



**AMERICAN LEGION NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291**  
**215 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport Beach, CA 92663**  
**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, 8 November 2023 - APPROVED**

Meeting called to order at approximately 1900

hoursThe Colors were advanced.

Invocation: Mr Jim Shumar

Pledge of Allegiance: Commander Evin Planto

POW/MIA Ceremony: Kevin Van Otterloo

Recited the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion: lead by Commander Evin Planto

**ROLL CALL:**

Evin Planto, Commander	Diane Torrianni, Judge Advocate	E Kevin Van Otterloo, M.a.L.
Brian Fleming Jr., 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	Hal McNaughton, Finance Officer	Mike Berdine, M.a.L.
E Ray Ricard, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice	Mike Mailman, Sgt-at-Arms	Nick Giordano, M.a.L.
Cindy Baker, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice	Cory Vigil, Service Officer	E David Zamudio , M.a.L.
Jon Reynolds, Jr. Past Comm	X Brad McDermott, Chaplain	Mike Schubert, M.a.L.
X Nick Saifan, Adjutant	E Johnny Arganda, Historian	Wayne Zippi, M.a.L.

**Reports from Legion Affiliates & Other Guests:**

**Auxiliary** – Janet du Monceau de Bergendal

Provided goals of the AUX and past/future events:

- membership
- Fund raising to meet goals
- Box stuffing
- Troop Shipping \$20 per box – looking for contributions

**Sons of the American Legion** – Tim Sullivan, Commander

- Biggest and best SAL squadron
- Spoke about upcoming event.
- Spoke about SAL programs
- Sons of Veterans please join.

### **American Legion Yacht Club** – Stephen Alfano, Commodore

- Spoke about the ALYC, events, and activities.
- Socials events, current, past and upcoming
- Duffy program
- Monday races are continuing
- Planning Boat Parade

### **Honor Guard** – Brian Fleming Jr., Commander –

- completed 65 events
- 7 Events pending
- 23 active members
- Recruiting new members

**General Membership Meeting Minutes:** Commander Planto requested the following motion be presented.

Minutes need to be amended, couple items.

### **Donation Committee – Cory Vigil**

- Described Service Officer's job
- Spoke about VEAF
- Reviewed veteran support for the past month
- Discussed Coffee Talk successes

### **Officer Reports:**

#### **Commander Evin Planto –**

- Commander discussing past and upcoming events
- Coffee Talk

#### **Adjutant Nick Saifan**

- Post work, contracts
- Reporting to membership
- Upcoming training
- Dock work in progress
- Marketing and advertising

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Brian Fleming Jr.**

- 4,288 Legionnaires
- 2,565 members renewed for 2024 @ 61.8% to goal of 4,148
- 1,823 members that need to renew from 2023
- 20 New Members for the previous month

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Ray Ricard**

No Report, Excused

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Cindy Baker**

American Legion Boys and girls State Program, sending 25 juniors to the program, looking for volunteers  
American Legion Baseball, May – July area 5  
Chaplain is District 29<sup>th</sup>'s Commissioner  
Spoke about Scouts of America, Citizen of Nation Badge training

## **Jr. Past Commander Jon Reynolds** - No report

## **Finance Officer Hal McNaughton** –

- Gave financial update for membership and business side
- Financially sound with over a million in reserve.

## **Master of Arms – Mike Mailman**

Hosting dinner for needy veterans and their families for Thanksgiving and Christmas

## **Historian Johnny Arganda** –

- Took pictures from at a few events
- Working on docuseries about veterans to tell their stories

## **Service Officer Cory Vigil**

- Supports all veteran needs
- Disability claims
- Provided spending update
- Gave report on veterans supported
- VEAFF to support emergency situations.
- Showed donation list of agencies and veterans
- Service officer account update
- LYFT cards are helping

## **Judge Advocate, Diane Torrianni** -

No Report

## **Chaplain Brad McDermott**

WWII and Korean War veteran calls for buddy check, need volunteers, Meet and talk and connect like coffee talk  
Aspect of meditation, it's important, invites us to do it  
Notes from Children for the holidays

## **Members at Large –**

Mike Shubert

- Mentioned 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning for 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2024
- Spoke about volunteers supporting the veterans
- Read emails to keep up with what is going on at the post
- Discussed members getting or not getting emails
- We have the largest Vietnam Welcome Home Event
- Spoke about poor turnout for election
- Provided Vietnam Service lapel pins
- Drone soccer event at post, successful

Kevin Van Otterloo – No report

Wayne Zippi – No report

David Zamudio – No report

Nick Giordano – No report

Mike Mailman – no report

Mike Berdine – 9 November WWII Korean lunch event / Mentioned buddy check making calls to veterans

## **Induction of New Members**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, Brian Fleming Jr., presents inductees
- Motion to approve the induction of New Members to Post 291
  - M/S/C: Carried Unanimously
  - Commander Planto reads rules to new members.

## **New Business: None**

## **Unfinished Business - None**

## **Good of the Legion**

- asked about status of the post with the city
- Jon Renolds said that there was no new information to share
- 4 November Marine Corps Birthday Ball (Mike Mailman)
- Veteran Owned Business Training for certification doing business with the Government
- Cigar Event

**Chaplain** -closing prayer.

The Meeting was adjourned at 2019 hours