



Wednesday - 08 March 2023

AMERICAN LEGION POST 291

General Membership Meeting Minutes



Agenda

Wednesday 08 March 2023

- **Posting of Colors**
- **Invocation**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **POW / MIA Ceremony**
- **Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion**

- **Roll Call**
- **Introduction of Honored Guests**
- **Reports by Affiliates and Programs**
 - **Auxiliary Unit 291**
 - **SAL Squadron 291**
 - **American Legion Yacht Club**
 - **Honor Guard**
 - **House Committee**
- **Commander — Meeting Introduction**
- **Approval of Minutes: Weds. 02 Feb 2023**
- **Reading of Executive Committee motions: 02 March 2023**

- **Officer Reports**
 - **Commander**
 - **Adjutant**
 - **First Vice Commander**
 - **Second Vice Commander**
 - **Third Vice Commander**
 - **Junior Past Commander**
 - **Finance Officer**
 - **Historian**
 - **Sergeant at Arms**
 - **Chaplain**
 - **Service Officer**
 - **Judge Advocate**
 - **Members at Large**
- **Unfinished Business**
- **New Member Induction**
- **New Business**
- **Good of the Legion**
- **Closing Ceremonies**



**Colors were posted by the American Legion
Post 291 Color Guard**

**Chaplain Brad McDermott gave an Invocation and Commander
Evin Planto led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**American Legion Post 291 Honor Guard presented the
POW / MIA Ceremony**



The following Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion was recited.

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE
FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;**
- To maintain law and order;**
- To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;**
- To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;**
- To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation;**
- To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;**
- To make right the master of might;**
- To promote peace and goodwill on earth;**
- To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy;**
- To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.**



The roll was called.

Commander- Evin Planto

Adjutant- David Ortolf

1st Vice Cmdr - Brian Fleming Jr.

2nd Vice Cmdr - Ray Ricard

3rd Vice Cmdr - Cindy Baker

Jr. Past Cmdr - Jon Reynolds

Finance Officer- Hal McNaughton

E: Historian - Gary Mathison

E: Sgt.-at-Arms - Tim Bercovitz

Chaplain- Brad McDermott

Service Officer- Cory Vigil

Judge Advocate- Diane Torrianni

M.a.L.- Kevin Van Otterloo

M.a.L.- Dennis De Rosia

M.a.L.- Mike Shubert

M.a.L.- Dave Zamudio

M.a.L.- Nick Giordano

M.a.L.- Eric Schroeder

All present except those that were
excused as denoted by an "E"
before their name (above).

A QUORUM WAS PRESENT



Introduction of Honored Guests

Representatives from the South Korean government presented citations to the following five Korean War Veterans: Peter A. Thommes, Harry Louis Hammer, Billy Charles Hall, Gill Hernandez, Frank Cornella and Howard William Lacy. The Veterans also received a certificate of appreciation from Congressmember Katie Porter.



**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2nd Vice
President 291 Dana Johnston made the
following report:**





AUXILIARY EVENTS FEBRUARY/MARCH

**Our junior members made 60 valentine's bags
which were distributed at the VA Hospital**





Raffle drawing February 18th live on Facebook



Four of the five winners are members of American Legion Post 291 and three are veterans



BLOOD DRIVE 20 February 2023

A poster for a blood drive. The top half has a dark blue background with the word "Kindness" in white cursive, followed by "is in your blood." in white sans-serif. To the right is a red first aid kit with a white cross, connected by a red line to a red heart. The bottom half has a white background with the text "American Red Cross Blood Drive" in red, followed by "American Legion Auxiliary" and "Newport Harbor Unit 291" in black. Below this is the address "Banquet Hall, 215 15th Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663" and the date and time "Monday, February 20, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m." in black. At the bottom is the American Red Cross logo.

33 pints of blood were donated. Each pint saves 3 lives



HELP STOCKING THE VA HOSPITAL FOOD PANTRY



ENVELOPE STUFFING

March 13th 11:00am to 5:00pm



All family members welcome, all proceeds go strictly
to our Veteran Administration and Rehabilitation
programs



SAL Squadron 291: Commander Tim Sullivan reported on Squadron 291's activities including the "Fairways of Honor" golf tournament which is coming up in May.



American Legion Yacht Club



ALYC Commodore Stephen Alfano welcomed the new Legionnaires and told them about the club's activities.

Only American Legion Post in U.S. with a Yacht Club!

No boating experience necessary

Do not need to own a boat

Yacht Club Assets

1. (2) sail boats-free use after certification
2. Committee Boat—Valor—harbor cruises,
3. Whaler--shuttle
4. (3) 1 meter Model Yachts



American Legion Yacht Club

Activities

1. Youth Sailing Classes
2. Assistance with Adult Sailing Classes
3. Regattas and Ocean Series Racing
4. Summer Race Series (Sundowners) & (Model Yachts)
5. Cruise outs—Dana Point, Avalon, Emerald Bay, Long Beach
6. Duffy Rally
7. Opening Day Ceremony
8. Sailing for the Visually Impaired
9. Old Glory Boat Parade
10. Christmas Boat parade
11. Dive and Snorkel Club
12. Harbor Raft Ups
13. Monthly Social Events
14. Other club reciprocity

SOCIAL MEDIA Follow us on Facebook and our website ALYC.com



American Legion Yacht Club



The ALYC Dive and Snorkel Group is going to Fiji!
All of the members of Post 291 are invited to join us for a dive and snorkel trip to the Sau Bay Resort and dive the world-famous Rainbow Reef and Great White Wall departing LAX April 26th and returning May 4th, 2023.

- **Exclusive use of entire resort**
- **Up to 13 Day Dives on the RAINBOW REEF**
- **1 Night Dive**
- **Deluxe oceanfront bures with both indoor and outdoor showers**
- **Waterfront spa**
 - complimentary foot massage on arrival
- **Unlimited non-motorized watersports**
 - (paddle boards, kayaks, sailboats)
- **Unlimited shore diving**
- **5-Star Cuisine**
- **High quality dive gear for rent (Zeagle BCDs, Atomic regulators, Suunto computers)**
- **From \$1,500 pp + tax**
- **For more information contact Divechair@alyc.com**





Post 291 Honor Guard and Color Guard

Honor Guard Commander Fleming reported that the Honor Guard has completed several events so far in 2023. The Honor Guard normally averages about 6 services per month. Two events are pending for the month of March. The Honor Guard currently has 24 active members.





Adjutant Dave Ortolf, Chair of the House Committee reported on the festivities planned for Saint Patrick's Day on 17 March. He gave a status update on the banquet hall and kitchen remodel. The House Committee approved a one-year contract extension with our PEO BBSI. BBSI provides payroll services, workers compensation insurance and human resources consulting.



The following motions were made at the 02 March 2023 Executive Committee Meeting

Service Officer Cory Vigil made a motion that Post 291 sponsor 3 veterans to play in the “First and Goal” charity golf tournament. The tournament will be held on Monday 20 March 2023 at Coto de Caza golf course. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously without further discussion.



Motions From 02 March 2023

Executive Committee Meeting

Cory reports that the “Military Child of the Month” event will be held at Cottonwood Church. The church is close to Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos. He requested \$5,000 be donated by Post 291 to cover the costs of food and general expenses for the event. A motion was made that Post 291 donate \$5,000 to the “Military Child of the Month”. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously without further discussion.



1st Vice Commander Fleming reported that the Post currently has 3,802 members and the Post's annual membership goal is 4,202 members.



2nd Vice Commander Ricard reported that Our Saint Patrick's Day celebration will be on 17 March 2023. Everyone is invited and everyone should attend. "Shenanigans" is the band that will be playing. We will have a new and very good swing dance instructor. Moving forward Swing Dancing and Line Dancing will be held on alternate Tuesdays.



3rd Vice Commander Baker reported that Post 291 will be hosting a district meeting on 05 May 2023. An award banquet is tentatively scheduled for 14 August 2023. American League baseball needs a volunteer to act as a commissioner. At this point there is no one to organize the League at the district level. Chaplain Brad McDermott is working with Cindy to resurrect American Legion Baseball.

Junior Past Commander Jon Reynolds: No Report



Finance Officer Hal McNaughton

Finance Report January 31, 2023

Membership

Income	\$44,329
Expenses	\$45,347

Net Loss	\$1,018
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Operations

Income	\$116,031
Expenses	\$216,790

Net Loss	\$100,758
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AL 291 Total Loss	\$101,777
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Reserve Account	\$1,910,460
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**Historian Gary Mathison and
Sgt.-at-Arms “Skipper” Tim Bercovitz
were both excused.**

Chaplain Brad McDermott gave the following report:

Corey Abercrombie

Edward Cook

Robert Probizanski

Elizabeth Andersen

Richard Hennacy

Salvatore Rappa

Daniel Arnold

Larry Laye

Russell Renier

Bryan Bond

Frank Panza

Wayne Rorick

William Brown

Val Skoro

POST EVERLASTING





“Skipper Tim” Says,
“HI”

He asks for prayers and says that it is his intention to walk out of the rehab facility in about 2 weeks.

Would love visitors and or calls





Service Officer Vigil gave the following report:

Monthly Update for Service Officer		for the Feb 2, 2022 E-Board					
	2022 Actuals	2023 Budget	2023 Actual thru Dec 31	% of 2023 Budget thru Dec 31			
6510 Donations							
6519 Honor Guard	3,325.98	2,500.00	170.71	7%			
6521 Unrestricted Service Officer Expense	25,996.34	100,000.00	16,783.84	17%			
6522 Restricted VEAf expense	93,761.21	50,000.00	27,276.45	55%			
6515 Oratorical	-	-	-	0%			
6510 Donations other	46,772.60	50,000.00	3,671.97	7%			
Total 6510 expenses	169,856.13	202,500.00	47,902.97	24%			
4520 VEAf current balance			74,480.95				
Feb Donations Out			17440.42		Includes Service Officer Acct		
Feb VEAf Donations Out			14568.7				



Service Officer, Cory Vigil

Service Officer Fund Raiser Announcement for 03/02/2023 Executive Committee Meeting

6515 Oratorical	-	-	-	0%			
6510 Donations other	46,772.60	50,000.00	3,671.97	7%			
Total 6510 expenses	169,856.13	202,500.00	47,902.97	24%			
4520 VEAF current balance			74,480.95				
Feb Donations Out			17440.42		Includes Service Officer Acct		
Feb VEAF Donations Out			14568.7				



Judge Advocate

Diane Torrianni : No Report



Members at Large

Kevin Van Otterloo

No Report

Eric Schroeder

No Report

Mike Shubert:

Reported on the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Weekend Celebrations. Mike is also the chair of the Post 291 100th Anniversary Celebration. He needs volunteer assistance.

David Zamudio

No Report

Nick Giordano

No Report

Dennis De Rosia

Much thanks to Dennis for all his work in securing the Korean government medals on behalf of our Veterans



NEW BUSINESS

Commander Planto reviewed the following election campaign rules:



2023 Campaign Rules



Newport Harbor Post 291 of The American Legion

2023 Election Campaign Rules – *Annual* *Post Election: Wednesday 10 May 2023*

Authorization and Governance

Post 291 Bylaws, Article 5.7., Election of Officers, governs the annual Post 291 election of Post 291 Officers.

Post 291 Bylaws, Article 5.7.2., Campaigning for Office, governs campaigning for office for the annual Post 291 election of Post 291 Officers:

- Candidates for office may campaign based on their experience, philosophy, plans and ideas, and goals and objectives. All candidates must treat other candidates with respect as members of The American Legion.

Specific Rules for 2023 Campaigning

Here are specific campaign rules that all candidates for Post 291 officer positions must follow and comply with this year. These rules are established to foster and ensure a fair, equitable, and civil campaign and the integrity of the election.

Authorized Campaign Activities

1. Campaign Speech - Each candidate will be allowed three minutes at the General Membership Meeting on the evening of final nominations on Wednesday 12 April to speak to the membership about his/her qualifications and platform.
2. Campaign Materials.
 - Candidates may post flyers, handbills, or other printed campaign materials no larger than 8½ inches by 11 inches, on the Election Committee designated bulletin boards or display areas — but only after final nominations are closed on Wednesday 12 April 2023.
 - Candidates and their supporters may hand out campaign materials — e.g., flyers, handbills, business cards, trifolds, or other printed campaign materials no larger than 8½ inches by 11 inches — directly to interested and receptive members or guests at the Post.



Campaign Rules Continued

- Candidates and their supporters may wear campaign buttons or badges of no more than four inches in diameter on their clothing.

Prohibited Actions and Restrictions — Campaigning

1. Campaign materials may be posted only on Election Committee designated bulletin boards or display areas outside the Main Building and only after the close of final nominations on Wednesday 14 April 2023. Each candidate may post no more than one flyer on the Election Committee designated bulletin boards or display areas, and the flyer shall be no larger than 8½ inches by 11 inches.
2. No other campaign materials are allowed to be posted on any boards, walls, glass, windows, mirrors, fences, or other surfaces in Post rooms and property — including but not limited to the Bar, View Room, Fireside Room, patios, kitchen, Front Office, restrooms, Hut, and marina, as well as on any boat in the marina.
3. No printed campaign materials, holders, or stacks (piles) of campaign materials are allowed to be left on tables, bars, or other horizontal surfaces in Post rooms and property — including but not limited to the Main Hall, Bar, View Room, Fireside Room, patios, kitchen, Front Office, restrooms, Hut, and marina.
4. No campaign materials are allowed to be posted on any City or public property visible from the Post — including but not limited to Veterans Park, the public beach, and the public dock, and the pump-out dock.
5. No one is allowed to move, remove, or deface a candidate's posted materials.
6. Flyers, handbills, and other printed campaign materials may be no larger than 8½ inches by 11 inches.
7. Negative campaigning is strictly prohibited. Candidates must run on their own merits and record at the Post or other American Legion offices or positions.
8. Although events and gatherings at the Post offer opportunities for candidates to campaign, candidates and their supporters must be sensitive to those members and guests who are not interested or do not wish to engage in political or campaign discussions — and not annoy nor be aggressive toward those individuals.
9. Other than the three-minute speech allowed on the night of final nomination of Wednesday 12 April, candidates will not use Post audio/visual equipment — e.g., microphones, display screen, etc. — for campaign-related statements or announcements.
10. Candidates will not use audio/visual equipment of Post-hired bands nor the Hootenanny — e.g., microphones, display screen, etc. — for campaign-related statements or announcements.
11. Election "tickets" or slates (exclusive list of candidates) are not allowed to be posted or distributed unless the Election Committee has received written permission from each slate candidate to use his/her name on the election slate for the candidate.
12. Endorsements are not allowed to be used for a candidate or a candidate slate unless the endorsing person or endorsing organization has submitted a written statement of endorsement to the Election Committee. An endorsing organization must also include with its written statement a copy of approved minutes of the organization showing the organization's approval of the endorsement.
13. All campaign materials must be removed from the Post, and specifically the designated bulletin boards or display areas, no later than 3:00 pm Tuesday 9 May, the day before the election.



Campaign Rules Continued

14. On Election Day, Wednesday 10 May, no campaign materials are allowed to be handed out on Post property, including the Post parking lot and marina. Any campaigning must be conducted offsite — such as the sidewalk in front of the Post on 15th Street or in the alley leading to the Post parking lot.
15. If any candidate is found in violation of any of the Election Rules or Campaign Rules by the Election Committee, the Election Committee Chair shall notify the candidate immediately in writing or verbally of the specific violations, with instructions to curtail or correct the violations immediately or no later than 24 hours of the notification.
16. If the candidate in violation complies with the Election Committee instructions within 24 hours of the notification, there shall be no disciplinary actions. If the candidate in violation does not comply within 24 hours of notification, the Election Committee Chair shall inform the Adjutant and the Post Commander in writing that the candidate is not in compliance and shall identify what further actions the Election Committee is taking or may take with respect to the candidate. Under the Election Rules, the Election Committee is authorized to remove a candidate from the ballot if that person refuses to comply with the Election Rules, the Campaign Rules, or instructions of the Election Committee.”



Nominations of Post Officers

- **Structure**
 - **Nominations at the March and April General Membership Meetings**
- **Process**
 - “Raise Hand” to be recognized by Chair
 - Nominations will focus on only one Position at a time
 - Nominations do not require a Second (Robert’s Rules)
 - Nominee must verbally acknowledge acceptance (Post Policy)
- **Sequence of Elected Officer Positions for Nominations**
 - Commander
 - First Vice Commander
 - Second Vice Commander
 - Third Vice Commander
 - Finance Officer
 - Historian
 - Sergeant at Arms
 - Chaplain
 - Members at Large (Two vacancies are to be filled with this election)



NEW BUSINESS

2023 Post 291 Elections

The Following Officer Nominations were made and accepted by each nominee:

Commander- Evin Planto and Kevin Van Otterloo

1st Vice Commander - Brian Fleming Jr.

2nd Vice Commander - Ray Ricard

3rd Vice Commander - Cindy Baker

Finance Officer- Hal McNaughton

Chaplain- Brad McDermott

Service Officer- Cory Vigil

Judge Advocate- Diane Torrianni

Historian – Walter Roberts(?)

Sgt-At-Arms – Philip Orallano & Mike Mailman

M.a.L.- Mike Berdine

M.a.L.- Wayne Zippi

M.a.L. - Nick Giordano



The induction of New Members was conducted by 1st Vice Commander Fleming. Candidates for Membership were called out along with their military branch and era of service.



od of the Legion: No report

Closing Ceremonies were conducted by the American Legion Post
291 Honor Guard

The meeting was adjourned at 2026 hours.

These General Membership Committee Meeting Minutes are
Respectfully submitted by:

David W. Ortolf

Adjutant

American Legion Post 291

19 March 2023