

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

Minutes of the Meeting: July 27, 2016

The meeting was called to order by the Commander, Gary Crowden at 7:00PM.

Posting of the Colors was performed by the Post Honor Guard, opening prayer was given by the Post Chaplin, Jimmy Perryman, and placement of the POW/MIA flag was done by the Adjutant, Pom Pomeroy, 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. 1 st Vice Commander, 2 nd Vice Commander and Service Officer were absent.

There were a sufficient number of members to establish a quorum and conduct business.

A \$500.00 check was presented to the post by the Oak Island Elks Lodge. This check is to be used for the Vet 2 Vet program. Two guests introduced themselves, Paul Solecki and Lee Corbin. Both US Army veterans, interested in joining the post.

The minutes of the June 22, 2016 meeting were approved.

The Finance report was rendered by the Finance Officer, Doug Pratt. He reported the Post was in good financial shape. We were on budget for the fiscal year 2015-2016 with regard to expenses, but fell short by \$3,500.00 on the revenue side. The report was approved by the membership as briefed.

Pom Pomeroy, Adjutant, reported we currently have an estimated objective of 148 members for this year if the Department maintains its current goal from National. Currently we have 61 paid members for the year. We have 18 more members who have paid butt their renewals have not yet gone forward for a total of 79 paid members which equates to 53.4% of our goal for this year. Members were encouraged to pay their dues at the end of the meeting.

Historian, John Muuss, presented the media report. We continue to have excellent coverage with 17 articles being reported over the past month. We had coverage for the first time in the Brunswick Market Place, and The Southport Magazine.

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Commander Crowden presented his goals for fiscal year 2016-2017. They are:

1. Ensure the wants and needs of our post Legionnaires are met,
2. Ensure that the needs and wants of Brunswick County Veterans are met within the constraints of our budget, and
3. Meet the needs of the community within our pillars keeping in mind our budget constraints. Commander Crowden presented the organization chart for our post for the fiscal year 2016-2017.

Commander Crowden shared that his goal for presentations at our monthly meetings focuses on providing information that is meaningful for our members. Topics including veteran's benefits, financial guidance, estate planning, funeral arrangements, etc. are examples of presentation content. The goal is to provide topics of interest that will generate greater attendance at our meetings. Commander Crowden gave a brief synopsis of the recent attendance at the North Carolina Department American Legion College. His feeling is that it benefits newer members that will be assuming leadership positions. He felt the content of the class work was not beneficial to members of leadership that had been in their positions for more than two years.

Commander Crowden updated the post on the Department of North Carolina Convention. The new Department Commander is David Shore.

Commander Crowden informed the post that Adjutant, Pom Pomeroy and Judge Advocate, Don Cunningham were sworn in at a Board of Directors meeting of our post.

Commander Crowden shared the fact that there has been a new post approved in Shallotte.

The six members of the MAD committee were presented American Legion Challenge Coins for their work on the project. The effort was deemed a major success given the satisfaction of the attendees and the financial results from both the concert and golf tournament.

Commander Crowden presented the Executive Committee Report: The budget which was approved by the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee was presented to the general membership.

MOTION: The general membership, upon a motion being presented, approved the budget.

MOTION: A motion was presented and approved by the general membership to pay WWII veteran annual American Legion dues. There are five WWII veteran members of our post.

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MOTION: A motion was presented and approved by the general membership to amend the travel policy to reflect attendees at American Legion events have a maximum of 2 night stay and POV reimbursement rate consistent with IRS rules for non-profits.

The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the post and Brunswick Community College confirming our involvement with our Veteran's Support Program.

A discussion was had concerning the level of discretion for financial expenditures by Officers and Committee chairs. No decision was reached pending a review by our Judge Advocate relative to our Constitution and By-Laws.

We are currently exploring the bonding and insurance issues which apply to our Post Officers.

Steve Muir updated the post on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: "Josh's Journey" was a great success, Freedom Day at Coastal Cosmetics Family Dentistry (September 8) at which free dental service will be provided to veterans.

There will be a Community Day at Lowes Foods on Midway (August 27) at which the post will staff a booth in an effort to generate awareness of our post activities and grow our membership.

Dick Gudis updated the post on activities concerning our support of active military personnel. Gary Crowden reported on Americanism / National Defense.

The JROTC shooting team was successful last year having won 2nd place in the state. There will be seven new cadets on this year's shooting team.

Bill Morgan shared that the Color Guard has completed two "First Friday" flag lowering ceremonies, and will conclude this commitment on August 5th for the third and ceremony.

Commander Crowden informed the membership that the next scheduled Regular and Corporate Members Meeting will be August 24th at which time Steve Muir will offer a presentation on Veteran's Benefits and Health Benefits.

Commander Crowden presided over the closing ceremony during which time, Chaplain, Jimmy Perryman, offered the closing prayer, and Adjutant Pom Pomeroy recovered the POW/MIA Chair Cover. The Color Guard retired the colors. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM. Submitted by: Approved by: Pom Pomeroy Gary Crowden Adjutant Commander NC American Legion Post 543 NC American Legion Post 543