



American Legion Post 543
Saint James, NC 28461

SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday June 26, 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:
 - Tom Bednarczyk, Chaplain
 - Dan Bennett, 1st Vice Commander
 - Chuck Blackburn, Sergeant at Arms
 - Mike Fegan, Commander
 - George Freeman, Adjutant
 - John Muuss, Historian
 - Doug Pratt, Finance Officer
 - Paul Witmer, Service Officer
- Officers Not Present:
 - Doc Liberty, Judge Advocate
- Executive Committee Members At Large:
 - Tom Balbert, Member at Large (Present)
 - Bill Morgan, Member at Large & Chair, SJMAD (Absent)
 - 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.
- Special guests were recognized and included:
 - Brunswick County Sheriff, John Ingram
 - American Legion Department Commander, James Moore
 - American Legion Division 2 Commander, Tom Cerniglia
 - American Legion District 9 Commander, Dale Smith

- Prayers were requested for any Post members and their families in need. Including Post Charter member Ed Thompson who was laid to rest earlier this day with the Post Honor Guard rendering military honors.

4) Approval of Minutes: (Fegan)

- Minutes of the May 22, 2019 General Membership Meeting were approved without alteration.

5) 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.



6) Finance Report: (Pratt)

- The monthly finance report was shared showing 103% of budgeted donations/income received and 89% budgeted expenses incurred. The Post is financially sound with budgeted expenditures on track for the year. The Finance Report was approved without alteration.
- Mike paid special thanks to Bob and Peggy LeBlanc for their recent generous donation equaling \$7,650.00.

7) Service Officer Report: (Witmer/Muir)

- Paul Witmer expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve as the Post Service Officer for the past 7 years. All thanked Paul with a round of applause.
- Steve Muir summarized this area of work over the past year that included:
 - 41 visits to veterans
 - Completion of 3 packages seeking American Legion Emergency Fund assistance that were all favorably received.
 - Expenditure of \$9K in direct support of veterans adversely impacted by Hurricane Florence.
 - Issuance of \$2K in gift cards to active duty Coast Guardsman who were going without pay during a Federal Government shutdown.
 - Built one wheelchair ramp and placed another portable wheelchair ramp at veteran homes.
 - The exceptionally successful VEAC that was held 25-27 April 2019 at the Elks Lodge on Oleander Drive, Wilmington. With the American Legion as Lead, it also included numerous other Service organizations.

8) Recent & Coming Events: (Freeman)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>POC</u>
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	Doug Pratt
4 Jul 9am	Annual 4 th of July Parade	Southport (Meet in Walmart parking lot)	Doug Pratt
13 Jul 8 am	St. James Military Appreciation Day Golf	Members Club	Bill Morgan

9) Commander Comments & Awards: (Fegan)

- Mike thanked all for their support over the past two years during his tenure as Post Commander and especially the support received from his wife Sue.
- Mike highlighted that the Post now has over 200 Legionnaires participating in over 70 events, services, programs, classes, contests and parades under all 4 pillars of the American Legion.
- Awards Post 543 received at the recent American Legion Department Convention:
 - Certificate of Meritorious Service
 - All-Time High Membership Award
 - Americanism Award
 - Children & Youth Award
 - Post Website Award – First Place awarded to Don Cunningham
 - Department of NC Media Award – First Place awarded to Morgan Harper, Editor, State Post Pilot
 - Department of NC and American Legion Southern Region Law Enforcement Officer of the Year awarded to Captain Stephen G. Lanier, Brunswick County Sheriff's Office.
 - Post Meritorious Service Award awarded to John Muuss
 - Post 543 Legionnaires of the Year:
 - George Freeman
 - Tom Bednarczyk
 - Kirk Davis
 - Don Cunningham

10) District 9 Commander Dale Smith administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Post 543 Officers present:

POSITION	NOMINEE
Commander	George Freeman
Adjutant	Woody Dashiell
Judge Advocate	Doc Liberty (Absent)
1 st Vice Cmdr Resource Development	Bill Morgan (Absent)
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

11) Division 2 Commander Tom Cerniglia installed Mike Fegan as the new District 9 Vice Commander.

12) New Commander Comments (Freeman)

- George paid tribute to former Post Commanders
 - Don McGuire
 - Rick Sessa
 - Gary Crowden
 and thanked outgoing Commander Mike for his years of command and presented him with gifts from the members of the Post.
- George shared that the continued success of Post 543 only happens with the support of our members. Not unlike any organization, its success is driven by those working within it. “Therefore, my focus will be on our members to assure all are best equipped and supported in continuing their good works.”
- George welcomed the newly inducted Officers and shared his vision that while we serve other veterans we take care of one another.

13) Other Items of Interest:



Other Items Of Interest

	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>POC</u>
Monthly, 3 rd Thursday, 5pm	American Legion Riders Chapter 68-Leland	 Blossoms Restaurant, Banquet Rm Magnolia Green Golf Course, 1800 Tommy Jacobs Dr. Leland	Lane Adrian Director 630-251-7040
Sunday, June 23 rd , 2:30pm	Military Army Band Concert	Ft. Johnston Garrison Lawn	
Tuesday, July 2 nd , 6pm	A Salute to Veterans	Southport Community Building	Rick Sessa
Wednesday, July 3 rd , 3pm	USCIS Naturalization Ceremony	Fort Johnston Visitor Lawn	Ted Carlsen
Wednesday, July 3 rd , 6pm	Flag Retirement Ceremony	111 West Moore Street (next to Library)	Mike Kirchner
Thursday, July 4 th , 10:30am	Flag Raising Ceremony & Reading of the Declaration of Independence	Intersection of Moore/Howe Street	Reading by Mike Fegan

14) Closing Remarks, Ceremony & Adjournment (Freeman)

- Closing ceremony was conducted, including retirement of the Colors
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Woody Dashiell
WOODY DASHIELL
Adjutant

George R. Freeman
GEORGE R. FREEMAN
Commander



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SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Agenda

DATE: Wednesday June 26, 2019, 7:00pm

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

1. 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
2. Roll Call of Officers
3. Welcome to Guests & Sick Call
4. Approval of Minutes of May 22, 2019
5. Membership Report: George Freeman, Adjutant
6. Finance Report: Doug Pratt, Finance Officer
7. Service Officer Report: Paul Witmer, Service Officer
8. Coming Events: George Freeman
9. Commander's and Other Reports
11. HONORS:
 - Awards Post 543 Received at Department Convention: Mike Fegan
 - Certificate of Meritorious Service
 - All-Time High in Membership
 - Americanism
 - Children and Youth
 - Post Website First Place Award
 - Department of North Carolina Media Award: James Moore, Dept. Cmdr., Presenting to: The State Port Pilot
 - Department of North Carolina Law Enforcement Officer of the Year: James Moore, Dept. Cmdr. Presenting to: Captain Stephen Lanier
 - American Legion Southern Region Law Enforcement Officer of the Year: James Moore, Dept. Cmdr., Presenting to: Captain Stephen Lanier
 - Post 543 Meritorious Service Award: Mike Fegan, Post Commander
 - Post 543 Legionnaires of the Year: Mike Fegan, Post Commander
12. Installation of Post Officers for 2019-20: Dale Smith, District 9 Commander
13. Installation of District 9 Vice Commander: Tom Cerniglia, Division Two Commander
14. Closing Ceremony: George Freeman, Post Commander
15. Adjournment and Fellowship

Next Meeting: July 24,2019

ATCH #1