



AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2016

Meeting called to order at 1900 hrs

Invocation: Chaplain William Bennett

Pledge of Allegiance: Commander Doug Nye

Song Leader: Steve D'Arca, "The Star-Spangled Banner"

POW/MIA Ceremony: Honor Guard Cmdr. Brian Flemming, Kevin Van Otterloo

ROLL CALL:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Nye, Commander	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Ulrich, 1 st Vice	<input type="checkbox"/> Roger Henry, <i>excused</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken George, 3 rd Vice
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marco Montes, Adjutant	<input type="checkbox"/> Carmen Williams, <i>excused</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Meye, Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Bennett, Chpln
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jesse Garcia, Svc Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Bercovitz, Sgt-at-Arms	<input type="checkbox"/> Patti Carson, <i>excused</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jess Lawson, Jr. PC
<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"/> Robert Wright, <i>excused</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Schneeberger, <i>excused</i>		

Honored Guests

Barbara Hallett, Past Commander; Walt Wagner, Past Commander; Dan Ferrari, Past District Finance Officer
Orange County Senior Deputy District Attorney Karen Schatzle, Candidate for Superior Court Judge

Reports from Legion Family

Auxiliary, Kat Katz – Sweethearts Ball is sold out. Red Cross Blood Drive on 2/15/16 10am-4pm.

SAL – No representative present

ALYC – No representative present

Facility Operations

Jon Reynolds – Welcome to largest American Legion Post in the State, 2nd largest in the world. We offer a great facility on the water with restaurant, banquet space, & bar. Check the American Legion website for the events calendar. We need volunteers who have experience in Financial Management, Project Management, Fundraising, etc. please contact the Post.

Special Guest

Oratorical Contest Winner, Sabrina Tsai, read her winning speech.

Financial Dashboard Presentation

Jon Reynolds presented key financial data and historic Post operations in an easy to understand slideshow presentation.

Minutes

Adjutant Marco Montes read the minutes from the Executive Board Meeting of February 4, 2016.

M/S/C to waive the reading of the General Meeting minutes of January 13, 2016.

M/S/C to approve the General Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2016.

Officer Reports

1st Vice Cmdr. Ken Ulrich – As of last month and for the 7th year in a row we've achieved 100% of our membership goal.

2nd Vice Cmdr Roger Henry – *excused*

3rd Vice Cmdr. Ken George – Oratorical Contest had four contestants from El Modena High School, Area 5 Oratorical Contest is February 14th in Ontario; currently recruiting for Boys State and will interview 40-50 high school juniors to send to Sacramento to learn about government, democracy, and leadership.

Finance Officer Paul Meye – Jan 2016 total gross \$98,000 and net deficit of \$30,000. Cash in bank as of January 31, 2016, \$540,000 and zero debt.

Judge Advocate Carmen Williams – *excused*; Historian Patti Carson – *excused*; Service Officer Jesse Garcia – nothing to report; Chaplain William Bennett - nothing to report

Color Guard

Brian Fleming – We provide Honor Guard service for veterans who pass. We don't have enough members on the team to fulfill the amount of service requests coming in. We can always use volunteers, donations, and help.

New Members

1st Vice Cmdr. Ken Ulrich presented new applicants for induction.

M/S/C - To accept inductees for membership at Post 291.

Commander Doug Nye: Point of Information on Special Meeting

"As a point of information, regarding the petition signed by 26 members for a Special General Meeting pertaining to the relocation of the smoking area, after consultation with the Judge Advocate, and receipt of a legal opinion from our attorney, as Commander, I am rejecting the petition as being an improper subject for a Special Meeting. Also, it could violate the rights of members.

The petition calls for a Special General Meeting at which members would vote on whether the process by which the issue of relocation of the smoking area was done was proper, and if not, for a the issue to be voted upon by the General Membership.

The fact is that the General Membership Meeting of January 13, 2016, already voted to approve the E-Board's decision to relocate smoking area.

Therefore, it is not a proper subject for a Special Meeting.

Any member who wants to raise the kind of issues raised petition has a right to do so at a Regular General Membership meeting as provided under our Constitution. That right of the members would be violated if a Special Meeting could vote to overturn or in any way change a decision of the General Membership.

Also, the petition calls for adoption of policies concerning what is or is not an "important matter" before the E-Board that would require amendment to the Constitution and By-laws concerning the authority of the E-Board. Those changes can be done only by following the amendment procedures in the Constitution and the By-laws.

Therefore, I am rejecting the petition for Special Meeting."

Good of the Legion

No comments

Meeting adjourned at 2020 hrs

Respectfully submitted,
Marco Montes
Adjutant