American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 291
215 15th Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Date: April 9, 2026 Time: 6pm

- **CALL TO ORDER** - **Silence your cell phones**
- **Officer Substitution:** Veronica Andler-Lopez for Leslie Dinkel, Secretary
- **The colors are posted**.
- **Chaplain's Prayer – Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain**
- **Pledge of Allegiance – Stacy Eickhoff, Sgt-at-Arms**
- **Roll Call of Officers –Veronica Andler-Lopez for Leslie Dinkel, Secretary**

P	President Cynthia Minucci Neal	P	Chaplain Mary Ann Leonard	P	Parliamentarian & Executive Committee Peggy Bengry
E	1st Vice President Bobbi Renaghan	P	Historian Mary Beth Martin	E	Executive Committee Janet du Monceau de Bergendal
P	2nd Vice President Bonnie Robertson	P	Sergeant at Arms Stacy Eickhoff	E	Executive Committee Janice Flanagan
E	Secretary Leslie Dinkel	P	Asst. Sergeant at Arms Becky Cooper	P	Executive Committee Dana Johnston
P	Treasurer Laura Farr	P	Jr. Past President Mary Beth Martin	P	Executive Committee Jan Woolford

P=Present E=Excused A=Absent Quorum = 9

- **Approval of Minutes** –The minutes for the Executive Board Meeting held on March 12, 2026 were approved as corrected.

REPORTS

- **President, Cynthia Minucci Neal**
  - Discussed End of Year Reports are due April 10, 2026.
  - Emails moving to paid account and off site storage to be worked on after May meeting.
  - Discussed the next Southland Honor Flight #20 is coming back on May 3rd at 5:30pm LAX Southwest Airlines Terminal 1 baggage claim.
- **1st Vice President / Membership, Bobbi Renaghan** – Presented by Dana Johnston
  - Membership Total is Seniors 1,841 + Juniors 34 = 1,875
- **2nd Vice President / Fundraising, Bonnie Robertson**
  - May 17th - Quartermania asking for raffle baskets. Tickets are on sale. Tickets on sale on SignUpGenius and Office.
  - Aug 22nd Mad Hatter Tea Party. Asking for old Bridesmaid or prom dresses.
  - Oct 22nd Holiday Boutique – will be Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Secretary, Leslie Dinkel – No Report

- **Treasurer, Laura Farr**
  - Discussed the Budget vs Actuals report.
  - Veterans Scholarship coming due.
  - Discussed the Palm Royal Gala and the Raffle tickets.
    1. Discussed the proposed 2026 – 2027 budget. Motion was made to approve the proposed 2026 – 2027 as presented. Motion was made to approve the proposed 2026 – 2027 as presented. The motion was made, 2nd and carried.
    2. Discussed Tracy Kleimeyer, employee of the American Legion to become the Auxiliary Bookkeeper. Initially will be invoiced $500 a month based on estimated hours from Laura. The American Legion will invoice the Auxiliary. Motion to approve the engagement Tracy Kleimeyer, an employee of the American Legion for services as Bookkeeper as of May 1, 2026, at the initial monthly rate of $500. The motion was made, 2nd and carried.
- **Chaplain, Mary Ann Leonard**
  - Reported on condolences for (2) of our past Board members
- Historian, Mary Beth Martin – No Report
- Sergeant-At-Arms, Stacy Eickhoff – No Report
- Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, Becky Cooper – No Report
- Parliamentarian, Peggy Bengry – No Report
- Executive Committee – Peggy Bengry, Janet du Monceau de Bergendal, Janice Flanagan, Dana Johnston, Jan Woolford – No Report
- **Junior Past President, Mary Beth Martin**
  - Past President Parley luncheon was held, and the "Member of the Year" was selected. Will be announced at the May meeting.
  - The $1,000 Nursing Scholarship recipient will be awarded at the May 20th General Membership Meeting. Introduced a policy for the Nurses scholarship proposed policy. and discussion followed. A motion was made to accept the Nursing Scholarship Award Distribution Policy as presented. The motion was made, 2nd, and carried.
  - Past Presidents give donations yearly to Auxiliary Department.

STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Americanism, Diane Torrence**
  - Announced the Americanism Essay Contest winner is Sloane Williams. She will read the essay at the General Membership meeting.
- Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Jan Woolford – No Report
- Chair Covers & ALA 291 Merchandise, Janz Simmons - No Report
- **Children and Youth, Myra Alvermann & Barbara Sharkey**
  - Discussed initiating a summer reading program.
- **Community Donations – Christine Beilby**

1. Motion was made to donate $1,000 to help the Guide Dogs of America, CA location, to continue their help with our Veterans to overcome PTSD. The motion was made, 2nd, and carried.
2. Laura Farr, Treasurer moved to donate $1,000 to donate $1,000 to Reins Therapeutic Horsemanship Program to support their efforts to help military/veterans and others with mental health issues via equine therapy. The motion was made, 2nd, and carried.

3. Motion was made to donate $1,000 to Camp Pendleton Community Service Fndtn (CPCSF) in order to continue their valuable work for military men and women stationed at Camp Pendleton. The motion was made, 2nd, and carried.

- **Community Service**, Heidi Sargeant – No Report
  - **Project Bearable, Bonnie Pollack** Presented by Jan Woolford
    - 200 bears have been sent out to (100) Orange Fire Department and (100) 29 Palms. Volunteers are growing every month.
- Constitution & Bylaws, Janet du Monceau de Bergendal – No Report
- **Education, Barbara Melum**
  - Teacher Appreciation month.
    - Having a lunch on April 22nd,invited (5) officer appreciation lunch.
    - Awards banquet for the (2) teachers selected for the grants.
  - Poster contest ends April 30th - will need (20) checks for the winners.
- **Girls State, Caroline Miller**
  - Updated on the upcoming Girls State
  - April 26th - Orientation lunch will be held at Elks Lodge, Garden Grove
  - Read a thank you letter from one of the girls we sent to Girls State last year.
- Juniors, Stacy Eickhoff – No Report
- Leadership, Dana Johnston – No Report
- Legislative, Pia Thompson - No Report
- Music, Mary Ann Leonard - No Report
  - Song selection for the General Monthly meeting is *America the Beautiful*
- National Security, Karren Schaeffer – No Report
- Past President Parley, Mary Beth Martin – No Report
- Poppy, Bobbi Renaghan – No Report
- Public Relations, Heidi Sargeant – No Report
- Time Keeper, Mary Beth Martin – No Report
- Salute to Service, Julie Sanborn - No Report
- Troop Shipping, Maureen Madigan – No Report
- **VA & R, Marilyn Anania & Rosanne Freilich**
  - Food pantries serviced this month – Santa Ana College, and attended a US Vets Long Beach luncheon for potential partners

- Went to Coffee Talk

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- **Old Business**
  - Mary Ann Leonard Chaplain, updated on the Squar readers have been ordered and received.
  - Stacy Eickhoff, Nominating Committee Chair
    - The next General Membership Meeting will be for nominations from the floor, those on the slate are already nominated. Those seeking additional positions will need to be self-nominated or nominated. Kim Philhart will step in for Stacy for the meeting and will have a script. The election will be on May 20th from 2pm - 6pm prior to the meeting. Kim Philhart, Vera Rowe, and Sheila Tubbs will be the tellers and count the votes.

- **New Business**
  - Laura Farr, Treasurer made a motion to increase Community Donations budget $5,000 for this fiscal year. Motion was made, 2nd, and motion carried.
  - Barbara Mellum mentioned Community Donations had the following motions listed. A compound motion was completed for the following motions in the amount of $3,000. The compound motion was made, 2nd, and carried.
    - Motion was made to donate $1,000 to Tunnel to Towards Walk in Huntington Beach. They provide mortgage free homes to veterans to focus on eradicating veteran homelessness. They also support Gold Star Families and first responders.
    - Motion made to donate $1,000 to Tee It Up For The Troops in Huntington Beach. They provide support for our veterans (rehabilitation, suicide prevention, PTSD, etc.)
    - Motion was made to donate $1,000 to Team Red, White & Blue. This is a health and wellness community for veterans and founded by veterans.

- **NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** – The next meeting is May 14, 2026, It will be held in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm.
- **NEXT DISTRICT MEETING –** The next District meeting will be on April 11, 2026 at 10am located at Unit South Orange County Unit 281 Located Sea County Community Center 24602 ALISO Creek Rd., Laguna Niguel
- **Closing Prayer – Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain**

ADJOURNMENT – Time: 8:20pm