



American Legion Post 543
Saint James, NC 28461

SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday November 28, 2018, 7:00pm

LOCATION: St. James Community Center, Saint James, NC, 28461

1) Call to Order: (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 Chaplain offered the opening prayer

2) POW/MIA Empty Chair: (Fegan)

- The POW/MIA Empty Chair was formally recognized.

3) Pledge of Allegiance: (Fegan)

- Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

4) Preamble to Constitution of the American Legion (Fegan)

- The Preamble to American Legion Constitution was recited by all.

5) 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
 - Doug Pratt, Finance Officer
 - Rick Sessa, 2nd Vice Commander
 - Paul Witmer, Service Officer
- Officers Not Present:
 - Doc Liberty, Judge Advocate
 - John Muuss, Historian
- Executive Committee Members At Large:
 - Tom Balbert, Member at Large (Absent)
 - Bill Morgan, Member at Large & Chair, SJMAD (Present)
 - Steve Muir, Member at Large (Present)

6) Welcoming Guests: (Fegan)

- Veterans attending for the first time were invited to stand and introduce themselves and share their Branch of Service of which there were three.

7) Approval of Minutes: (Fegan)

- Minutes of the October 24, 2018 General Membership Meeting were approved without alteration.

8) Guest Speaker:

- Dick Davis, Command Sergeant Major, USA (ret), Director Special Operations Warrior Foundation.
- Dick shared the history of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation and its mission to educate the children of our fallen heroes.
- The Post presented a check in the amount of \$3,000.00 to the Foundation.

9) Membership Report: (Freeman)

- To date 164 (~86%) members have renewed their membership for 2018-2019.
- Membership goal for 2018-2019 is 190, one more member than 2017-2018.



10) Finance Report: (Pratt)

- The monthly finance report was shared showing 85% of budgeted donations/income received and 32% budgeted expenses incurred. The Post is financially sound and the budget report was approved without alteration.

11) Service Officer Report: (Witmer)

- Paul reported that November was a very busy and productive month, with assistance being provided to an unemployed Veteran, and another who lost their rental home due to Hurricane Florence and required emergency assistance to store household goods.
- Poppy sales at Walmart was highly successfully, due in a large part through the support of the South Brunswick High School JROTC Cadets, raising \$2,270.00.

12) Old Business:

- Steve Muir shared that he directly assisted 3 Veterans in completing and submitting applications for assistance from the National Emergency Fund, which provides grants up to \$3,000.00.
- Steve also shared that Veterans in the NC areas impacted by Hurricane Florence and who have Appeals pending before the DC Board of Appeals are having their claims review expedited to the front of the line. Taking a process that can last up to 5 years to as little as 90-days.

13) New Business: Allocation of additional Funds from SJMAD

- The Post will be participating in a cookie challenge being hosted by the Southport Plot on December 5, 2018 as part of the Southport Winter Fest.
- On December 5-6, 2018 the Post will be participating in the annual Christmas Tree event at the St. James Community Center. Members were requested to search their closets for military career artifacts to be used to decorate the tree.
- The Post will be laying wreaths at veterans' internment sites at the Cape Fear Memorial Park, Southport, NC. The Post is taking this on because the organization Wreaths Across America only lays wreaths at National Cemeteries. Southport Lowes Home Improvement agreed to provide the needed 85 wreaths at cost and will additionally be donating the 85 stands for their display. The ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday 19 Dec 2018 at 1100 hrs.
- A new link has been established on the Posts' web-site that provides direct access to the VA's Benefits Quarterly News Letter.
- In support of Operation North State 30 Christmas boxes were compiled and sent by the Post.

14) Near-Term Coming Events, Other Reports & Commanders Report & (Fegan)

- Near-term coming events were reviewed and included:



Post 543 Coming Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>POC</u>
Saturday Dec 1	Oak Island Christmas By The Sea Parade	Oak Island (Depart Community Ctr at 1230 Parade 2pm)	Doug Pratt
Saturday Dec 8	Army vs Navy Game Viewing Party - Some spouses joining at half-time (~4:30pm) (Limited to 40 attendees)	Bella Cucina, Southport (2:30pm)	Rick Sessa
Saturday Jan 12	Oratorical Contest	St James Community Ctr (10am)	Mike Fegan

- Other Reports:
 - The Post assisted with a highly successful annual Marine Golf Tournament by sponsoring lunches for ~65 Marines.

- The Post also sponsored bus transportation to bring Marines from Camp Lejeune to St. James to enjoy Thanksgiving dinners in residents' homes.
- Numerous programs are well under way, including:
 - Student Robotics Team sponsorship
 - SBHS JROTC Shooting Team
 - Teaching classes in the SBHS JROTC program
- Post Oratorical Contest: (Fegan)
 - Mike shared that currently 2 students were being mentored to compete. The contest is scheduled to occur at 1000hrs on Saturday 12 Jan 2018 at the St. James Community Center
- Rick Sessa shared that Post members are invited to attend the UNCW Veterans Recognition Seahawks basketball game at 7:00pm on 10 Dec 2018. Further details will be coming via e-mail.
- Steve Muir shared that the next VEAC is scheduled for 25-27 April 2019 at the Elks Lodge on Oleander Drive, Wilmington. With the American Legion as Lead, the intent is to be inclusive of other Service organizations. Steve also shared that it appears enough funds/donations to fully fund this event will be in place and therefore, donations from individual American Legion Posts will not be sought.
- Commanders Report (Fegan)
 - Mike reminded membership that at the October General meeting, cancellation of the December General Membership meeting was approved.
 - A charitable donation in honor of Ed Morgan in the amount of \$500.00 was approved.

14) Closing Remarks & Ceremony & Adjournment (Fegan)

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


 GEORGE R. FREEMAN
 Adjutant


 MICHAEL FEGAN
 Commander



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SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Agenda

DATE: Wednesday November 28, 2018, 7:00pm

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

1. Call to Order and Opening Ceremony
2. POW/MIA Recognition
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Preamble to Constitution of the American Legion
5. Roll Call of Officers
6. Welcome to Guests
7. Sick Call
8. Approval of Minutes of October 24, 2018
9. Guest Speaker: CSM Dick Davis, USA (ret), Director, Special Operations Warrior Foundation
10. Membership Report
11. Finance Report
12. Service Officer Report
13. Other Reports:
14. Coming Events
15. Commander's and Executive Committee Report
16. Adjournment and Fellowship

NEXT MEETING: January 23, 2019

ATCH #1