



LEONARD W. KIDD
AMERICAN LEGION POST 2001
Minutes of Meeting
12 February 2015



Persons present: Charlie McKinney, Chuck Loomis, Bob O'Such, Richard Ryan, Tony Gallardo, Jon Canerday, Chuck Banks, Doug DeMoss, Bill Brown, Ko Endo, Larry Rosenberg, Greg Rhodes, John Alban, Peter Puerling, Jim Linn, and David Austin

General Meeting.

Commander Charlie McKinney began the meeting at 19:42 hours. The colors were posted prior to opening. Comrade Jon Canerday delivered the opening prayer. Commander McKinney read the POW ceremony while the POW chair of honor was prepared.

Post Minutes. The Adjutant being absent, the minutes from the January 2015 meeting were deferred to next month's meeting.

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

Finance. Finance Officer Richard Ryan presented his finance report as of 31 January 2015. The General Operating Account ended the period with a balance of \$15,341.05 and the Boys/Girls State Account ended the period with a balance of \$209.34, for a total combined balance of \$15,550.39. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Finance Report into the Post's archives, subject to audit. The motion passed unanimously.

1st Vice Commander's Report. 1st Vice Commander Chuck Loomis noted that a number of new and prospective members are present tonight. Some of the new members still need to complete certain forms.

2nd Vice Commander's Report. 2nd Vice Commander Bob O'Such stated that he was working, in conjunction with the Leesburg Post, to possibly assist a needy veteran in the area. The vet claims he had money stolen and now faces eviction. The initial step is to verify that he is in fact a veteran and if so, what assistance can we provide.

Introduction of Guests and New Members:

- Ko Endo gave a brief background regarding his military service, stating he is a retired Air Force Master Sergeant. He belongs to the Arlington Post but now lives in Ashburn. He now works in IT for DHS. Previously he worked at the DNA lab that identifies service member remains.
- Bill Brown, a member of the Middleburg Post who has attended prior meetings of this Post, is contemplating transferring to this Post.
- Chuck Banks, a former member of the Army, just retired from the CIA. He indicated he is interested in forming a charity to assist veterans.
- Peter Puerling, who has been a Legion member for over 24 years but has not been active in any one post, is visiting this Post. He retired after thirty years in the Navy, 20 years of which was as a pilot. He then did tax work for a phone company. He stays active in retirement and still does taxes for individuals.
- Doug DeMoss, a retired Army judge advocate and a member of this Post, was attending his second meeting.



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- All of the guests and potential and new members were welcomed by Commander McKinney and Vice Commander Loomis.

Unfinished Business:

Immediate Announcements:

- Presentation of our appreciation to Dr. Ike Lans will be on Monday, 16 February at 16:30 hours.
- Service officers--- Vice Commander O'Such is the Post's Senior Service Officer. Three other comrades were qualified at last year's Salute. The Post generally has about 8 active cases at any one time. As a result, the Post could use additional service officers. If anyone is interested in becoming one, please contact Vice Commander O'Such. The Salute last year was qualified to certify service officers who completed the necessary coursework. We will attempt to do the same thing for this year's Salute.
- Spring Membership Offensive--- Commander McKinney stated that beginning mid-March (depending upon weather), usually two post members at a time recruit potential members by setting up card tables at the entrances to the local Giant grocery stores. Anyone interested in assisting should contact Vice Commander Loomis. Vice Commander Loomis also noted that the Post has business cards that can be distributed to potential members; they are available to every member of the Post.

A question was asked if it was possible to obtain a list of separating service members who could be recruited. Commander McKinney replied that it was not possible due to privacy concerns. However, the Post does receive a list of Legion members who are unaffiliated with any post. Comrade Jim Linn suggested placing ads for the Post in local newspapers.

- Presentation of our appreciation to Hillside Elementary School will be on Friday, 20 February. Sergeant at Arms Tony Gallardo explained that this recognition was due to the Veteran's Day ceremony the school hosted last November. A plaque will be provided to the school. Nine classes of 1st and 3rd graders will each receive a certificate that shows the teacher's name and each student's name. Each student will receive their own paper copy of the certificate. The presentation ceremony will be by video feed to all classes at the school. Our Comrade Shawn Williams, a member of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, will read a proclamation from the Board.

Commander McKinney asked if this was something that would be done every year. Comrade Gallardo suggested perhaps rotating among the various local schools. Comrade Gallardo asked Comrade Linn to provide publicity of the appreciation event.

New Business and Communications:

Loudoun County Salute to Veterans. Vice Commander O'Such provided an update on preparations for the 2015 event, scheduled for Sunday, September 20, 2015, at Stone Bridge High School. It may be



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necessary to start the event later in the day due to church. Sunday was the only date available at the school. Because this is a good venue for such an event, this date was accepted.

Fund raising will be crucial this year. Due to restrictions that have been placed on the expenditure of funds collected during poppy distribution events, fund raising for this event will be important for post operations. The Chamber of Commerce President will help us in obtaining donations from corporate Loudoun.

Local veterans' organizations are calling to ask what they can do to assist with the program this year.

The number of speeches will be reduced this year, with no campaign speeches being permitted.

The Hillside Elementary School children have been invited to attend and participate, although it is not yet certain in what capacity.

The custodial bill of \$550 from last year's Salute was taken care of by the Board of Supervisors. Not sure how this will be handled this year.

M&M Printing printed the handouts for free last year. They have agreed to do so again this year.

Vice Commander Loomis mentioned the need for volunteers to help with the Salute.

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

National Committee's Resolution #3. Judge Advocate Jon Canerday provided an update on the National's policy regarding the use of monies collected during poppy events. Resolution #3, passed in May 2014, restricts the expenditure of funds collected during poppy events to only the rehabilitation of veterans or the welfare of veterans and their families, as well as for the cost of obtaining the poppies. A discussion was held as to how to account for such funds to ensure compliance. Finance Officer Ryan indicated it would be possible to make the necessary accounting using our existing accounts and accounting procedures.

Overall Post Approach to Donations. Finance Officer Ryan reported on the budget for the year. The Post collects approximately \$1,700 in member dues but must return about \$800 to the Department, leaving a net of less than \$1,000. He further discussed the various expense and income categories in the post budget. He noted that the Post does not have risk items, so it may not be necessary to carry such large balances in our accounts.

Boys State/Girls State Chair Greg Rhodes noted that the programs are essentially self-supporting. He reminded that the Post has previously agreed to sponsor two scholarships. Baseball Committee Chair Jim Linn stated that the program is not quite self-sufficient but the program has a significant balance in its account.

A discussion was held as to whether the amount of \$3,000 was realistic for donations associated with the Salute. Ultimately, the consensus was that such amount was very realistic and should remain in the budget at that level.



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New Business and Communications:

Baseball. Baseball Committee Chair Jim Linn reported that it was a great team last year, finishing 9-4 for second place in the District. Coach Bill Mason will not return this year. Jim has three possible candidates to replace Bill. He hopes to decide on a new coach in March. He could use some additional members on the Committee.

The District baseball meeting is this Sunday at Manassas. Briar Woods will again be our home field. It will be a 15 game schedule, beginning in the second week of June and ending the end of July. Tryouts will be in May. Leesburg will host the Regional tournament at Purcellville this year.

Jim proposed a plaque to honor Bill Mason. A motion was made to so honor Bill, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Boys State/Girls State. Boys State/Girls State Chair Greg Rhodes stated that we were able to get a check in time to reserve our spots for Girls State. He stated that last year all schools paid for one scholarship and one school paid for two. The Post sponsors two students, approximately 1/3 were sponsored by member donations and the remainder were from corporate donations.

Interviews will be March 16 & 17. He would like for interviewers to be able to interview both nights so they can see every candidate since it won't be possible to send every applicant. We may consider a target of 18 students, which equates to 3 per school (but there is no assurance of equal distribution from each school). Vice Commander Loomis offered that we could do more for fund raising for the program.

For the good of The American Legion.

- Comrade John Alban related the story of a former Post Boys State student who is now in Pittsburgh studying to be a doctor. In an interview, he was asked how he learned to do so well, to which he responded that it was due to what he learned at Boys State.
- Finance Officer Ryan said he would reevaluate the budget numbers in light of tonight's discussions and present a proposed budget next month.
- Vice Commander Loomis suggested we do more to find vets in need. He proposed putting ads in all local homeowners' association's newsletters to advertize our ability to help vets.

At 2136 hours, there being no further business to bring before the Post, Comrade Canerday delivered the closing prayer and thereafter the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be 1930 hours, 12 March 2015, at the Mills Recreation Center.