have the chicken in the freezer at the post so the shopping shouldn't be too difficult. Gary, Nancy's husband, has volunteered to make the chicken on Monday night and cut it up into cubes for us! *At the meeting, Jody O, Sandy, Laura, Amy, and possibly Laurice volunteered to assist.*
 - Oktoberfest - Once again, the meal was wonderful and the hall looked great thanks to all my decorators. As you heard from Nancy, it was a huge success. I was really surprised when Steve, commander of the Sons of the American Legion (SONS) gave us 100% of the money for us to use to fund our Holiday Party.

In addition, the SONS will be buying and preparing all the food that evening. Nancie McLees made a terrific suggestion that we give them a Certificate of Appreciation so we will get that made.

- The PBWC is holding a BUNCO on 10/20 (see flyer).
- As we have already discussed, VA Bingo is scheduled for 11/11 (Veterans Day) - who is planning to volunteer?
- 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.
- Holiday party is on December 1st. We need to put up the tree Sunday or Monday (11/25 - 11/26). We can finish decorating the hall the day of the event. 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	Marci	11/25
2	Inventory donated toys/gifts	Vicky	11/15
3	Contact families and compile list of children with gift ideas	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)	Bobby Clayton, Jody's friend	12/1
8	Elf volunteer (to wear costume)	Mirrandra	12/1
9	Elf helper Volunteers (3)		12/1
10	Put up and decorate tree	Maggie, Jody B, Jody O	11/30
11	Decorate hall	Jody B, Maggie, Jody O	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
17	Organize packages in numerical order on table in back of room		
18	Set up tables and decorate	Nancy P, Jody B	12/1
19	Decorate Santa's Chair (after delivery by Tricia Smith)		12/1
20	Place out names for seating arrangements	Nancy P	12/1

21	Organize drawing	Nancy P	12/1
22	Organize gift certificates for older children		12/1
23	Put out chairs with Reserved Parking signs on them	Jody B	12/1
24	Greet guests & give out family envelopes	Nancy P	12/1
25	Take pix of arriving families	Maggie	12/1
26	Walk families to assigned tables		12/1
27	Teardown/Cleanup	Nancy P, Jody B	12/1
28	Order chairs from Rafael's Party Rentals	Nancy P	?
29	Be contact for rental chair pick-up and meet truck at post		12/3

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

- We have been asked to help decorate one the pods of the Chula Vista Veterans Home on Saturday, 11/24 from 9 to 12. Keep in mind this is the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Who can help? Nancy P. will purchase 15, \$15 Walmart gift cards for the residents, which we do every year.
- Meal for November? All agreed to skip this month!
- Margaret Smith made me aware that there are students at Mission Bay HS that cannot afford to buy year books or attend sporting events at the school because their families just don't have the money. Every year Margaret and Patricia donate money to help students get Gold Cards (needed to attend sporting events and some other school events) and Yearbooks. They asked if this is something our Unit would like to help these students with. They get a few names from counselors and usually give \$100 per student. Is anyone interested in donating? *It was decided that we'd first like to find out how many of these students are from military families. Nancy Person has a connection at MBHS and will try to get this information before we vote on moving forward.*
- Mid-year reports are due 12/1. Nancy and I will be working on them beginning around November 17th. Please start compiling your information regarding volunteer work, donations for veterans/active military, etc. and email Nancy that information.

- **New Business (Nancy Person):**

- Just a reminder that the Mission Beach Women's Club will be involved in their SOS (Support our Servicewomen) Campaign again. On Monday, 11/12, they'll be packing over 100 boxes (last year they sent 141) filled with women-oriented toiletries, cosmetics, magazines, books, shelf stable food, etc. and shipping them to deployed women around the world. The most expensive part of this project is the shipping, which usually costs about \$2,000. Our unit has been donating money for the past several years to help with shipping.
 - **Motion:** made by Nancy Person to donate \$300 toward shipping costs for the SOS program.
 - **Second:** made by Sandy Kurosky.
 - **Unanimous vote**

Nancy will make out a \$300 check for the MBWC's SOS Campaign.

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

- The Veteran's Day issue of the AL District 22 newspaper was posted online today at ald22.org and also the District 22 Facebook page. The paper issue should be out next week. I serve as one of two editors of the newspaper, alongside the D22 Adjutant. I am the only staff reporter. Anybody who is involved with an event with any one of the American Legion Family organizations, please let me know so I can write about it. This paper is meant to be read by people outside of our organization, so please take copies and distribute them to people you know.
- District 22 got involved in American Legion Baseball last summer. We are hoping to grow district participation. Dual member, Desiree Herrera, has volunteered to contact Mission Bay High School and see if they would like to field an AL Baseball team. The cost to sponsor a team for a season is \$440. We're hoping to have more info about that soon.

- Post 275 is getting started with plans to be in the La Jolla Christmas Parade on Sunday, Dec. 2nd. Their next meeting will be Thursday, Oct 25th at 11:30am at Hennessey's in La Jolla. We are welcome to join them and brainstorm ideas. We get a discount on lunch. They are our closest sister post and they don't have an Auxiliary so they are always looking for AL family members to work with.
- We will not have a regular November meeting. Instead, we will have a holiday party planning meeting on **Wednesday, November 14 at 6:00, at the home of Nancy Person: 5340 Cass Street, PB.**
- Our "Pass the Pig" collection for Children & Youth tonight was \$15.04.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm
- Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.
- **Dates to remember:**
 - Oct. 20th / Domino Tournament at the VFW
 - Oct. 20th / PBWC Bunco Fundraiser at the PB Women's Club
 - Nov. 11th / VA Hospital Bingo & Thanksgiving Meal at the La Jolla VA Hospital
 - **Nov. 14th / Holiday party planning meeting at Nancy's house**
 - Nov. 24th / Decorate Chula Vista Veterans home
 - Nov. 25th-26th? / Decorate Xmas tree at VFW
 - Dec. 1st / "Make Them Smile" Holiday Party at the VFW

Welcoming back veterans (who were part of Honor Flight) at Lindbergh Field on Sept. 30th



