



## Pacific Beach American Legion Auxiliary Unit #552

### Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2023

- Meeting at VFW Post 5985 called to order at 6:05pm by President Laura McHugh.
- Opening prayer: Co-Chaplain Sandee VanOrshoven.
- July birthday wishes sent: Beth Erkson 7/7; BJ Coleman 7/22; Barbara Schmidt 7/23.
- Pledge of Allegiance and ALA Preamble recited.
- Attendance taken by Secretary Nancy Person.
  - 18 Members Present (WOW!): President Laura McHugh; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Mirranda Boshart; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Angela McCarthy, Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Person, Helene Baron, Laura Dorris, Sarah Gordon, Larisa Hall, Cathy Lasota, Kelly Lovett, Kellie Manning, Dyan Pitts, Vicky Seamon, Debbie Tedford, Laurice Tomlinson, Sandee VanOrshoven, Heather Wilson and Sonia Wright.
  - 4 Guests: Gigi DeMarie is here for the third time. She will become a member of our unit when she turns in her application and we process it. We are also welcoming three of the four delegates we sent to Girls State this year. We have Lizzie Yoon from La Jolla HS, Kyla Granados from Coronado HS, and Chelsea Long from Mission Bay HS. They will share their experiences and thoughts. The fourth delegate will speak at our September meeting.
- **President (Laura McHugh):**
  - The floor is turned over to our Girls State Delegates. *Their talks are paraphrased below.*
    - **Lizzie Yoon:** I am filled with joy and gratitude for this unforgettable experience. At first, I was nervous and excited to prepare. I was most scared about competitiveness and unfamiliar faces; first time away from home without family or friends. I met dedicated people who will stay with me forever. We've been texting every day and sending snaps (pictures) of each other. Days at GS were packed, starting at 6am and going nonstop until 11pm. I had an amazing roommate so from the first day, the best part was coming in at the end of the night and talking until 1am. We talked about everything, from what we did that day to personal things. The whole time I was surrounded by kindness and everyone was always willing to help out with anything. My birthday actually fell on the third day of camp. At first, I was bummed, but girls surprised me with every single snack from the vending machine. I was even door-dashed a crown! The amount of thoughtfulness and compassion between people who just met left me in awe. At GS, I ran for various positions which forced me to talk in front of lots of people. City sheriff was my favorite job. I was also on the Animal Control board in my county. Part of what made it fun was being respectful to the squirrels residing on campus. GS was intense and educational, but I loved it. I give my deepest thanks to you all. Girls State was one of the most cherished times in my life.
    - **Kyla Granados:** I have an immense amount of gratitude to you all; to be sponsored was an honor. GS gave me a spirit of determination for a successful future and taught me valuable life lessons. At Coronado HS, my biggest involvements are with the Varsity Girls Water Polo Team and being third in command of our Navy Junior ROTC program. Like many other kids in

Coronado, I'm from a military family. My dad served 20 years in the US Navy, and my aunt and cousins are veterans as well. With my senior year approaching, and college applications opening up, I find myself at a time in my life for which my family has worked so hard to set me up for success; essentially, every second is gold. I say this because I genuinely believe there was no better way to spend the beginning of my summer than at California GS. I learned lessons and made experiences that have laid the foundation to who I will be as a young woman out in the world. It was a gift to be surrounded by women who are like-minded, intelligent, and willing to talk about everything. I had publicly spoken before GS, and when I was expected to publicly speak, I had loads of time to prepare, made sure I knew exactly what I would be saying, and typically I was directing the spotlight to someone else. On the very first day of GS, I had about eight minutes' notice before I would be giving a speech in front of nearly 100 people, and I had no idea what I was going to say, and this time, ALL the spotlight was on me. I realized something on that first day. When my roommate, and two other girls from the neighboring room, who I had just met, were all sitting on my bed, two girls furiously crafting a speech, and the other girl comforting me and redirecting my negative self-talk— I realized that these friendships that I would continue to build during my time at GS would last me a lifetime. This environment of support was an environment that pushed me to do things that scared me, but also made me excited. I saw myself reaching for more and trying to put myself out there because of the support. Throughout the week I ran into girls from San Diego, and those girls were always pleasant, but I also found myself connecting with girls from all over the state. Chelsea helped me run for office, which was a very stressful time, and although us girls faced competition, we learned that a win for one girl was a win for all of us, because we all came here to be better. I ran for two state elected positions and made it to the highest-level State running for both positions, but I didn't end up winning them at the final stage. I had several appointments and City involvements that kept me busy, and although I didn't win at state, I left both state runnings as a much more confident and competent young woman. I feel that this investment in my personal growth is something that I can only repay by giving back, specifically to our SD community. I pledge to carry forward knowledge I gained at GS and make a positive difference in the lives of others, just as Unit #552 has done for me. It was a remarkable summer experience.

- Chelsea Long: I am so grateful for the opportunity to have attended GS. I grew so much and feel it was really lifechanging. I had never been to camp alone before. I was nervous from the moment I got on the bus. There was no way anyone could feel left out because everyone was really kind and accepting. I was elected to the Assembly (state version of House of Representatives). We discussed and then voted on bills. The Parliamentary procedure was very intimidating at first, but nobody really knew what to do and the group worked with each other to figure out how to do it. We passed a ton of bills. The amount of critical thinking on the spot was amazing. Political and intellectual discussions were so interesting. People pointed out flaws which enlightened me, and I heard things I never would have thought of on my own. The Supreme Court's decision on affirmative action was happening in real time while I was at GS. A few of us were reading the same article and the situation caused lots of discussion. I was surrounded by so many intelligent and motivated women in my generation and that brought me a lot of hope and faith in the future. Overall, GS was incredible and wonderful. *Girls State Chair Nancy Person distributed Certificates of Distinction to the delegates.*



Lizzie Yoon



Kyla Granados



Chelsea Long

• **President (Laura McHugh):**

- No changes to June 20<sup>th</sup> Minutes so they stand as written.
- The 2023 District 22 Installation Ceremony for the American Legion Auxiliary will be held on Sunday, July 23, 2023 from 2 to 5 at the American Legion Post 255, 35 E. 18th St, in National City. Refreshments will be available after the installation ceremony. Is anyone interested in attending?
- Next District meeting is August 20 (third Sunday of the month) at **American Legion Post 731 in Linda Vista at 9:00 am**. This date shift is due to a conflict with the Department DEC meeting that D22 President Janie must attend. Attendance is extremely important as we will be discussing and voting on our meeting location(s) for the remainder of the Auxiliary year.

• **Treasurer/Secretary Report (Nancy Person):**

- June 20<sup>th</sup> bank balance-\$4,196.72; Deposits-\$1,075; Expenses-\$624.93; Current bank balance-\$4,646.79. General fund: \$2016.18. Special funds: Poppy Welfare fund-\$799.98; C&Y Piggy-\$567.16; Xmas fund-\$1,263.47.
- I ordered 72 backpacks from Bags in Bulk, each with a 20-piece school supply pack inside for \$581.85. The PB Women's Club had budgeted \$250 for backpacks, but I've requested an additional \$40 from them, and I anticipate receiving it. Therefore, our portion will come to \$291.85. The backpacks were already delivered to Vicky Seamon and she will arrange delivery to ASYMCA for late July/early August. If you'd like to help her, let her know. *Vicky shared the dates/times that the ASYMCA said would work for them, and Friday, Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 was selected. Contact Vicky if you'd like to join in the distribution.*
- Sending out huge gratitude and appreciation for everyone who was involved with the Comedy Night Fundraiser on July 8<sup>th</sup>. I believe Dyan Pitts and Mirranda Boshart were co-chairs of the event, which put \$1,030 extra dollars in our unit's general fund! More later from Dyan.
- Thank you to Mirranda Boshart, Debbie Tedford and Sonia Wright who completed our unit's mandatory annual financial audit. President Laura McHugh was on hand to answer any questions since she was on the audit committee for several years. Our books passed inspection and Unit 552's audit report was sent to the D22 President and Secretary, as required.

• **Membership Report (Vicky Seamon):**

- Unit membership at end of fiscal year 2023 stands at 64. I have received five new applications and one transfer, which I will submit after September 1<sup>st</sup> as requested by the Department.
- The new fiscal year began on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and our annual dues are \$36 for Seniors and \$5 for Juniors. I can begin processing renewals now. *Several people paid their dues at the meeting!*
- ALA membership discounts and perks can be found here: <http://ala.memberdiscounts.co/perks>.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ✚ **AEF (Nancy Person):**
  - ❖ No Report
- ✚ **Americanism (Debbie Tedford):**
  - ❖ July military-related holidays: Independence Day-7/4; National Hire a Vet Day-7/25; Korean War Veterans Armistice Day-7/27.
  - ❖ August military related holidays: US Coast Guard (USCG) Birthday-8/4; Purple Heart Day-8/7; US Dept of Defense Day-8/10; Navajo Code Talkers Day, V-J Day, National Spirit of '45 Day and Military Marriage Day-8/14; National Airborne Day-8/16; Marine Corps Reserve Birthday-8/29.
  - ❖ *Cathy Lasota made a suggestion that perhaps we can put together a calendar listing all of the military holidays each month. Maybe we can get them printed and sell them? Or, just post it somewhere in the VFW so we can reference one or more holidays when we're planning fundraisers.*
- ✚ **Chaplain (Co-Chaired by Shari Padilla and Sandee Van Orshoven):**
  - ❖ Three birthday cards were sent out for July.
- ✚ **Children & Youth (Laura McHugh):**
  - ❖ Our charter was renewed with Pacific Beach Cub Scout Pack 246. I am the liaison and Vicky remains the alternate.
  - ❖ Per Vicky Seamon, the PB American Legion is looking for a Boys Scout troop to support locally, so we've given our Cub Scout contact to the Legion.
  - ❖ *Kellie Manning also mentioned that a Boy Scout Troop in El Cajon is in desperate need of a leader.*
- ✚ **Constitution & Bylaws (Nancy Person):**
  - ❖ I have not had a working printer for a few weeks. I am in the process of getting a new one via snail mail (warranty replacement) so I will submit the paperwork to update our Bylaws and Standing Rules after I return from my trip at the end of August.
- ✚ **Education (position open, but Nancy Person reporting):**
  - ❖ I learned from the PBWC that Mission Bay HS is requesting new books. Their current books are outdated. Students want to read relevant items and have options in the library for programs, fundraising and communication issues. Let's see how we can help them. A little donation goes a long way. Please feel to share the links.  
[Ms. Autumn - Teacher at Mission Bay High School \(donorschoose.org\)](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2JR5LDYHKK14R?ref=wl_share)  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2JR5LDYHKK14R?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2JR5LDYHKK14R?ref=wl_share)
- ✚ **Girls State (Nancy Person):**
  - ❖ Thank you to the three delegates who spoke this evening. These young women are inspirations!!
  - ❖ Kyla Granados (our Coronado HS Girls State delegate) indicated the desire to join our unit. Since she's under 18, she would join as a Junior and is very interested in becoming active in the community, earning patches, etc. Larisa Hall volunteered to be the Junior Program Chair so I will give Kyla Larisa's contact information. Larisa suggested lots of ways Kyla can help our unit using the internet, such as webmaster, social media, making flyers, etc. This would be great since she lives in Coronado. Larisa is also willing to investigate what other ALA opportunities are available for junior members.
- ✚ **Historian (Dyan Pitts):**
  - ❖ I'll be working with Ruth Flores to update our unit scrapbook.
- ✚ **National Security (position open).**
- ✚ **Poppy (Laura McHugh):**
  - ❖ No report.
- ✚ **Public Relations (Nancy Person):**
  - ❖ No report.

✚ **VA&R (Mirranda Boshart):**

- ❖ Thank you letter from VAHCS for the clothing we donated.
- ❖ If you're interested in volunteering with the VA Healthcare System, call 858-552-8585 x3267 or x5158. You can also click onto [https://www.cdceportal.va.gov/volunteer\\_at\\_facility/](https://www.cdceportal.va.gov/volunteer_at_facility/)

• **Old Business (Dyan Pitts):**

- As Nancy mentioned, Comedy Night was a huge success!! The event was amazing. We had so many volunteers. Attendees are interested in having more of them. It was standing room only! People were extremely giving. The host is willing to come back and knows of other veterans who are comedians. We're thinking, maybe doing it quarterly?

• **Old Business (Nancy Person):**

- The next SALS steak night (with The Windjammers playing) at the VFW is on July 28<sup>th</sup>. The one after that will be August 25<sup>th</sup>. The final one of the year is September 22<sup>nd</sup>. *(flyer attached)*
- Wine-tasting fundraiser being held by the PB Kiwanis Club. *(flyer attached)*
- Operation Dress Code is an empowering program for women veterans. Our unit has assisted them in the past by donating gently used or new business attire, jewelry, purses, etc. If you have anything like this, please start collecting them so we can donate again. Their annual event is scheduled this year for Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Check out this link to learn more about who the organization is and what you can do to help! <https://operationdresscode.org/>
- The ASYMCA will be providing us the active-duty families to attend Whoville on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The next Whoville Committee meeting will be at 5:30pm on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at Campland by the Bay. This will allow us to see the space and work on logistics. All ALA members are welcome to attend the meeting and are encouraged to volunteer their time at the event! *(flyer attached)*

• **New Business (Laurice Tomlinson):**

- If the hall is available, I propose we hold a fundraiser in September on the Saturday before 9/11, which would be Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> in memory of the victims of 9/11. The weather in September is still quite hot and we could rent a dunk tank in the afternoon. If we set it up in the front parking spots, everyone passing would see it. We could charge something like \$10 for 5 balls to throw. Each time the target is hit and the person inside is dunked, we could have the thrower ring a bell in honor of a 9/11 victim. Nancy and I have discussed this a little, and she could get the Beach & Bay Press reporter to write something about it before it happens to gather interest. We could also ask KUSI to come out and record some of it live. It would be fun and different! I volunteer to be the first person in the tank. *There was a lot of discussion. Members liked the idea a lot, but there were some concerns: there was already an event at the VFW on the calendar for the late morning/early afternoon of 9/9; some people might not like 9/11 being remembered with a fun activity instead of a somber one; balls might hit cars or roll into the street if the dunk tank was in front of the post; since there is no August meeting, there's very little time to plan; cost of renting a dunk tank can be around \$400. Several members offered other suggestions and dates. Combining the dunk tank with something like Oktoberfest or a country-themed/hootenanny type event with a band might attract more people. We could also ask the VFW, AL and SALS if they would chip in \$100 each for the rental. A vote was taken and Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> was agreed to be a better date. Kellie Manning, Dyan Pitts and Sonia Wright will work with Laurice (event chair) to figure out what the fundraiser will look like. They will also decide who/what the donation recipient should be. Laurice's contact # is 619-742-1992. A flyer will be made at the end of August and we will get it on FB and NextDoor. Nancy will also reach out to the Beach & Bay Press as soon as we have something to report.*
- Nancie McLees sent a touching letter to me (which was read aloud), and she really appreciates hearing from us. I've brought some pre-stamped postcards tonight so please take one and write to

her. She has just bought a home in Ohio and this is her new address: 916 Mystic Lane, Troy, OH 45373-2255.

- We raised \$60 for our Children & Youth Piggy Fund tonight. Thanks everyone, for your generosity!
- Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.
- **Next scheduled regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. We will be dark in August.**

**Flyers attached:**

1. Last Friday of the month steak BBQs (next one is 7/28).
2. SD Anglers Foundation Fishing Derby.
3. Kiwanis Wine-Tasting Fundraiser.
4. Whoville.



# BARBECUES AT THE V! VFW POST 5985 IN PB



**This year, the famous Summer BBQs will be held the fourth Friday of the month, running through September.**

Come share in the FUN on **June 23, July 28, August 25** and **September 22** from **5:30-7:30pm** or until the food runs out at **853 Turquoise Street in Pacific Beach.**

Choose a porterhouse or ribeye steak (\$23), filet (\$18) or a burger (\$12). All meals served with homemade potato salad, baked beans, and corn on the cob; don't forget the watermelon.



**Come dance to the great band Windjammer playing from 5-7!**

**We love our summer nights at the V!**





The San Diego Anglers Foundation Crystal Pier Fishing Derby is on SUNDAY, July 23, 2023.

Free fishing Derby for kids up to 15 years old (3-6, 7-12, 13-15). Limited loaner fishing gear available to those without gear. Sign ups start at 7am with fishing from 8am to noon. Hot dog lunch with awards and raffle to follow.

For info, contact us at [sandiegoanglersfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegoanglersfoundation@gmail.com).

Hope to see you there!

Crystal Pier, 4500 Ocean Blvd., Pacific Beach 92109



*Wine-down Summer*

Join the P B Kiwanis Club in our Mid Summer Wine Tasting fundraiser.  
 August 19, 2023  
 4:00 - 7:00 PM  
 Broken Yolk Restaurant  
 1851 Garnet Ave.

- SILENT AUCTION  
 - APPETIZERS  
 - RAFFLE

For tickets and information call Jim Moore at (858) 692-0403

KIWANIS CLUB OF PACIFIC BEACH  
 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL  
 76 YEARS

Total Wine & MORE

The Original Broken Yolk Cafe

ADMISSION: \$30. MUST BE 21 TO ENTER.

**Welcome to Whoville!**

A special holiday event for our local military families - FREE!

December 3, 2023  
 Sunday / 2:00 - 5:00

Campland by the Bay  
 2211 Pacific Beach Dr.

**FOOD**

**CRAFTS**

**GAMES**

Bring a blanket, towel or beach chair to watch "How The Grinch Stole Christmas."

**READING TENT**

SAUCED

Campland On the Bay