



**LEONARD W. KIDD**  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 2001**  
Minutes of Meeting  
12 November 2015



**Members in Attendance:** John Alban, David Austin, Jon Canerday, Ken Canterbury, Al Gabriel, Norm Larson, Chuck Loomis, Sam Meyers, Nick Monje, Bob O'Such, Larry Rosenberger, Richard Ryan, Joe Scalione, Tobin Seven.

**Guests:** Richard Bensinger, John Strauchs, Frank Mullen, Peter Parkinson (candidates for Post membership); Tom Ward, Kathy Ward, Jack Ward, and Maddie Ward (Boys and Girls State parents and participants).

**General Meeting.**

**Opening.** First Vice Commander Chuck Loomis began the meeting at 19:30 hours. The colors were posted prior to opening. Chaplain Al Gabriel delivered the opening prayer. First Vice Commander Loomis 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 the minutes for the October meeting into the records of the Post and the motion passed by voice vote.

**Membership.** Four new candidates for membership in the Post presented themselves at the meeting. New to the Legion, John Strauchs, an Army veteran who served during the Vietnam conflict, was a member of the 18th Airborne Corps. Also new to the Legion, Frank Mullen served during Lebanon/Grenada period in the US Navy. Transferring to Post, Richard Bensinger served in the US Air Force and retired in 1998. Also transferring to post, Peter Parkinson served in the US Marines during the Vietnam conflict. After discussion, the members of the Post in attendance approved by unanimous voice vote the four new members. Welcome to our Post.

**Adjutant.** The cost of membership will increase by five dollars as of January 2016. If you have not yet renewed for 2016, please do so now and avoid this increase. The American Legion national headquarters is raising their portion of the overall membership fee, resulting in this cost increase.

**Finance.** Finance Officer Richard Ryan presented the October 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.** Second Vice Commander, Bob O'Such, provided a review of the many Veteran's Day events at local schools and businesses. Post 2001 was well represented at many of the Ashburn area events. Comrade Richard Ryan stated that he spoke at the Panda Power Project event on Veteran's Day to a group of about 230 men and women. Comrade O'Such noted that another one of our members, Dick Graph, also spoke at an event. Many other Legionnaires from our Post participated in local school events. Thank you to all who participated.

**Boys and Girls State.** The Post Chairman for the Boys and Girls State program was out of town and unable to attend. The Ward family attended and Maddie (Girls State) and Jack (Boys State) both



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presented insights about their experiences during the program this past summer. We look forward to their participation preparing next year's group of young men and women for Boys and Girls State.

**Old Business.**

**Veteran's Day.** Comrade Larry Rosenberger discussed the poppy distribution for Veterans Day. Post distributed poppies on 6 and 7 November at the Ashburn Village Giant and handed out over 2,900 poppies, and almost 300 US flags. The generous Ashburn community donated over \$3400 to the Post.

**2016 Salute to Veterans.** For the 2016 Loudoun County Salute to Military and Veterans, Comrade Tobin Seven will be the event chairman. Comrade Seven noted that the Department of Veterans Affairs is willing to sponsor a 2 Km fun run in conjunction with the event. Contact Tobin Seven if you are interested in being a part of this event (Fall 2016).

**Other.** Comrade Sam Meyers presented the idea of the "purple parking spot" for Purple Heart recipients, and noted that some communities had adopted the idea (along the idea of the handicap parking spot in many places).

**Holiday Party.** In place of our general meeting in December, Post will hold its annual holiday party (10 December 2015 from 19:00 to 21:00). Post will have a pot-luck dinner and the annual Toys for Tots toy drive. This event is for all Legionnaires and their spouse/guest. More information will be forthcoming with details on who brings what and other items. See you on 10 December!

Comrade Dave Austin noted that if you are interested in assisting with the Toys for Tots, check out the Marine Corps League (<http://www.loudounmarines.org/toys-for-tots.html>) – they could use assistance from 10 December onward.

**For the Good of the Legion.**

One of our chaplains, Al Gabriel, will be heading to Florida in early December. Have a safe trip and see you in the spring!

Comrade Nick Monje gave an update on the "Gold Star Mothers" project. The group is putting up a monument to honor "Gold Star Mothers" and raised \$21,000 during their last event. The group is sponsoring a golf event to raise additional funds on 23 September 2016 at the Stonewall Golf Club. Contact Comrade Monje for more details.

**Closing.** At 20:34 hours, there being no further business to bring before the Post, Chaplain Gabriel delivered the closing prayer and First Vice Commander Loomis adjourned the meeting.

The next event will be 19:00 hours, 1 December, 2015, at the Mills Recreation Center, 43895 Grottoes Dr., Ashburn, VA 20147. This is our annual Holiday Party – see you there!

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

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