



**AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291**  
**215 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663**  
**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 1900 hours

The Colors were advanced.

Invocation: Chaplin Ken Wilson

- A list of members who recently passed was projected.

<u>Deceased Members</u>		
John Busch	John Graham	James Prescott
Vaughn Callison	Carl Henderson	David Sladovnik
Richard Delmar	Larry Horton	Janet Snow
Robert Fainbarg	George Lohnes	Wallace Working

Pledge of Allegiance: Commander Jon Reynolds

POW/MIA Ceremony: Kevin Van Otterloo and Brian Fleming

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

**Honored Guests:** Gene Anderson, Dan Ferrari, Alex Gonzales

**Alex Gonzales** – Presented hand made cards and letters from elementary school students in appreciation of Veterans' service.

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

**Auxiliary** – Dana Johnson, Executive Committee Member – The Sweethearts Ball is February 15. Raffle are still available. The next Blood Drive is scheduled for February 17. The Auxiliary is accepting applications for the Americanism competition. Monday, March 9 is the Bags of Love stuffing event. The Poppy stuffing will be done at the end of March.

**SAL** – Tim Sullivan, Commander – Commander Sullivan spoke about some of the activities of the Sons. The SALs contributed \$100,000 to Veterans causes last year and plan a similar amount this year. Tim and the SALs are sponsoring Americanism support at local elementary schools. The SALs will continuing Veterans fishing trips this year. The Flag Day and 9/11 events are being planned.

**American Legion Yacht Club** – Bruce Batcheller, Commodore – Boat owners and non-owners are welcome to participate in ALYC activities. Encouraged people to join ALYC. Mentioned range of ALYC activities. Also mentioned new ALYC model yacht club. Next ALYC General Meeting is February 13. ALYC will conduct the annual SCYA PHRF Regatta February 15 and 16.

**Honor Guard** – Brian Fleming Jr., Commander – Participated in a few events thus far in 2020. The Honor Guard is preparing for competitive events later this year.

**Bar & Restaurant** – Commander Jon Reynolds – The Commander spoke about the great restaurant and bar offerings at the Post recognizing management and staff members and then mentioned the routine daily bar and restaurant activities.

**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 (January 8) 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 January General Meeting Minutes.

The motion was approved.

**Correspondence;** No correspondence to report

**Officer Reports:**

**Commander Jon Reynolds** - Per projected presentation

**Comments / Announcements**

- **Committees Recently Appointed**
  - Election Committee for 2020 ➔ [Mike Lipscombe](#)
  - Election Rules and Campaign Rules for 2020 ➔ [Mike Berdine](#)
- **Recent Events**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **Other Topics**

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- Upcoming elections

**Bylaws**  
**Article 7.5. Election of Officers**

**7.5. Election of Officers**

**7.5.1. Election Committee** – The Election Committee has the responsibility to insure the integrity of the election of Post officers. To help establish members' confidence in the election Post members have the right to approve Election Committee members. No later than the February General meeting the Commander must nominate an Election Committee consisting of three past Post Officers. Election Committee member cannot be or become a candidate for the current election or be directly related to someone nominated for office. Election Committee nominees must be approved by majority vote of Post members at the February General meeting. The Commander must submit substitute Election Committee nominees if any nominee is rejected by the vote. The duties of the Election Committee are: to verify the eligibility of voters, , monitor the voting to insure that each eligible member can vote only once for each office, count the votes, and announce the results.

**7.5.2. Nominations** – The call for nominations must be announced at the March and April General Meetings prior to the election at the May General Meeting and published in the official Post Newsletter. The call for nominations shall also include the date, time, and place for nominations and the election and any related rules. Nominees must appear before the Election Committee to substantiate their eligibility.

**7.5.3. Campaigning for Office** - Candidates for office may campaign based on their experience, philosophy, plans and ideas, and must treat other candidates with respect as members of the American Legion.

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**Election Committee for 2020**

- **Mike Lipscombe, Chair**
  - Former Adjutant and former Service Officer
- **John Lindgren**
  - Former Adjutant and former Member at Large
- **Bob Carolan**
  - Former Post 291 Commander and former Department JA

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**Recent Events**

- **Post Calendar Planning Meeting** Saturday 18 January
- **Commodore's Ball (ALYC)** Saturday 18 January
- **Area 5 Meeting Brawley Post 60** Sunday 26 January
- **Audit Committee completed review of Insurance Coverage**
  - Great American Insurance Group selected for General Liability and Excess Liability Tuesday 28 January
- **Marina slip rental fees increased** Saturday 1 February
- **Super Bowl Party at Post** Sunday 2 February
- **Strategic Planning Meeting (Post 291 Family)** Monday 3 February
- **Implementation of new POS: Toast** Friday 7 February
- **District 29 Meeting Orange Post 132** Sunday 9 February
- **District 29 Oratorical Contest** Sunday 9 February

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**Commander Jon Reynolds** - Continued

<b>Upcoming Events</b>		
• Midwinters Regatta (ALYC)	Sat – Sun	15-16 Feb
• Sweethearts Ball (Auxiliary)	1700 Sat	15 Feb
• Leap Year Party (Post)	1700 Sat	29 Feb
• Next E-Board Meeting	1800 Thu	5 Mar
• Department Oratorical Finals (Norton AFB)	1300 Sat	7 Mar
• Next Month GMM (First Nominations)	1900 Wed	11 Mar
• Department Executive Committee (DEC)	North Oceanside Post 760	
o Finance Ways and Means Committee	Fri	13 Mar
o DEC	Sat	14 Mar
o DEC	Sun	15 Mar
• Vietnam Welcome Home Party	1700 Sat	28 Mar

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<b>Other Topics</b>		
• Post 291 Membership Goal for 2019-2020:	<b>4,096</b>	
• Post 291 Annual Election — Key Dates		
o Election Committee Appointed	GMM	Wed 12 Feb
o First Nominations	GMM	Wed 11 Mar
o Second (Final) Nominations	GMM	Wed 8 Apr
o Election	GMM	Wed 13 May

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**1st Vice Commander Bob Brennen** – Membership – New members this evening.

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

**2nd Vice Commander Anthony Morales** – is in-charge of fund raising and entertainment for the Post. Will be adding new bands through the year. The start date for Saturday bands is after July 4.

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

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

**Finance Officer Bob Wine** – is in-charge of Post Financial Operations.

- 2019 End of Year

Combined Business & Membership Income			
	Current Year @ Dec 31st	Prior Year @ Dec 31st	Change
Business Income (Loss)	(\$205,474)	(\$179,786)	(\$25,688)
Membership Income (Loss)	(155,333)	(173,715)	\$18,382
Total Before Facility Fees	(360,807)	(353,501)	(\$7,306)
Facility Fees	483,705	459,713	\$23,992
Net Income (Loss)	\$122,898	\$106,212	\$16,686

- January 2020

Combined Business & Membership Income			
	Current Year @ Jan 31st	Prior Year @ Jan 31st	Change
Business Income (Loss)	(\$18,805)	(\$23,105)	\$4,300
Membership Income (Loss)	(4,358)	(10,719)	\$6,361
Total Before Facility Fees	(23,163)	(33,824)	\$10,661
Facility Fees	24,505	22,490	\$2,015
Net Income (Loss)	\$1,342	(\$11,334)	\$12,676

Finance Officer Wine spoke about the above Combined Business and Membership Income reports noting improvements.

**Historian Rich Frauzimmer** – Nothing to report.

**Sergeant at Arms Bob Grundmeyer** – Excused – No report.

**Chaplin Ken Wilson** – Spoke about The Four Chaplains, the American Legion and God and Country.

**Service Officer Chase Wickersham** – Service Officer Wickersham gave an overview of the Post’s veteran support activities. He also detailed specific requests and Post contributions. The Post 291 Family contributed over \$8,000 in January to local veterans. Invited members to the February 18 Veterans Assistance meeting and to contribute via the AL291.com website.

**Judge Advocate Burt McChesney** – Spoke about the Facilities and Capital Campaign Committee and asked for volunteers.

**Members at Large** – Nothing to report.

**Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business.

**New Members**

New members were introduced by Adjutant Mike Berdine. The new members were asked to stand when their names were called. Next, the new members were invited to the front of the Hall 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**

A motion was made to approve the 2020 Election Committee of Mike Lipscombe as chair, John Lindgren and Bob Carolan.

M/S/C A motion was made and approved by the membership to approve the 2020 Election Committee of Mike Lipscombe as chair, John Lindgren and Bob Carolan.

**Good of the Legion**

A member expressed concern about past election participation by members and the need to expand the time window for voting. The Commander said a committee will be appointed and charged with writing a response to this concern into the 2020 election rules.

**Judge Advocate Burt McChesney** – Suggested the cards and letters delivered by Alex Gonzales be collected and displayed in the Post.

**Chaplin Ken Wilson** said the closing prayer.

The Honor Guard retired the MIA/POW Flag.

The Honor Guard retired the Flag of our Country.

The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2025 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Berdine  
Adjutant  
Newport Harbor Post 291 of the American Legion

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