



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

Minutes of Meeting
8 January 2015



Members in Attendance: Charlie McKinney, Norm Larson, Tony Gallardo, Bob O'Such, Dave Austin, James Hinkle, Richard Ryan, Larry Rosenberger, Greg Rhoades, Chuck Loomis, Ken Canterbury, Bruce Biggs, Pete Holleran.

Guests: Robert Yowell (16th District Commander)

Opening. Commander Charlie McKinney called the meeting to order at 19:36. The colors were posted prior to opening. The Acting Chaplain, James Hinkle, delivered the opening prayer. The Commander then read the POW ceremony.

Post Minutes. Adjutant Larson stated that the minutes from September and November were distributed before the meeting via e-mail. There were no questions or issues. Comrade Rhoades moved to accept the minutes into the archives of the Post. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Membership. Adjutant Larson gave a short update on the 2015 membership drive. Post is at 114% of the goal for this year and leads the 16th District.

Finance. Finance Officer Richard Ryan presented the finance report for December and the 2014 expenditures and income roll-up. A member moved to accept the report. The motion was seconded and the finance report for December and the financial roll-up was accepted into the archives of the Post by unanimous vote, subject to audit.

First Vice Commander. Chuck Loomis, First Vice Commander, gave a brief overview of the American Legion pamphlet "Why You Should Belong" and how it supports recruiting new members. He also handed out business cards with the Post contact information to be given to potential members.

Second Vice Commander. Bob O'Such, Second Vice Commander, gave an update on the 2015 Loudoun County Salute to Veterans event. He stated that planning for the event has started. He also pointed out that Post donated \$2500 to the Boulder Crest Retreat to support their program for wounded military. He noted that during the 2014 Loudoun Salute to Veterans event, 21 veterans met with Legion and other Service Officers for assistance on various veteran issues. Post is also working with Dr. Ike Lans who has raised funds for a "track chair" for a yet to be identified wounded veteran. He closed by stating that post has had five requests for support from the Service Officers and Post is currently working the issues.



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Guests. 16th District Commander Robert Yowell introduced himself and made several presentations. Commander Yowell recognized Comrade Larry Rosenberger for his efforts compiling and writing the Post History for 2014. Our Post history took third place in the Department of Virginia. Commander Yowell also recognized the Membership Chairman, Chuck Loomis, as leading the Post membership drive for 2015 and for being the second Post in the District to reach 100% of their 2015 goal. He closed by noting that the Department of Virginia Spring Conference will be 12 to 15 March 2015 at Virginia Beach. He said that awards would be given out on the Saturday and that Post 2001 should try and have a representative at the event if possible.

Old Business.

Loudoun County Salute to Military, Veterans and Families. Commander McKinney asked that any member interested in supporting this year's event, please contact Bob O'Such as we need additional help with the event. Bob O'Such pointed out that Operation Home Front has been a great partner with our Post, and Comrades McKinney, Loomis, and O'Such had met with Operation Home Front on 7 January.

New Business.

Charitable Donations Committee. Comrade Tony Gallardo presented the committee's recommendations for worthy recipients of Post 2001 donations. The committee recommended that \$2000 be donated to Boulder Crest Retreat and \$500 to Laying of the Wreath, with the remainder of the budgeted funds to be held to support needy veterans. Comrade O'Such noted that Post should be cautious and vet any such claims for support since numerous Posts have had bad experiences with false claims or claims from non-veterans. A member moved to approve the committee recommendation to donate \$2000 for Boulder Crest Retreat and \$500 for Laying of the Wreath. The remainder of the funds will be held in the Post account to be used in the future for needy Loudoun County veterans.

Baseball. Comrade Loomis provided an update in the absence of Comrade Jim Linn. Post is looking for a coach for the 2015 season and anyone interested or knowing of someone who would like to coach the youth baseball team, please contact Chuck or Jim.

Boys/Girls State. Comrade Greg Rhoades provided an update on the program. This year Post has six high schools who can provide candidates for the program. Last year our Post sent 15 students – nine to Boys State and six to Girls State. For 2015 the costs will be \$350 for each Boys State participant and \$300 for each Girls State participant. To hold five slots for Girls State, Post needs to send the money by 1 February. A member moved that the Post pay by 1 February \$1500 to hold five Girls State slots. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. The dates for the program are 21-27 June 2015. Post is looking to interview the candidates sometime in March.

Post Information Trifold. Commander McKinney said that we are updating the information in the trifold handout about our Post. He asked that anyone with updates should send them to him or Chuck Loomis.



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Flag Collection. Comrade Bruce Biggs said that he had researched obtaining the materials for flag collection boxes for collection of worn flags. He pointed out that there were many challenges to include obtaining the materials, cutting and assembling the boxes.

Membership. There was a short discussion of putting an article in the various Homeowners Association bulletins about our Post and how to become a member.

Correspondence. Comrade Larson presented a Christmas card from Boulder Crest Retreat to our Post, and a Christmas card from the Department of Virginia Commander to our Post.

Resolution to Include non-Wartime Service in the American Legion. Comander McKinney discussed the issue of opening membership in the Legion to all veterans, and not just wartime veterans. He 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. Comrade Gallardo asked about the status of our Post commendation to Hillside Elementary School for their Veterans Day program. Commander McKinney stated they were still being worked.

Closing. At 21:14, there being no further business before the Post, Acting Chaplain Hinkle delivered the closing prayer and Commander McKinney adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting will be at 19:30, on Thursday, 12 February 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/