



**AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291**  
**215 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663**  
**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, August 14, 2019**

Meeting called to order at 1902 hours

The Colors were advanced.

Invocation: Tim Bercovitz

Pledge of Allegiance: Commander Jon Reynolds

POW/MIA Ceremony: Commander Jon Reynolds and Brian Flemming

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

**Roll Call:**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jon Reynolds, Commander                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Wine, Finance Officer         | <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Van Otterloo, M.a.L.(excused) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Berdine, Adjutant                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rich Frauentzimmer, Historian     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Wright, M.a.L.    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Brennen, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice (excused) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Grundmeyer, Sgt-at-Arms       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rich Whitlinger, M.a.L.  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anthony Morales, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ken Wilson, Chaplain.(excused)               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wayne Zippi, M.a.L.      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Updike, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chase Wickersham, Service Officer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Giordano, M.a.L.    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Nye, Jr. Past Comm                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Burt McChesney, Judge Advocate    | <input type="checkbox"/> Eric Schroeder, M.a.L. (excused)    |

**Honored Guests:** Tim Bercovitz, Gene Anderson, Barbara Hallett, Jess Lawson, Alex Gonzales

**Comments – Alex Gonzales – Field Representative for Congressman Harley Rouda –** Willing to discuss issues of concern.

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

**Auxiliary** – Kim Phillhart, Executive Committee Member – Kim stated there will be a movie night on the patio coming up Saturday, August 24.

**SAL** – Jeff Gottfredson, Vice Commander – He stated that Post 291 is largest SAL squadron. Emphasis is on fund raising and donations. Thus far this year, SAL Post 291 Squadron has donated over \$55,000. This fall the SALs are planning a 9/11 memorial event. Fishing trip is scheduled for August 29. October Desert Storm Party (like the Viet Nam Party) is being planned.

**American Legion Yacht Club** – Bruce Batcheller, Commodore – Bruce noted that ALYC has been a program of Post 291 for over 52 years. ALYC has a fleet of boats. Launching model yacht club and looking for members to join. Dive and Snorkel group meets the last Wednesday of the month. ALYC has the Monday night Sundowners Race Series through the rest of the summer (two more weeks). Coming up, ALYC has a Cruise to Two Harbors/Emerald Bay planned for September. The Sail for the Visually Impaired is October 19. Saturday, November 9, is the Veterans Day Raft Up followed by a dinner at the Post. Bruce also said to send a copy of your current AL, SAL or Auxiliary membership card to [membership@alyc.com](mailto:membership@alyc.com) to apply for membership in ALYC.

**Bar & Restaurant** – Jon Reynolds – Jon spoke about the great restaurant and bar offerings at the Post. He mentioned that the Post facilities are available for rent for events including, weddings, celebrations of life, birthdays, and other special events. He also mentioned the marina facilities and spoke routine weekly events including burn-your-own every day, Taco Tuesday and Hootnanny on the patio followed by line dancing. Wednesday night the Main Hall is normally occupied by Post family organizations for meetings. Thursday is also Family Night with special menu items added to our regular menu. Friday night is a dinner dance with live music. Saturday during the summer we have a band. Jon said that Post has a Sunday breakfast and has a band Sunday afternoons.

**General Membership Meeting Minutes:** Commander Reynolds requested the following motion be made by the membership:

**M/S/C** to waive the reading of the previous (July 10) General Membership Meeting Minutes.

The motion was approved.

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

**M/S/C** to approve the Minutes of the July 10 General Meeting Minutes.

The motion was approved.

**Correspondence:** Mike Berdine, Adjutant, reported there was no correspondence to report this month.

### **Officer Reports:**

**Commander Jon Reynolds** – Since a lot of new members, will review some slides from the last meeting. The Commanders pointed out the current officers of Post 291.

## **Executive Board Members, 2019-2020**

• Commander	Jon Reynolds
• Adjutant *	Mike Berdine
• First Vice Commander	Bob Brennan
• Second Vice Commander	Anthony Morales
• Third Vice Commander	Jim Updike
• Junior Past Commander	Doug Nye
• Finance Officer	Bob Wine
• Historian	Rich Frauentzimmer
• Sergeant at Arms	Bob Grundmeyer
• Chaplain	Ken Wilson
• Service Officer *	Chase Wickersham
• Judge Advocate *	Tony Melum
• Member at Large	Kevin Van Otterloo
• Member at Large	Robert Wright
• Member at Large	Rich Whitlinger
• Member at Large	Wayne Zippi
• Member at Large	Nick Giordano
• Member at Large	Eric Schroeder

Commander Reynolds read the Policies slide.

## Policies

- **Serve with honesty, integrity, highest character, transparency, and fair play**
- **Comply with all:** (Post 291 Bylaws, Article 8.1.)
  - **Federal, State, and Local laws**
  - **American Legion Rules, Regulations, and Policies**
  - **Post 291 Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, and Policies**
- **Robert's Rules and Post 291 Bylaws govern conduct of meetings**  
(Post 291 Bylaws, Article 13.2)

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Then Commander Reynolds spoke about the Post 291 Family.

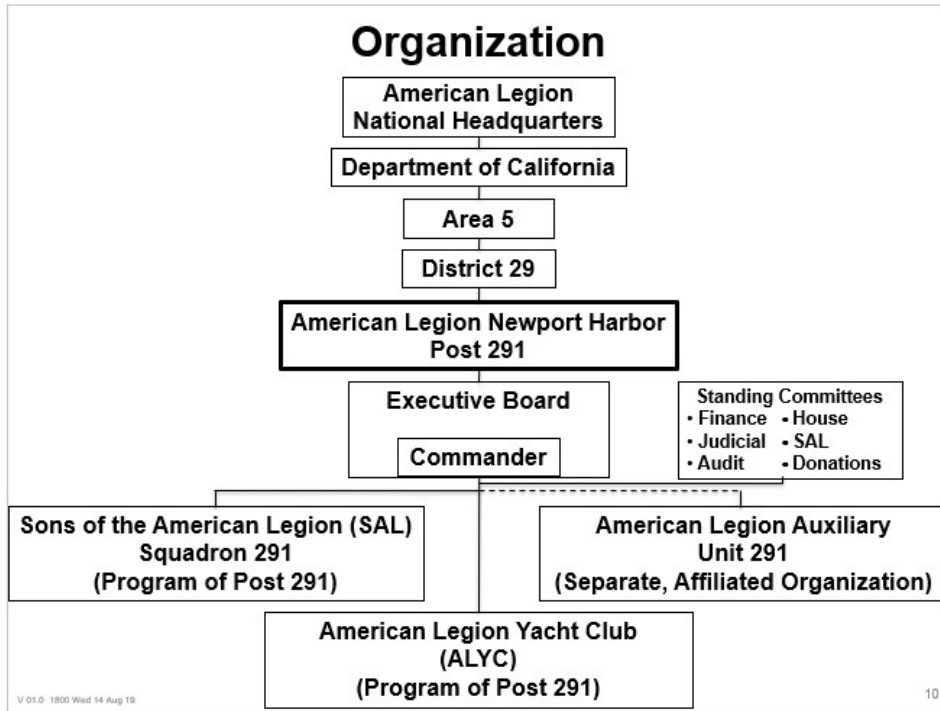
## Post 291 Family

- **Auxiliary Unit 291**
- **SAL Squadron 291**
- **American Legion Yacht Club**
- **Post Employees**

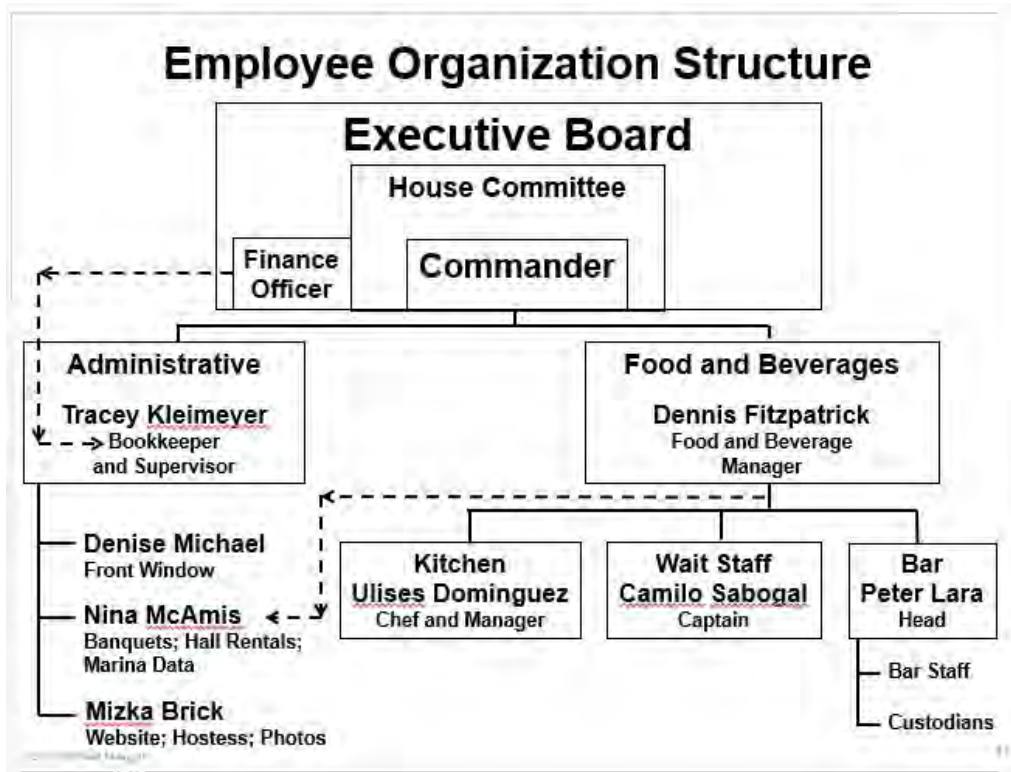
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The Commander then spoke about the organization structure of the American Legion and how Post 291 fits in.



Next, he talked about the organization structure of Post 291's business operations.



Next, the Commander spoke about the standing and other committees.

## Appointments Standing Committees

- **Finance**
  - **Bob Wine, Finance Officer, Chair**
  - **Mike Berdine, Adjutant**
  - **Burt McChesney, Judge Advocate**
  - **Jim Updike**
  - **Bob Carolan**
  - **Dan Ferrari**
  - **Jon Reynolds, Ex Officio**
- **Judicial**
  - **Burt McChesney, JA, Chair**
  - **Bill Badenoch**
  - **Jim DeClerck**
  - **Bob Gaido**
  - **Doug Green**
- **House**
  - **Mike Berdine, Adjutant, Chair**
  - **Bob Wine, Finance Officer**
  - **John Lindgren**
  - **Jim Updike**
  - **Nick Giordano**
  - **Eric Schroeder**
  - **Doug Nye**
  - **Jon Reynolds, Ex Officio**
- **SAL**
  - **Bob Brennan, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, Chair**
  - **Anthony Morales, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice**
  - **Brian Fleming, Honor Guard**
  - **Nick Giordano, MaL**

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## Appointments Other Committees

- **Donations**
  - **Chase Wickersham, Chair**
  - **Ken Wilson, Chaplain**
  - **Nick Giordano, MaL, Post 291**
  - **Cory Vigil, Post 291**
  - **Gary Barnhill, Post 291**
  - **Debbie Schubert, Aux 291, Pres**
  - **Erica Linden, Aux 291**
  - **Tim Sullivan, SAL 291, Cmdr**
  - **John Long SAL 291**
  - **Bill Badenoch, ALYC**
  - **Bob Duff, ALYC**
- **Audit**
  - **Sverre Thomassen, Chair**
  - **Eric Schroeder**
  - **Chase Wickersham**
- **Yacht Club(s)**
  - **Frank Reinhart, Chair**
  - **Angelina Garcia**
  - **Sverre Thomassen**
  - **Rich Reyna**
  - **Ken Wilson**
  - **Mike Berdine**
  - **Jim Updike**

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The Commander then had a few more comments in including the Commanders Message that came out in July. He spoke about his recent visit to the National Headquarters of the American Legion. The last E-Board meeting was reviewed including vacating the motion creating Veterans 291 Yacht Club. The Yacht Clubs Committee recommendations were also approved. There is some dock work being performed. There is an upcoming seawall repair, likely to start sometime after the first of the year. The Commander then spoke about the upcoming WWII and Korean War Veterans Luncheon. The National Convention is coming up at the end month and the Post 291 Honor Guard will attend and compete there. Jon Reynolds, Bob Brennen and Mike Berdine will also attend. Commander Reynolds has named a Post 291 Constitution and Bylaws Committee with Mike Berdine as Chair and Mike Lipscombe, John Lindgren, Dan Ferrari and Jim Updike as members.

**Officers Reports (Continued)**

**Adjutant Mike Berdine**– Nothing to report.

**1st Vice Commander Bob Brennen** – Membership – We are at 75% of renewals and approximately 45 new members to be inducted this evening.

**2nd Vice Commander Anthony Morales** – is in-charge of fund raising and entertainment for the Post. He is getting compliments about the bands and noted that the calendar for the fall was filled by past 2nd Vice Anne Borren. Anthony will be working the calendar starting in January. Anthony made note of the upcoming WWII/Korean War Veterans Luncheon – Thursday, August 15. The 2nd Vice also spoke about having bands on Saturday afternoons trough September.

**3rd Vice Commander Jim Updike** – No report.

**Jr. Past Commander Doug Nye** – No report.

**Finance Officer Bob Wine** – is in-charge of Post Operations. Bob discussed the Post’s finances through July, 2019 and that the reporting is done by Membership and Operating categories.

Business

Business Income Statement (Summarized)			
	Current Year @ July 31st	Current Year Budget	Prior Year @ July 31st
<b>Income:</b>			
Alcohol Sales	\$ 487,329	\$ 513,907	\$ 524,024
Banquet Sales	165,608	142,500	147,629
Restaurant Sales	335,151	296,686	306,757
<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>988,088</b>	<b>953,093</b>	<b>978,410</b>
<b>Cost of Goods Sold:</b>			
Alcohol	159,448	175,259	184,730
Banquets	40,377	37,029	34,891
Restaurant	147,194	137,387	142,534
<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>347,019</b>	<b>349,675</b>	<b>362,155</b>
Direct Labor	495,223	484,583	453,960
Indirect Costs	41,885	37,042	38,045
<b>Gross Profit From Sales</b>	<b>103,961</b>	<b>81,793</b>	<b>124,250</b>
Marina & Other Rents	241,494	222,429	231,594
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>345,455</b>	<b>304,222</b>	<b>355,844</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Salaries & benefits	145,864	153,417	156,500
Repairs & Maintenance	58,452	57,167	67,351
Rent	79,838	87,500	77,100
Utilities	33,288	33,133	31,749
All Other Expenses	107,103	154,580	127,070
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>424,545</b>	<b>485,797</b>	<b>459,770</b>
<b>Net Before Other Income</b>	<b>(79,090)</b>	<b>(181,575)</b>	<b>(103,926)</b>
Other Miscellaneous Income	213	2,333	11,630
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(578,877)</b>	<b>(\$179,242)</b>	<b>(\$92,296)</b>

Improvement

Improvement

Drop due to Direct Labor Increase

Improvement

Improvement

Membership

Membership Income (Summarized)			
	Current Year @ July 31st	Current Year Budget	Prior Year @ July 31st
<b>Income:</b>			
Membership Fees	\$110,712	\$69,250	\$97,241
Event Income	41,552	54,700	58,059
Donations	11,666	13,500	6,218
Miscellaneous Other Income	24,819	22,238	25,882
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>188,749</b>	<b>159,688</b>	<b>187,400</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Salaries & Benefits	53,404	52,500	51,194
Donations	43,660	29,083	36,612
Event Expenses	30,372	43,500	40,205
Professional Fees	183,078	9,458	250
Website & Database	18,902	14,442	21,685
Convention Expenses	5,249	53,500	17,071
All Other Expenses	133,645	143,867	137,031
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>468,310</b>	<b>346,350</b>	<b>304,048</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$279,561)</b>	<b>(\$186,662)</b>	<b>(\$116,648)</b>

Expenses up

Business and membership combined includes facility fees paid by members. Finance Officer Wine pointed out that it is normal to lose money during the first part of the year. The shortfall should be made up in the remaining months of the year.

Combined Business & Membership Income			
	Current Year @ July 31st	Current Year Budget	Prior Year @ July 31st
Business Income (Loss)	(\$78,877)	(\$179,242)	(\$92,296)
Membership Income (Loss)	(279,561)	(186,662)	(116,648)
<b>Total Before Facility Fees</b>	<b>(358,438)</b>	<b>(365,904)</b>	<b>(208,944)</b>
Facility Fees	195,325	227,500	202,085
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$163,113)</b>	<b>(\$138,404)</b>	<b>(\$6,859)</b>

**Historian Rich Fraenzimmer** – Nothing to report

**Sergeant at Arms Bob Grundmeyer** – Nothing to report

**Chaplain Ken Wilson** – Excused – No report.

**Service Officer Chase Wickersham** – is in-charge of the Veteran’s Assistance Programs. Donations is now broken into two committees. New committee – Post Family Veterans Assistance Committee – made up of representatives from the Post Family to coordinate fund raising and donations for the entire Post. Since last GM have had 21 financial aid applications, 11 pending (may be turned down due to lack of funds), 5 granted, and 5 referrals to other organizations. One case shared with Huntington Beach Elks.

**Judge Advocate Burt McChesney** – Nothing to report

**Members at Large** – Nothing to report

**Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business.

**New Members**

New members were introduced by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bob Brennen. The new members were asked to stand when their name was called. Next, the new members were invited to the front of the Hall for a picture and the Commander reviewed meeting and cover rules.

M/S/C 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**

No new business

**Good of the Legion**

A member made a motion to have an audit performed by an independent CPA looking back seven or eight years. M/S – Discussion: There are rumors of past financial improprieties. Finance Officer Bob Wine stated as a point of order that the motion can not be made as an audit is already being done. The Commander also stated the Post has engaged pro forma audits for the last three years and a full audit of the business operations for the last three years by Egan and Egan, CPAs LP. The Commander further stated the audit required by the American Legion Department of California is being done.

A member asked for an update about the status of Veterans 291 Yacht Club (Vet291YC). Commander Reynolds stated the Yacht Clubs Committee had provided recommendations to the E-Board. Those recommendations were approved including that transfer of membership from Vet291YC to the American Legion Yacht Club will be done based on the approval of the proposal by Vet291YC. The resolution of the issue is pending that approval from Vet291YC leadership. The approval is due by September 1, 2019.

**Commander Reynolds** asked for a moment of silence.

The Honor Guard retired the MIA/POW Flag.

The Honor Guard retired the Flag of our Country.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2014 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Berdine

Adjutant

American Legion Newport Harbor Post 291

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