



**LEONARD W. KIDD**  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 2001**  
Minutes of Meeting  
8 October 2015



**Members in Attendance:** David Austin, Chuck Banks, Jon Canerday, Ken Canterbury, Al Gabriel, Gerry Christeson, Fr. Jim Hinkle, Norm Larson, Jim Linn, Bob O'Such, Larry Rosenberger, Richard Ryan, Joe Scalione, Tobin Seven.

**Guests:** Sam Meyers (candidate for Post membership), Rachel Childress (Washington DC VA Medical Center – Voluntary Service).

**General Meeting.**

**Opening.** Second Vice Commander Bob O'Such began the meeting at 19:33 hours. The colors were posted prior to opening. Chaplain Al Gabriel delivered the opening prayer. Second Vice Commander O'Such read the POW ceremony while the POW chair of honor was prepared.

**Report of Officers.**

**Post Minutes.** Previously distributed by the Adjutant, it was moved to accept them into the records of the Post, and the motion passed by voice vote.

**Membership.** Sam Meyers, a Navy veteran during the 1960's and who served with a MCB in Vietnam presented a short biographical sketch of his service. After discussion, the members of the Post approved Sam Meyers for membership in the Post, by a unanimous voice vote. Post is at 59% of its goal for 2016.

**Adjutant.** The 16<sup>th</sup> District quarterly conference is 18 October for any members interested in attending.

**Finance.** Finance Officer Richard Ryan presented the September financial report and a summary of the previous month's activities which were in line with the annual budget for income and expenses. A member moved to accept the report into the records of the Post, subject to future audit. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Second Vice Commander's Report.** Second Vice Commander, Bob O'Such, gave an update on the status of Comrade Pete Holleran. Pete is recovering from an illness and is doing much better.

The Lorton Post was going to take the Track Chair being offered by Dr. Ike Lans for use by a disabled veteran. The Lorton Post had asked for additional funds to cover operation of the chair, but Dr. Lans is unable to provide the additional funding. The Lorton Post is looking for ways to cover these costs.

For the 2016 Loudoun County Salute to Military and Veterans, Comrade Tobin Seven will be the event chairman. Comrade Seven noted that he wants to get more youth involved in the event and structure it to celebrate past (veterans), present (active duty), and future (next generation). He stated they are looking at a possible fun run as well.

Comrade O'Such added that they are working on certificates of appreciation for the donors and participants from the 2015 Salute.



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Comrade O'Such gave an update on the Service Officer program and said that Comrade Scalione is working on becoming a Service Officer. Our Post could use at least one additional Service Officer according to O'Such. Currently the Post is managing three active cases. Service Officers processed 10 cases during the 2015 Salute event.

**Veteran's Day.** Comrade Larry Rosenberger discussed the poppy distribution for Veterans Day. Post will distribute poppies on 6 and 7 November at the Ashburn Village Giant from 09:30 to 19:30. The recommended uniform is coat and tie with your Legion cover (alternative is smart casual with your Legion cover if you have one.)

**Old Business.**

**Guest Speaker.** Comrade O'Such introduced Rachel Childress from the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service office. Ms. Childress introduced herself as a Voluntary Service Specialist with the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She presented a brief on her mission to support voluntary service from organizations and individuals who want to help veterans. She stated that it is possible for Post 2001 to be on the Voluntary Service Committee at the Veterans Administration. Post would need to send a letter presenting two individuals to be part of the committee.

There are opportunities for volunteers to assist in transporting veterans to their medical appointments (contact her office for more details.) Also, the Medical Center is looking for donations of golf carts to support transportation of veterans within the Medical Center campus.

**Other.** Sam Meyers discussed the idea of establishing a program to assist veterans "at risk" for suicide. This could possibly be a service of volunteers that contacts these veterans periodically to check on them, with the goal of suicide prevention – a "life check." Ms. Childress commented that there is a Veterans Crisis Line run by the Department of Veterans Affairs that is similar to this.

**Legion Baseball.** Baseball Chairman Jim Linn said that he is working on letters for the baseball team donors.

**Awards.** Nothing to report.

**New Business.**

**Veterans Day Program.** The Loudoun Valley High School will conduct a program for veterans on 11 November. Interested Legionnaires can contact the Adjutant or 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander for details. Many other local schools have similar programs in the works. Watch your e-mail for more details.

**For the Good of the Legion.**

Comrade Dave Austin gave a short brief on the annual Marine Corps Ball to be held at Landsdown on 7 November. All Services are invited to attend. Contact Dave or check the Marine Corps League website for details.



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USO Dulles is asking for donations to restock drinks and snacks, according to Comrade Canderday. Contact the USO directly if interested. Comrade Canerday also noted that the American Legion national emergency fund is asking for donations to assist with veterans in need in South Carolina following the recent storms. See the Legion website for instructions on how to donate (legion.org).

Membership costs for Legion members will increase by \$5 beginning in January. The American Legion national committee voted recently to raise their portion of the annual dues by \$5, causing the overall cost to rise. Post membership will go from \$40 per year to \$45 per year effective January 2016.

**Closing.** At 21:05 hours, there being no further business to bring before the Post, Chaplain Hinkle delivered the closing prayer and Second Vice Commander O'Such adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting will be 1930 hours, 12 November, 2015, at the Mills Recreation Center, 43895 Grottoes Dr., Ashburn, VA 20147.

Check out our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/alpost2001AshburnVA>

Our webpage is: <http://ashburnlegion.org/>