



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

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

**General Membership Meeting of March 22, 2017.**

Commander Crowden called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Color Guard advanced the colors.

Pom Pomeroy lead the Opening Prayer

2nd Vice Commander, Mike Fegan placed the POW/MIA cover on the missing man chair.

Commander Crowden lead the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble of Our Constitution.

Commander Crowden lead the roll call of officers, Absent: Jimmy Perryman, Dan Bennett, all other officers were present. There were 34 members present establishing a quorum.

Introduction of guests was led by Commander Crowden:

- Mrs. Stephanie Bowden – Brunswick Family Assistance
- Becky Dus – Mayor of St. James
- Cadet Julia Arnold – Commander of the Cougar Battalion at South Brunswick High School
- Mrs. Donna Godbout
- Peggy and Bob LeBlanc
- Mr. Mike Haase – Mike's Garage Band
- Mr. Si Cantwell – The Wilmington Star News
- Mrs. Anita Hartsell – The Brunswick Veteran Services
- Mrs. Betty Pratt, for – Sentry Storage
- Linda Eiler – St. James CatTales

Commodity Distribution award of appreciation was presented to the post by Brunswick Family Assistance by Ms. Stephanie Bowden, Executive Director.

In recognition of important support, Commander Crowden presented Plaques of Appreciation to the following organizations.

- The Town of St. James
- The Cadet Battalion of South Brunswick JROTC
- The Godbout Family
- Peggy and Bob LeBlanc
- Mike's Garage Band
- The Wilmington Star News
- The Brunswick County Veteran Services
- Sentry Self Storage
- St. James CatTales

**MOTION:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of 22 Feb 17.

Finance Officer, Doug Pratt presented the Finance report. All accounts are in order.

Adjutant, Pom Pomeroy presented the Membership report. We currently have 169 members vs. a goal of 165. We have exceeded our goal standing at 102.4% of our goal.

Commander Crowden shared Sick Call:

Jeff Crowden is still recovering from his ankle operation  
Johnny Holmes is still struggling with his heart condition  
Roy Anderson is recovering from a prolonged illness  
Rick Sessa is recovering from an operation  
Dan Bennett will undergo a medical procedure  
Dick Szot is recovering from back surgery

Survey Results, Pom Pomeroy reported a good response and positive informative comments.

Azalea Parade Bill McGreavy updated us on the preparations in place.

Commander Crowden shared information relative to American Legion 101 which is a program designed to inform new members about the Legion and our Post.

Rob McKinley presented the current slate of nominations.

- Commander – Mike Fegan
- Adjutant – Dan Bennett
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander – Rick Sessa
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander – Rick Quashne
- Finance Officer – Doug Pratt
- Judge Advocate – Art “Doc” Liberty
- Chaplain – Gary Crowden

- Service Officer – Paul Witmer
- Historian – John Muuss
- Sergeant at Arms – Chuck Blackburn
- At Large (3-year term) – Tom Balbert

Doug Elznic updated the post on the Spring Fling which will be held this weekend. We have 90 people signed up. Mission BBQ will be providing food.

Commander Crowden informed the post about the progress being made on the Brunswick County Veteran's Coalition. They have had their second meeting 15 MAR. Committee to honor American Veteran's made a presentation. They contributed for PAVE. 21 people attended.

John Butler updated us about the Honor Flight program. Honor Flights are now opened up for Korean War and Vietnam veterans.

Commander Crowden presented American Legion Challenge Coins to the following people in appreciation of their service to the post. Rob Mc Kinley, Ray Larrisey, Richie Ewing and Don Cunningham.

Paul Witmer presented the Service Officer report. His group has been extremely busy. The Veteran's Assistant Program is coming together well with many volunteers. April 14, 15 are the dates for Poppy Distribution at the Southport Spring Festival.

Rick Sessa shared preparation for the Military Appreciation Day Concert.

Commander Crowden stated that Dan Bennett will be in charge during the Commander absence 1 APR - 21 APR

Mike Fegan stated that the STJMAD will be held on 8 JUL.

Steve Muir informed the post that he has found a person that lives in St James that can do embroider our shirts, hats etc. His price is better and the work is better.

Chuck Blackburn updated us on Boys State and the NC Trooper. Interviews are under way. Richie Hat Trick Scholarship applications are being received.

Bill Morgan shared progress on the JROTC teaching program.

Commander Crowden updated the group on the JROTC Air Rifle shooting program. The kids have done a great job and excelled at the sport.

Rick Sessa shared progress on the South Brunswick High School Instructor Program.

Commander Crowden informed the membership that the next meeting of the post will be on April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Commander Crowden lead the closing ceremony.

Pom Pomeroy offered the closing prayer

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, Mike Fegan recovered the POW/MIA missing man chair.

The Color Guard retired the colors.

Commander Crowden adjourned the meeting at 8:17 PM.