The American Legion

BERNARD A. BENDLE Post 294

3440 N. Morrish Rd.

P.O. Box 66

Swartz Creek, MI 48473

DATE: 10-03-2021

10 MINUTE WARNING: 9:50 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 AM

Prior to the start of the meeting, Addison Jacob, member of the Auxiliary and accompanied by her Mother, Stephanie Jacob, gave a presentation on her trip to Washington DC and requested financial assistance with her trip.

Opening Prayer: John Gilbert

PLEDGE: ALL

PREAMBLE: ALL

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

CABIN CHAIRPERSON: Mike Strauss, absent

HALL RENTAL CHAIRPERSON, Chris Trieger, absent

SGT-AT-ARMS: Larry Jean, present

HISTORIAN: Ken Cogswell, absent

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Randy Browne, present

SERVICE OFFICER: Scott Osborn, absent

CHAPLAIN: John Gilbert, present

FINANCE OFFICER: Don Rubino, present

2nd VICE COMMANDER: Todd Beedy, absent

1st VICE COMMANDER: Gary Goodall, present

ADJUTANT: Timothy Hill, present

COMMANDER: John Kayanek, present

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Larry Jean, SGT at Arms reported that we have 17 members and 5 visitors.

1. Paul Spanolia, Commander, SAL Sqaudron 294
2. Jake Neering, SAL Squadron 294
3. John Knickerbocker, SAL Squadron 294
4. Addison Jacob, Jr Member of Unit 294
5. Stephanie Jacob, MBR of Unit 294

 READING OF THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: None read. If you are not receiving the minutes, make sure that I have your email.

1st VICE COMMANDERS REPORT:

Gary Goodall stated that we had $2100.00 donated to the Post in August. Gary also stated that bottles and cans are still coming in. Thank you all for your support.

Gary Goodall stated that we currently have 124 members that have renewed. 60 need to finish renewing before getting 100%Gary stated that he was notified that members who have not renewed from last year are going to get a free pass from Department/National due to COVID in dues renewal. Don Rubino asked if those who have already paid get a refund. Highly unlikely.

BALLOTING AND APPLICATIONS AND INITIATION OF CANDIDATES: Gary Goodall reported, Joshua Haywood was a past member of this Post. His membership expired in 2015. He has filled out necessary paperwork to become a member once again. Motion by Gary Goodall to accept, 2nd by Larry Luchenbill, motion passed.

2nd VICE COMMANDER COMMITTEE REPORTS: No Report

FIANCE REPORT: Don Rubino stated that he is now on the accounts at Elga. He is currently working with Todd Beedy to get the understanding of the accounts of the Post. Don provided the balances in all accounts. Don stated that the recommended accountant fell and broke a hip and is currently unavailable to assist. He also stated that our Post taxes for the past year three years. $40.00 on credit card is for pizza every Thursday evening. We need to decide if we want to continue this because we are not making any money off of it and we also need someone to pick it up. Don stated that he did not have any breakdown for the Eurchre party so Paul Spanolia spoke up and gave a report. Motion by Tim Hill to accept the financial report as read subject to audit. 2nd by Larry Luchenbill. Big Discussion ensued led by Judge Advocate Randy Browne concerning “red flags” on account. Everything has been moved to a paperless account. We have no real paper trail. Accountant needs to be hired and advised of ongoing events. We were going to hire an accountant but she is now unavailable due to surgery. Tim Hill to call his accountant.

POST SERVICE OFFICER’S REPORT: None

SICK CALL, RELIEF AND EMPLOYMENT:

1. Please pray for our sick members and their families.

2. Spencer Southerby needs our thoughts and prayers.

3. Todd Beedy is in our thoughts and prayers.

10 MINUTE BREAK:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. John Kayanek stated that the Car Show was 9-26-21. 23 cars were present. 7 trophies in were handed out. We did make a profit but figures are not available at this time. Left over shirts to be donated to Veterans Home in Battle Creek.
2. John Kayanek stated to DO Not forget, Halloween Party here on the 30th.
3. Paul Spanolia reminded everyone of the Headstone cleaning at Great Lakes National Cemetery.
4. Tim Hill stated 6th District Meeting to be here November 7th. Expect visitors at our Post meeting.
5. Department of Michigan 3rd Annual Boy Scout Camporee will be at WilWin October 15th thru the 17th.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Paul Spanolia stated that John Curtis, SAL member has a disabled daughter and is need of a service dog. Cost is 7 grand for training. Would like the use of the hall for a fund raiser. Will take care of the clean up fee. Motion by Larry Luchenbill. 2nd by Dean Messinger. Date to be determined. Motion passed
2. Larry Luchenbill asked if we are having Mega Bucks. John stated that we are still waiting for the license.
3. Charlie Brunette stated that this coming Veteran’s Day will be the 100th anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
4. John Kayanek mentioned that Joel Butts has been waiting for over 1.5 years for a cover. One arrived but it was the wrong size. Tim Hill stated that he has to place an order from Emblem Sales and he would include the cover with his order if someone would get him the size needed.
5. Tim Hill read the 2020 Unfinished/Tabled list of items that need to be completed. On list, numbers 10, 11, and 12 were taken care of.
6. Tim Hill presented a check for $100 to be donated to the Post from a friend of his.
7. Fall Conference Report presented and read. On page #2 of report, Constitution/By-Laws discussed with Standing Rules of the post. We need Standing Rules for the Post. They don’t need a 3 month ordeal like Constitution & By-Laws to amend or change. Will work on to get started.
8. Gary Goodall saw the “Post Rules” at Post 3 in Saulte Ste. Marie and wanted it typed and posted in the Post. See attached.
9. Child Welfare Foundation sent a letter of thanks for the donation in the name of Robert C. Pollard.
10. Letter from Genesee County Probate Court requesting a nomination of an individual for a 3 year term on the Soldiers Relief Commission. Tim Hill’s name was submitted.
11. Tim Hill discussed the Boys State Committee report from the Fall Conference. Big Difference is price jump to $400 per delegate with a $25 non refundable registration fee.
12. Tim Hill stated that Student Trooper is now $475 per delegate and is available for students in 10 thru 12th grades, male or female. Held at Michigan State Police Academy in Lansing and only has 40 slots available.
13. Larry Luchenbill asked about the Oratorical Contest. Deadline is November 12th. Top scholarship at National is now $25,000 in scholarships anywhere they want to go. Tim Hill stated that this is also the best scholarship that the American Legion has to offer since it is good for grades 9 thru 12.
14. Winter Conference is upon us. It is going to be held at the Crowne Plaza in Lansing Michigan on February 11th thru the 13th. Meetings start Thursday afternoon and training sessions start on Friday afternoon. Registration is $15 each so if you want to go and don’t show up, it is a donation to their convention corp. Hotel is $125 for 1-4 guest.
15. Tim Hill stated that at Fall Conference there were a total of 4 individuals running next year for Department Commander. They are in alphabetical order and a list is provided. Larry Luchenbill asked if Marilyn Britton can be contacted to attend the Post meeting. Tim Hill stated that she should be attending the District meeting here on November 7th. He will reach out to her to see if she can come to the Post meeting. Tim Hill stated that he has been asked by other candidates if they can visit our meeting. He informed them that the Commander needs to be approached and date and time set.
16. Tim Hill also stated that at the November meeting here at the Post, the 6th District meeting will be held here in Swartz Creek. Please plan on attending. The Auxiliary will be hosting a lunch at a cost of $8 for each who partake.
17. Tim Hill stated that he attended the National Boys State conference in Indianapolis Indiana. His report is posted on the bulletin board.
18. Tim Hill stated that one of the items from the Fall Conference was that he attended the SAL’s budget meetings and that they are looking for Squadrons to host conference/convention locations. Past has been Detroit, Saulte Ste Marie, and Stephensville. Talked to Jake Neering about the possibility of hosting a conference/convention here in the Flint area and having his Corn Hole boards there as well. Will be meeting with Genesee Country Convention Committee in next few days and will bring info to SAL meeting.
19. If any of you work with persons under the age of 18, you must have a back ground check to protect you and the kids.
20. Gary Goodall pointed out that there was a typo on the Boys State report about the “Shits and Polo Shirts”. He stated that the write forgot an “r”.
21. Tim Hill stated that while at National Boys State, there are some Departments across the country that on their application has information about the delegates possible eligibility to join the SALs. Then that Department has been paying the delegates first year membership. Department of Michigan is now looking into doing this.
22. Tim Hill made a motion to donate $100 to Addison Jacob for her trip to Washington DC. 2nd by Gary Goodall. Motion passed.
23. Friends of Doyle Knight Memorial in Lennon if you are interested in donating. Larry Luchenbill stated that he would call and see if all three organizations of 294 can be listed on one large stone and the three would then split the cost.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR DEPARTED POST MEMBERS AND OUR POW/MIA TABLE:

1. If you know of a Member that has passed, please inform the Post.
2. Moment of silence for the POW/MIA table.

GOOD OF THE AMERICAN LEGION:

1. None

Closing Prayer: by John Gilbert

TIME ADJOURNED: 11:06

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Timothy W. Hill

Adjutant