



AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291
215 15th Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1907 hours

The Colors were advanced.

Invocation: Skipper Tim Bercovitz

Pledge of Allegiance: Commander Nye

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:

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Doug Nye, Commander | Robert Wright, Judge Advocate | Don Putzig, M.a.L. |
| Mike Schubert, 1 st Vice | Paul Meye, Finance Officer | Al Yarrington, M.a.L. |
| Anne Borren, 2 nd Vice | Skipper Tim Bercovitz, Sgt-at-Arms | Rich Whitlinger, M.a.L. |
| Sandy Schneeberger 3 rd Vice | Jesse Garcia, Service Officer | Eric Schroeder, M.a.L. |
| Jess Lawson, Jr. Past Comm | William Bennett, Chaplain | Rob White, M.a.L. |
| Gene Anderson, Adjutant | Carmen Williams, Historian | Wayne Zippi, M.a.L. |

EXCUSED: William Bennett, Carmen Williams, Jesse Garcia, Skipper Tim Bercovitz, Eric Schroeder and Rob White

Honored Guests: Dan Ferrari; Bob Brower (District 29 Finance Officer), and Barbara Hallett (Past Post 291 Commander).

Reports from Legion Family Members & Other Guests:

Auxiliary – Debbie Schubert, President – Mentioned the mission of the Auxiliary is to help veterans. She stated that May is Poppy Month, and encouraged people to buy a Poppy for \$1.00. Discussed Troop Shipping is on June 14th, and mentioned the types of items that can be donated.

SAL – Art Jimenez, 2nd Vice Commander: Announced that the SONS are having an event at the Post on Flag Day, June 14th. Discussed the success of the “Hoop-it-Up” fund raiser held in February 2018 to raise funds to support veterans. Announced that they have three fishing trips for veterans scheduled for this year.

ALYC – Doug Green, Commodore: – Reminded Yacht Club members that their dues are due by the end of March. Announced the Midwinter Regatta scheduled on February 17th and 18th has been postponed. Discussed the success of the cruise to Alamitos Bay. Mentioned that the Cruise to Dana Point is coming up on April 6-8. Mentioned the Newport to Ensenada Boat race starts on April 27th and ends on April 29th; 11 boats are entered.

Bar & Restaurant – Jon Reynolds – Discussed the advantages of being a member of the Post as a Legionnaire, SON, or Auxiliary. Encouraged people to take advantage of the amenities offered by the Post. Mentioned that we have a full bar (open 7 days a week) and restaurant (open 6 days a week – closed on Mondays). Mentioned that the facility is available for rent for private events.

Post Color Guard – Commander Brian Fleming – Announced they have served 12 events this year. They currently have 26 active members. Encouraged members to join. Discussed the competition team, and they are starting their practice for this year’s State and National competitions.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes: Gene Anderson, Adjutant, read the March 1st Executive Board Meeting minutes.

General Meeting Minutes: Commander Nye requested the following motion be made by the membership:
M/S/C to waive the reading of February 14th, 2018 General Meeting Minutes.

The motion was approved.

Commander Nye requested the following motion be made by the membership:

M/S/C to approve the February 14th, 2018 General Meeting Minutes.

The motion was approved.

Correspondence: Gene Anderson, Adjutant, reported there was no correspondence to report this month.

Commander’s Comments: The Commander welcomed the new members to the Post. He discussed the signing of the membership card and the proper use of the gate card. The Commander stated that the Post’s Bylaws and Constitution will be amended to address a ZERO tolerance policy in regard to sexual harassment and the use of marijuana, in any form, at the Post. He mentioned the quality of the Post’s restaurant, and the availability of the “burn your own” burgers and hot dogs. He announced that no outside food is allowed at the Post due to health department rules. He closed by discussing the repairs that are being made at the Post, and that overall the Post is doing fine.

Officer Reports:

1st Vice Commander Mike Schubert – is in-charge of membership for the Post. He announced that there are 29 new members joining the Post this month, and that 11 are present. He mentioned that Post membership is at 93% of goal.

2nd Vice Commander Anne Borren – is in-charge of fund raising and entertainment for the Post. She discussed the bands that will be playing at the Post this year, and upcoming activities and events at the Post, including: St. Patrick’s Day, Easter, Honor our Vietnam Vets on April 6-8, and Thursday night “Jazz on the Bay.”

3rd Vice Commander Sandy Schneeberger – is in-charge of Americanism, Boys State, the High School Oratorical Contest, and Boy Scouts. Discussed that Boys State is a program that trains our future leaders, and she mentioned that 33 boys interviewed and that 20-25 16-year old boys will attend this year’s event in Sacramento.

Finance Officer Paul Meye – Mentioned that our Post is divided into two sections; membership and business. Discussed the Post’s finances through the end of February 2018. He mentioned that the Post has no debts, and that the Post is in a very strong financial position.

Judge Advocate Robert Wright – Nothing to report.

Service Officer Jesse Garcia – The Commander spoke for Jesse Garcia. He discussed how we assist vets in need.

Historian Carmen Williams – The Commander spoke for Carmen Williams. Discussed the pictures that he takes at all Post events and where they can be viewed on the al291.com website.

Chaplain William Bennett – The Commander spoke for William Bennett.

Barbara Hallet asked about the Post’s donations and where they go. The Commander responded that there is a detailed

report on where the donations go.

New Members

New members were introduced by 1st Vice Commander Mike Schubert, and invited to stand. Next, the new members were invited to the front of the Hall for a picture.

A motion was made and approved by the membership to accept the new applicants into Post 291. The Commander welcomed the new members into Post 291.

Mike Schubert discussed the upcoming event to honor Vietnam era vets.

New Business: At this time the Commander called for nominations for 2018-2019 Post Officers.

The Commander announced that nominations for all Elected Officers and Executive Committee (known as Members-at-Large) will be held at the March 14th and April 11th General Membership meetings. That there will be two nomination calls for all officers except for the four Executive Committee Members whose terms have not expired, and that members who wish to be nominated for elected Post office and have their name placed on the ballot have to meet the following three requirements:

First Members must be in attendance at the General Meeting (either March 14th or April 11th not both – members do not have to be nominated twice),

Second Be nominated by a member in good standing, and

Third Nominees must confirm their willingness in person to run for election (no proxy confirmation).

The Commander stated that there are three handouts on the tables, including: a list of Elected Officer and Appointed Officer Duties, Election Rules 2018, and Election Notice 2018. These lists and other election and campaign regulations will be distributed during the nomination period and will be posted throughout the campaign on the Post's website at www.al291.com.

The Commander announced that the Election of Post Officers will be held on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, May 9, 2018, the date of the regular May Post General Membership meeting. That the voting polls will be open from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and that All POST members who wish to vote at the upcoming election must carry and present a valid and current American Legion Post 291 membership card to receive a ballot.

The Commander mentioned that the ballots will be counted and the results announced at the General Meeting that night.

The Commander announced the commencement of the first nominations of Post Elected Officers for the 2018-2019 Command Year.

The Commander named the Current Members-at-Large and their remaining term are:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Don Putzig | 1 |
| Al Yarrington | 1 |
| Rob White | 2 |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Eric Schroeder | 2 |
| Open | 0 |
| Open | 0 |

The Commander mentioned that there are currently 2 open positions for Members-at-Large.

The following individuals were nominated for Post Elected Officers for the 2018-2019 Command Year:

Commander: Doug Nye
 1st Vice Commander: Mike Schubert
 2nd Vice Commander: Anne Borren
 3rd Vice Commander: Sandy Schneeberger
 Finance Officer: Paul Meye
 Member-at-Large: Rich Whittlinger
 Member-at-Large: Wayne Zippi

The Commander asked if there were any other nominations to be made this evening. There was no response.

Seeing none, the Commander closed the nominations for the March 14th General Membership meeting.

Good of the Legion: Rees Lloyd discussed “The Alliance Defending Freedom,” that defends our crosses defending veterans and veteran memorials. Mentioned that Jess Lawson and Robert Wright have been appointed to the committee to defend the flag and that Jess Lawson is a member of the Flag Amendment committee.

The Commander mentioned that the American Legion is celebrating this year their turning 100 years old. Jess Lawson spoke about the Citizen’s Flag Alliance, and that he has been appointed as a committee member of the California Department Flag Alliance Committee, and that he reported to the Department Executive Committee (DEC) our strong support of the resolutions that have been put on the table.

Skipper Tim Bercovitz: said the closing prayer.

Retired the MIA/POW Flag.

Meeting Adjourned at 2024 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Anderson
 Adjutant, Newport Harbor Post 291 American Legion