



LEONARD W. KIDD
AMERICAN LEGION POST 2001
Minutes of Meeting
12 May 2016



Members in Attendance: John Alban, David Austin, Bruce Biggs, Al Gabriel, Pete Holleran, Norm Larson, Tim LeMaster, Jim Linn, Sam Meyers, Ron Milberg, Nick Monje, Bob O'Such, Greg Rhoades, Richard Ryan, Tobin Seven, Dennis Shefski.

Guests: Carl Johnson (transfer-in), Anthony Criscenti, Dave Bair.

General Meeting.

Opening. Second Vice Commander Bob O'Such began the meeting at 1935 hours. The colors were posted prior to opening. Chaplain Al Gabriel delivered the opening prayer.

Report of Officers.

Post Minutes. The Adjutant presented the minutes from the April 2016 meeting, having been distributed earlier. A member moved to accept the minutes of the meeting into the Post archives, and the motion was passed by voice vote.

Scouting. Comrade Bruce Biggs gave a quick update on the Scouting program. Last year there was a Flag Retirement ceremony conducted by the Scouts, in which Comrades Loomis, Greason, Biggs, and Gabriel participated with others in the audience. Comrade Biggs gave a quick update on Cub Scout Pack 1500, and noted that he had recently attended two meetings and was impressed with the level of participation in the Pack. He also provided additional details on the Flag Retirement process and how they prepare the flags for the ceremony.

Therapy Dog. Angela and Jim Joynt introduced "Charlie" the therapy dog to the members in attendance, and gave an overview of the program. The Joynts visit the veterans at the Martinsville VA hospital, as well as other locations, with Charlie. The vets get to interact with Charlie and they begin to open up and talk. On a separate topic, Jim Joynt discussed the National Guard unit in Leesburg and commented that that unit might be a good venue to inform veterans of the upcoming Salute in October.

New Members. Legionnaire Carl Johnson introduced himself. Comrade Johnson served from 1944 to 1947 as part of the Tuskegee Airmen and was later in the artillery in the Ohio National Guard. He also saw service in Korea and Vietnam and retired in 1976. Comrade Johnson is transferring in from the Post in Wheeling, West Virginia, where he has been a member for 31 years plus.

Annual Elections for Post Officers. Post then held the election for officers for 2016-2017.

The following are the current candidates for the 2016-2017 year:

POST COMMANDER. Charlie McKinney
1st VICE COMMANDER. Chuck Loomis
2nd VICE COMMANDER. Bob O'Such
ADJUTANT. Norm Larson
FINANCE OFFICER. Richard Ryan
Co-CHAPLAIN. Fr. James Hinkle and Al Gabriel



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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. Ken Canterbury

Prior to the meeting, members in good standing had an opportunity to submit a proxy vote. The Adjutant received two votes for the slate of candidates from members not in attendance. A brief discussion of the candidates and the election took place. The members in attendance voted unanimously for the slate of officers as presented, by voice vote.

Finance. The Finance Officer Richard Ryan reviewed the budget and presented the finance report for April. Comrade Ryan discussed Post donations this year, to include a donation to help an Army veteran cover a shortfall and stop foreclosure on his home here in Ashburn. A member moved to accept both reports into the archives of the Post, subject to audit. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

Second Vice Commander's Report.

Poppies. Comrade O'Such discussed briefly the assembly of poppies for our Post in support of Memorial Day. He noted that Post was working with the American Heritage Girls and the Scouts on this initiative.

Mobility Chair. Comrade O'Such provide a short update on the mobility chair donation from Dr. Lans. As of the meeting, it looked like the chair would go to a double amputee on active duty and get good use.

Service Officers. Comrade O'Such noted that the Post Service Officers have been busy assisting veterans with claims and other issues. Scott Morse and Pete Holleran have volunteered to become Service Officers.

Loudoun Salute. Comrade O'Such discussed the fund raising for the event and introduced two of the donors in attendance, Anthony Criscenti and Dave Bair – both from State Farm. Thank you to all the sponsors/donors for this upcoming event! Comrade Tobin Seven introduced Anthony Criscenti who gave a short brief on himself and his motivations to support the Salute event.

Other. Comrade Sam Meyers presented his idea to create a "Family of Veterans" Day (could be close on the calendar to Veterans Day) to honor the families of veterans. Comrade Meyers also discussed ideas on how to address the continuing challenge of preventing the suicide of veterans. One idea was possibly a system similar to the "I have fallen and can't get up" electronic device that a veteran could use in times of difficulty to get assistance. The members present also discussed leveraging existing Legion programs to address the suicide problem.

Publicity Officer. Comrade O'Such noted that the post was in need of a publicity officer to assist with getting the word out on the Loudoun Salute and other events. If you are interested, please contact Comrade O'Such (bobbyosuch@gmail.com) or the Adjutant (alpost2001@gmail.com). Post is also in need of a Historian (put together the annual "year book") and for assistance with fund raising for the Loudoun Salute.

Old Business.



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Baseball. Baseball Committee Chair Jim Linn provided an update on the Post's American Legion baseball team and handed out the schedule for the upcoming games. Comrade Linn is looking for assistance with supporting games (bring ice/water for our team) and possibly other assistance. If you can help with one game or more, please contact him (jlinn1202@yahoo.com). This year the team has 18 players. The Legion regional tournament is looking for Legionnaires to assist. The tournament includes six states (Virginia plus five) and is held at the end of the season.

Boys and Girls State. Comrade Greg Rhoades gave a short update on the Boys and Girls State program. The Post will hold an orientation for all of the participants on 10 May. There are 15 young men and women representing our Post this year, from five of the local high schools.

Loudoun Salute. Comrade Tobin Seven gave an update on the event, scheduled for 15 October. So far, the Salute has raised \$15,000 in pledged donations. The website is underdevelopment and will evolve as the event gets closer. Comrade O'Such noted that Service Officers from many organizations will be at the event to assist veterans with their VA claims and other paperwork.

Memorial Day Poppies. Comrade Larry Rosenberger presented an update on the Memorial Day poppy distribution by our Post. Post will distribute poppies in remembrance of our fallen comrades on 27 and 28 May at the Ashburn Village Giant store. Please contact Comrade Rosenberger or Comrade Larson to sign up for the event. Watch for more e-mails about this event.

For the good of The American Legion.

Disabled American Veterans. Comrade O'Such noted that the DAV is looking for volunteer drivers. For more information, see their website at DAV.org.

Gold Star Mothers/Fallen but not Forgotten. Comrade Nick Monje provided a handout for the Gold Star Mothers golf tournament on 23 September. The event will help raise money for a monument to mothers who have lost one of their children in the line of duty. Go to www.gsmmoonument.org for additional details. Comrade Monje also spoke about the Fallen but not Forgotten black-tie event on 24 September. Contact Comrade Monje for further details (nickandianne.monje@gmail.com).

Adopt a Highway. Comrade Ron Milberg, chair of the Adopt a Highway program for our Post, noted that Saturday 14 May would be the next clean-up of our section of highway. Meet at 0830 at Junction Plaza (parking lot between McDonalds and Giant, in Ashburn Farm).

Closing. At 21:16 hours, there being no further business to bring before the Post, Comrade Gabriel delivered the closing prayer and Comrade O'Such adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting will be 1930 hours, 9 June 2016, at the Mills Recreation Center.

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

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

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

Meetup : <http://www.meetup.com/American-Legion-Post-2001-Ashburn-VA/>