



**LEONARD W. KIDD MEMORIAL
AMERICAN LEGION POST 2001, Inc.**

Minutes of Meeting
13 November 2014



Members in Attendance: Norm Larson, Tony Gallardo, Bob O'Such, Dave Austin, James Hinkle, Larry Rosenberger, Jon Canerday, Chuck Loomis, Ken Canterbury, Ron Milberg, Bruce Biggs, Pete Holleran.

Guests: Matt Nieman (Candidate for Membership), Bill Brown (Middleburg Post).

Opening. First Vice Commander Chuck Loomis called the meeting to order at 19:30. The colors were posted prior to opening. The Acting Chaplain, James Hinkle, delivered the opening prayer. The First Vice Commander then read the POW ceremony.

Post Minutes. Adjutant Larson stated that the approval of the minutes from September is postponed until the next regular meeting due to computer/Internet issues that prevented them from being distributed before the meeting.

Guests. Tony Gallardo presented Matt Nieman to the group. Matt gave a short introduction, having served in the US Army as a JAG officer from 2002-2006 with a deployment to Iraq. Bill Brown introduced himself as a visiting Legionnaire from the Middleburg Post. Jim Hinkle – Post Acting Chaplain- introduced himself, having served in the US Navy for seven years and currently Reverend Hinkle is Parochial Vicar at St. Theresa Church in Ashburn. Others mentioned for their support to the Salute to Veterans event were Allison Hickey (new member), Tag Greason (new member), and Chuck Williams (candidate for membership).

Candidates for Membership. The following were presented to the group as candidates for membership into Post 2001: **New members:** Matt Nieman (present – US Army), David Dixon (absent – US Army), Chuck Williams (absent – US Air Force); **Transfer:** Stephen Stahl (absent – US Navy with 27 years in the Legion). After discussion, the members present voted to accept all four candidates into the Post.

Finance. Finance Officer Richard Ryan was unable to attend. Adjutant Larson presented the finance report for October. Comrade Canerday moved to accept the report. Comrade Austin seconded and the finance report for October was accepted into the archives of the Post by unanimous vote, subject to audit.

Comrade Rosenberger gave an update on donations received from the 8 and 9 November poppy distribution for Veterans Day. Post received \$1861.51 in donations. A big thank you to Comrade Rosenberger for coordinating and running the event. Thanks also to Comrades Alban, Canerday, Canterbury, Haralampus, Linn, Loomis, Milberg, Rosenberger, and Ryan for their efforts distributing poppies and collecting the gracious donations.



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Second Vice-Commander. Comrade O'Such gave a summary of the 27 September 2014 county-wide event sponsored by all of the American Legion Posts within Loudoun County, the "Loudoun County Salute to the Military".

New Member. Comrade Ken Canterbury transferred into our Post and gave a short summary of his military career. He served a total of 38 years and has recently moved to Ashburn from Kentucky.

Old Business.

Loudoun County Salute to Military, Veterans and Families. Comrade O'Such thanked all of those who participated and supported the event. Comrade Linn who had supported the event was unable to attend to present the publicity update. Fundraising chairman Tony Gallardo had provided a quick update earlier. Comrade Gallardo asked for volunteers to support a committee to review options for use of the donations received. The committee will include Comrades Gallardo, Austin, Larson, and O'Such. Comrade O'Such, noted that the Salute had been used as a training event for new Service Officers and pointed out that the Post now had three new Service Officers who had worked during the Salute – Jon Canerday, Pete Holleran, and Jim Arrasmith. Youth coordinator, Bruce Biggs, gave a short summary of the Scouts' participation in the Salute.

Flag Retirement Ceremony. Comrade Biggs gave a short summary of the 11 October Flag Retirement Ceremony hosted by Boy Scout Troop 2970 and Post 2001. The event took place in lieu of the monthly meeting and the Boy Scouts retired over 100 flags. Biggs presented honorary lanyards with grommets from the retired flags to both Comrade Loomis and Comrade O'Such as recognition for their participation in the event. Comrade Tag Greason also participated in the event.

Veterans Day Ceremony. Comrade O'Such noted the Post's participation in the 11 November Veterans Day event at Hillside Elementary School in Ashburn. Legionnaires from our Post attended both the 0900 and 1830 events. A big thanks to Comrade Tony Gallardo for coordinating our participation in the event.

Flag Collection. Comrade Austin noted that the Ashburn Village Home Owners Association had a box in their main office for collection of worn flags. There was discussion of possible Post support to get additional boxes placed at the other home owner association offices.



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New Business.

Correspondence. Comrade Larson presented a letter from National Vice Commander William Bryant congratulating Post on the Salute to Veterans event and thanking the Legionnaires and spouses of the Post, as well as Comrades O'Such and Canerday for their specific efforts. Comrade Larson presented a second letter from The American Legion "The American Legion Launches New Fundraising and Awareness Campaign" that asked all members to be aware of this new national campaign and be ready to assist veterans who may contact them for additional information and assistance.

Appointment of Officers. First Vice Commander Loomis appointed Tony Gallardo to fill the position of Sergeant-at-Arms vacated by Comrade Eibert who has moved to Colorado.

Legion Baseball. Comrade Loomis noted that our Coach, Bill Mason, was moving on and Post is looking for a new coach for our American Legion youth baseball team.

Boys and Girls State. Comrade Rhoades was unable to attend. There was a general discussion of the program, highlighting the interview and selection process. Legionnaires interested in supporting this program, please contact Greg Rhoades.

Annual Holiday Party. Comrade Larson will be organizing the annual holiday party to be held on 11 December in place of our monthly meeting. This includes our annual Toys-for-Tots collection – Comrade Austin will provide the collection box and pointed out that the most needed toys are for age groups 3-9 years old and for teens; toys should be new and unwrapped. If you are able to assist with organizing the event please contact Norm Larson.

16th District Meeting. Comrade Loomis noted that he and Comrade Larson had represented the Post at the 26 October meeting for the 16th District. Our Post will host the next District meeting on 19 April 2015. Comrade Austin noted that Post could reserve the recreation center for next year starting on/about 12 December.

American Legion 100th Celebration. Comrade Larson noted that the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the American Legion will be in September 2019. Post is seeking a volunteer to manage the celebration. Please contact Commander McKinney or Adjutant Larson if you are interested.

2015 Salute to Veterans. Comrade Loomis noted that planning for the 2015 Salute to Veterans has begun.

Sons of the American Legion. Comrade Loomis is looking to set up a Squadron of Sons of the American Legion. If you are a son of a veteran, then you are eligible. Contact Chuck Loomis for details and to support this effort.



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Resolution to Include non-Wartime Service in the American Legion. Comrade Canerday noted that at the annual convention of the Department of Virginia, the delegates had voted against a resolution that would have opened membership to all veterans, not just veterans who had served during time of conflict. Post 2001 had previously worked to draft a similar resolution to allow all veterans to be members.

Hillside Elementary Veterans Day Program. In addition to the earlier discussion, Comrade Loomis displayed a program from the 11 November event and a letter from one of the students that was representative of letters presented to veterans attending the event.

Closing. At 20:47, there being no further business before the Post, Acting Chaplain Hinkle delivered the closing prayer and First Vice Commander Loomis adjourned the meeting.

Our Post holiday party will take place on 11 December at 19:00 the Mills Recreation Center in lieu of our monthly meeting for December. Legionnaires are invited to bring their spouse or guest.

The next meeting will be at 19:30, on Thursday, 8 January 2015 at the Mills Recreation Center, 43895 Grottoes Drive, Ashburn.

Visit our Post website at www.ashburnlegion.org.

Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/alpost2001AshburnVA/