



AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291
215 15th Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2017

Meeting called to order at 1903 hrs

The Colors were advanced.

Invocation: William Bennett

Pledge of Allegiance: Commander Nye

National Anthem: lead by Steve D'Arca

POW/MIA Ceremony: Kevin Van Otterloo and Brian Fleming.

Recited the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion: lead by Commander Nye

Roll Call:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Nye, Commander	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken George, 1 st Vice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roger Henry 2 nd Vice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S. Schneeberger 3 rd Vice
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gene Anderson, Adj.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Wright, Jdg Adv	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Meye, Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Bennett, Chaplain
<input type="checkbox"/> Jesse Garcia, Svc Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Bercovitz, Sgt-at-Arms	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patti Carson, Historian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jess Lawson, Jr. Past
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Putzig, M.a.L.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Schubert, M.a.L.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rich Whitlinger, M.a.L.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Widdall, M.a.L.
<input type="checkbox"/> Al Yarrington, M.a.L.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Wright, M.a.L.		

Excused: Jesse Garcia, Al Yarrington

Honored Guests: Barbara Hallett, Walt Wagner, Dan Ferrari; and Ken George (District 29 Commander)

Reports from Legion Family Members & Other Guests:

Auxiliary – President Cat Katz – Discussed their upcoming events: announced the results of their raffle held in February, envelope stuffing for the Poppy Drive (Mar. 13th), looking for Junior Miss Poppy and Miss Poppy entrants, and April 13th is movie night.

SAL – Butch Rowe, Adjutant – Discussed the ways in which the SONS help the Post and Legionnaires. Discussed the concierge service they provide four days a week .at the Post, and he spoke about their upcoming elections.

ALYC –Mike Berdine, Commodore – Post 291 has the only yacht club in the American Legion. Discussed the various races that will be held in the upcoming months; the regatta offshore sail boat race was held on February 18th (cancelled due to weather) and 19th. Discussed upcoming events including a fishing tournament (postponed until later in the year due to weather), the whale regatta on March 25th and 26th. Discussed membership opportunities in the yacht club.

Bar & Restaurant - Jon Reynolds – Discussed and encouraged members to use the amenities of the Post. Mentioned that the Post has a full bar and restaurant. Invited all of our members to use the facility; the Post is a great venue for all members and family - take advantage of renting our facilities for weddings, parties, and other functions. Discussed the upcoming Vietnam Era Veteran Weekend between April 7th and 9th and that a Swift Boat will be docked at our Marina for guests.

Post Color Guard – Commander Brian Fleming – Announced that the Post 291 Color Guard team is the National Commanders Color Guard team. They provide services for Veteran services and funerals; to-date they have done 9 events.

CHOC Follies – Skipper Tim Bercovitz – This is the 20th year that volunteers will make up the cast. It's a full length original musical, and each year it is different. "CHOC Around the Clock" is this year's theme.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes: Gene Anderson, Adjutant, read the March 2nd Executive Board Meeting minutes.

General Meeting Minutes: Commander Nye made the following motions that were approved:

M/S/C to waive the reading of February 8, 2017 General Meeting Minutes.

M/S/C to approve the February 8, 2017 General Meeting Minutes.

Correspondence: Gene Anderson, Adjutant, announced that Robert Wright read the Post 291 Flag Amendment project to the Executive Committee. A motion was made to accept the "*Post 291 Flag Amendment to Protect the Flag of the United States.*" It was approved by vote.

Announced there is a request to amend Article 14, Judicial Procedures, of the Post's Bylaws signed by 27 members in good standing. In accordance with our Bylaws the requested changes must be read at two consecutive General Membership meetings, and vote on by the membership. The Adjutant read the requested changes. This was the required first reading at a General Meeting.

Commander's Comments: As the Commander I announced at last week's E-Board meeting that I have nominated the following people to serve as this year's Election Committee: John Lindgren (Chairman), Dan Ferrari, and Jon Reynolds. These members are past Post officers, not running in the current election, and are members in good standing.

At the E-Board meeting a motion was made and approved this year's Election Committee: John Lindgren (Chairman), Dan Ferrari, and Jon Reynolds.

I'm now making a motion for the general membership to ratify the Election Committee. The motion was approved.

The Commander announced that on every table there is a list of elected officer & appointed positions, Election Committee Guidelines & Campaign Rules 2017. These lists & other election & campaign regulations will be distributed during the nomination period & will be posted throughout the campaign on the Post website at www.al291.com.

The Commander announced that in accordance with our Bylaws the call for E-Board nominations must be announced at both the March and April General Meetings.

The Commander stated that the Post is doing quite well.

Officer Reports:

1st Vice Commander Ken George – is in-charge of membership and orientation of new members. He announced that membership goal is 3,823. We are currently at 94%, and we have 3,604 members signed up. We are over goal. We need 219 new members by June 30th to meet our goal.

Announced he will be stepping down as 1st Vice Commander to focus on District, Department and National issues.

The Commander thanked him for his service to Post 291.

2nd Vice Commander Roger Henry – He is in-charge of fund raising and entertainment for the Post. Announced he will be stepping down as 2nd Vice Commander after 3 years of service. Stated that bands are booked two months in advance. He is working on booking bands through the end of June. Discussed the upcoming schedule and that we will be honoring the Marines on March 10th, the Navy on April 7th; Air Force on Friday, May 12th; and Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 20th. The St. Patrick's Day event is on Friday, March 17th. We will start bands playing on Saturdays in April.

Mike Schubert discussed the "Welcome Home Vietnam Vets Weekend," the 7th, 8th, and 9th of April. A Swift Boat will be here over the weekend from the San Diego Maritime Museum; open from 10 AM to 4 PM; it is open to the public. The "Welcome Home Vietnam Vets" will be held on Saturday evening. We are looking to raise money to support the Swift Boat.

3rd Vice Commander Sandy Schneeberger – She is in-charge of Americanism, Boys State, and the High School Oratorical Contest. Announced they are currently working on the Boys State program; it focuses on our Constitution, Americanism, and the federal government. Discussed the High School Oratorical Contest, and that it is a scholarship program.

Finance Officer Paul Meye – Discussed the preliminary numbers for January and February 2017, and our books should be closing by the 10th of March. See the table below. We have no debts. We are in a very strong financial position.

Financial Statement Summary as of YTD 2/28/2017

	YTD 2017		YTD 2016		
MEMBERSHIP					CHG
INCOME	13,720		28,136		-14,417
OTHER					
INCOME	653		9,642		-8,989
TOTAL					
INCOME	14,373		37,778		-(23,406)
EXPENSES	45,082		45,576		-494
NET INCOME	-30,709		-7,798		-22,911
SUMMARY	YTD 2017		YTD 2016		
	NET	BANK	NET	BANK	CASH
	INCOME	CASH	INCOME	CASH	CHG
MEMBERSHIP	-30,709	349,169	-7,798	298,869	50,300
OPERATING	-37,708	169,907	-37,551	124,417	45,496
TOTAL AL 291	-68,418	792,350	-45,349	544,943	247,407

Judge Advocate – Robert Wright - No Report

Service Officer – Jesse Garcia – Excused for travel.

Historian – Patti Carson - Announced she will be stepping down at the end of this term. No further report.

Chaplain – William Bennett, - No Report

New Members

New members were introduced by 1st Vice Commander Ken George, and invited to stand.

M/S/C to accept the new members into Post 291. The motion was approved. The Commander welcomed the new members into Post 291.

New Business: **Call for Nominations:** The first nomination is tonight, and the second nomination is in April.

The following nominations were made:

Commander – Doug Nye was nominated by Ken George - accepted

There were no other nominations for Commander.

Closed the first round of nominations for Commander tonight.

1st Vice Commander – Mike Schubert was nominated by Rich Whitlinger – accepted

1st Vice Commander – Roger Henry was nominated by Barbara Hallett – accepted

There were no other nominations for 1st Vice Commander.

Closed the first round of nominations for 1st Vice Commander tonight.

2nd Vice Commander – Anne Borren was nominated by Wayne Zippi – accepted

There were no other nominations for 2nd Vice Commander.

Closed the first round of nominations for 2nd Vice Commander tonight.

3rd Vice Commander – Sandy Schneeberger was nominated by Don Putzig – accepted

There were no other nominations for 3rd Vice Commander.

Closed the first round of nominations for 3rd Vice Commander tonight.

Finance Officer – Paul Meye was nominated by Jess Lawson – accepted

There were no other nominations for Finance Officer.

Closed the first round of nominations for Finance Officer tonight.

Sgt-at-Arms – Skipper Tim Bercovitz was nominated by Mike Schubert – accepted

There were no other nominations for Sgt-at-Arms.

Closed the first round of nominations for Sgt-at-Arms tonight.

Chaplain – William Bennett was nominated by Skipper Tim Bercovitz – accepted

There were no other nominations for Chaplain.

Closed the first round of nominations for Chaplain tonight.

Historian – Carmen Williams was nominated by Bob Bennett – accepted

There were no other nominations for Historian.

Closed the first round of nominations for Historian tonight.

Executive Board Member-at-Large – Robert White was nominated by Paul Meye – accepted

Executive Board Member-at-Large – Eric Schroeder was nominated by Brian Fleming – accepted

There were no other nominations for Executive Board Member-at-Large.

Closed the first round of nominations for Executive Board Member-at-Large tonight.

The Commander stated that all members that want to vote in the Post 291 elections must carry a current, valid Post 291 membership card to receive a ballot. Voting is on Wednesday, May 10th. Voting is only allowed at the Post between the hours of 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM - you must vote at the Post. The ballots will be counted, and the winners of the elections will be announced during the General Meeting held that evening.

Good of the Legion: Ken George is presenting a class called “American Legion Institute” which will be held at the Cypress Post 295 at 9:00 on Saturday, March 25th. It will teach everything you need to know about the Legion.

Chaplain William Bennett said the closing prayer.

Brian Fleming extinguished the POW/MIA candle and retired the MIA/POW Flag.

Meeting Adjourned at 2030 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Anderson

Adjutant