



**LEONARD W. KIDD**  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 2001**  
Minutes of Meeting  
11 February 2016



**Members in Attendance:** John Alban, Dave Austin, Jon Canerday, Ken Canterbury, James Hinkle, Chuck Loomis, Chris Marcoux, Charlie McKinney, Sam Meyers, Ron Milberg, Frank Mullen, Bob O'Such, Tobin Seven, John Strauchs

**Guests:** Mike Bell, Rick Carr, Dennis Kellen, Scott Morris (all candidates for Post membership)

**General Meeting.**

**Opening.** Commander Charlie McKinney began the meeting at 1930 hours. The colors were posted prior to opening. Chaplain Jim Hinkle delivered the opening prayer. Commander McKinney read the POW ceremony while the Sergeant at Arms Ken Canterbury prepared the POW chair of honor.

**Report of Officers.**

**Post Minutes.** The Adjutant being absent, the minutes from the January 2016 meeting were deferred to next month.

**Membership.** The Adjutant being absent, the membership report was deferred to next month.

**Finance.** The Finance Officer being absent, the finance report was deferred to next month.

**First Vice Commander's Report.** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Chuck Loomis had nothing to report.

**Second Vice Commander's Report.** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bob O'Such provided an update on obtaining poppies for Memorial Day. Comrade Larry Rosenberger has been acquiring all pre-made poppies that he can and has even obtained one kit to make them from scratch. The American Heritage Girls will try to assemble them using the kit. This will be mutually beneficial if they are able to assemble them. Bob's wife and her friends will also try to assemble some. Bob also reported that the Post has learned a vet lost his house in a fire and proposed donating \$500 to assist them. New Member Mike Bell said he has talked to the vet's daughter (who is herself raising three grandkids) and they have a great need for many different things. Commander McKinney said the Executive Committee would consider the proposed donation.

**Introduction of Guests and New Members:**

Mike Bell, a former member of the Marines and Air Force, is the head of the Veterans' Affairs Office in Loudoun County.

Scott Morris retired from the Air Force this year with 24 years of service. He is a Paid Up For Life member but never belonged to a particular post before. He is the Cub Master for Cub Scout Pack 1500. Dennis Kellen is retired from the Army with 24 years of service. He has three boys and is passing the Cub Master role to Scott.

Rick Carr was in the Air Force in the late 60s. He has spent 32 years with the federal government.

The four potential new members withdrew from the meeting room and after a discussion, the members of the Post in attendance approved by unanimous voice vote the new members. Welcome to our Post!



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All of the guests and potential and new members were welcomed by Commander McKinney. He asked the new members to email the Adjutant a copy of their DD-214s.

**Old Business.**

**Post Budget.** Commander McKinney stated that on 4 February, the Executive Committee met and approved the budget proposed by the Finance Officer last month, with a few minor adjustments to certain amounts. He now asked that the membership ratify the Executive Committee's action. A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business and Communications:**

**Litter Pickup.** Comrade Ron Milberg announced that the quarterly litter pickup will be this coming Saturday. He said the quarterly pickups are scheduled for the Saturday following each meeting in the second month of each quarter. Volunteers should meet at 8:30 at the Junction Plaza Shopping Center at the intersection of Claiborne and Ashburn Farm Parkways. He said it normally takes about an hour to cover our assigned stretch of Claiborne Parkway. The scout leaders said they would add this to the scout's calendar for future events.

**Boys and Girls State.** Commander McKinney said the Post Chairman for the Boys and Girls State program was out of town and unable to attend. However, interviews of potential candidates will probably be in mid-March. He encouraged everyone who could to participate in the interviews and see firsthand what impressive students are interested in the program. We were able to send 19 students last year.

**Scouting.** Commander McKinney said the post leadership met with leaders of Cub Scout Pack 1500 on 19 January. As a result of that meeting, the Post will sponsor the unit and fully integrate them into our activities, such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. This led to Commander McKinney discussing the many benefits of our Post not having a mortgage and instead paying \$180 per year to rent the recreation center used for our Post meetings. As a result, our post is self-sustaining and will be strong for many years to come.

**Loudoun County Salute to Veterans.** Comrade Tobin Seven, the event chairman for 2016, said we are off to a good start. He met with Ralph Buono from the Board of Supervisors last month regarding the event. The Salute will be 15 October, from 0900 to 1800, at Stone Bridge High School. Rachel Childress will host a 2K fun run as part of the event. Michael Bell will be critical in the program this year. Volunteers are needed to help with the Salute and anyone wanting to help should contact Comrade Seven.

**Veteran in Need.** Covered by Vice Commander O'Such previously.

**Commander's Email Regarding Volunteers.** Commander McKinney stated that on Tuesday he sent out an email to the Post membership that stressed the need for volunteers. The Post has a number of positions that need to be filled. When he became commander, he said everyone needed a job, even if it is only helping others do their jobs. He has never met 30% of the membership. 15 to 20 guys do everything at the Post but that number needs to increase. The Post will do more recruiting. The Post has



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a number of jobs that need to be filled soon. Every officer serves a 1-year term. Everyone is invited to run for an office. Elections are held in May, with officers sworn in in June.

Commander McKinney also stated that he is on the Loudoun County Water Board, which holds its meetings the same day as the Post's. That may require changing the dates of the Post meetings.

**For the good of The American Legion.**

**Spring Conference.** Commander McKinney announced that the 16<sup>th</sup> District Spring Conference will be held on 28 February at Post 247 in Remington. There will be a lunch followed by the meeting. All are invited to attend.

**Baseball.** Vice Commander Loomis announced that Baseball Committee Chair Jim Linn may have to step down due to family issues. We do have some good prospects for coaches this year but we do need a Post member to be the team GM. New member Scott Morris stated he has experience with managing Little League teams.

**New Member.** Vice Commander Loomis announced that Mike Griffith would like to join our Post. He has been activated for active duty and is working at Ft. Belvoir and could not be here tonight. He is already a Legion member. After a brief discussion, the members of the Post in attendance approved by unanimous voice vote the new member. Welcome, Mike!

**Suicide Prevention.** Comrade Sam Meyers asked whether the VA could be more proactive in preventing suicide. Commander McKinney remarked that the VA is worse today than a year ago. Comrade Mike Bell stated there may be opportunities to volunteer for the suicide hotline.

**Firearms.** Comrade Jon Canerday reminded veterans interested in obtaining a concealed carry permit that Virginia substitutes military service for the required firearms safety classes. That makes obtaining a permit more affordable.

**Closing.** At 2110 hours, there being no further business to bring before the Post, Chaplain Hinkle delivered the closing prayer and thereafter the meeting was adjourned.

**\*\*Note the change\*\***

Our next meeting will be 1930 hours, 10 March 2016, at the **Woods Recreation Center**. The Woods Recreation Center is located at 44020 Louisa Drive, off of Ashburn Village Boulevard.

[Our typical meeting location, the Mills Rec Center, will be closed next month for renovations.]

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

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

Loudoun Salute 2016: <http://www.loudounsalute.com>