



AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291
215 15th Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2017

Meeting called to order at 1900 hrs

The Colors were advanced.

Invocation: William Bennett

Pledge of Allegiance: Commander Nye

National Anthem: lead by Steve D'Arca

POW/MIA Ceremony: Dennis De Rosa and Brian Fleming.

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

Roll Call:

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

Excused: Ken George

Honored Guests: Dan Ferrari; Ken George (District 29 Commander); and Bob Bowers (District 29 Finance Officer), Tom Lott (Veteran Business Network), Steve Porter (member)

Reports from Legion Family Members & Other Guests:

Auxiliary – President Cat Katz – Announced family movie night is being held on Thursday, April 13th. Poppy month is coming up in May. Troop shipping is schedule for Saturday, June 24th (10 AM). Asked if there is going to be a luncheon held on Armed Forces Day (Saturday, May 20th).

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 being held on May 3rd.

ALYC –Mike Berdine, Commodore –Discussed the 1st YC event, the cruise to Dana Point. Discussed their involvement with the Swift Boat coming to the Post for the “Welcome Home Vietnam Vets Weekend” event held the 1st weekend in April. Discussed their April 20th General Meeting. April 22nd is their fishing tournament; and they will also host a CPR/first aid class (\$50) on that same day. April 27th is the Newport to Ensenada Pre-Race Party. Opening day is scheduled May 7th, and registration is open for the race and the boat parade. Sundowner Race Series begins on May 8th.

The Commander discussed the sailing club for kids run by Dan O’Sullivan.

Mike Schubert discussed the “Welcome Home Vietnam Vets Weekend” event, thanked everyone who volunteered.

Discussed our donation to the San Diego Maritime Museum in support of the Swift Boat.

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.

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.

Veteran Business Network (VBN) – Tom Lott – Discussed the VBN, including what their mission is, when and where they meet.

Steve Porter (member) – Steve Porter thanked the Post for all the support his family has received over the last year.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes: Gene Anderson, Adjutant, read the April 6th Executive Board Meeting minutes.

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

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

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

Correspondence: Gene Anderson, Adjutant, 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 voted on by the general membership. The Adjutant read the requested changes. This was the required second reading at a General Meeting.

General Membership Vote on Amending Article 14, Judicial Procedures, of the Post's Bylaws: Commander Nye called for a motion to approve the changes to Article 14, Judicial Procedures, of the Post's Bylaws.

A motion was made to approve the changes to Article 14, Judicial Procedures, of the Post's Bylaws.

A vote of the general membership approved the changes to Article 14, Judicial Procedures, of the Post's Bylaws.

Commander's Comments: The Commander announced that at the April 6th E-Board meeting a motion was made and approved to move our June General Meeting to Tuesday, June 13th to accommodate a Son's fundraising event scheduled for Wednesday, June 14th on Flag Day.

The Commander welcomed all new members to the Post. Discussed the running of the Post. Discussed the recent improvements that have been made to the Post.

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 97%, and we have 3,720 members signed up. We need 103 new members by June 30th to meet our goal.

2nd Vice Commander Roger Henry – He is in-charge of fund raising and entertainment for the Post. Announced he has been 2nd Vice Commander for 3 years. Discussed the upcoming schedule and that we will have bands all 3 days of the Easter weekend. We have started having bands on Saturday afternoons and in May we will have jazz bands on Thursday afternoons. On Mother's Day a jazz band will be playing. Other events upcoming include a salute to the Air Force on Friday, May 12th; and Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 20th.

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. Discussed the Scouting Jamboree coming up in August. Looking for volunteers to help with these Legion Programs.

Finance Officer Paul Meye – Discussed the preliminary numbers for March 2017, and our books should be closing by the 15th of April. See the table below. We have no debts. We are in a very strong financial position.

Financial Statement Summary as of YTD 3/31/2017

	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 – Announced the VA is looking for doctors, and they have a program that will payoff students loans for doctors.

Historian – Patti Carson - No report.

Chaplain – William Bennett – Talked about a Post member, a Marine with cancer, needing the prayers.

Sgt-at-Arms – Skipper Tim Bercovitz - Talked about a WW2 Post member that passed away recently. Announced that the Balboa Island Parade is on June 4th at 11 AM.

New Members

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

A motion was made to accept the new members into Post 291. The motion was approved by a vote of the general membership. The Commander welcomed the new members into Post 291.

New Business

Call for Nominations: The second round of nominations are tonight.

The following nominations were made:

Commander – Greg Peterson was nominated by Dave Lambert - accepted

There were no other nominations for Commander.

Closed the second round of nominations for Commander tonight.

1st Vice Commander – Barbara Hallett was nominated by Dave Lambert – accepted by letter

There were no other nominations for 1st Vice Commander.

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

2nd Vice Commander –

There were no nominations for 2nd Vice Commander.

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

3rd Vice Commander – Al Rasch was nominated by Dave Lambert – accepted

There were no other nominations for 3rd Vice Commander.

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

Finance Officer – Dave Lambert was nominated by Greg Peterson – accepted

There were no other nominations for Finance Officer.

Closed the second round of nominations for Finance Officer tonight.

Sgt-at-Arms – Dan O’Sullivan was nominated by Dave Lambert – accepted

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

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

Chaplain –

There were no nominations for Chaplain.

Closed the second round of nominations for Chaplain tonight.

Historian – Alex Diaz was nominated by Dave Lambert – accepted

There were no other nominations for Historian.

Closed the second round of nominations for Historian tonight.

Executive Board Member-at-Large – Henry “Val” Santo was nominated by Dave Lambert – accepted

Executive Board Member-at-Large – Victor Bakkila was nominated by Dave Lambert – accepted

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

Closed the second 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 discussed benefits for veterans. The Choice Care Act was recently passed. The VA appeals process is very defunct and the American Legion Executive Committee is working on this issue. John Lambert(?) discussed the April 20th Homeless Veterans Standoff event.

A request was made for the nominees to give a presentation of their platforms tonight. It was denied by the Commander because about half of the nominees were not present.

Chaplain William Bennett said the closing prayer.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 2039 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Anderson

Adjutant