

AMERICAN LEGION POST 543  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MINUTES  
APRIL 25, 2018

1) Call to Order:

Commander Fegan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the St. James Town Council Chambers. Letters from Home sang the National Anthem and the signature songs of all the branches of the military. The Colors were posted. Chaplain Gary Crowden offered the opening prayer.

2) POW/MIA Empty Chair:

Commander Fegan recognized the POW/MIA Chair.

3) Pledge of Allegiance:

Commander Fegan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Preamble to Constitution of the American Legion

Commander Fegan led the reciting of the Preamble to American Legion Constitution.

5) Roll Call of Officers:

Commander Fegan called the Roll of Officers. All members were present except Doc Liberty, Judge Advocate.

6) Welcome to Guests: Commander Fegan

Commander Fegan asked if there were any veterans here for the first time to stand, introduce themselves, and what branch of service. There were none. Chaplain Gary Crowden announced that there were three members on Sick Call: Johnnie Holmes, Roy Anderson, and Jerry Perriman. Please remember these members in your prayers.

7) Approval of Minutes of March 28, 2018.

The membership approved the minutes of March 28, 2018.

8) Guest Speaker: Commander Robert Mohr, USCG: Captain of USCGC Diligence

Commander Mohr gave us an overview of just what the Cutter Diligence does while out to sea: mostly drug interdiction, apprehending people trying to enter the U.S. illegally by boat, and protecting our fishing interests.

9) HONORS: American Legion Meritorious Service Awards

Commander Fegan bestowed the American Legion Meritorious Service Award to the following members of the Post who have displayed exceptional service for the Post: Tom Bednarczyk,

Ray Clemen, Don Cunningham, Kirk Davis, George Freeman, Ray Larissey and Dick Szot. Pom Pomeroy, Rich Ewing, and Jim Rosidino were not at the meeting to receive their Awards.

10) Membership Report: Dan Bennett, Adjutant

Dan Bennett reported that we have 180 members, and so we have met our goal for the year of 173 members.

11) Finance Report: Doug Pratt, Finance Officer

Doug Pratt reported on the current financial status of the Post. All accounts are in order and the Post continues to operate as planned within the budget.

The membership approved the Finance Report as presented.

12) Service Officer Report: Paul Witmer, Service Officer

Paul reported that the Spring Festival was very successful with \$1,900 donated through poppy distribution there. Paul is presently working with a female veteran in Boiling Spring Lakes. Paul is also looking for members help in the poppy distribution May 26th at Walmart with the Civil Air Patrol. A signup sheet was circulated.

13) Old Business:

A) Post Patriotic Outing "Letters from Home": Rick Sessa, 1st Vice Commander

Rick Sessa reported that there are 18 seats left on the bus to see Letters from Home show in Myrtle Beach with an early dinner prior to the show. The bus will pick people up at 2:30 at the Community Center. Anyone interested in going, contact Rick Sessa.

B) Spring Fling Picnic: Rick Quashne, 2nd Vice Commander

Rick reported that we had 48 people at the picnic, which was very successful. It was a great day had by all. Rick also reported that there is a Marine Corps golf tournament at Camp Lejeune on May 11. Anyone who is interested in going, see Rick after the meeting.

C) Nominations for 2018-19: Commander Mike Fegan

Commander Fegan called on Doug Elznic, Nomination Chairman to restate the Nomination Committee's recommendations for Officers for next year. They are as follows: Commander, Mike Fegan; 1st Vice Commander, Dan Bennett; 2nd Vice Commander, Rick Sessa; Adjutant, George Freeman; Finance Officer, Doug Pratt; Sgt at Arms, Chuck Blackburn; Service Officer, Paul Witmer; Judge Advocate, Doc Liberty; Chaplain, Tom Bednaczyk; Member at Large, Steve Muir. Commander Fegan announced that nominations will remain open throughout the meeting.

14) New Business:

A) Expenditure for P.A.V.E.

The membership approved \$2500.00 for the P.A.V.E. Program.

## 15) Reports: Pillar Chairs, Coming Events, Executive Committee

Americanism Pillar: Chuck Blackburn, Sgt. at Arms

Chuck reported that all interviews were completed for Boys State and the Trooper Program. Chuck stated that at our May meeting the winners will be recognized for each program.

Commander Fegan displayed the coming events slide for all members to be aware of what's going on with our Post.

Executive Committee:

Post 543 received a grant from the Brunswick Sheriff's Foundation. The Executive Committee approved a plan to distribute the funds received over a three- year period beginning with the 2018-19 fiscal year. These funds must be used for assistance to veterans in Brunswick County, the P.A.V.E. Program, Hat Trick Scholarships and the JROTC Shooters Program at SBHS, all in accordance with the provisions of the grant.

Commander Fegan reported that we are going to have banquet seating at our next meeting.

Commander Fegan reported that Nominations for Officers are now closed.

## 16) Closing Ceremony & Adjournment

Commander Fegan presided over the closing ceremonies, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.