



Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

Meeting Minutes February 20, 2019

- 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 member with a birthday in February: Brenda Hamett (2/1).
- 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 (via phone), Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Person, Chaplains Nancie McLees and Jody O'Donnell, Miranda Boshart, Laura Dorris, Evelyn Garza, Larisa Hall, Desiree Herrera, Laurice Tomlinson and Heather Wilson.
 - **1 Guest Present:** Laura McHugh, Sue's niece, who has joined our unit. Welcome Laura!
- President Vicky: The business meeting of Unit 552 will now come to order. Minutes from the January meeting were sent out electronically. Did everyone have a chance to read them? Any corrections or discussion? Is there a motion to have the Minutes from last month accepted as written?
 - **Motion:** made by Desiree Herrera to accept the January Minutes as written.
 - **Second:** made by Sue Gibbons.
 - **Unanimous vote.**

January Minutes approved as written.
- We will now have the reading of the Treasurer's/Secretary's report.
- **Treasurer's/Secretary's Report (Nancy Person):**
 - Bank balance at the January meeting was \$3,038.46; deposits: \$1,592.99; disbursements: \$721.22; current bank balance is \$3,910.23. Of that, \$688.31 is in our Poppy Fund, \$102.16 is in our Children & Youth (piggy) fund, leaving \$3,119.76 in our general fund.
 - The recent turkey pot pie meal netted us \$222.
 - I sent a \$200 donation to the North County Veteran Stand Down, as was agreed last month. They sent a nice thank-you letter.
 - To date we have sold 76 Pernicano's tickets. We've also received straight donations without a ticket purchase. Since our current gross income is \$937, I am quite sure our net profit from this fundraiser will be at least \$500. Please continue to sell tickets since they're good through the 28th. John Pernicano usually accepts them during the first few weeks in March, as well. *After the meeting, more money was turned in for tickets, bringing our sales up to 86!*
 - Our final profit from the latest Veteran-12 Bracelet fundraiser is \$226.

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

- Let's please all welcome a new member, Laura McHugh, who is Sue's niece. Laura's mom is on the Executive Board in her FL ALA unit and her dad was in the navy. *Laura received an ALA pin from President Vicky.*
- I would like to start off by thanking Nancie McLees for stepping up and leading the meal held last week; her turkey pot pies were amazing. Also, a thank you to Miranda, Sue and Evelyn for all of their help. Frances and Nancy P. provided desserts. Everyone working together is why this meal was such a great success.
 - **Motion:** made by Nancy P. to take the profit from the turkey pot pie meal and purchase three new tables for the post.
 - **Second:** made by Jody Borden.
 - **Unanimous vote.**
The commanders of the VFW, AL, and SONS have all commented how much they like the two new tables we purchased in December; light and sturdy. We will buy three more of the same as a thank-you for AL Commander (and Canteen Manager) Jerry Henson donating the two turkeys and vegetables for the meal.
- Nancy P. and I attended the District meeting on 2/10. The item that stands out most in my mind is that year-end reports are due at the April District meeting. Therefore, please start tallying your volunteer work/community service and send it to me ASAP. Remember, we need a short description of what you did (volunteered at church or a hospital, helped/drove a veteran, etc), hours it took, miles driven, and money spent. If you have anything on your calendar for March through June, please include it and just estimate those figures. Don't forget about donating blood, letting me know if you fly an American flag daily, etc. Nancy P. and I will begin working on reports during the last week in March. Our data gets sent to the District, who then forwards it to the state, then on to the nation; finally, it gets sent to Congress. The money they fund the ALA nationally is based on what data they get from us. The more we include, the better funded we will be.
- We received several letters from the VA hospital thanking us for the donations of homemade quilts, paperback books, magazines, children books, coloring books and crayons. We also received a thank you from the ASYMCA for money donated.
- Once again, we provided two large bags of clothing, toiletries, and books to Stand Up For Kids (SUFK). Thanks to everyone who has helped this project to help homeless teenagers.

- **Membership (Vicky Seamon):**

- I would like to acknowledge Margaret Smith, who just received her 70-year pin for continuous membership in the ALA. Although she hasn't been to meetings lately, she still does lots of things behind the scene. She makes blankets, crochets water balloons, bakes, and does lots of other things for our unit.
- Membership currently stands at 44, or 73%. There are still seven members that have not renewed and their memberships expired 12/31/18. It is not too late to renew and there are no penalties for late renewal, so please renew. We value and need your support! Current cost of dues is \$30.00; if paying by check, make it payable to ALA Unit 552. We had hoped to have 100% renewal this year, but a few members have let me know that they will not be renewing. If your renewal has not been received by February 28th, Nancy will have to remove you from our roster and mailing list.

- 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:

- **Americanism (Jody ODonnell)**
 - No report.
- **Chaplain (Nancie McLees):**
 - No report.
- **Children & Youth (Larisa Hall):**
 - Tap Fever Studios started doing programs with the USO. In December, they had a toy drive and a few of our dancers went and participated. Also, we had a performance planned at the USO downtown, but they had plumbing problems so it's been rescheduled. There are three USO (United Service Organizations) facilities in San Diego. We're working with the one at 303 A Street.
 - It's time to pass around the Children & Youth piggy for this month's collection.
- **Community Service (Heather Wilson):**
 - No report.
- **Education (Jody Borden):**
 - My nephew deployed to Afghanistan on February 3rd so I will have Bird Rock students write letters, cards, etc. Any extras will be used for our unit.
- **Girls State (Vicky Seamon for Margaret Smith):**
 - Nancy P., Margaret and I completed the interviews at the four local high schools that we sponsor. It was an amazing experience. All of our selected delegates agreed to come and speak to us at our July or August meeting. I just wish more of our unit members would step up and help with this wonderful program next year. I really think you would enjoy being part of the interview team.
 - Girls State orientation tea will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2019 at Post 731 in Linda Vista from 1-4pm.
 - Girls State will take place June 24-29 at Clairemont-McKenna College in Pomona.
 - The paperwork, with the \$1,700 check, was sent out to the Dept. of CA this morning.
- **Historian (BJ Coleman-absent):**
 - *Although BJ is home with the flu, she sent a two-page summary of all she has been doing over the past two months. It was too long to read at the meeting, so it is at the end of these Minutes.*
- **National Security (Maggie Frazier-absent):**
- **Poppy (Evelyn Garza):**
 - No report.
- **Public Relations (Nancy Person):**
 - Nothing new, just a reminder to check out our website and Facebook page:
<https://sites.google.com/site/pacificbeachalaunit552/> and www.facebook.com/ALAunit552.
- **VA&R (Mirranda Boshart):**
 - There will be a Creative Arts Festival on 3/7 at the VA hospital. Once a year, the Veterans come together and paint, sculpt, and use all kinds of mixed media to create art. Our Unit will

provide a trophy for the Veterans' Choice Award (like a people's choice award). *Mirranda passed around her phone so all members could see the trophy she has ordered).*

We took a short break to enjoy the munchies that Laurice brought - thank you!!

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

- Legion day was 2/9. The \$100 that our unit donated will go to the VA Hospital Patient Needs funds. Margaret Smith made a beautiful quilt that was donated, as well.
- Pernicano's fundraiser meal kicked off on Feb. 1 and there were about 20 of our supporters in attendance. Just a reminder that the fundraiser runs the entire month of February, so you can still get out there and sell tickets. The money we raise will go to fund our future projects, like Stand Down and school backpacks.
- Bunco is coming up quickly on Saturday, March 2nd. It runs from 12-3 but we should be there at 11 to start setting up. I have three baskets and purses for raffles. We give out four prizes, and we already have three. Maggie has offered to make a spring wreath and donate tickets to the USS Midway Museum. Nancy P is contributing tickets to the Automotive Museum in Balboa Park. We still need one other item to be used as a prize. *Mirranda volunteered to put something together.* We will also need volunteers to bring food. *Several members confirmed what they're bringing (Heather-spinach dip; Nancy P-meatballs; Nancie M-pigs in a blanket; Mirranda- caprese salad skewers).* **The most critical assistance we need from our members is to get the word out and get participants.** This event is always lots of fun but our turnout has been very disappointing during the last several Bunco fundraisers. PLEASE forward the Bunco flyer to friends and family, and encourage them to attend.
- Did anybody bring donations for SUFKs?
- Box Tops for Education - collecting these for local schools.
- Military families serving abroad - collecting coupons that they can use in the commissary.

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

- The Sons of the American Legion have asked for our help in putting together the Saint Patrick's Day meal to be held on Sunday, 3/17 from 1 to 4. Not sure what help they will need just yet, but definitely they like us to make desserts and decorate. I have ordered a few new decorations. Commander Steve has designated VFW Post 5985 as the recipient of the funds made at this meal. The canteen is in desperate need of new bar stools. The SONS will be buying some already, and more can certainly be purchased with money from this meal.
- Any thoughts on a Tuesday night meal for March? *Heather, Mirranda and Laura D. have volunteered to make a Mexican meal. We've marked the calendar for March 12th.*
- Larisa requested a list of successful/easy meals that our unit has made in the past. This way she can keep a list with an appropriate photo on our Google drive, and each month when a meal has been selected, she can easily upload it to our Facebook page. *Members, please email Nancy P. if you have a meal that you know is well-liked and simple. I will compile a list for Larisa.*

- **New Business (Desiree Herrera):**

- Update on Legion Baseball: I turned in two checks, one from the Legion and one from us. Out of the 28 Legion posts in District 22, 20 of them are sponsoring teams (including us). The season starts on 6/21. All games will be during the day, during the week. All playoff games will be held at USD. Kids will be wearing "552" patches. Our team is the Mission Beach Cobras.

Teams are military-themed; the Cobra is a military helicopter. Our coach is Dennis, a gym teacher at PB Middle School. He has been a member of the SONS since he was a baby. The game schedule should be out soon.

- Our "Pass the Pig" collection for Children & Youth tonight was \$16.00.
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.
 - Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Nancy Person.

 - **Dates to remember:**
 - March 2nd - Our Bunco Fundraiser.
 - March 12th - ALA Tuesday night meal.
 - March 17th - St. Patrick's Day meal at the post.
 - March 25th-29th - End-of-year reports created.
 - April 14th - End-of-year reports due.
 - April 20th - Articles/photos due to BJ for publication in the Memorial Day edition of the 22nd District Legionnaire Newspaper.
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January-February 2019 Activities Report

By: B.J. Coleman

During the evening of Wednesday, January 2, I attended the "Meet and Greet" session with American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad, which was held at Santee American Legion Post 364. Reistad had spent the earlier part of the day at Borrego Springs American Legion Post 853, and then at Re-Dedication of the Ocotillo Wells Veterans Memorial. The weather was icy and cold, delaying Commander Reistad's arrival at Post 364. Members of Post 364 American Legion Riders served as motorcycle escorts for Commander Reistad.

I took photographs and interviewed event participants. An article I wrote covering the event appeared in *The East County Californian* here:

<http://www.eccalifornian.com/article/2019-centennial-celebration-american-legion-visits-east-county-second-day-organization%E2%80%99s-100>

The following day, in the afternoon hours of Thursday, January 3, I visited Downtown San Diego, where Commander Reistad toured the bayfront near the USS Midway Museum to review "The Greatest Generation Walk." I arranged with event photographer Fran Del Santo to provide photographs, and I wrote an article about the event for *San Diego Downtown News*, which appears here:

<https://sandiegodowntownnews.com/2019-centennial-celebration/>

Later that evening on Thursday, January 3, I attended the special dinner honoring Commander Reistad, held at J.B. Clark American Legion Post 149 in Escondido.

In the evening of Wednesday, January 16, I was absent from the ALA 552 meeting. I accompanied District 22 Executive Board Member Desirae Storey-Smidt for her first-time visit to El Cajon American Legion Post 303 for the Post's monthly general meeting. Desirae's husband, Eric Smidt, like El Cajon Post 303 Commander Wes Schermann, is a graduate of West Point. Wes Schermann invited Desirae to attend the January meeting when I

introduced them at the National Commander Dinner. (Desirae is a dual member at Escondido Post 149, and she further serves on the scholarship committee for 20/4.)

The featured speaker at El Cajon Post 149 was Lt. Mario Tarver, US Navy, a graduate of Tuskegee University, who spoke on behalf of the Tuskegee Institute about the famed World War II pilots of the Tuskegee Airmen. After his speech concluded, Desirae signed Lt. Tarver up as a new Legionnaire. Tarver will retire from Navy service imminently, with plans to work as a commercial aviator based out of his native Oakland in northern California.

On Thursday, January 24, I attended the rescheduled lunch meeting of La Jolla American Legion Post 275, at Hennessey's in La Jolla. Subsequently, I also attended a brief meeting at Hennessey's with the restaurant manager and Legion representatives to discuss a possible fundraising evening at the restaurant to benefit American Legion Baseball for Post 275 and any other Post teams that may wish to participate. A tentative date of April 3 was discussed, with further planning to be determined.

La Jolla Post 275 staged a quick fundraising project in early February, selling See's Valentine's Day candy boxes. I helped sell a few boxes, with proceeds going to support Boys State and Legion Baseball.

On Sunday, February 10, I attended the American Legion District 22 General Meeting. The contract for publication of *22nd District Legionnaire* was renewed, with District 22 Commander Chris Yates signing the new contract in January. The District newspaper is an occasional publication, with the next issue slated for Memorial Day. Commander Yates, my newspaper co-editor, District 22 Adjutant Ben Hyde, and I made brief statements at the meeting about publication copy deadlines and guidelines for requested articles and photographs for the upcoming issue. The copy deadline will be around April 20, copy to be submitted to Ben Hyde and/or to me. For each issue of the District newspaper that we prepare, the publisher sends to District 22 a post-publication check of \$1,000 to benefit members of The American Legion Family.