



**AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES THURSDAY, 02 MARCH 2023**  
--AMMENDED & APPROVED--

**CALL TO ORDER 1832 Hours**

INVOCATION by Chaplain Brad McDermott

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commander Evin Planto

**ROLL CALL:**

X Evin Planto, Commander	X Diane Torrianni, Judge Advocate	X Kevin Van Otterloo, M.a.L.
X Dave Ortolf, Adjutant	X Hal McNaughton, Finance Officer	x E r i c Schroeder,
X Brian Fleming Jr, 1st Vice	E Skipper Bercovitz, Sgt-at-Arms	X Nick Giordano, M.a.L.
M.a.L. X Ray Ricard, 2nd Vice	X Cory Vigil, Service Officer	X DaviZamudio, M.a.L.
X Cindy Baker, 3rd Vice	X Brad McDermott, Chaplain	X Mike Schubert
X Jon Reynolds, Jr. Past Com	X Dennis de Rosia, M.a.L.	
EGary Mathison, Historian		

**Excused:** "Skipper" Tim Bercovitz & Historian Gary Mathison

**QUORUM? YES**

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & GUEST COMMENTS:**

AUDIT COMMITTEE CANDIDATE HARRY KUPERMAN

**Affiliates and Programs Reports**

**AUX:** Secretary Heidi Maturino gave a report on behalf of the Auxiliary.

**ALYC Commodore Stephen Alfano Report**

## **ALYC Update** Commodore Alfano

Membership: 919

### **Events Last Month**

General Membership Meeting	Feb 9th
Midwinter Regatta	Feb 18-19
Midwinter Regatta Awards Dinner	Feb 19th
New Member Orientation	Feb 21st
Dive and Snorkel Club Meeting	Feb 22nd
Bridge Meeting	Feb 23rd
Social at Fontana Speedway	Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>

### **Upcoming Events**

Whale Watching Cruise	March 4th
Whale Regatta	March 11th
St. Patty's Day Social	March 11th
Veterans Outreach Sail and Power Cruise	March 18th
Dive and Snorkel Club Meeting	March 22nd
Cruise to Dana Point	March 31st to April 2nd
General Membership Meeting	April 13 <sup>th</sup>

**Electric Boat Update:** We are moving forward with the purchase of an electric boat and will be replacing the Cal 20 Sailboat. End of Report.

Respectfully Submitted

Stephen G Alfano, Commodore 2023

**SAL Squadron 291:** Commander Tim Sullivan reports that they are catching up with membership related administrative work. The "Fairways of Honor" golf tournament is coming along. 22 golfers have signed up so far. SAL is getting good response from sponsors.

**Post 291 Honor Guard/Color Guard:** First Vice Commander Fleming reports four events attended year to date. Two events are pending for the month of March. At this time the Honor Guard has 23 active members and five recruits waiting for uniforms.

### **MINUTES APPROVAL**

All Board members will receive copies of the 02 February 2023 minutes and the 02 March 2023 Executive Committee meeting minutes via email. Both the 02 February 2023 and 02 March 2023 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes will be made available in hard copy for review the next time the Executive Committee meets.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**House Committee:** As chair of the house committee Adjutant Dave Ortolfo will report to the executive committee on behalf of the House committee moving forward.

**Lease Committee:** Commander Evin Planto spoke to the mayor of Newport Beach today. Outstanding concerns about our lease were discussed. Jr Past Commander Jon Reynolds said that the Post does not owe the city any money. M.a.L. Legionnaire David Zamudio expressed concern that lease issues are dragging out unnecessarily. Evin will e-mail a list of lease committee members to Paul.

**Entertainment Committee:** Second Vice Commander Ricard said 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. Black History Month was a success. The event had a good turn-out of African American Veterans. The band "Ohio Trio Plus" played.

**Finance Committee:** Finance Officer Hal McNaughton reports that a five-year plan is currently under development.

**Audit Committee:** Hal said that the audit committee will make a presentation to the Executive Committee next month. The board needs authority from the Executive Committee to hire an auditor for 2023. Evin will designate a chair for the audit committee. M.a.L. Legionnaire Eric Schroeder recommends that we get bids from several auditors.

**Donations Committee**

Service Officer Cory Vigil reports the following:

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			

**OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**Commander Evin** Planto has been working on the sound system project, the hall acoustics project and miscellaneous other punch list items related to the remodel. We've had three bids for an acoustic study. We decided not to do that because of the expense. The Hall's grand reopening with dueling pianos was a great success.

Everybody enjoyed the event. We are looking for ways to improve our events. The kitchen is running very efficiently. Last week we had a \$4,000 hour. That is the first \$4,000 hour that the bar and kitchen have ever had. We are learning how to use the thermostat App to control the temperature in the building.

**First Vice Commander Brian Fleming** reports that currently the post has 3,802 members as compared to our membership goal of 4,202 members. We are currently at 92% of our annual membership goal. We hope to get the additional 400 or so members that we need to achieve our National Membership goal in the next two months. Brian has reached out to those Post members from 2022 that have not renewed. There are 14 new member applications in process. Brian believes that Post membership is down due to the hall remodel. Buddy calls were discussed. Corey will help with the buddy calls. Brian recommends that those calls be made from the post. That way we can process membership renewals immediately.

**Second Vice Commander Ray Ricard** will be in Rome from 5 April to 16 April 2023. Also, see the entertainment committee report above.

**Third Vice Commander Cindy Baker** reports that the boys and girls state registration process is going well. Post 291 will be hosting a district meeting on 22 May 2023. Cindy is establishing a business casual dress code. She has asked for help from other posts. Evin will give opening remarks. Chaplain Brad McDermott will give an invocation and say an opening prayer. The color guard will be participating. The award banquet is tentatively scheduled for 14 August 2023. The executive committee is strongly urged to attend. The orientation dinner will have 200 plus people in attendance. About 100 people will attend the awards dinner. American League baseball needs a commissioner. At this point there is no one to organize the League at the district level. The Sons are sponsoring a baseball team this year. Cindy will put together a list of what is needed, and Evin will work on it. The Post also did a merit badge project with the Boy Scouts of America in December 2022.

**Finance Officer Hal McNaughton** said that the audit committee needs to evaluate and hire an auditor. M.a.L. Legionnaire Eric Schroeder recommends that we get at least three bids. It was agreed that the current auditor has done a good job at a reasonable price. The audit committee will research potential auditors. Hal made a motion to renew our auditor's contract for another year provided their 2023 fees do not exceed 130% of their 2022 fees. Eric seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

**Jr. Past Commander Reynolds:** No Report

**Judge Advocate Torrianni** will give report during closed session.

**Service Officer Cory Vigil** reports that we may be receiving a grant from Pacific Palisades American Legion Ronald Reagan Post 283. Cory gave an update on "Skipper" Tim Berkovitz's health. Cory 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. 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.

<b>Monthly Update for Service Officer</b>			for the Feb 2, 2022 E-Board			
6510 Donations	2022 Actuals	2023 Budget	2023 Actual thru Dec 31	% of 2023 Budget thru Dec 31		
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%		
<b>Total 6510 expenses</b>	<b>169,856.13</b>	<b>202,500.00</b>	<b>47,902.97</b>	<b>24%</b>		
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**Chaplain Brad McDermott** encourages everyone to learn about the “Reveal” Seminar and to contact him for more information. Brad asked that the Post consider sponsoring attendees for the “Reveal” seminar. He will also continue sending out condolence cards.

**Sergeant-at-Arms “Skipper Tim” Bercovitz:** Excused

**Historian Mathison:** Excused. It is anticipated that he will complete his term of office and not stand for reelection.

#### **MEMBERS AT LARGE**

**Legionnaire Kevin Van Otterloo:** No report.

**Legionnaire Dennis de Rosia:** We will have five veterans receiving the Korean citation. Unfortunately, one legionnaire from our post passed on to Post Eternity. Another recipient was a member of a different post so he will be presented with the medal at his post. Protocol for the event was discussed. We will work to set a schedule for the event and establish protocols. Much thanks to Dennis for all his work on this project.

**Legionnaire Mike Schubert:** No report.

**Legionnaire Eric Schroeder** requested that executive committee investigate active shooter training and response plans. Adjutant Dave Ortolf volunteered to speak with our human resources provider BBSI and find out what training they may have available that we’ve already paid for. Dave is also going to check on the status of harassment training with BBSI.

**Legionnaire David Zamudio:** No Report

**Legionnaire Nick Giordano** discussed a safety concern involving canvas on the patio that needs to be replaced.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Brian brought up the September 2022 Executive Committee meeting minutes that are currently posted on the Post's website. He recommended that the minutes be taken down because they include personal information. Evin will have Tracy take down those minutes and have them edited correctly so that they can be reapproved and reposted.

Cindy presented a draft job description for a Post construction project manager. The possibility of the Post adding a position like this to the staff will be discussed more moving forward.

### **NEW BUSINESS - None**

### **GOOD OF THE LEGION**

The Post needs to get election guidelines for 2023 out in February for review and updating. Parameters for National Convention attendance were discussed. Delegates will be only those attending and not the 83 that we are allowed. M.a.L. Legionnaire Dennis De Rosia recommended that the Cory request a \$100K grant from the Palisades Post.

This Saturday afternoon will be the first meeting of the Post 291 100th birthday celebration committee. The committee will be responsible for creating a logo, having T-shirts made, establishing a calendar of events, and arranging speakers and entertainment.

The Post will be hosting the Vietnam Veterans welcome home party the end of March. There will be a swift boat docked here from Thursday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. The Vietnam Veterans of America Huey helicopter will also be here.

There was general discussion regarding the 16 March 2023 Veterans Resource Expo that is being held in the hall. Brian said that The Post will have a recruiting table at the Expo. Typically the Post picks up several new members from events like this one.

As the meeting was about to go into closed session to discuss the Judge Advocate's report the electricity went out.

**ADJOURNED at 2100 hours.**