



*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: December 21, 2016

The meeting was called to order by First Vice Commander Dan Bennett at 7:00PM. Posting of the Colors was performed by the Post Color Guard, opening prayer was given by the Adjutant, Pom Pomeroy, and placement of the POW/MIA flag was done by the 2nd 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 except for Gary Crowden, Larry Cleary and Jimmy Perryman were present. There were twenty-two members present establishing a quorum and conduct business.

Juan Morales was introduced. He had been coached by members of our post and has qualified for induction into the U S Army.

MOTION: A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of November 16, 2016.

Doug Pratt presented to monthly Finance Report covering donations and expenditures. A copy of the report is available if there are any further questions.

Pom Pomeroy presented the membership report. We currently have 158 members or 96% of our annual goal.

Dan Bennett shared our sick call informing the group that Jeff Crowden is having ankle surgery, Larry Cleary has a lung infection, Johnnie Holmes and Roy Anderson are being treated for heart conditions.

Tom Bednarczyk shared that the Post "Charlie Brown" Christmas Tree was a great success at the Service Club's Parade of Christmas Tree event.

Mike Fegan gave an after-action report on the Army Navy Game that was held at "Check Six". Attendance was very good. Great fun was had by all, especially the Army contingent as Army won after a multi-year drought.

Doug Pratt indicated that the web design project is progressing well. We will be combining the Post site with the Memorial site which will save on administrative expenses.

Dan Bennett informed the membership that our new insurance policy is in place which will improve our coverage and reduce the cost to the post.

Mike Fegan told the membership that preparations for the Oratorical Contest are completed. There will be four contestants this year, three from the Early College Learning School, and one for West Brunswick High.

Dan Bennett shared the important topics that were discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting. The committee is working on mid-year budget revisions, changing the by-laws to eliminate the requirement for a five-year audit, and the fact that Gary Crowden is progressing well on his work to create a Brunswick County Veteran's Coalition.

MOTION: A motion was made seconded and approved to present the general membership with new language eliminating the need for a five-year audit.

Paul Witmer is working with a 75-year-old veteran that does not have a copy of his birth certificate or DD214. Paul is helping the vet recover these documents to secure housing for him.

Chuck Blackburn updated the membership as to progress being made on the South Brunswick Speakers Program, Boys and Girls State, and The Trooper Program. Organizational efforts for these programs will begin in earnest in January.

Rick Sessa informed the group as to the improved programs and outreach being made at Horse Play Farms. Their work with veterans suffering from PTSD is particularly important to our mission.

Dick Gudis shared that his visit to Camp LeJeune was very rewarding. He was able to help seven members of the Wounded Warrior Battalion and one member of the Coast Guard installation. He raised \$1,588.00 with the sale of the quilt that he raffled and was able to return \$585.00 in approved funding to our post.

Our next regular meeting will be held on January 25, 2017. Folds of Honor will provide a speaker. We will present budget revisions for approval by the general membership.

Dan Bennett wished everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Adjutant, Pom Pomeroy shared the closing prayer.

Dan Bennett offered the Commander's Charge.

2nd Vice Commander, Mike Fegan recovered the POW/MIA cover.

The Color Guard retired the colors.

Dan Bennett adjourned the meeting at 8:36 PM

Pom Pomeroy
Adjutant

Dan Bennett
First Vice Commander

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