



*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: November 16, 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 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 Jimmy Perryman were present. There were thirty-nine members present establishing a quorum and conduct business.

The following guests were introduced:

- MSG Jim MacIntyre – representing the Boy Scouts
- Kay Wolf and Bruce Maxwell – representing Waves for Kids.

Both of these organizations gratefully received checks from the post to aid them in their programs.

Commander Crowden introduced Mmes Ewing, Sessa, Pratt and Rosadino congratulating them for the outstanding work they did for our post at the Chili Cookoff. Our post was awarded both the People's Choice Award and the Judge's Award for the best Chili at the event. We competed against numerous other participants from public service and for profit restaurants. Commander Crowden showed the post the awards received, and presented the ladies with American Legion Challenge Coins to show our appreciation.

Commander Crowden introduced Rick Sanders from Peacock, Newnam & White Funeral and Cremation Service. Mr. Sanders shared important information concerning Veteran burial benefits, how to qualify for them, and how to have any questions answered relative to those benefits.

MOTION: A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of 16 October 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 137 members or 82% of our annual goal.

John Muuss presented the media report. John was successful in placing 5 articles in The Pilot, 3 in the Beacon, 1 in Cat Tales, 1 in Southport Magazine, 4 in The Wilmington Star and 4 in Brunswick Magazine. Commander Crowden congratulated and thanked John for his continued excellent work.

Commander Crowden reminded the membership that we still have our custom Christmas Cards available for those who are interested.

Tom Bednarczyk reminded the membership that he is working on a “Charlie Brown” Christmas tree to be presented at the St. James Service Club event. Tom is looking for military oriented items that can be used as ornaments. Anything that serves as a memory of Christmases spent away from family in the military would be helpful.

Mike Fegan updated the members relative to the Veterans Day Banquet. Seventy-Five members and guests attended. The meal was excellent, the camaraderie wonderful, and the event very meaningful to all who attended.

Commander Crowden shared that our efforts for “Operation Recovery” which was designed to help posts and legionnaires who had suffered losses because of Hurricane Matthew generated no requests for assistance.

Mike Fegan updated the membership concerning the Army – Navy game which will be held at Check Six. The game starts at 3PM. Mike suggested that members arrive at 2:15PM as a large crowd is expected.

Bill McGreevy covered our participation in the Oak Island Christmas Parade. The parade is being held on 3 Dec 16. The step-off will be at 2PM. We are to rally at the BB&T on Oak Island at 12:30PM. Bill asked for a strong participation by our post. We will have the Crossfire team, Color Guard and volunteers to ride in the float.

Wayne Dadetto shared the fact that we will be encouraging members and people in the surrounding communities to purchase brick for the Veterans Memorial adjacent to the St. James Community complex. The goal for sales is 50 bricks.

Gary Crowden rendered a report of the Executive meeting.

Doug Pratt informed the membership of the effort to update and improve the post’s website. We will be merging the post website with the Veterans Memorial website thereby cutting website costs in half.

Commander Crowden delivered Sick Call information. Mike Broswell’s wife was unfortunately killed in a head-on car crash. Please pray for the Broswell family. Johnnie Holmes continues to struggle with his heart issues. Larry Cleary is improving.

Paul Witmer updated the membership on our service efforts. We sent 18 boxes for Operation North State. Paul's committee hosted a breakfast for veterans at Brunswick Community College. 8 Vets attended. Paul has been working with a homeless vet this week and is making progress. Steve Muir is working with several vets to help them with a variety of issues they face.

Dick Gudis has had great success in raising funds beyond what the post has budgeted for Christmas Shopping for Marines in need at Camp LeJuene. Dick will be taking 12 active duty marines in need shopping for Christmas gifts for their families.

Rick Sessa reported that the proceeds of the Chili Cook off will be deployed by the local Civitan Club for the benefit of handicapped children. Juan Morales has passed the APGAR admission test and is awaiting assignment. This thanks to tutoring and guidance from members of our post.

Chuck Blackburn is waiting for names from the middle school for the speaker's program. Boys State, Girls State and the Trooper program are in the works.

Commander Crowden reported that our JROTC shooters from South Brunswick High are undefeated in the Orion scoring competition. The team will shoot against a good Texas team this week. The team has qualified for the regionals, and has hope to qualify for nationals.

Mike Fegan is working hard on the Oratorical Contest. He currently is working with three students from the Early College Learning High School and one from West Brunswick High.

Commander Crowden stated that we will not have a speaker at next month's meeting on 21 Dec 16 due to the proximity to Christmas.

Adjutant, Pom Pomeroy shared the closing prayer.

Commander Crowden offered the Commander's Charge.

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

The Color Guard retired the colors.

Commander Crowden adjourned the meeting at 8:36 PM

Pom Pomeroy
Adjutant

Gary Crowden
Commander