

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 543
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2018**

1) Call to Order:

Commander Fegan called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The Honor Guard Posted the Colors. Gary Crowden, Chaplain, offered the opening prayer.

2) POW/MIA Empty Chair:

Commander Fegan recognized and explained the purpose of the POW/MIA Chair.

3) Pledge of Allegiance:

Commander Fegan led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Preamble to Constitution of the American Legion:

Commander Fegan led the reciting of the Preamble to American Legion Constitution.

5) Roll Call of Officers:

Commander Fegan called the Roll Call of Officers. All officer were present.

6) Welcome to Guests (Veterans here for the first time) & Sick Call

Mike Chapman a Navy Veteran, was introduced and welcomed into the Post.

Please say a prayer for members Roy Anderson and Johnny Holmes who are still having health issues.

7) Department Presentation: Nelson Anderson, District Commander District Nine

Commander Nelson presented Commander the Recognition of Post Excellence from National Headquarters.

8) Approval of Minutes of February 28, 2018 Post Meeting:

The membership approved the minutes of February 28, 2018.

9) Guest Speaker: Col. Russell Burton, USMC, Commander MCAS New River

Col. Burton started his discussion by thanking each member of the post for their service. Col. Burton explained his duties as the Commander of the Air Wing. He explained about the present aircraft that they have, and their duties and the new aircraft that will be coming soon.

10) Membership Report: Dan Bennett, Adjutant

Dan Bennett reported that we have 185 members.

11) Finance Report: Doug Pratt, Finance Officer

Doug Pratt reported on financial status of the 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 presented.

12) Service Officer Report: Paul Witmer, Service Officer

Paul reminded the Post that this weekend we will be having a membership recruiting and poppy distribution at the Spring Festival at Franklin Park. It will be Friday and Saturday. Paul is still looking for help on Saturday, so sign-up with Paul.

Paul is working with other Brunswick County people for veterans that need help.

13) Old Business:

A) Veterans Experience Action Day: Steve Muir, Member at Large

Steve Muir reported that 755 veterans were helped at the VEAC in Wilmington. Eight veterans who are students at UNCW helped on Saturday. Our Post had 15 volunteers who worked at the event. Steve reported that the event was very successful.

B) Post Patriotic Outing: Letters from Home, May 6th: Rick Sessa, 1st Vice Commander

Rick Sessa reported on the outing for dinner in Myrtle Beach, and the Letters from Home show. Rick stated that the bus will leave the St. James Community Center at 3:00 P.M. If you are interested in going, sign-up with Rick. The cost of the trip is \$85.00.

C) Spring Fling: Rick Quashne, 2nd Vice Commander

Since Rick was with our guest speaker, Commander Fegan reported that the Spring Fling will be April 21, 2018. Mission BBQ will be serving the food and sweet tea. Other beverages are BYO. The cost for the event is \$15.00 per person. Contact Rick Quashne to sign-up.

D) St. James Military Appreciation Day: Bill Morgan, Chairman

Bill reported on the status of the SJMAD Committee, and what the Committee members are doing. A Neighborhood Captains meeting will be held on April 12. SJMAD Golf Shirts sales are starting tonight; the shirt and hat are on display in the back of the room.

14) New Business

A) Nominations for Officers for 2018-2019: Doug Elznic, Nominating Committee Chair

Doug nominated and numerous members seconded the following: for Commander, Mike Fegan; for 1st Vice Commander, Dan Bennett; for 2nd Vice Commander, Rick Sessa; for Adjutant, George Freeman; for Finance Officer, Dough Pratt; for Service Officer, Paul Witmer; for Judge Advocate, Doc Liberty; for Chaplain, Tom Bernarczk; for Historian, John Muuss; for Sgt. at Arms, Chuck Blackburn; for Member at Large, Steve Muir. Nominations will stay open through next month's membership meeting, and the election will be held at the May meeting.

B) Vietnam War Veterans Day: Commander Mike Fegan

Commander Fegan announced that March 29th has been designated Vietnam Veterans Day, and asked all Vietnam Veteran present to stand up to be recognized. (After the meeting ended John Muuss took a picture of all Vietnam Veterans present.

15) Reports:

Chuck Blackburn reported that applications have been received for the Hat Trick scholarship, for the Trooper program and for Boys State.

Rick Sessa and Bob Lewis spoke about the Early College High School Robotics team that the post will help sponsor

Steve Muir is working with other veterans groups on the naming the new I140bridge in Brunswick County the Vietnam Veterans Bridge

Commander Fegan reviewed the coming events for the Post and the March Executive Committee meeting actions.

16) Closing Ceremony

Commander Fegan presided over closing ceremony.

17) Adjournment: Mike Fegan, Commander

Commander Fegan adjourned the meeting at 8:12 P.M.

Next Meeting: Wednesday April 25, 2018.