



**AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291**  
**215 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663**  
**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, February 13, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 1905 hours

The Colors were advanced.

Invocation: Ken Wilson

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:**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Nye, Commander                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Wright, Judge Advocate      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Putzig, M.a.L.         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Schubert, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Meye, Finance Officer         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Al Yarrington, M.a.L.      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anne Borren, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skipper Tim Bercovitz, Sgt-at-Arms | <input type="checkbox"/> Rich Whitlinger, M.a.L.               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sandy Schneeberger, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jesse Garcia, Service Officer      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Wright, M.a.L.      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jess Lawson, Jr. Past Comm               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ken Wilson, Chaplain               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Van Otterloo, M.a.L. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gene Anderson, Adjutant                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carmen Williams, Historian         | <input type="checkbox"/> Wayne Zippi, M.a.L.                   |

**EXCUSED:**

**Honored Guests:** Bob Brower, Dan Ferrari, and Josh Cheadle (2018 Boys Nation President).

**Reports from Legion Family Members & Other Guests:**

Josh Cheadle (2018 Boys Nation President from Post 291) made a presentation of his experiences while attending Boys Nation and being elected President.

**Auxiliary** – Debbie Schubert, President – She mentioned their mission is to support the veterans and all their programs. November 2019 will be the Auxiliary’s 100 birthday, and they are very excited about it. She discussed the requirements for joining the Auxiliary. She mentioned that the Sweethearts Ball is on February 16<sup>th</sup>, and that on February 23<sup>rd</sup> is their annual Fashion Show. She discussed the charities that they support: Purple Hearts for Dogs, they help with the Camp Pendleton School by providing 300 new books, they help the children of veterans, for the wives they do Baby Showers, and the National Performing Arts for Vets. She mentioned the Valentine Day cards on the tables and that they were provided by local children.

**SAL** – Jeff Gottfredson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander – He mentioned that their program is the largest in the country with just under 1,600 members. They are going to become a fundraising organization in addition to their responsibilities to serve veterans. He mentioned that last year they raised about \$68,000 on their Hoop-it-Up fundraiser. They use the monies collected to greatly increase their services to veterans. He mentioned they gave \$5,000 to Habitat for Humanity to build two homes for veterans. They run the concierge/security program at the Post. He mentioned they have a scholarship program for veterans working with Goldenwest College. They are looking to expand that program to UCI, Saddleback, Fullerton, and Irvine Valley. He discussed their upcoming Fishing Trip on March 2<sup>nd</sup> for veterans with PTSD. They pay for everything but the fishing license. He mentioned they raised about \$18,000 during the Christmas Boat Parade. They are holding events

on Flag Day for the kids and on 9/11. He mentioned they are planning an event for Desert Storm veterans during August. He invited the children and grandchildren of veterans to join the SONS.

**Yacht Club** – Commodore Richard Reyna – He announced the formation of the Veterans 291 Yacht Club. He mentioned that we are the only Post in the American Legion with its own Yacht Club. He invited all veterans to join the Yacht Club even if they are not boaters. They are planning a lot of fun activities. Young sailors, children of veterans, are welcome to come to the program. If your children have friends, they are welcome to come and join in.

**Post Color Guard** – Commander Brian Fleming – He updated where they are this year. They have already done 6 events this year. They are starting off the year pretty standard to what they do.

**Bar & Restaurant** – Jon Reynolds – There is a very good reason why this is the largest American Legion Post in the world. It is because we are here at Newport Harbor. It's just an unusual opportunity for veterans and their families to enjoy a place like this. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of this. We have a great restaurant as you probably already know, a great bar, and you have the opportunity to use this facility over and over again. We have Celebrations of life, weddings, wedding receptions, and other events. We have the Fireside Room that's popular with small groups. We also have several outside patios that are enjoyed by our membership. We have a very active social program here. On Tuesday afternoon is a hootenanny with numerous musicians and in the evening, we have Taco Tuesday and line dancing. Wednesday night is used by members of the Post family for their meetings. Thursday is Family Night with special menu items added to our regular menu. Friday night there is always a dinner dance with live music to dance to. On Saturday there is food service through lunch. Burn your own is available 7 days a week. You can purchase a burger or hot dog and cook it on one of our BBQs in the west patio. He stated it is a family friendly place.

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes:** Gene Anderson, Adjutant, read the February 7<sup>th</sup> 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 January 9, 2019 General Meeting Minutes.

The motion was approved.

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

**M/S/C** to approve the January 9, 2019, 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 mentioned that the 2019 Post Elections are upcoming. The election will be held on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. In accordance with the Post Bylaws the E-Board has approved 3 Post members in good standing, not running for office, to serve on the 2019 Election Committee. The 3 Post members nominated are John Lindgren (Chair), Dan Ferrari, and Robert Carolyn. The Alternate is Marco Montes. Bob Brower and Jeff Gottfredson will assist.

**M/S/C:** A motion was made and approved to elect John Lindgren (Chair), Dan Ferrari, and Robert Carolyn to the Election Committee.

He mentioned that on the tables are handouts to provide relative information as regards Post Elections. Everyone should read them because they explain how elections are handled at the Post. Nominations for elected officers will be held at our General Meetings on March 13<sup>th</sup> (first nominations) and April 10<sup>th</sup> (second nominations). The election for Post officers will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup>, between 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room, immediately before

our May General Meeting. To vote you need to present a current membership card and be a member in good standing. As Commander, I will read the election results at the May General Meeting. That takes care of the elections.

At this time, the Commander discussed:

- donating to the Sea Cadets,
- replacing the carpeting and tile in the bar, and
- He went on to mention that January was good month at the Post,
- that 450 people attended the Super Bowl event, and the Post event was shown on TV and described in the papers.

At the end of his presentation the Commander called on each officer to make their reports.

### **Officer Reports:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Mike Schubert** – is in-charge of membership for the Post. Mike Schubert announced that we that we are at 88% renewal, and that we should reach 100% within two months. He mentioned that we signed up 60 new members at the Super Bowl event, and that 40 new applicants for membership will attend this month's General Membership Meeting.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Anne Borren** – is in-charge of fund raising and entertainment for the Post. She mentioned there are a lot of events coming up. Anne Borren discussed the Area 5 meeting held in Brawly. She mentioned that the Super Bowl party went well. She stated that the next Casino Night event will be on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Sandy Schneeberger** – is in-charge of Americanism, Boys State, the High School Oratorical Contest, and Boy Scouts. Sandy Schneeberger discussed the Area 5 meeting held in Brawly. She announced that the Boys State Governor will speak at next week's General Membership Meeting. She mentioned that the District 29 Oratorical Contest will be next week, and that there are 2 speakers. She stated that Boys State interviews will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at the Post between the hours of 9 AM and 4 PM. She anticipates approximately 40 interviews. Volunteers are needed.

**Finance Officer Paul Meye** – is in-charge of Post Operations. He mentioned that the Post is divided into two sections; membership and business. Paul Meye discussed the Post's finances through February 7, 2019. He discussed his meeting with a health insurance representative.

**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 the Veteran's Assistance Programs. He had nothing to report.

**Historian Carmen Williams** – is in-charge of the Pictorial History of the Post. He had nothing to report.

**Chaplain Ken Wilson** – is in-charge of the Spiritual Welfare of Post Members. Ken Wilson reported that the Chaplain's Corner on the Post's webpage is up and running and that he will maintain it on a monthly basis. He showed a short video on the "Four Chaplains." He mentioned that several Post members have passed away over the past several months.

### **New Members**

New members were introduced by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Mike Schubert, and they were invited to stand when their name was called. 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**

There was nothing to report.

### **Good of the Legion**

**Rees Lloyd** spoke on the status of the Bladensburg Cross law suit. He spoke about the heroism of the Four Chaplains during WWII and mentioned that they are honored on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. He also discussed the Flag Amendment.

**Ken Wilson, Chaplain:** said the closing prayer.

Retired the MIA/POW Flag.

Meeting Adjourned at 2057 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Anderson  
Adjutant, Newport Harbor Post 291 American Legion