

MINUTES OF AMERICAN LEGION MEETING - 9 JULY 2013

Before the start of the meeting, Ron Kee, Quartermaster for VFW Post 7971, provided a short summary of the first night of VFW sponsored bingo held at St. Demetrius Church. Bingo is held every Wednesday at St. Demetrius Church, 3106 Ridgewood Road, Copley, OH. Doors open at 4:00, instant ticket sales are at 4:30, bingo sheet sales begin at 5:00 and bingo starts at 6:30. The VFW Ladies Auxiliary serves great food. Cash prizes range from \$120.00 to \$1000.00, with progressive payouts going even higher. The first night proceeds, after expenses, was \$944.96. Volunteers to help with bingo are still requested.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by the Commander, 10 members were present.

Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble.

Reading of previous minutes. Approved as read.

Roll Call - The Chaplain, Adjutant and the Finance Officer were excused. Don Miller serves as Chaplain, Diane Miller served as Adjutant and the Commander served as Finance Officer. All others were present.

Trustee Report - Veterans Post account stands at \$3677.92, which includes \$176.50 in petty cash. An investment dividend check of \$1515.00 is expected shortly and will be deposited into the Veterans Post account. Rental income for July will be at least \$300.00 while rental income for August should be at least \$900.00. The Finance Officer, through a letter, stated that he is looking into long term contracts with our gas and electric providers, in an attempt to lower our utility bills. He also suggested a work party to complete several projects at the Post, such as painting, gardening and electrical work. At 1000 on Saturday, 13 July, we will meet at the cemetery to remove the flags from the Veterans graves.

Post Finance Report - The total assets stand at \$5782.61, which includes \$92.00 in petty cash. Approved as presented.

Committee Reports - None. The Commander stated we need a volunteer to serve as Post Historian, Chuck Maupin volunteered and was appointed by the Commander.

Sick Call - The Commander was happy to report that Carl Mesaros was doing very well with his broken hip and is now walking with a cane. Marsela Unbaugh is due to be released from the nursing home and will be coming home this week.

Service Officer - The Service Officer stated that it was brought to his attention that numerous gravesites in the Veteran Section were unmarked. His research concluded that of the 12 sites in question, 9 belong to spouses that are still alive, one is for a veteran that is still alive and two are vacant because the survivors refuse to take any action to obtain a marker. The Honor Guard conducted 4 military funerals and one Flag retirement ceremony at Prince of Peace Church in Barberton.

Unfinished Business - None

Correspondence - Received a thank you letter and membership card from the Fisher-Nightingale Foundation. A winner of the Americanism and Government competition, Rachel Hopkins, sent a thank you card for the check she received. Walgreen's Drug Stores are offering a 15% military discount on Wednesdays, with proof of military service. Some restrictions apply, check with store for details. Congressman Jim Renece is hosting a Veterans Health Benefits forum at the Cuyahoga Community College campus in Parma on 14 August from 6 - 8 pm. Brochures are available with info on how to obtain a Veterans ID Card. Must present DD214 and two forms of ID, one with a photo. A request for donation was received from Ronald McDonald House in Akron. It was motioned and approved we donate \$100.00 to Ronald McDonald House.

New Business - Valor House is open with at least 6 veterans in residence, should be full by month end. Ed Miller will post bingo info on the Post web site. To volunteer for Stand Down, you must attend a class and orientation. The last day to sign up is 31 July and the next "Shepherd" training is 3 August, with the last training on 9 September. The Stand Down will be 10 September, with Shepherds reporting before 0730. Over 450 veterans are expected to go through Stand Down and receive medical checks, haircuts, clothing and food. The Commander stated he was thinking about ordering new shirts for the Copley Veterans Post. It was motioned and approved we purchase 24 to 36 shirts for resale to the members. Cost to be \$7 to \$9 each.

For The Good of the Legion - Convention went well with numerous amendments to the Legion Constitution receiving approval and several were not approved. The one amendment that would essentially require the Posts to seek Department approval before encumbering Legion property was disapproved on the floor. Thanks to the VSC and Bob Panovich, the Post was not charged for the room at Convention. Jim Campbell, who visited our Post was elected as 2nd Vice Commander. The Commander will mail a bright pink card,, to all members asking that they pay their dues by the end of September. Either pay by mail, on-line or bring dues to the August meeting. Ed Miller requested the names of past members who have passed on so he can add them to our web site.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Grether at 7:59, seconded by Chuck Maupin. Closing prayer and retirement of colors.

Respectively Submitted:

**Diane Miller
LTC, USAF, Retired
Acting Adjutant**