



American Legion Post 543
Saint James, NC 28461

SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday September 26, 2018, 7:00pm

LOCATION: St. James Town Council Chambers, Saint James, NC, 28461

1) Call to Order: (Fegan)

- Per Agenda previously provided, the meeting was called to order at 7pm in the Town of St. James Community Center. (See Attachment #1)
- Colors were posted
- In the absence of our current Chaplain, our former Post 543 Chaplain, Gary Crowden, offered the opening prayer.

2) POW/MIA Empty Chair: (Fegan)

- The POW/MIA Empty Chair was formally recognized.

3) Pledge of Allegiance: (Fegan)

- Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

4) Preamble to Constitution of the American Legion (Fegan)

- The Preamble to American Legion Constitution was recited by all.

5) Roll Call of Officers: (Fegan)

- Officers Present:
 - Dan Bennett, 1st Vice Commander
 - Chuck Blackburn, Sergeant at Arms
 - Mike Fegan, Commander
 - George Freeman, Adjutant
 - Doc Liberty, Judge Advocate
 - Rick Sessa, 2nd Vice Commander
 - Paul Witmer, Service Officer
- Officers Not Present:
 - Tom Bednarczyk, Chaplain
 - John Muuss, Historian
 - Doug Pratt, Finance Officer
- Executive Committee Members At Large:

- Tom Balbert, Member at Large (Absent)
- Bill Morgan, Member at Large & Chair, SJMAD (Present)
- Steve Muir, Member at Large (Present)

6) Welcoming Guests: (Fegan)

- Veterans attending for the first time were invited to stand and introduce themselves and share their Branch of Service of which there were seven.
- Sick Call: Prayers were asked for Tom Balbert.

7) Approval of Minutes: (Fegan)

- Minutes of the August 22, 2018 General Membership Meeting were approved without alteration.

8) Membership Report: (Freeman)

- To date 125 (~66%) members have renewed their membership for 2018-2019.
- Membership goal for 2018-2019 is one more member than 2017-2018.



9) Finance Report: (Pratt)

- The monthly finance report was shared showing 10.5% of budgeted donations/income received and 9% budgeted expenses incurred. The Post is financially sound and the budget report was approved without alteration.
- Dick Szot, SJMAD Treasurer presented the Post with a check in the amount of \$44,000.00, which represents the proceeds from 2018 SJMAD event fundraisers.

10) Service Officer Report: (Witmer)

- Paul shared that 3+ families are currently receiving assistance from the Post including one who was assisted in retaining his current residence.
- Walmart in Southport put out a call for volunteers to help serve meals to hurricane victims Thursday Sep 27th & Friday Sep 28th from 12noon-3pm each day. A signup sheet was circulated.

11) Post 543 Emergency Response to Hurricane Florence was presented by Steve Muir.



Post 543 Emergency Response to Hurricane Florence

- **Near Term:**
 - Gather needs from Post 543 members
 - Reaching out directly to Post members
 - Gathering needs at a Post 543 booth being set up at a FEMA assistance site TBD
 - Distribute \$100.00 Walmart Gift Cards
- **Mid-Term:**
 - Assist eligible members in completing American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF) grant submissions
 - Open to Legionnaires & Sons of the American Legion (up to \$3,000.00)
 - Member must have been displaced from primary residence
 - Intended to meet most immediate needs (i.e. temporary housing, food, water, clothing, etc.)
- **How You Can Help**
 - Volunteer to help at the Post 543 booth at a FEMA location TBD
 - Volunteer to work a Telethon being hosted by WECT on Thursday Sep 27

12) Near-Term Coming Events, Other Reports & Commanders Report & (Fegan)

- Near-term coming events were reviewed and included:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>POC</u>
Saturday Nov 3	Marine Fellowship Golf Outing	Members Club	Rick Quashne
Saturday Nov 10	Poppy Distribution	Walmart, Southport (10am-2pm)	Paul Witmer
Saturday Nov 10	Civitan Chili Cookoff	Moose Lodge, Oak Island (12 noon)	Doug Pratt
Sunday Nov 11	Veterans Day Ceremony	Ceremony (11am)	Bill Morgan
Monday Nov 12	Veterans Day Picnic	Waterway Park (2-5pm)	Rick Sessa

- **Other Reports:**
 - Bill Morgan, SJMAD Chairman recognized the various SJMAD events and key volunteers. The events included, Memorial Day Ceremony, Concert in the Park, 4th of July Parade and the annual SJMAD Golf Tournament. Bill complemented all volunteers for outstanding team efforts and specifically recognized; Dick Szot

(SJMAD Treasurer), Rick Sessa & Bob Bennett (Concert in the Park Chairs), Mike Fegan & Dan Bennett (SJMAD Golf Tournament), Tom Bednarczyk (Clothing sales and Business Donations), Steve Muir & Bob Rice (Volunteers coordinators), Doug Pratt (Signage), Gary Crowden (Clubs Liaison), all the Neighborhood Captains who raised funds (Dave DeLong's neighborhood raising the largest single amount, and a special thanks to the members of the Post Honor Guard.

- Warrior Bike Ride Through St. James, Oct 17, 2018 planning continues. Slide with details provided during general membership meeting. (See Attachment #2)
- Legion member and South Brunswick High School JROTC Instructor First Sargent Dan Corbett shared that the schools JROTC buildings were extensively damaged by hurricane Florence. Although teachers were returning to work the first week of October, it was indeterminant when and where JROTC classes would resume.
 - George Freeman shared that all impacted Post volunteer instructors have been notified. A new schedule for Post support will be completed when the future state is better known.
- Members were advised that Coastal Dentistry would be holding its one-day free clinic for veteran's on October 10th. Sign up opens on October 1st.
- Commanders Report:
 - The Commander shared that he and George Freeman attended the American Legion District 9 meeting that was held on September 8th in Hampstead, NC. Among the many things shared about our Post at that meeting, was the fact that our Post conducts over 70 events annually, provides direct volunteer support to veterans' and the youth through formal programs and provides monetary support to other veteran organizations and directly to students through various grants.
 - Because of Hurricane Florence adjustments needed to be made to our Post 2018-2019 Budget to re-align funds to provide immediate support to Veterans in need. The following motion, that was previously unanimously approved by the EXCOM, was brought before the body and approved. Specifically, it was unanimously agreed:
 - (1) To allocate \$2,000 from this amount to Budget Account 1.11, Veterans Assistance.
 - (2) To authorize a \$600 distribution from the Sheriff's Grant to be placed in Account 1.11.
 - (3) With the completion of (1) and (2) above, Account 1.11 will be increased from \$ 3,000 to \$ 5,600.

- (4) To purchase up to fifty (50) \$100.00 Walmart gift cards that will be distributed under our Veterans Assistance Policy to veterans (including members of Post 543) who need help in recovering from Hurricane Florence. Distribution will start next week at a location where FEMA and County assistance will be rendered. If experience dictates more cards will be needed, the Post will consider doing so.
- Submissions to the State for the following occurred in a timely manner:
 - Colon Furr Memorial Nursing Scholarship
 - JROTC Cadet of the Year
 - Law Enforcement Officer of the Year
- Unfortunately, the below was not submitted to the State due to the Hurricane and subsequent evacuations. And the fact that those who would pull this submission together are First Responders actively engaged with emergency relief efforts. However, the Post EXCOM agreed that the individual whose package was in process as the Post's nominees would be formally recognized by Post 543.
 - Fire Fighter/EMS of the Year

14) Closing Remarks & Ceremony & Adjournment (Fegan)

- Closing ceremony was conducted, including prayer and retirement of the Colors
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.


 GEORGE R. FREEMAN
 Adjutant


 MICHAEL FEGAN
 Commander



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Saint James, NC 28461

SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Agenda

DATE: Wednesday September 26, 2018, 7:00pm

LOCATION: St. James Town Council Chambers, Saint James, NC, 28461

- 1) Call to Order: Mike Fegan, Commander
Advance and Post the Colors and Opening Prayer
- 2) POW/MIA Recognition
- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
- 4) Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion
- 5) Roll Call of Officers
- 6) Welcome to Guests & Sick call
- 7) Approval of Minutes of August 22, 2018
- 8) Membership Report: George Freeman, Adjutant
- 9) Finance Report: George Freeman and Mike Fegan
- 10) Service Officer Report: Paul Witmer, Service Officer
- 11) Post 543 Response to Hurricane Recovery: Steve Muir, M.A.L.
- 12) Reports:
 - Coming Events
 - SJMAD and Other Reports
 - Commander's Report
- 13) Closing Ceremony
- 14) Adjournment
Fellowship

Next meeting: October 24, 2018

ATCH #1

2018 Warrior Ride Through St. James w/ Post 543 Sponsorship

- **DATE:** Wednesday October 17, 2018
- **TIME:** ~10:00am – ~12:45pm
- **PARTICIPANTS:**
 - 40-55 participants + 20 St James Cycling Club riders = 60-75
 - Led thru St. James by the St James Fire Dept, St James Security and St James Cycling Club.
- **LUNCH:** ~10:30am – ~11:45am at St. James Players Club
- **ROUTE:** Enter Regency gate, Regency Crossing, Players Club Dr, (Players Club for lunch) Beaver Creek Dr to St. James Drive (at Founders Club) to Trailwood Dr. then continuing on St James Dr. to the Grove Gate.
- **POC:** Randy Bookout, 703-919-3419, randallbookout33@gmail.com
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**
 - To distribute flyers along route & greet riders at Players Club day of event. Sign up at Post meetings or by calling / emailing Randy Bookout.



WARRIORS HELPING WARRIORS

ATCH #2