American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 291
215 15th Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Date: May 14, 2026 Time: 6:00pm

- **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 –Leslie Dinkel, Secretary** – Presented by Veronica Andler-Lopez

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

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

- **Approval of Minutes** –The minutes for the Executive Board Meeting held on April 15, 2026.. The minutes were approved as corrected.

- REPORTS The following officer positions had No Report for the Executive Board Meeting: Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Sergeant-At-Arms, Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, Executive Committee, Parliamentarian, and Jr. Past President
- **President, Cynthia Minucci Neal** - June 6, 2026 Legion All Branches Miliary Ball – Discussed the Auxiliary Leadership attendance to support the Legion event. / July 4, 2026 – Discussed Volunteer opportunities on SignUpGenius and Auxiliary will be decorating, merchandise booth & provide volunteers./ Discussed the need for Treasurer for the 4/05/20/26 GMM for the 2nd reading of the 2026/2027 Budget./ Shared Heidi Sargeant, Public Relations Chair's 1st article in the ALA Dept of CA the Hub Online newsletter / Installation of Officers tentative schedule is Wed. June 17th / location of the July 9, 2026 will be in the ALYC Hut.

➢ Delegates & Alternate list for ALA Dept of CA Convention June 24 – 28, 2026 - Discussed the drafted Delegates & Alternates form.

MOTION: Dana Johnston moved to dispense with the reading of the 2026-2027 Delegates & Alternate list. Motion was made, 2nd, and carried.

MOTION: Dana Johnston moved to approve the 2026-2027 Delegate & Alternate list for convention as presented. Motion was made, 2nd & motion carried.

➢ Convention Delegates & Alternate Auxiliary vote - A motion is needed to send the President to the Auxiliary Dept of CA Convention in June as instructed on how to who or how to vote or as uninstructed leaving the decision to the President at Convention.

MOTION: Mary Beth Martin moved we send the President uninstructed to the Dept of CA Convention. Motion was made, 2nd, and carried.

- Offsite Storage Unit – Presented by Janet du Monceau de Bergendal, Constitution & Bylaws - Rationale: Auxiliary Unit 291 is in need of additional storage space. Our current storage shed, here at the post, is filled to capacity with Executive Board members having to store Auxiliary property in their homes. An offsite storage unit is needed.

  MOTION: The Executive Board moved to allocate up to $5,000 annual fee for fiscal year 2026 – 2027, for an offsite storage unit, including shelving, containers, and supplies. Motion was a made, 2nd and carried.

  MOTION: The Executive Board moved to transfer funds from $5,000 from the reserve fund to cover the offsite storage. Motion was made, 2nd, and carried.

- **1st Vice President / Membership, Bobbi Renaghan** - As of May 12,2026, is 1,875, Seniors and 36 Juniors for a total of 1,911 / 14.
- **2nd Vice President / Fundraising, Bonnie Robertson** - Quartermania is Sunday May 17, 2026. / Mad Hatter Tea Party has moved from August 22, 2026 to October 4, 2026. Looking for raffle baskets, bridesmaid or wedding gowns.
- **Chaplain, Mary Ann Leonard** – Reported on birthdays, well wishes and condolences.
- **STANDING COMMITTEES** - The following Chairman positions had No Report for the May 14, 2026 Executive Board Meeting: Americanism, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Chair Covers & ALA291 Merchandise, Community Donations, Constitution & Bylaws, Girls State, Juniors Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Music, National Security, Past President Parley, Public Relations, Timekeeper, Salute to Service, & Troop Shipping.
- **Children and Youth, Myra Alvermann & Barbara Sharkey**

1. Armed Services YMCA of the USA Camp Pendleton Branch – Camp Hero Suggested Donation: $2,000

Camp Hero is a nine-week summer day camp at Camp Pendleton, specifically designed to support the unique needs of military children. Recognizing that these young "heroes" often navigate the stressors of frequent relocations. The program provides a stable, nurturing environment that directly combats summer learning Joss and social isolation. Camp Hero reinforces the Armed Services YMCA's commitment to social.-emotional growth by fostering **creativity,** teamwork, and critical thinking through weekly themed adventures. The summer culminates in our signature "Hero Week," where campers discover their own inner strength and the auxiliary will send the children an exclusive "I Am a Hero Too" pin to commemorate their resilience. The camp runs Monday through Friday from 8 am. 4:30 pm. Snacks are provided. The cost is $150 per child and each week 25 kids can attend the camp. Here is the YouTube link: Camp Hero.

Motion: The Children & Youth Committee moves to give $2,000 to Armed Services YMCA of the USA Camp Pendleton Branch – Camp Hero to help fund Camp Hero, a summer camp for **kids** at Camp Pendleton. Motion was made, 2nd, and carried.

2. **Camp Flashhh at Camp Pendleton Suggested Donation $1,500**

Camp Flashhh, which stands for Families Laughing and Sharing Hugs, Hope, and Happiness, is intentionally designed for military families who have children with special needs. In 2025, 165 children participated in Camp Flashhh. This camp is family-centered and adaptive. Activities such as fishing, ceramics, bowling, LEGO building, and hands-on STEAM projects are structured to meet varying physical, cognitive, and sensory needs. Parents participate alongside their children, building connections while engaging in inclusive experiences that celebrate each child's strengths. Military life already places significant demands on families. When combined with therapy schedules, medical appointments, and specialized educational needs, the burden increases. Camp Flashhh offers both emotional respite and community connections for families who often feel isolated. Motion was amended to increase the donation from $1,000 to $1,500..

Motion: The Children & Youth Committee moves to give $1,500 to help fund Camp Flashhh at Camp Pendleton, a summer camp for kids at Camp Pendleton. Motion was made, 2nd, and carried.

3. Camp Pendleton Summer Reading Program Suggested Donation $1,000

Camp Pendleton Library Summer Reading Program is an 8 week program that runs from June 1, 2026 to July 25,

2026.. Over the course of the summer, many children fall into the “summer slide,” showing that essential skills they learned during the school year are often lost or forgotten. The Camp Pendleton Library seeks to combat the “summer slide” by promoting literacy during those summer months for children, teens, and adults. The Library will accomplish this goal by hosting its annual Summer Reading Program starting with a Summer Reading Kick Off Party

consisting of arts & crafts stations. Throughout the program, participants will track their minutes read, earn prizes, and participate In library events that encourage literacy, ending with a Closing Party where readers can celebrate their reading goals with some crafts, games, and prizes for top readers.

MOTION: The Children & Youth Committee moves to donate $1,000 Camp Pendleton Summer Reading Program in *order* to continue this valuable reading program at Camp Pendleton. Motion was made, 2nd, and carried.

- **Community Service, Project Bearable, Bonnie Pollack – Presented by Jan WoolfordHeidi Sargeant –** The next meeting will be on June 26th 11am – 2pm.
- **Education, Barbara Melum –** Discussed the Newport-Mesa Police Appreciation lunch held at the post / We had over (100) entries and (12) winners Poppy Poster Contest winners. Asking to display in the front lobby / Last year's Poster contest winners' poster will be on display at the OC Fair in the Hero's Hall.
- **Girls State, Caroline Miller** – Discussed the Orientation lunch / June 17th Sendoff Dinner / Next year the Banquet shall be at the Post for the Auxiliary / Volunteers to help to be on Girls State
- **Poppy, Bobbi Renaghan** – Gave an update on Poppies
- **VA & R, Marilyn Anania & Rosanne Freilich** - Gave an update on US Vets OC, Coastline College, and Santa Ana Community College.

American Legion Auxiliary Foundation foe Veterans Creative Arts Festival Fund Suggested Donation: $1,000

Motion: VA & R moved to donate $1,000 to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival Fund from June 9th – 14th in North Carolina. Motion was made, 2nd, and carried.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- **Old Business**
  - **Election Committee, Stacy Eickhoff** – Discussed the next steps in the election / Discussed for next year developing election rules in our Standing Rules / Announced Jan Simmons is dropping out of the election for the position of Executive Board.

New Business

- **NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** – The next meeting is July 9, 2026 and will be held in the Hut at 6pm.
- **NEXT DISTRICT MEETING –** The next District meeting will be on June 16, 2026 at Unit #555 located at 14582 Beach Blvd., Midway City, CA
- **Closing Prayer – Mary Ann Leonard, Chaplain**

ADJOURNMENT – Time: 8:11pm