



American Legion Post 543
Saint James, NC 28461

SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday February 27, 2019, 7:00pm

LOCATION: St. James Community Center, Saint James, NC, 28461

1) Call to Order and Advance The Colors (Opening Ceremony): (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
- Our former Chaplain offered the opening prayer
- The POW/MIA Empty Chair was formally recognized.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- The Preamble to American Legion Constitution was recited by all.

2) Roll Call of Officers: (Fegan)

- Officers Present:
 - Dan Bennett, 1st 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, 2nd Vice Commander
 - Paul Witmer, Service Officer
- Officers Not Present:
 - Tom Bednarczyk, Chaplain
- 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)

3) Welcoming Guests & Sick Call: (Fegan)

- Veterans attending for the first time were invited to stand and introduce themselves and share their Branch of Service of which there were five.
- One member who is having surgery and another whose mother-in-law is gravely ill were mentioned and prayers requested.

4) Approval of Minutes: (Fegan)

- Minutes of the January 23, 2019 General Membership Meeting were approved without alteration.

5) Guest Speakers:

- Mr. Vincent Walsh, Veteran-Student at BCCC, Partnership for American Veteran Employment (PAVE) Program
- Ms. Mary Beth Barrett, Colin Furr Scholarship Recipient

6) Membership Report: (Freeman)

- To date 190 (100%) members have renewed their membership for 2018-2019. The 100% goal was met on January 31, 2019.
- Membership goal for 2018-2019 is 190, one more member than 2017-2018.



7) Finance Report: (Pratt)

- The monthly finance report was shared showing 92% of budgeted donations/income received and 57% budgeted expenses incurred. The Post is financially sound with budgeted expenditures on track for the year. The budget report was approved without alteration.

8) Service Officer Report: (Witmer)

- Paul shared that he is working with five veterans, who are not members of Post 543 to assist them across a myriad of issues they are facing. Paul also shared that several local Veterans organizations are coordinating resources to help another Veteran with a significant financial need. Additionally, Paul is coordinating with the CB's to assist in building a wheel chair ramp at a Veterans home.

9) Report on New Developments Regarding Agent Orange: (Muir)

- Steve presented a briefing updating members on the status of ongoing initiatives pertaining to who is covered by the VA as having had potential exposure to Agent Orange.

10) Individual Member Meritorious Service Recognition: (Fegan)

- The Commander presented the American Legion Meritorious Service Medal to Mr. Bob Duke of Winding River. Bob has successfully raised over \$190,000.00 for the Wounded Warrior Project.

11) St. James Military Appreciation Day (SJMAD): (Morgan)

- Bill provided a brief status update of work that is beginning in preparation for the Post's annual SJMAD events.

12) Reports

- Coming Events
 - Steve Muir again shared that the next VEAC is scheduled for 25-27 April 2019 at the Elks Lodge on Oleander Drive, Wilmington. With the American Legion as Lead, the intent is to be inclusive of other Service organizations. Steve also shared that it appears enough funds/donations to fully fund this event will be in place and therefore, donations from individual American Legion Posts will not be sought.
 - The St. James Military Appreciation Day Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday July 13th at the Members Club within St. James.
- Officers' and Chairs' Reports
 - Numerous programs are well under way, including:
 - Student Robotics Team sponsorship
 - SBHS JROTC Shooting Team
 - Teaching classes in the SBHS JROTC program
 - Post Oratorical Contest: (Fegan)
 - Mike shared that the Post 543 mentee Rodriguez Garcia won the Post and District level competitions and recently placed second overall in the State of NC competition.

13) Commanders & Executive Committee Reports: (Fegan)

- Commanders Report (Fegan)
 - Mike provided a brief update on matters being worked by the Post Executive Committee, including an examination of various Officer Roles & Responsibilities. This is being driven by our need to continue to make adjustments needed to assure optimal support of our rapidly growing membership.
 - It was also shared that our Post received State-Level award recognition for having the best web site.
 - Additionally, the State Port Pilot was also formally recognized for its support of the American Legion, specifically Post 543 through the publication of 27 separate Legion articles across 52 weekly issues.

14) Closing Remarks, Ceremony & Adjournment (Fegan)

- Closing ceremony was conducted, including prayer and retirement of the Colors
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.


GEORGE R. FREEMAN
Adjutant


MICHAEL FEGAN
Commander



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SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Agenda

DATE: Wednesday February 23, 2019, 7:00pm

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

1. Call to Order and Advance the Colors (Opening ceremony)
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Preamble to Constitution of American Legion
2. POW/MIA Recognition
3. Roll Call of Officers
4. Welcome to Guests & Sick Call
5. Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2019
6. Guest Speakers:
 - Mr. Vincent Walsh, Veteran-Student at BCCC, P.A.V.E. Program
 - Ms. Mary Beth Barrett, Colin Furr Scholarship Recipient
7. Membership Report: George Freeman, Adjutant
8. Finance Report & Membership Approval Request: Doug Pratt, Finance Officer
9. Service Officer Reports: Paul Witmer, Service Officer
10. Report on New Developments Regarding Agent Orange: Steve Muir
11. Individual Member Meritorious Service Recognition: Mike Fegan, Commander
12. St. James Military Appreciation Day: Bill Morgan
13. Reports:
 - Coming Events
 - Officers' and Chairs' Reports
14. Commander's and Executive Committee Reports
15. Closing Ceremony and Adjournment & Fellowship

NEXT MEETING: March 27, 2019

ATCH #1