



## Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

### Meeting Minutes January 15, 2020

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jody Borden called the meeting to order at 6:00pm (President Vicky was ill).
- Co-Chaplain Nancie McLees led us in prayer, followed by sending (belated and regular) birthday wishes to the ALA members with a birthday in December or January, since we didn't have a December meeting. First, belated wishes to Sandy Kurosky-12/1, Jody Borden-12/8, Marilyn Ciborski-12/16 and Holly Harris-12/23. We send current birthday wishes to Mirranda Boshart-1/9, Karen Stewart-1/12, Jo-Ann Ober-1/13 and Marci Williams-1/28.
- We then recited the Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble.
- Attendance was taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
  - **15 Members Present:** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Jody Borden, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Laura McHugh, Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Person, Chaplain Nancie McLees, Mirranda Boshart, Laura Dorris, Maggie Frazier, Sue Gibbons, Larisa Hall, Sandy Kurosky, Jody O'Donnell, Karen Stewart, Laurice Tomlinson, Sandee Van Orshoven, Heather Wilson.
  - **3 Guests Present:**
    - Bess Phillips, who has filled out an application and paid her dues. Vicky has the application and has to confirm her eligibility, and then complete the processing. Bess has lived in PB for over 25 years. Her father worked for the government teaching the military and her uncle was in the military. She's half-Vietnamese and considers herself a war baby. She has always wanted to give back and honor her family's military involvement so joining our unit will allow her to do that.
    - Lynn Dillon, who is a friend/neighbor of Nancie's and attended our Xmas pot luck. She turned in her application and paid her dues tonight. Lynn emigrated here from South Africa and married a man who was a Vietnam vet and the recipient of a purple heart. She and her late husband lived in Arizona before moving to PB. Today is the three-month anniversary of his death so she feels it's very fitting for her to be joining our unit tonight. Her husband would be very pleased.
    - Debbie Tedford (Vicky's and my neighbor), who took a membership application tonight. Debbie has been to several previous meetings, comes to many of our events, and has volunteered with us. We are so pleased that she has decided to join our unit!
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Jody: The business meeting of Unit 552 will now come to order. Since there was no meeting in December, the Minutes from November 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 November accepted as written?
  - **Motion:** made by Jody O'Donnell to accept the November Minutes as written.
  - **Second:** made by Sandee Van Orshoven .
  - **Unanimous vote.**

*November Minutes are 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 November meeting was \$5,144.19; deposits: \$2,515.36; disbursements: \$4,055.33; current bank balance is \$3,604.22. Of that, \$1,902.31 is in our Poppy Fund, \$122.16 is in our Children & Youth (piggy), and \$170.00 is in our Honor Flight fund, leaving \$1,409.75 in our general fund.
- The holiday party was amazing and it didn't cost us that much money! We spent a total of \$2,959.69 but received \$2,035 in donations. Therefore, just less than \$1,000 came out of our bank account! By the way, Jerry Henson returned the \$100 cleaning deposit we gave him because he said we left the hall spotless. Well done, ladies!
- If you remember, when Sandy started making breakfasts in September, we agreed to give all profits to the VFW. We wrote them a check for \$175 for the two September breakfasts. The check was lost for several months, so I didn't want to give them another until it was found. It finally was, so I'll be giving them a check for \$600 to cover our profits from October through December. This check is not included in my treasury report, since I haven't written it yet.
- According to my calculations, we still have 18 Honor Flight bracelets to sell. Vicky has six and the other 12 are at the meeting tonight. We put one bracelet in each of the family bags at the Christmas party, so our profit won't be as high as it could have been, but I'm sure the moms really appreciated it. If we sell the remaining bracelets, we'll have a profit of \$260 so we'll be able to make a nice donation to Honor Flight San Diego. *We sold 11 bracelets at this meeting!*

- **President's Report (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Jody Borden read Vicky Seamon's report in her absence):**

- I'd like to start my report by thanking everyone who participated in all our activities since our November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - The Veterans at the Chula Vista Veterans Home were delighted to have us back again to decorate for Christmas. (see photo)
  - The active-duty military families also were so thankful for all we did to make their holiday party a dream come true. Thank you, Jody Borden, for your great suggestions; the changes we made in how we passed out gifts and managed the raffles made things flow better than ever. Jody had some other suggestions that she documented so we can use them when we start brainstorming for this year's party. Does anyone else have any observations on what worked and what could be done better for next year? If so, please jot them down and get them to Nancy Person. We will use all members' input when we start planning for the December 5<sup>th</sup> holiday party in September/October. *The main suggestion tonight was that we have more time to purchase the gifts.*
  - Finally, a big thank-you to Karen Stewart for hosting our non-meeting at her home on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Instead of a regular meeting, we had a pot-luck which was absolutely lovely. We had a nice turnout of members, and we enjoyed being together without talking about ALA business! (see photo)
- Nancy P. and I attended the District 22 meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. During the meeting, our unit donated \$100 toward gift cards for the Aspire Center. They will be put into backpacks that the district put together for veterans around the district. *The ASPIRE Center is a 40-bed residential treatment facility designed to promote recovery in Veterans, particularly those who returned from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan*
- Happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday to the American Legion Auxiliary! Over its 100 years, the ALA has supported veterans, active military, their families, and the youth of the nation through its various programs. 1919 - 2019

- **Membership (Jody Borden for Vicky):**

- Membership currently stands at 54. There are only three members who have not renewed their memberships which expired 12/31/19. However, it's not too late! There are no penalties for late renewal, so please renew. We value and need your support! Please pay your \$30 dues. If paying by check, make it out to ALA Unit 552. You can bring dues to the VFW or mail directly to me, or renew online at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) We also have three potential new members here with us tonight, whose eligibility has to be confirmed.
- We are so close to 100% renewal, so that is our goal right now.
- <http://ala.memberdiscounts.co/perks/register>. Go to this web address and use registration code: ALADiscounts to find out what ALA benefits are available to you. You will be asked to set up a password and you're ready to save!

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- ✚ **Americanism (Jody ODonnell)**

- No report, but I wanted to let you know that I'm moving to Houston in April to be closer to my sisters, nieces and nephews. I plan to remain a member of this unit. *If you have any space in your garage, we need to get a few tables and Stand Down boxes from Jody's garage before she moves.*

- ✚ **Chaplain (Nancie McLees):**

- No report.

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

- No report.

- ✚ **Community Service (Heather Wilson):**

- No report.

- ✚ **Education (Jody Borden):**

- Since Valentine's Day is coming up, it might be nice if we make some Valentines and bring them to the VA Hospital on Legion Day, February 8<sup>th</sup>. I'll put the word out at Bird Rock Elementary and also help kids make their own cards when they're in the library, which is where my office is.

- ✚ **Girls State (Nancy Person):**

- In December I emailed the counselors at the four schools that we sponsor for Girls State, asking them to start thinking about which girls they might recommend to be interviewed. I sent a follow-up email this morning to see if we could start scheduling the interviews. We already received three responses and now have confirmed interviews on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at University City HS; Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at Madison HS; and Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at Mission Bay HS. We're only waiting to hear from Clairemont. We need to arrive at each school by 7:45 so we can start interviews at 8am. Please let me know if you'd like to be part of the interview team. It's an interesting and eye-opening process that I know you'll enjoy. We have interview guidelines with suggested questions so it's quite simple. The maximum number of girls we interview at one school is five, so it can take up to two hours per school.
- The district is looking for Auxiliary members interested in becoming Girl's State moms during the week of Girl's State 6/22 - 6/27. You can sign into the website and learn more about it. Jody Borden also looked it up during the meeting and read us some of the descriptions. The bottom line is it's not for the faint of heart. It's a lot of work, responsibility and commitment, but also an amazing experience. <https://www.cagirlsstate.org/>

- ✚ **Historian & District 22 Journalist (Nancy Person read BJ Coleman's report in her absence):**

- The publication contract for "22nd District Legionnaire" was extended through Veterans Day 2021. The District newspaper will be published twice annually, with Memorial Day and Veterans Day issues.

- Next issue of the D22 newspaper will be for Memorial Day. Copy deadline for articles and photos will be sometime in early April, at the discretion of our Bakersfield publisher. (And thanks, Nancy, for offering to write the history of ALA Unit 552.)
- And this is a very sad note, which should nonetheless be shared around, with prayer requests. Junior Past La Jolla Post 275 Commander Pat Brooks passed away early this week, after a brief fatal illness. He is survived by wife Julie, their children, and Pat's brothers. La Jolla Legionnaires will be grieving hard because of how key Pat was in supporting the Post. Pat and Julie had recently moved to Descanso.
- Here is the notification from La Jolla Past Commander Jose Payne King:
  - *Our comrade Patrick George Brooks recently passed on to Post Everlasting. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam Post Era and continued to serve his country as a Legionnaire. He served the community and, in so doing, taught young Americans the value of Americanism and Patriotism. Pat's service has come to an end, and we honor him for his life, for his service, and his patriotism and dedication to the American Legion Post 275 La Jolla. Celebration of life will take place this coming Saturday at Vineyard Hacienda in Jamul (12685 Campo Road 91978). Please come out and support the family, they will be very grateful. The services will take place from 1 pm to 4 pm.*

#### ✚ **National Security (Maggie Frazier):**

- Honor Flight is holding a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraiser to fund the spring "Tour of Honor" trip to Washington DC so that World War II and Korean veterans can visit the war memorials. The fundraiser will take place on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at the Hilton Del Mar hotel. A copy of the "Save The Date" flyer is attached to these Minutes. More details to come.
- I was in Virginia during the Wreaths Across America celebration in December. We went to the cemetery at Quantico Marine Corp Base and there were hundreds and hundreds of people there to put wreaths on the vet graves. The spirit of the people who were helping was amazing. The weather was horrible but it was a fabulous experience. (See photos)

#### ✚ **Poppy (Evelyn Garza-absent):**

- No report.

#### ✚ **Public Relations (Nancy Person):**

- No report.

#### ✚ **VA&R (Mirranda Boshart):**

- The Dept. is trying to raise awareness about the increasing population of homeless vets. Maybe we could think of a fundraiser to help?

#### • **Old Business (Jody Borden reading for Vicky Seamon):**

- Sandy continues to do a wonderful job along with the kitchen crew in bringing back the Sunday breakfasts. The next one is scheduled for this Sunday, 1/19, so please come out and show your support. Next month's ALA meeting will be after both February breakfasts, so mark your calendars now for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of February. Print out the enclosed flyer and pass it around to local family and friends.
- Did anybody bring donations for SUFKs?
- The PB Women's Club 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.
- Don't forget to bring in your Box Tops 4 Education being collected for Bird Rock Elementary.
- The ALA National has put out a challenge to all units. Units that have the most members completing a 5-part on-line course will receive a monetary award. I would encourage all members to go to the web site <https://www.alaforveterans.org/About/History/> and complete the courses,

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 1<sup>st</sup> one and it only took about 15 min. Should we try to get a group together? Each person would need their own laptop. *A separate email was sent about this too.*

- **New Business (Larisa Hall):**

- A few months ago I mentioned the possibility of having a "High Tea" Fundraiser. I am a member of a group that goes for afternoon tea about once a month. I also know of a local Facebook tea group that has hundreds of members. I think it would be relatively simple, and if we charged \$20 per person, we could potentially raise \$600 or more. I suggest we have a set # of tickets that we sell, so we know how many people will be coming and we're completely prepared. If different unit members (or local businesses like The French Gourmet) donated the food, we'd only need to buy some inexpensive floral tablecloths, cups, saucers, and small plates. We could find these things at GoodWill, HomeGoods, and similar places. I'm sure we could borrow the tiered serving towers. (Maggie also suggested that we could have it as a "bring your own china setup" and the tables could have a friendly competition on whose looked best). *The general consensus was positive but there was hesitation about the amount of work it would take, and that it would be difficult to get people to come. Larisa will put together a list of things we would need, jobs to be done, initial budget, etc. and bring it to the February meeting for further discussion. Thoughts were to have it in April or May.*

- **New Business (Laura McHugh):**

- I was contacted by a woman who coordinates the La Jolla Chapter of Lions Heart (a non-profit whose mission is to inspire teen volunteering and leadership dedicated to positive social impact). She works with a group of five teen boys (14 and 15 year olds) who will be graduating high school in 2023. They are always looking for volunteer activities. She wanted to know if we needed their help in any way. *The members discussed these boys coming to help at Sandy's breakfasts, especially with clean-up. Laura will contact her and pass along a flyer with the upcoming breakfast dates.*

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

- As you know, Pernicano's is gone. We used to have a February fundraiser there every year. Since we usually have a Bunco event in the spring, I propose we have a Bingo fundraiser instead. Lynda Tickey (of the Soroptomists and the PB Women's Club) donated her Bingo set to our unit. Vicky and I attended a Bingo fundraiser last year and had a great time. As always, we need donated items to create raffle baskets (or volunteers to make their own basket) and volunteers to bring food. What do you think about the last Saturday in February, the 29<sup>th</sup>? That will give us the most time to get the word out and prepare.

- **Motion:** made by Laura McHugh to have a Bingo fundraiser.

- **Second:** made by Mirranda Boshart .

- **Unanimous vote.**

*Nancy checked the calendar and also asked Jerry Henson, and 2/29 is a go! The suggestion was made to give a raffle ticket to the winner of every game. At the end, we can pick three names for the prizes. The last game can be a blackout (all squares must be covered) and that winner will get the best prize. I'll make a flyer and we'll finalize the rules in the next month. Please start thinking about what items you can donate to make a raffle basket, and/or what food you could bring. Nancie has a full Bingo set that we can borrow!*

- The Sons of the American Legion will once again be holding their annual chili cook-off on Superbowl Sunday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. A flyer is attached with all the details. Even if you don't watch the game, it's fun to come and taste a bunch of different chili recipes and judge them!

- **NEW BUSINESS SINCE THE MEETING:**
  - Due to popular demand, Miranda has decided to bring back the Valentine's Day Prime Rib dinner. She'll need help with food prep, set-up, serving and clean-up. She will contact the woman from Lions Heart to see if those boys are available. There is less than a month until Valentine's Day, so please pass around the flyer and invite your family and friends ASAP. There will be two seatings, 5:00 and 6:30. This will be a fundraiser for our unit.
- **New Business (Jody Borden for Vicky Seamon):**
  - Legion Day will be celebrated at the VA Hospital during the monthly Bingo on 2/8 and everyone is welcome to attend. We can bring the Valentine's cards!
  - The next District meeting is 2/9. Is there anyone interested in going with Vicky besides Nancy? The location is uncertain because the Linda Vista Post is closed for remodeling.
  - Project Safe House fundraiser will be held on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-4:00 at the Mission Beach Women's Club. Cost to play is \$25. Games will be Bunco and Mah Jong. Nancy will attach a flyer to the Minutes. Project Safehouse is a shelter for abused women and children.
  - Final note: Please do not text during a meeting. Also, it's already a noisy room so please don't talk to each other when one of the officers (or another member) is speaking to the group. It's very difficult to hear over your voices. Thank you for your consideration.
- **Dates to remember:**
  - Sandy's Breakfast - Sunday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> (9-12)
  - Sandy's Breakfast - Sunday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> (9-12)
  - Chili Cook-Off and Superbowl Sunday at the VFW - Sunday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> (1-3)
  - Project Safehouse Fundraiser - Thursday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> (12:30-4)
  - Legion Day at the VFW - Saturday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>
  - District 22 Meeting - Sunday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> (9-12)
  - Valentine's Day Dinner - Friday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> (5:00 or 6:30 seating)
  - Sandy's Breakfast - Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> (9-12)
  - Bingo Fundraiser - Saturday, Feb. 29<sup>th</sup> (1-4)
- Our "Pass the Pig" collection for Children & Youth tonight was \$52.00. Awesome!!
- Meeting adjourned at 6:58.

**Attachments:**

*Honor Flight Fundraiser (Save the Date) Flyer*

*Sandy's Breakfast Flyer*

*Project Safehouse Fundraiser Flyer*

*Chili Cook-Off Flyer*

*Valentine's Day Dinner Flyer*

*Wreaths Across America pix at Quantico Marine Corp Base*





Decorating the Chula Vista Veterans Home on 11-30



December 18<sup>th</sup> holiday potluck at Karen Stewart's house