



American Legion Post 543  
Saint James, NC 28461

SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday August 22, 2018, 7:00pm

LOCATION: St. James Town Council Chambers, Saint James, NC, 28461

1) Call to Order: (Fegan)

- Per Agenda previously provided, the meeting was called to order at 7pm in the Town of St. James Community Center. (See Attachment #1)
- Colors were posted
- Post 543 Chaplin offered the opening prayer.

2) POW/MIA Empty Chair: (Fegan)

- The POW/MIA Empty Chair was formally recognized.

3) Pledge of Allegiance: (Fegan)

- Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

4) Preamble to Constitution of the American Legion (Fegan)

- The Preamble to American Legion Constitution was recited by all.

5) Roll Call of Officers: (Fegan)

- Officers Present:
  - Tom Bednarczyk, Chaplain
  - Dan Bennett, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander
  - Chuck Blackburn, Sergeant at Arms
  - Mike Fegan, Commander
  - George Freeman, Adjutant
  - John Muuss, Historian
  - Doc Liberty, Judge Advocate
  - Doug Pratt, Finance Officer
  - Rick Sessa, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander
  - Paul Witmer, Service Officer
- Officers Not Present:
  - None
- Executive Committee Members At Large:
  - Tom Balbert, Member at Large (Present)

- Bill Morgan, Member at Large & Chair, SJMAD (Present)
- Steve Muir, Member at Large (Present)

6) Welcoming Guests: (Fegan)

- Veterans attending for the first time were invited to stand and introduce themselves and share their Branch of Service of which there were seven.
- Sick Call: No known members were in need of prayers due to illness.

7) Approval of Minutes: (Fegan)

- Minutes of the July 25, 2018 General Membership Meeting were approved without alteration.

8) Guest Speaker:

- Mr. Mr. Bill Kawczynski, USMC Veteran, Director of Military Affairs, University of North Carolina Wilmington
  - Bill shared the various functions and responsibilities of this recently established office. Their primary mission is serving students who are military dependents or otherwise seeking affiliation with a Branch of Service.
  - Bill requested assistance from Post members to assist with student membership.

9) Membership Report: (Freeman)

- To date 114 (~63%) members have renewed their membership for 2018-2019.
- NC State has not yet provided our new membership goal for 2018-2019.

10) Finance Report: (Pratt)

- The monthly finance report was shared showing 7% of budgeted donations/income received and 5% budgeted expenses incurred. The Post is financially sound and the budget report was approved without alteration.

11) Service Officer Report: (Witmer)

- Paul shared that two families are currently receiving assistance from the Post.

12) American Legion NC State Officer:

- Dale Smith, Vice Commander, Division II, District 9, American Legion Department of North Carolina
  - Dale shared various ongoing activities and goals of the American Legion from a State perspective. The primary goal being the need to increase membership. However, it was noted that the best way to increase membership is to have ongoing efforts / programs that are of interest to veterans.
  - Dale distributed various awards earned by the Post throughout the June 30, 2017- Jul 1, 2018 period.

13) Coming Events. Executive Committee & Other Reports (Fegan)

- Near-term coming events were reviewed and included:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>POC</u>
Aug 27 6:30pm (Rain date Aug 28)	Post Beach Party (Bring whatever you desire – no glassware)	<sup>nd</sup> 72 Street Entrance, Oak Island	Rick Sessa
Sep 11 10:00am	9/11 Ceremony	Inside St James Community Ctr	Bill Morgan
Oct 5 6:30am	Operation North State Pier Fishing	Ocean Crest Pier, Oak Island	Steve Muir Need volunteers 2 shifts: - 0630-1200; 1200-close
Oct 17	Warrior Ride thru St. James & Lunch	Lunch: St. James Players Club	Randy Bookout - Volunteer needed

- EXCOMM Highlights Included:
  - Warrior Bike Ride Through St. James, Oct 17, 2018 planning continues. Slide with details provided during general membership meeting. (See Attachment #2)
  - SJMAD Golf Tournament final bills and associated payments are being reconciled/made. After this is complete the exact positive proceeds will be known and reported. However, Bill Morgan is optimistic that proceeds will exceed planned expectations.
  - The following award submissions are being prepared:

Colon Furr Memorial Nursing Scholarship	Sessa	Sep 15, 2018
JROTC Cadet of the Year	Freeman	Sep 15, 2018
Law Enforcement Ofc of the Year	Blackburn	Sep 15, 2018
Fire Fighter/EMS of the Year	Freeman	Sep 15, 2018

- Doc Liberty has agreed to assume the position of media relations until a permanent fill has been secured.

13) HONORS:

- American Legion Meritorious Service Award is awarded to members who have displayed highly exceptional service over an extended period. Recipients at this meeting:
  - Doc Liberty

14) Closing Remarks & Ceremony & Adjournment (Fegan)

- Closing ceremony was conducted, including prayer and retirement of the Colors
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

GEORGE R. FREEMAN  
Adjutant

MICHAEL FEGAN  
Commander

DRAFT



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Saint James, NC 28461

SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Agenda

DATE: Wednesday August 22, 2018, 7:00pm

LOCATION: St. James Town Council Chambers, Saint James, NC, 28461

- 1) Call to Order: Mike Fegan, Commander
  - Advance and Post the Colors and Opening Prayer
- 2) POW/MIA Recognition
- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
- 4) Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion
- 5) Roll Call of Officers
- 6) Welcome to Guests & Sick Call
- 7) Approval of Minutes of July 25, 2018
- 8) Guest Speaker: Mr. Bill Kawczynski, USMC Veteran, Director of Military Affairs, University of North Carolina Wilmington
- 9) Membership Report: George Freeman, Adjutant
- 10) Finance Report: Doug Pratt, Finance Officer
- 11) Service Officer Report: Paul Witmer, Service Officer
- 12) North Carolina Department Presentation: Dale Smith, District 9 Vice Commander
- 13 Reports:
  - Coming Events
  - Officers' and Chairs' Reports
  - Commander's and Executive Committee Report
- 14) Closing ceremony
- 15) Adjournment

Fellowship

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 26, 2018

ATCH #1

## **2018 Warrior Ride Through St. James w/ Post 543 Sponsorship**

- **DATE:** Wednesday October 17, 2018
- **TIME:** ~10:00am – ~12:45pm
- **PARTICIPANTS:**
  - 40-55 participants + 20 St James Cycling Club riders = 60-75
  - Led thru St. James by the St James Fire Dept, St James Security and St James Cycling Club.
- **LUNCH:** ~10:30am – ~11:45am at St. James Players Club
- **ROUTE:** Enter Regency gate, Regency Crossing, Players Club Dr, (Players Club for lunch) Beaver Creek Dr to St. James Drive (at Founders Club) to Trailwood Dr. then continuing on St James Dr. to the Grove Gate.
- **POC:** Randy Bookout, 703-919-3419, [randallbookout33@gmail.com](mailto:randallbookout33@gmail.com)
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**
  - To distribute flyers along route & greet riders at Players Club day of event. Sign up at Post meetings or by calling / emailing Randy Bookout.



WARRIORS HELPING WARRIORS

ATCH #2