



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

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

Minutes of the Meeting: October 16, 2016

The meeting was called to order by our Commander, Gary Crowden at 7:00PM. Posting of the Colors was performed by the Post Color Guard, opening prayer was given by the Adjutant, Pom Pomeroy, and placement of the POW/MIA flag was done by the 2nd Vice Commander Mike Fegan, and the Pledge of Allegiance as well as the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution was led by the Post Commander.

A Roll Call of Officers was conducted. All officers were present. There were a sufficient number of members to establish a quorum and conduct business.

The post greeted first time attendees: Edward Strother, David Bolea, Jackie McNutt and Bob Aimes.

Commander Crowden introduced Mark Bachara, Esq. Mr. Bachara has a general law practice on Oak Island and is a supporter of our post. His presentation informed our post legionnaires concerning wills, trusts, durable powers of attorney, living wills, etc. The presentation was well received. Many questions were asked and answered.

Commander Crowden introduced District Vice Commander, Nelson Anderson. The Vice Commander spoke to the post about the importance of membership development.

MOTION: A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of September 28th, 2016 meeting.

Doug Pratt, Post Finance Officer, presented the monthly finance report. We are on track with donations and expenditures.

Pom Pomeroy presented the membership report. We currently have 136 members vs. a goal of 165. We are at 82% of our annual goal.

Commander Crowden reported that two members of our post have passed. Wayne Dixon, for whom the Post Honor Guard presented honors, and Tom Sharkey. Commander Crowden asked for prayers for Johnnie Holmes, who is experiencing heart problems.

John Muuss presented the monthly media report. We have had 19 articles in local publications: 4 in the Beacon, 3 in the Star, 5 in the Pilot, 5 in South Brunswick Magazine, 1 in Cat Tales and 1 in Southport Magazine. Commander Crowden thanked John for his continuing excellent work.

Commander Crowden informed the post that our Christmas Cards were ready and could be ordered through Doug Pratt.

Tom Bednarczyk discussed a "Charlie Brown" Christmas Tree that the post will be presenting. He asked for help with decorations. Pictures, dog-tags, C-Rat cans, etc. would be appreciated.

Commander Crowden reviewed the items covered in the preceding Executive Committee meeting. The committee reviewed post finances, annual post check list of projects to be completed, status on the action item list, etc. The Executive Committee approved the expenditure of the \$500.00 that had been budgeted for the cancelled Pier Fishing event sponsored by North State to be reallocated to funding assistance for legionnaires who suffered damage because of Hurricane Matthew.

Paul Witmer updated those present about the activities of the Post Service Committee. There will be a poppy distribution / membership drive on 5 November. The post still needs names of active duty members stationed outside of North Carolina for the North State Christmas boxes. Our post was awarded the PAVE grant honoring American Veteran Students.

Rick Sessa announced that our post was awarded the Colin Furr scholarship. The winner was Jonathan Tessman.

Bill Morgan reported that the post will be sponsoring a Veteran's Day ceremony at the Community Center on 11 NOV 16. The Color Guard will post colors. The AJROTC cadets will present the service flags. RADM Steven Roddy will be our key-note speaker. Lois Moore will be our vocalist.

Commander Crowden shared that our AJROTC rifle team has won all three of their matches, and will shoot against Kentucky next. The cadets will be competing in the Shoulder to Shoulder qualifier for the Army National Championship.

Mike Fegan reported that the post Oratorical Contest will be 7 JAN 17. He has 10 students that he is coaching. This is the largest number of applicants that our post has had.

Dick Gudis will be conducting a shopping trip to the commissary at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville. He will be working with select Marines that have need of assistance at Christmas. He will be using the \$1,250.00 that has been approved by the general membership. In addition, he is conducting a personal fund raiser to generate an additional \$1,250.00.

Commander Crowden again discussed the need for assistance to legionnaires that suffered damage because of Hurricane Matthew. Worthy recipients are being identified.

Rick Sessa informed the post that the Experimental Aircraft Association will be bringing the Ford Tri-Motor to the Southport Jetport. There will be a free breakfast at the airport on 12 November. Great Clips will be offering free haircuts for veterans on Veteran's Day. Rain checks will be issued to veterans that do not need a haircut on that day, which can be used on a later date.

Doug Pratt informed the post that we will be participating in the Chili Cook Off at the Moose Lodge from 12:30 to 3 PM on 12 NOV 16. This is a fund raiser for Civitan and a membership recruiting opportunity for our post.

Doug Elznic updated us on the Annual Banquet which will be held at the Members Club on 11 NOV 16. All post members, their spouses, and veterans from the community are invited.

Adjutant, Pom Pomeroy shared the closing prayer.

Commander Crowden offered the Commander's Charge.

2nd Vice Commander, Mike Fegan recovered the POW/MIA cover.

The Color Guard retired the colors.

Commander Crowden adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM

Pom Pomeroy
Adjutant

Gary Crowden
Commander