



Sons of the American Legion  
Squadron 291  
Minutes of the General Meeting  
5 February 2025

Meeting called to order at 1911 hrs.

The Colors were saluted-

Randy MacDougall (Chaplain) offered an opening prayer

POW chair cover was presented by Mike Morrissey

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tim Sullivan

Tim Sullivan led the reading of the Preamble to the SAL Constitution

Meeting was held at the Post

We have a quorum of general members

Call to Order - Tim Sullivan, Cmdr.

Adjutant conducted the roll call.

A quorum was present, fifteen members besides a qualified presiding officer constituting a quorum. Roll Call List is attached. (Sign-in listing of members - attached)

Tim Sullivan made the following comments during roll call:

We are looking forward to an exciting year and working on our website to enable you to purchase shirts etc.

Commander's Remarks - Tim Sullivan, Cmdr.

Cmdr. greeted all in attendance.

Rules for the post will be posted on the Legion website.

Continue to be faithful to our charities and accomplishing our membership goals.

Doug Nye past Post Cmdr. and Paul Mesmer past detachment Cmdr.-State were in attendance.

Star Spangle Banner was played for the membership.

Adjutant's Report – Don Allen, Adjutant

A motion was passed to dispense with the reading of past minutes. Meetings are recorded in order to produce the monthly minutes. Copies of the minutes are posted on the Squadron website and placed on the sign in table at the meeting. The recordings are erased upon completion of the minutes.

Chaplain's Report – Randy MacDougall, Chaplain

Reported the following:

Passed away- Paul Garcia (Legionnaire) and Charles Pasterin (Legionnaire)

Health matters:

Praying – Brad Semonell (Super Sgt. Legionnaire & SAL) - get well soon.

Membership Report – John Long 1st Vice Cmdr.

Continuing to have a good month - The individual names (24) will be read.

See attached November 7, 2024 to January 31, 2025 report. For local area individuals who qualify to become a SAL-we would like to encourage them to join. The name of each new member was read during the meeting. Tim Sullivan asked the individuals who were present to comment on their own and father backgrounds to determine how they qualify for membership. A motion was passed to approve to (induct) bring these fine men into the Squadron. We would like in the future to share a story of your dad forthcoming on the website.

Dues not paid by 30 June - membership is forfeited (Const. Art. VII). Starting this past July 1 dues will increase from \$135 to \$155 and if you need a reprint card cost will be \$10.

Squadron Activities – Art Jimenez 2nd Vice Cmdr. absent Tim Sullivan Cmdr. reported

The fishing trips will be forthcoming and if the boat is not filled with disabled veterans, then will fill in with other vets (able to accommodate 35 fishermen). The fishing ¾ trips (father/child) will be led by Benny Hallock. The Boat Parade was a success. Benny Hallock (SAL historian & tournament organizer) commented regarding the 5th Fairways of Honor golf tournament which will be needing sponsors, volunteers, donations and raffle items. The website for Fairways of Honor (Fairwaysofhonor.com) golf tournament will be held in May 2025.

Finance Report – Todd Clucas, Finance Officer

The Squadron has as of December 31, 2024 approx. \$244,000 (comprised of general checking \$92,000, events account \$66,000 and \$86,000 in money market which includes a CD for \$52,000 at Chase Bank). Financially in great shape. Looking for donations!!! We currently bank at Chase Bank. We have a Zelle option at the bank.

District 29 / Detachment of California / National Report -Tim Sullivan

Paul Mesmer commented that the Pacific Palisades post survived the fires.

Donations Report -Bill Finster 3rd Vice Cmdr.-

See attached report. The committee communicated thru email this month. Each donation was read. A separate motion for each donation was passed to approve the attached donation. We donated over \$250,000 (including Post fees) this past year. We plan on expanding our donations.

Technology – Tim Sullivan indicated the website (sons291.com) will continue to be improved.

You will be able to enter the website to purchase various items and other new features. We plan on having the capability to share a story regarding your dad this feature will be forthcoming. We are exploring a webstore to sale items for additional resources.

Concierge Program – Tim Sullivan - Many of you have been volunteering and still need your help going well- Will be trying to improve the experience for the guests. Please sign up on our website to volunteer.

Fund Raising Committee – Tim Sullivan Cmdr. - working on new and different fund-raising events. If you know of sponsors for the fishing trips, please inform us.

Parliamentarian & Judge Advocate- Rene Alvarez

The amendment in the bylaws was read to the general meeting members regarding not allowing a member to become a board member if they have had a financial crime. The membership will vote on this amendment at the March general meeting.

Historian- Benny Hallock

Benny Hallock has for sale SAL merchandise for hats, blue and red shirts, other shirts and blankets. Shirts and merchandise orders are being accepted

Old Business

Continue to support the Legion

New Business

Nominations for board members will be held in March.

Looking Ahead

The next SAL general meeting 5 March 2025 at the post.  
No cap drawing this month.

Closing Prayer –Randy MacDougall (Chaplain) led the closing prayer  
Prayers to all

The meeting was adjourned at 2010 hrs.

The next General Meeting will be held Wednesday 5 March 2025 at 1900 hrs. Post location

Submitted by,



Don Allen  
Adjutant

Distribution:

Squadron Executive Committee  
Squadron Appointed Positions  
Squadron Advisors

Attachments:

Roll Call List  
Sign-in listing of attending members  
January Membership Report  
January Donation Report





Sons of the American Legion

Squadron 291

2025 Roll Call List

Executive Committee Meeting (5 members)

General Membership Meeting (15 members + 1 officer)

Date: 5 February 2025

Meeting Start Time: 1911

Meeting End Time: 2010

Executive Committee (Voting):


		Present	Excused	Absent
Commander	Tim Sullivan	(P)	E	A
1st Vice Cmdr. Membership	John Long	(P)	E	A
2nd Vice Cmdr. Squadron Activities	Art Jimenez	P	(E)	A
3rd Vice Cmdr. Donations	Bill Finster	(P)	E	A
Adjutant	Don Allen	(P)	E	A
Finance Officer	Todd Clucas	(P)	E	A
Sgt. at Arms	Mike Morrissey	(P)	E	A
Chaplain	Randy MacDougall	(P)	E	A
Parliamentarian & Judge advocate	Rene Alvarez (Non-voting)	(P)	E	A
Historian	Benny Hallock	(P)	E	A

Post Supervisory Committee (Non-voting):

Post Advisor	Brian Fleming	P	(E)	A
Post Advisor	Cory Vigil	P	(E)	A



Sons of the American Legion  
Squadron 291  
Membership Sign-in for General Meeting  
5 February 2025

1. 	21. Mike Morrissey
2. David Stenmel	22. Randy MacDargill
3. Rod Can	23. Jordan Priest
4. RAY CRAMPTON	24. Dennis Priest
5. Jeff Axton	25. Scott Hammond
6. PAUL MESMER	26. Tom Arnold
7. Dave Hahn	27. Scott Winks
8. Phil Hartsou	28. Roger Tirabassi
9. Ron Costabile	29. Steven Roghair
10. Allen Jensen	30. Dave Apple
11. Dushan Guraschew	31. Adam Chiles
12. Ron Farnham	32. Bill Just
13. Mike Morrison	33. James Blumore
14. Ron Melton	34. Dan Can
15. Mike Pasterian	35.
16. CHRIS ARRANAGA	36.
17. RYAN KWIATKOWSKI	37.
18. Kevin	38.
19. Eric Overfield	39.
20. David Overfield	40.



# Sons of the American Legion

## Newport Harbor Squadron 291

### Membership Report January 31, 2025

New Members This Period	24
New Members 2025 Year (July 24-June 25)	86
Total Membership 2025	1,466
2024 Members Not Renewed	495
2025 Membership Goal	1,832
Percentage of Goal	80%

### New Members

Full Name	Type	Full Name	Type
Chris Arranaga	Regular	Oliver Parker	Regular
Jeff Axton	Regular	Jordan Priest	Regular
Ray Beindorf	Junior	Steve Rice	Regular
Adam Chiles	Regular	William Ridley	Regular
Gary Culp	Regular	Steven Roghair	Regular
Val Darie	Regular	Edward Sweeney	Regular
Jimmy Esquivel	Regular	Peter Tanoury	Regular
James Fowler	Regular	Roger Tirabassi	Regular
Scott Hammond	Regular	Tom Wamberg	Regular
Thomas Kenney	Regular	Scott Winks	Regular
Erik Larson	Regular	Brad Young	Regular
Cody Liske	Regular	Michael Willoughby	Regular



## Donations for February 2025

From: bill finster (wmfinster@yahoo.com)

To: coastalpeter@yahoo.com; ckm4loans@hotmail.com; jclevelandis@hotmail.com; chrishg975@outlook.com; rce@ix.netcom.com; wmfinster@yahoo.com; billfinstersal291@gmail.com

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 1:53 PM PST

**The first 5 proposed donations are repeat donations from last year. Please get back to me on your approvals.**

**1. Walt Wagner Assistant Grants.** This is annual grants to Military students at Orange Coast College

**Proposed Donation \$10,000**

**2. Fisher House of So Cal.** Supports four Fisher Houses across Southern California, providing essential resources and assistance to military and veterans families while their loved ones receive care at nearby VA and military hospitals.

**Proposed Donation \$5,000** 7,500

**3. Newport Beach 1st Battalion 1st Marines Foundation.** Supports the 1st Battalion 1st Marines at Camp Pendleton. This is a annual donation.

**Proposed Donation \$25,000**

**4. OC Boys Scouts of America.** This is our annual support of the OC Boys Scouts of America

**Proposed Donation \$1,500**

**5. Project Healing Waters.** PHW began in 2004 serving wounded military service members at Walter Reed Army Medical Center returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of injured and disabled military service personnel and disabled Veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.

**Proposed Donation \$2,000**

**6. Veterans Strong USA.** Tom Fuentes is a USAF Veteran - 86-93. Tom is a legionnaire of American Legion Post 291. Ted founded Veterans Strong USA in 2018 to improve veterans through legislation. In 2023, he refocused the non-profit to provide Equine - Assisted Therapy, becoming certified in the EAGALA model. EAGALA Model is a therapeutic approach that uses horses to help people heal emotionally and grow personally.

Tim Sullivan and I met with Ted on 1/22/25 at Ted location in San Juan Capistrano.

**Proposed Donation \$5,000** 10,000

2025 SALS YTD Donation  
Post 291

[illegible]