



AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291
215 15th Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Meeting called to order at 1905 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, Eric Schroeder and Rob White

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

The Girl Scouts passed out Girl Scout cookies to the officers and guests.

Reports from Legion Family Members & Other Guests:

Auxiliary – Debbie Schubert, President – Invited members to come out to their events. She stated that they attended the April 10th Newport City Council Meeting, and they declared that May is the Poppy month. Identified the two Poppy Girls. She invited everyone to their next General Meeting, and to get involved. Discussed the different organizations they support. Mentioned that April 30th is their first 4th of July envelope stuffing (about 7,600 envelopes). They will be at Castaways Park, there are 1,776 Flags. On Memorial Day they will be at Pacific View Cemetery.

SAL – Jeff Gottfredson, 1st Vice Commander: The SONS were established in 1932, and they are trying to make the SONS a real asset to the Legion. Discussed fund raising and the concierge parking program. They donated \$5,000 to two Habitat for Humanity homes for veterans in Tustin. Discussed opportunities for joining the SONS.

ALYC – Doug Green, Commodore: – The Yacht Club is the on-the-water activities for the Post; it is open to any Post member or American Legion member in good standing. Discussed the 20 to 25 regattas they do a year. Discussed the 16-week Monday night Sundowner Race Series that starts on May 7th. Discussed the different cruises they go on during the year. Discussed the Newport to Ensenada Race that starts on April 27th; 175 boats are enrolled. Seven boats from the Yacht Club are entered in the race. Discussed joining the Yacht Club.

Post Color Guard – Commander Brian Fleming – Announced they have served 19 events this year; they average 4 to 5 events per month. Mentioned that they will be very busy in May; they have 10 events scheduled for May. Their primary mission is to perform at veteran’s funerals.

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.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes: Gene Anderson, Adjutant, read the April 5th 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 March 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 March 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: Thanked everyone in the room for the wonderful job they have been doing. The Commander welcomed the new members to the Post. He thanked all the Post Officers, and all the veterans that served in wars. Described how the Post was decorated for the Vietnam event, and the success of the event. He discussed the signing of the membership card and the proper use of the gate card.

Officer Reports:

1st Vice Commander Mike Schubert – is in-charge of membership for the Post. He announced that there are 56 new members joining the Post this month, and that 35 are present.

2nd Vice Commander Anne Borren – is in-charge of fund raising and entertainment for the Post. She discussed the event flyers that are on the tables. Discussed the events calendar that is on the Post’s webpage. She mentioned that there are events at the Post 7 days a week. Discussed the specific upcoming events.

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 is about citizenship and training our future leaders. Mentioned that there are many videos on Youtube about the Boys State program. It teaches them leadership and how to build a government in 5 days. The program sends about 1,000 boys to Sacramento. She thanked the people that helped her. Mentioned that the Auxiliary has a similar program called Girls State, and that anyone interested should speak with Debbie Schubert. Stated that last year one of the boys from our Post was elected to go to Boys Nation, and that he is coming back this year to help us with the program. Discussed the dinner that is upcoming. She mentioned that we support Cub Scout troops and we also have an Oratorical Contest.

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

Financial Statement Executive Summary as of YTD 3/28/2018

| Post 291 Business P&L By Class | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|------------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|
| YTD 2018 | ADMIN | BAR | REST | BANQUET | TOT REST/ BAN | HALL | CUSTOD | MARINA | TOTAL |
| TOT INC | \$3,612 | \$114,363 | \$130,018 | \$63,904 | \$193,923 | \$27,541 | | \$69,965 | \$409,403 |
| COGS | | \$85,453 | \$146,516 | \$54,954 | \$201,470 | | | | \$286,922 |
| GROSS PROFIT | \$3,612 | \$28,910 | \$(16,498) | \$8,951 | \$(7,547) | \$27,541 | | \$69,965 | \$122,481 |
| EXPENSES | \$34,553 | \$30,802 | \$19,966 | \$1,125 | \$21,091 | \$18,954 | \$37,582 | \$39,530 | \$182,513 |
| NET ORD INC | (\$30,941) | (\$1,892) | (\$36,464) | \$7,826 | (\$28,638) | \$8,586 | (\$37,582) | \$30,435 | (\$60,032) |
| OTHER INC | \$84,830 | | \$1,000 | | 1,000 | | | | |
| OTHER EX | | | | | | | | | |
| NET INCOME | \$53,889 | (\$1,892) | (\$35,464) | \$7,826 | (\$27,638) | \$8,586 | (\$37,582) | \$30,435 | \$25,798 |
| BANK BAL | \$1.182m | | \$919k | | | | | | |
| OPERATE ACCT | \$75k | | \$165k | | | | | | |
| MBRSHIP ACCT | \$118k | | \$149k | | | | | | |
| RESERVE ACCT | \$845k | | \$499k | | | | | | |

Judge Advocate Robert Wright – is in-charge of the Post’s Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations. He had nothing to report.

Service Officer Jesse Garcia – is in charge of Veteran’s Assistance Programs. He had nothing to report.

Historian Carmen Williams – is in-charge of the Pictorial History of the Post. Discussed the pictures that he took at the Vietnam event can be viewed on the al291.com website.

Chaplain William Bennett – is in-charge of the Spiritual Welfare of Post Members. The Commander stated that William Bennett is under the weather. He had nothing to report.

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.

New Business

The Commander announced the members of the Election Committee: John Lindgren (Chair), Dan Ferrari, and Jon Reynolds.

At this time the Commander called for the second nominations for 2018-2019 Post Officers.

The Commander announced that nominations for all Elected Officers and Executive Committee (known as Members-at-Large) were held on March 14th at the General Membership Meeting, and that the second nominations are being held this evening. That there will be three 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, and they accepted:

Commander: Doug Nye
1st Vice Commander: Mike Schubert
2nd Vice Commander: Anne Borren
3rd Vice Commander: Sandy Schneeberger
Finance Officer: Paul Meye

The following individuals were nominated last month, but were not present to accept:

Sgt-at-Arms Skipper Tim Bercovitz
Historian Carmen Williams

The Commander asked each of them if they accept their nomination: Both individuals accepted their nomination.

The Commander announced that the following two individuals were nominated for Members-at-Large last month, and they accepted their nomination:

Member-at-Large Rich Whittlinger
Member-at-Large Wayne Zippi

The Commander opened the second round for nominations of Post officers for the 2018-2019 Command Year. The Commander made three nomination calls for each position.

The nominations were opened for:

Commander: No nominations were made for Commander and the nomination was closed.
1st Vice Commander: No nominations were made for 1st Vice Commander and the nomination was closed.
2nd Vice Commander: No nominations were made for 2nd Vice Commander and the nomination was closed.
3rd Vice Commander: No nominations were made for 3rd Vice Commander and the nomination was closed.
Finance Officer: No nominations were made for Finance Officer and the nomination was closed.
Sgt-at-Arms: No nominations were made for Sgt-at-Arms and the nomination was closed.
Chaplain: No nominations were made for Chaplain and the nomination was closed.
Historian: No nominations were made for Historian and the nomination was closed.
Members-at-Large: No nominations were made for Members-at-Large and the nomination was closed.

The Commander stated that there were no nominations made during the second round of nominations for Post officers for the 2018-2019 Command Year.

Jess Lawson, Jr. Past Commander, made the following motion: "I move that we formally close the nominations for the 2018-2019 Command Year at this time." Paul Meye, Finance Officer, seconded the motion. The Commander asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The Commander then Called the Question, all those in favor, all those opposed. The General Membership voted unanimously to approve the motion. The Commander announced the motion carried.

The Commander asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak for three minutes.

Jess Lawson, Jr. Past Commander, made the following motion: "Commander I would like to make a motion that we move for a White Ballot for Command Year 2018-2019." Paul Meye, Finance Officer, seconded the motion. During the discussion the term White Ballot was defined as: "Since there is no opposition to the candidates that are running, and that all positions have been accounted for, that the members here in standing can vote to accept these as command for the upcoming Command Year 2018-2019." There was no further discussion. The Commander then Called the Question, all those in favor, all those opposed. The General Membership voted unanimously to approve the motion. The Commander announced the motion carried.

The Commander again asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak for three minutes.

Good of the Legion

Skipper Tim Bercovitz spoke about using his boat, Fair Wind, to help veterans with problems. To get them out on the water so they can enjoy the sailing, and relieve some of the stress that they are suffering. This is called: Sailing for Veterans with Stress, shortened to Sailing Vets. He mentioned that information on this program has been sent out in email, and there are flyers on the tables that reference an afternoon on the water, learning how to sail would relax and enjoy nature. There is no charge, and Fair Wind is there to be used; and he wants this program to keep going for a long, long time. He invited those who need help to call him or the Post office. There will be no paper trail. Come join us and relax.

The Commander announced that the results of the White Ballot election will be posted around the Post, and on our webpage. There will not be an election beyond tonight because of the White Ballot, and there are no contested positions.

Bob Brower, District 29 Finance Officer, member of the Post and the Orange County Veterans Memorial Park Committee. He discussed the proposed Southern California Veterans Cemetery being proposed within the City of Irvine on former El Toro Marine Air Station. In 2016 the committee worked with Cal-Vet and Five Points Communities to locate a second site that would be more economical to build than the original site that requires a substantial amount of expensive demolition. The State designated a site near Bake Parkway and the 5-Freeway, and the City Council supported it. A group of Irvine residents have gathered enough signatures for a referendum, and it will be on the June Primary Ballot. It is an attempt to put the cemetery back in the original site. Returning the cemetery to its original site would essentially kill the project. He announced that next Monday night, April 16th, there will be a rally at the Rancho Santiago College in Santa Ana in support of retaining the Bake Parkway and the 5-Freeway site that would service Southern California Veterans for the next 100 years.

A question was asked about the opposition to the cemetery. Bob Brower responded that there are a group of residents in Irvine that for some reason want it to be in the original site that was proposed that is economically unfeasible. They are unwilling to accept it, they argue that it will still be in the Great Park. A judge has ruled that the original site is not in the Great Park, it is adjacent to it. Several Irvine politicians are leading this effort to keep it in the original site.

Mike Schubert Discussed the Adult Sailing Program that the Post is sponsoring along with the Marina Park. The Yacht Club participates in it as well. He went on to discuss the Vietnam party weekend adventure. Discussed our relationship with the San Diego Maritime Museum, and they loan us a Vietnam era Swift Boat. The crew are all ex Vietnam veterans, and they come from all over the US for 4 or 5 days to bring the boat up from San Diego. They participate in the Vietnam event by giving tours.

Rees Lloyd discussed the programs of the Post. Discussed our assistance to veterans. Discussed the program that is being done in association with Patriot Outreach and the Monte Roberts program called Horse Sense and Soldiers. It uses a horse to help vets with PTSD by creating a bond between the horse and the vet. Discussed protecting the flag against physical desecration by overturning a 1979 Supreme Court decision that allowed physical desecration of the flag as a form of free speech. They are trying to pass a flag amendment to the Constitution that would allow Congress to pass legislation that would protect the flag from desecration. 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.

Skipper Tim Bercovitz: said the closing prayer.

Retired the MIA/POW Flag.

Meeting Adjourned at 2043 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Anderson
Adjutant, Newport Harbor Post 291 American Legion