



*Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation  
National Security  
Americanism  
Children and Youth*

Richard H. Stewart, Jr  
American Legion Post 543  
St. James, NC 28461

Minutes of the Meeting: August 24, 2016

The meeting was called to order by our Commander, Gary Crowden at 7:00PM. Posting of the Colors was performed by the Post Color Guard, opening prayer was given by the Post Chaplin, Jimmy Perryman, and placement of the POW/MIA flag was done by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Mike Fegan, and the Pledge of Allegiance as well as the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution was led by the Post Commander.

A Roll Call of Officers was conducted. All officers were present. There were a sufficient number of members to establish a quorum and conduct business.

Commander Crowden introduced guest and visitors. Ms. Resea Willis, of Brunswick Housing Authority was appreciative of the partnership that our V2V team has established with the BHO. Several cases have been worked on jointly delivering such items as ramps, electric panels, steps, etc.

Our V2V Chair, Steve Muir delivered an excellent and comprehensive presentation on the various benefits that the Veteran's Administration provides. Steve's experience and knowledge about VA benefits are a tremendous asset to our post. He is available to counsel our post members and families.

MOTION: A motion was made, seconded to approve the General Membership Meetings minutes of July 27, 2016.

Doug Pratt presented the Finance Report. Line items have been better organized to improve controls, understanding and continuity of expenses. The Post is now using Quicken to monitor and control expenses and donations. There were no changes to the amounts budgeted in this line item reorganization.

Pom Pomeroy presented the membership report. We are now at 111 members versus a goal of 165, or at 67% of our goal. The North Carolina Department expects that we be at 50% of our goal.

Commander Crowden reported our "sick call" information. A number of our post members were recuperating or recovering from a variety of operations and illnesses.

John Muuss delivered the Media Report. Once again he has done a great job in securing coverage for our post in the various local publications.

Mike Fegan reported that the MAD effort resulted in a net contribution to the post of \$42,000.00. This is an exceptional result. Mike thanked the committee and many volunteers that worked so diligently to generate a funding that will enable our post to do more good works on our four pillars of service.

Commander Crowden reported that a Christmas Card had been selected by the Executive Committee. There is consideration to make the card available to post members for the Christmas mailings.

Commander Crowden discussed his monthly Newsletter. The letter will contain pertinent information about past and upcoming post activities.

Commander invited members of the post to apply for the position of District Vice Commander as the incumbent has resigned.

Paul Witmer brought us up to date on the Freedom Day effort at Coastal Cosmetic Family Dentistry on September 8, the Community Day at Lowes Foods on Midway on August 27<sup>th</sup>, Operation North State pier fishing event on October 7<sup>th</sup>, and progress on the Veterans Benefit Action Center at BCC.

Steve Muir shared information concerning the upcoming meeting at UNCW which will be held on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Doug Elznic is coordinating our annual dinner on November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veteran's Day, which will be held at the Member's Club. Good progress has been made for this important event.

Bill Morgan updated the post on the Southport Flag ceremonies over the summer, plans for the 911 ceremony, our annual Veteran's Day celebration and guest instruction at South Brunswick High School JROTC program.

Mike Fegan covered the status of the upcoming Oratorical Contest. The awards this year have been improved which should attract more interest, and therefore more candidates.

Chuck Blackburn updated us on the Colin Furr scholarship. We have identified an excellent candidate. Rick Sessa is working on the application.

Rick Sessa discussed the improved activities at Horse Play Farms which we support. Horse Play farms provides therapy for individuals with special needs.

Commander Crowden announced the next Corporate Members Meeting would be held on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Chaplain Jimmy Perryman offered the closing prayer. Mike Fegan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander recovered the POW/MIA chair cover.

The Color Guard retired the colors.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by:

Pom Pomeroy  
Adjutant  
NC American Legion Post 543

Approved by:

Gary Crowden  
Commander  
NC American Legion Post 543

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