



American Legion Post 543
Saint James, NC 28461

SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday April 24, 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 Post 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
 - Paul Witmer, Service Officer
- Officers Not Present:
 - Tom Bednarczyk, Chaplain
 - Doc Liberty, Judge Advocate
 - Doug Pratt, Finance Officer
 - Rick Sessa, 2nd Vice Commander
- Executive Committee Members At Large:
 - Tom Balbert, Member at Large (Present)
 - Bill Morgan, Member at Large & Chair, SJMAD (Present)
 - Steve Muir, Member at Large (Absent)

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.
- Prayers were requested for a former Post Commander, a member and his wife who are both in ill health and a member of our Honor Guard.

4) Approval of Minutes: (Fegan)

- Minutes of the March 27, 2019 General Membership Meeting were approved without alteration.

5) Awards:

- EMS Technician of the Year (Mr. Richard Burns, Brunswick County EMS)
- Media Awards
 - State Port Pilot
 - Wilmington Star News
 - Brunswick Beacon

8) Membership Report: (Freeman)

- To date 192 (101%) members have renewed their membership for 2018-2019. The 100% goal was met on January 31, 2019.
- Including 8 in-year transfers the Post has 200 members.
- Membership goal for 2018-2019 is 190, one more member than 2017-2018.



9) Finance Report: (Pratt)

- The monthly finance report was shared showing 93% of budgeted donations/income received and 66% budgeted expenses incurred. The Post is financially sound with budgeted expenditures on track for the year. The budget report was approved without alteration.

10) Service Officer Report: (Witmer)

- Paul shared that he is working with several veterans, who are not members of Post 543 to assist them across a myriad of issues they are facing. Additionally, Paul mentioned the following:
 - Poppy distribution will occur at the Southport Spring Festival 19-20 Apr 2019. Volunteers went extremely well, raising \$1,287.90.
 - 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. Volunteers are requested and can sign up with Steve.

11) Old Business:

- Nominations for 2019-2020 Officer Positions:
 - The Commander reminded the members of the individuals who were nominated for 2019-2020 Officer positions at the March 27, 2019 General Membership meeting. The Commander opened the floor to nominations and called for any additional nominees three (3) times. No additional individuals were nominated. The Commander shared that nominations would remain open through this entire meeting and nominees would be accepted throughout and until the end of the meeting.
 - The nominees are indicated below:

POSITION	NOMINEE
Commander	George Freeman
Adjutant	Woody Dashiell
Judge Advocate	Doc Liberty
1 st Vice Cmdr Resource Development	Bill Morgan
2nd Vice Cmdr Membership	Rick Sessa
Finance Officer	Doug Pratt
Dep Vice Cmdr Active Duty Support	Dan Bennett
Dep Vice Cmdr Americanism	Chuck Blackburn
Sergeant-At-Arms	Pom Pomeroy
Service Officer	Steve Muir
Chaplain	Tom Bednarczyk
Public Relations Officer	John Muuss
Historian	Tom Balbert

- Amendments to Post Constitution & Amendments to Post By-Laws
 - At the March 2019 General Membership meeting the work of an Ad-Hoc Committee was presented. Their proposed Post governance changes was approved by the EXCOMM at the EXCOMM March meeting. The proposed governance changes were presented at the March 2019 general membership meeting where a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to amend the Constitution and By-Laws to bring them into alignment with the newly proposed governance structure.
 - The Officers of the Post worked diligently to amend the applicable documents that were amended and posted onto the Post 543 web site. The changes brought these documents into alignment with the previously approved governance structure.
 - The Commander was prepared to read both the newly proposed Constitution and By-Laws in their entirety. However, as these documents were previously available for the past 30 days for review by all members, a motion was made from the floor, seconded and unanimously approved that a complete reading be waived and instead highlights be presented.
 - The Commander presented highlighted proposed changes. Again, no further changes/alterations were recommended. Following which a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the changes as written with no additional changes recommended.

- The Commander shared that a “Final” approval vote would be taken at the May 22, 2019 General Membership meeting, thereby allowing the necessary time to pass before such a vote is taken and documents finalized.
- Military Appreciation Day: Bill Morgan provided a brief status update of work that is ongoing in preparation for the Post’s annual SJMAD events. Below are the applicable Points of Contact and Summary Schedule:

SJMAD Key Points of Contact			
POSITION	NAME	eMAIL	PHONE
Chairman	Bill Morgan	bill.am68@gmail.com	(571) 423-8530
Concert in the Park	Rick Sessa	popsest@gmail.com	(973) 714-5253
Business Solicitations	Tom Bednarzyk	tombed@aol.com	(203) 415-3750
Neighborhood Solicitations	Steve Muir	smuir1950267@gmail.com	(910) 253-5331
Volunteers	Bob Rice	bobbyrice48@gmail.com	(475) 204-1840

SJMAD Key Milestones
MARCH
Last year's Neighborhood Captains to confirm participation
Business Captain Solicitation Kickoff
Start personal visit to businesses
Recruit Neighborhood Captains
APRIL
Neighborhood Captains Kickoff Meeting
Save The Date Email to Neighborhoods
Wristband sales to membership
Golf Tournament: local newsletter blast to save the date
MAY
Neighborhood Captains send out 1 st solicitation letter/ email
SJMAD Shirt & Wristband sales to Post membership
JUNE
2 ND : Patriotic Concert in the Park
Follow up emails and letter box stuffers in neighborhoods
28 TH : Donation submissions to Steve Muir
JULY
12 TH : Place tee signs and large banners @ Members Club
13 th : Final preparations: attach service flags, ice in carts, registration

12) New Business:

- Coming Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>POC</u>
17 May	St. James Military Appreciation Day Golf Registration Opens	On-Line/Pro Shops	Mike Fegan
18 May 2-5pm	Post Spring Picnic In Recognition of 100 th Anniversary	Woodland Pavilion	Pom Pomeroy
27 May 11 am	Memorial Day Observance	St. James Community Center	Bill Morgan
1 Jun 5-9pm	Concert In The Park	Woodland Pavilion	Bob Bennett
1 Jul 10am-Noon	St James 20th Anniversary Day Parade	Trailwood to Marina via St James Drive	Mike Fegan
13 Jul 8 am	St. James Military Appreciation Day Golf	Members Club	Bill Morgan

13) Commanders & Executive Committee Reports: (Fegan)

- Commanders Report (Fegan)
 - Mike provided a brief update on matters being worked by the Post Executive Committee.
 - Also shared was the Posts recent participation in the South Brunswick High School JROTC Awards ceremony where the posted presented Cadet of the Year Academic Excellence, Leadership and three separate Shooter Awards.

14) Close of Officer 2019-2020 Nominations: (Fegan)

- The Commander again made the call for any additional nominees three (3) times with a lengthy pause between each call. No additional individuals were nominated.

15) Closing Remarks, Ceremony & Adjournment (Fegan)

- Closing ceremony was conducted, including prayer and retirement of the Colors
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.


GEORGE R. FREEMAN
Adjutant


MICHAEL FEGAN
Commander



American Legion Post 543
Saint James, NC 28461

SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Agenda

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

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

2. Call to Order and Advance The Colors (Opening Ceremony): (Fegan)
 - Posting of Colors
 - Post Chaplain opening prayer
 - POW/MIA Empty Chair recognition
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Preamble to American Legion Constitution reading
3. Roll Call of Officers
4. Welcome to Guests & Sick Call
5. Approval of Minutes of March 27, 2019
6. Awards:
 - EMS Technician of the Year
 - Media Awards
 - State Port Pilot
 - Wilmington Star News
 - Brunswick Beacon
7. Membership Report: George Freeman, Adjutant
8. Finance Report & Membership Approval Request: Doug Pratt, Finance Officer
9. Service Officer Report: Paul Witmer, Service Officer
10. Old Business:
 - Nominations for 2019-2020 Officer Positions
 - Amendments to Post Constitution
 - Amendments to Post By-Laws
 - SJMAD: Bill Morgan, SJMAD Chairman
11. Coming Events & Commander's and Other Reports
12. Close of Nominations
13. Closing Ceremony
14. Adjournment & Fellowship

NEXT MEETING: May 22, 2019

ATCH #1