

AMERICAN LEGION POST 543
MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2018
ST. JAMES COMMUNITY CENTER

1) Call to Order:

1st Vice Commander Sessa called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
The Color Guard Advanced and Post the Colors
Gary Crowden, Chaplin offered opening prayer

2) POW/MIA Chair Recognition

1st Vice Commander recognized that the POW/MIA Chair was in place.

3) Pledge of Allegiance

The membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Preamble to Constitution of the American Legion

The membership recited the Preamble to the Constitution

5) Roll call of Officers

The following Officers were present: Rick Sessa, Dan Bennett, Doc Liberty, Chuck Blackburn, Doug Pratt, Gary Crowden, Steve Muir, Paul Witmer, Bill Morgan. Absent were Rick Quasne, John Muuss, Tom Balbert. Excused was Mike Fegan.

6) Welcome to Guests:

1st Vice Commander Sessa asked if there were any new veterans here for the first time to stand up and state their names and what branch of service. Two new veterans were welcomed into the Post.

7) Minutes of the meeting of December 20, 2017

The membership approved the minutes of December 20th.

8) Guest Speaker:

Steve Muir Board Member introduced Ms. Carolyn Moss, NC Department of Commerce to speak on the Commerce Departments involvement with veterans.

9) Membership Report: Dan Bennett, Adjutant

Dan Bennett reported that as of tonight we have 180 members renewed. Our goal set by the State was 173. We have achieved our goal.

10) Finance Report: Doug Pratt, Finance Officer

Doug Pratt reported on current status of Post. All accounts are where they should be and the Post continues to operate as planned within the budget.

The membership approved the Finance Report as stated.

The membership approved the Mid-Year Budget for 2017-2018.

11) Service Officer Report: Paul Witmer, Service Officer

Paul Witmer gave his monthly report. Steve Muir is looking for volunteers for the VBAC in March in Wilmington at the Elks Club. Members can sign up for two shifts.

12) Old Business: Rick Sessa

Rick Sessa and Dennis Wilhelm are looking for members to sign up to attend the Diamonds and Denim Ball in March at the St. James Community Center.

13) New Business:

St. James Military Appreciation Day 2018: Bill Morgan, SJMAD Chairman

Bill Morgan reported that he is looking for a few more members to fill Committee positions on SJMAD. Bill also reminded the membership of two important dates: Saturday June 2 Concert in the Park at Woodlands Park, and July 7th the Golf Tournament at Members Club. Volunteers are needed for the morning of the tournament to help setup. Members can contact Bill Morgan to volunteer.

14) Reports:

Chuck Blackburn, Americanism Pillar Chair reported that all programs are under way, and applications are submitted.

Gary Crowden reported that JROTC shooters are presently shooting, and are hopeful of getting into to shooting matches.

15) Closing Ceremony:

1st Vice Commander Sessa presided over Closing Ceremonies.

16) Adjournment:

1st Vice Commander Sessa adjourned the meeting at 8:00 P.M.