



*Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation  
National Security  
Americanism  
Children and Youth*

Richard H. Stewart, Jr  
American Legion Post 543  
St. James, NC 28461

**General Membership Meeting of April 26, 2017.**

Commander Gary Crowden called meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Color Guard Advanced and Post the Colors.

2nd Vice Commander Mike Fegan covered the POA/MIA Chair.

Commander Crowden lead in the Pledge of Allegiance with the Post.

Commander Crowden lead the Post in the Preamble of our Constitution.

Roll Call of Officers: All present except for Adjutant Pomeroy, who was absent and excused.

Commander Crowden introduced our guests & visitors.

2nd Vice Commander introduced our guest speaker Ally Stevenson, and her mom Dorothy Stevenson from Special Operations Warrior Foundation. Ally Stevenson spoke on how the Special Warrior Foundation helped pay for her college, and that it wouldn't have been possible without the Foundation. Her Dad was injured while serving in the Marines. Commander Crowden presented Ally and Dorothy Stevenson with American Legion Challenge Coins.

Finance Report: Doug Pratt read the finance report to the general membership.

**MOTION:** A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the finance report.

**MOTION:** A motion was made, seconded and approved was to move \$5000.00 from reserve to line item #3.3 to go to Veteran Charities.

Membership Report: Commander Crowden reported that we have 170 members paid, which is 103% for our Post.

Sick Call: Johnny Holmes has a heart condition, Roy Anderson still in recovery form a prolong illness, Dick Szot recovering from back surgery.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Azalea Parade: Bill McGreevy stated the parade went well, even though the replacement of Ken Pike was not very organized. Post is considering not participating in the parade, and to consider just doing the 4th of July Parade in Southport and the Oak Island Parade.

Media Report: John Muuss stated we had 17 articles in publications. 3 in the Star Newspaper, 6 in the Southport Pilot, 6 in the Beacon Newspaper, and 2 in the American Legion Newspaper.

American Legion 101: Commander Crowden reported that there was good participation from the Post and it should be continued.

Nomination Slate: Commander Crowden announced the positions and who's running for what position. He then asked three time if there was anyone else interested in running. No new names where added.

**MOTION:** A motion was made, seconded and approved to close the nominations for next years officers.

Spring Fling: Commander Crowden stated that Doug Elznic did a great job and putting together the Spring Fling at Waterway Park. 90 people attended, and a good time was had by all. Food was catered by Mission BBQ. Great job!

**MOTION:** A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the delegation for the Department Convention to be held in Raleigh, NC at the Raleigh North Hilton from June 8 – 10. The delegation which will represent the Post is: Gary Crowden, Rick Sessa, Dan Bennett, and Mike Fegan. M

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Presentation of Challenge Coins: Commander Crowden presented Challenge Coins to Bill Young, and Wilson Harrison for their involvement in Legion Projects.

Proctors Needed: South Brunswick High School 8:30 - 2:00 June 5 - 9. If you can help contact Commander Crowden.

New Shirt Vendor: Tom Bednarczyk had a sample of the new MAD Shirts that can be purchased through him. Tom stated for the next membership meeting he will have a sample of the new American Legion Blue shirt. Cost of the shirt is \$35.

Southport Spring Festival: Paul Witmer stated it was very successful. Poppy distribution helped us raise \$1400.00.

SJMAD Concert: Rick Sessa stated that Friday June 2nd 5:30 - 9:30 Mike's Garage Band will play at Woodland Park. Wristbands are \$10.00 per person. Rick needs help selling the wrist bands, so if you can help contact Rick.

SJMAD Golf Tournament: Mike Fegan stated the golf tournament is Saturday July 8th at Members Golf Course. Registration forms are in the golf shop, and on the website. This will sell out fast, so get your group together. Mike also has two positions open on the Committee. If your interested contact Mike.

Veterans Benefit Action Center: Division 9 Commander Tom Cernigila spoke on how successful the three days were, and that 766 veterans showed up. There was 105 volunteers. It was a held at Post 10 in Wilmington. Our Post had 20 - 25 members volunteer. Tom thanked all the members for their support.

Paul Witmer stated that May 10th they will have another VBAC in Winston/Salem.

**PILLAR REPORTS:**

Americanism and National Defense: Chuck Blackburn stated that applications were sent to Raleigh for Boys State/ NC State Trooper Program.

Chuck also stated that he and his committee were interviewing next Friday at the High School for the Richie Hat Trick Scholarship.

Children and Youth: Rick Sessa stated that he is working with the Brunswick County Sports Coalition and HorsePlay Farms.

Other Business: NONE

Next General Membership Meeting will be May 24th, 2017 at the St. James Community Center at 7:00 P.M.

Closing Ceremony: Commander Crowden

Closing Prayer: Chaplain Jimmy Perryman

Commanders Charge: Gary Crowden

Recover POW/MIA Chair Cover: Mike Fegan

Retire the Colors: Color Guard

Adjournment by Commander Crowden at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Dan Bennett  
1st Vice Commander

Approved by Commander

Gary Crowden  
Commander