



LEONARD W. KIDD
AMERICAN LEGION POST 2001
Minutes of Meeting
11 September 2014



General Meeting.

Commander Charlie McKinney began the meeting at 19:34. The colors were posted prior to opening. Chaplain Gabriel delivered the opening prayer. Commander McKinney read the POW ceremony while the POW chair of honor was prepared.

Post Minutes. The minutes from the August 2014 meeting were previously transmitted to the members by email along with hard copies being available at the meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as transmitted. Following a unanimous vote, the minutes for the August meeting were accepted into the archives of the Post.

Membership. The Adjutant was not present, so the membership report was deferred to next month.

Finance. The Finance Officer was not present, so the finance report was deferred to next month.

Introduction of Guests:

Prospective member Clint Goodwin was introduced. He gave a brief background regarding his military service, stating he had thirty years of active and reserve Navy service, to include service in Iraq in 2006-07. He is now retired. He was welcomed by Commander McKinney and Vice Commander O'Such.

Unfinished Business:

Loudoun County Salute to Veterans. Vice Commander O'Such provided an update on preparations for next month's event, stating that the agenda has been finalized. Unfortunately, the Department Commander has had to withdraw and will not be able to attend.

Vice Commander O'Such indicated that fund raising has been going extremely well, thanks to the efforts of Comrades Tony Gallardo and Nate George, with almost \$5,000 having been raised for veterans' organizations thus far. Supervisor Ralph Buona was able to obtain a \$2,000 donation from Telos. Anyone who has time to do fund raising for the Salute is most welcome to do so. All donations will go to veterans' charities. We now have a website that will allow for online payments and can be used for donations for this event. Jim Huber created the system that allows payments through the website.

Vice Commander O'Such indicated the Salute is a family event and everyone is encouraged to bring their entire family. The National Legion office will advertise the Salute and Jim Linn has done a great job with publicity in the local area.

The Legion Department and District officers are focused on the veteran's service aspect of the Salute. The District has designated the event for service officer certification. Thus far, Comrades Pete Holleran, Jim Linn and Jon Canerday have expressed an interest in becoming certified at the event. We have also obtained a supply of Veteran's Administration guidebooks to benefits that will be available at the Salute.



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Vice Commander O'Such stated that the Medical Musical Group will still perform. Initially it was going to provide a brass quartet but now has indicated it will provide a symphony orchestra instead.

Comrade Jim Linn gave a report on publicity. He stated it has been a team effort so far. He has developed a press release that has been distributed to 22 home owners' associations in the Ashburn area. Ashburn Village and Broadlands have already publicized the Salute. He has met with many churches and asked them to put an article in their bulletins and announce the event at services. Most news outlets only want info approximately 10 days out. The Loudoun Times indicated it may write an article and may interview veterans. The Washington Post has different places to show events like this. A press release has been sent to the District 16 commanders. He has also contacted WTOG radio. M&M Printing produced the flyers for free. It is possible there will be press coverage at the Salute.

Commander McKinney stated that all five Loudoun Legion Posts are included in the event but that this Post is the one that has been doing all of the work. Outgoing District Commander Tom Wahl acknowledged the work that Post 2001 has been doing for the Salute.

Comrade Tony Gallardo provided a report on fund-raising. He indicated that three people had been making phone calls for donations. Many businesses are stating that their budgets for advertising have been spent so far and have no more to give at this time. Other businesses have stated they need more lead time. The Washington Redskins indicated they need at least six weeks advance notice.

Comrade Greg Rhodes stated that the Key Club sponsor, Mr. Wilkins, is a member of our Post and he has students signing up to assist with the Salute. Comrade Rhodes anticipates there will be 2 or more Boys State and Girls State attendees present and maybe 5+ Key Club members on hand. Comrade Jim Linn stated he had invited the Boy Scouts but that they have a camping trip that weekend. We are also waiting to hear back from the American Heritage Girls.

As a reminder, there is no eating or drinking in the auditorium. Comrade Linn stated he has been thinking of a post-event reception for the distinguished guests and those who worked at the Salute. He has talked to Clyde's at Willowcreek and will follow up with them soon.

Commander McKinney and Vice Commander O'Such attended a MOAA 2014 Warrior Family Symposium and distributed flyers for the Salute there. Commander McKinney indicated he hoped to engage those members who don't regularly attend meetings by attending the Salute. He indicated a concern that we not overwork the patrons of the Ashburn Village Giant for fundraising. Comrade Dave Austin advised that the Ashburn VillageFest is September 19-21 and we might consider advertising the Salute there. When asked if it would be possible to obtain a booth there, he stated he would check.

Baseball. Baseball Committee Chair Jim Linn reported that it was a great season and the team finished with a 12-5 record. There were lots of rainouts again this year. This was a young team compared to others, with our team having two sophomores. The team placed second in the District and went 4-2 in the tournament at Front Royal. The Albemarle team won the state tournament but then lost in the regional tournament. Next year there can be no college players on the teams.

Coach Bill Mason will not return next year due to family demands. He did make some recommendations and those candidates will be considered.



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New Business and Communications:

- A post in Virginia has nominated a candidate for Department Commander.
- Next month's meeting will probably have to begin later due to the Boy Scouts holding a flag retirement ceremony the same night starting at 7:00. The ceremony will be close to Our Savior's Way Church at the intersection of Waxpool and Claiborne in Broadlands.
- The Loudoun Board of Supervisors has adopted a proclamation honoring veterans for the Salute.
- Commander McKinney acknowledged the great job Comrade Larry Rosenberger did on the Post History (scrapbook). It was a very professional and well-done production.
- Commander McKinney stated that Chaplain Gabriel will be leaving for Florida next month and will spend the winter there. The Post is looking for someone who can serve as Vice Chaplain in his absence.

For the good of The American Legion.

At 2115 hours, there being no further business to bring before the Post, Chaplain Gabriel delivered the closing prayer and thereafter the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be 1930 hours (possibly later, as mentioned above), 9 October 2014 at the Mills Recreation Center.