



*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 February 22, 2017.**

Commander Crowden called the meeting to order 7:00 PM

Adjutant Pom Pomeroy offered the opening prayer.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Dan Bennett placed the POW/MIA chair cover.

Commander Crowden lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The National Anthem was sung by Mrs. Erinn Dias. Members felt it was the most meaningful acapella presentation of our anthem that they had ever heard.

Comander Crowden lead the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion.

Commander Crowden lead the roll call.: Mike Fegan and Jimmy Perryman were absent. All other members of the board were present. There were 43 members present, establishing a quorum. There were 9 guests present.

Commander Crowden asked for introduction of guests and visitors. Erinn and Nelson Dias of Letters from Home were Emmy winners for Best Documentary, and Bill Bauer Wounded Battalion, Camp Lejeune were introduced.

Commander Crowden presented "The 40 and 8 Nursing and endowment fund" with our donation. Mr. Don Eisenman represented the endowment fund.

Bill Bauer, from the Wounded Warrior Battalion (WWB) at Camp Lejeune, is a PTSD specialist. Mr. Bauer delivered a knowledgeable, informative presentation about the nuances and effects of PTSD and TBI. TBI is one of the more prevalent injuries caused by rapid compression and decompression of the brain. The WWB does wonderful work with this debilitating injury. Mr Bauer thanked our post for our unwavering support.

**MOTION** A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the General Meeting of January 25, 2017.

Finance Officer, Doug Pratt presented the Finance Report. Indication is that all accounts are in order.

**MOTION:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the Finance Committee report.

Adjutant, Pom Pomeroy reported that we have attained and surpassed our membership goal.

Commander Crowden lead sick call:

- Jeff Crowden is still recovering from ankle surgery
- Johnny Holmes is still struggling with his heart condition
- Roy Anderson is recovering from an extended illness

John Muuss presented the Media report. There were articles in the following publications: Pilot 6, Beacon 3, American Legion Magazine 1, and Cat Tales 1. This is excellent work given that this is the slow time for these publications.

Doug Pratt shared the “ncpost543.org” new website. Commander Crowden congratulated the team on their great work. The site is live and running.

Don Cunningham described a change to the Constitution eliminating the requirement to have a 5-year audit by certified public accountants.

**MOTION:** After the required 30 days of notice to the membership, a motion to amend Article VI, Section 4, of the Post Constitution was passed by unanimous vote. The amendment deleted the entire second paragraph which required a financial audit by a Certified Public Accountant be conducted every five years.

Commander Crowden presented Challenge Coins to Doug Elznic, Peter Del Sol, George Freeman, Bill McGreevey and John Muuss for their outstanding work on behalf of our post.

District Commander Awards Presentation: Tom Cerniglia thanked the post for donating one pound of pop tops. He also presented our post with a certificate of meritorious service congratulating us on an all-time high in membership for the sixth consecutive year.

Commander Crowden presented the Executive committee report.

**MOTION:** Pursuant to a presentation by Rob McKinley, a motion was made seconded and passed to approve the suspension of section 7 of the bylaws which requires a 60-day period for nominations, enabling Commander Crowden to appoint Chuck Blackburn as temporary sergeant of arms.

Pom Pomeroy updated the post on work being done to send out a survey via “Survey Monkey”. The goal of the survey is to determine what we can do to make the mission of the post more meaningful to our membership.

Commander Crowden announced the creation of “American Legion 101”, a briefing and orientation session, which is designed to improve involvement of our membership by giving important information on what our post does and how we operate. The hope is that this effort will engage some of our newer members in the work of the post.

Commander Crowden announced the presentation of “thank you” plaques to people and organizations that have helped us accomplish our mission. There are 19 recommended recipients.

Paul Witmer presented the update of the Service arm of our post. Paul asked for volunteers for the Veterans Benefit Assistance Conference that will be held in Wilmington on Mar 30, 31 and Apr 1, 2017.

Commander Crowden announced the next General Meeting will be held on March 22, 2017.

Commander Crowden lead the closing ceremony.

Adjutant Pomeroy shared the closing prayer.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bennett recovered POW/MIA Chair.

The Color Guard retired the colors.

Commander Crowden adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM