



American Legion Post 543  
Saint James, NC 28461

SUBJECT: General Membership Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday July 25, 2018, 7:00pm

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

Whereas the Richard H. Stewart, Jr, American Legion Post 543, Inc., General Membership and American Legion Post 453 General Membership are one in the same, these singular meeting minutes reflect the actions of both entities.

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
- Post 543 Chaplin 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:
  - Dan Bennett, 1st Vice Commander
  - Tom Bednarczyk, Chaplain
  - George Freeman, Adjutant
  - Mike Fegan, Commander
  - Doug Pratt, Finance Officer
  - Rick Sessa, 2nd Vice Commander
  - Paul Witmer, Service Officer
- Officers Not Present:
  - Chuck Blackburn, Sergeant at Arms
  - John Muuss, Historian

- Doc Liberty, Judge Advocate
- Executive Committee Members At Large:
  - Tom Balbert, Member at Large (Absent)
  - Bill Morgan, Member at Large & Chair, SJMAD (Absent)
  - 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 two.
- Sick Call: Prayers were asked for Jerry Crowden, Roy Anderson, Tom Balbert and Jerry Perriman.

7) Approval of Minutes: (Fegan)

- Minutes of the June 27, 2018 General Membership Meeting were approved without alteration.

8) Guest Speaker:

- Mr. Paul Berry, Marine Sergeant Major (ret), Program Director NC USO's Warrior and Family Program
  - Paul shared that his organizations supports veteran's across 17 Counties in NC and that all funds contributed to the NC USO's Warrior and Family Program remain with NC.
  - Services include: Active Duty Re-Start, support to families of deployed personnel and teaching practical skills including Financial Literacy.
  - The NC USO partners with over 80 other service organizations, who in the preceding 25 months have helped over 1,850 personnel.

9) Membership Report: (Freeman)

- The Post ended 2017 – 2018 year with 179 members in good standing.
- To date 68 (~36%) members have renewed their membership for 2018-2019.
- NC State has not yet provided our new membership goal for 2018-2019.
- Tables were set up to facilitate members renewals before and after the meeting.
- It was moved and approved by the body that the Post pay the dues for WWII veterans and those serving on active duty with a home of record address in NC.

10) Finance Report: (Pratt)

- The 1 Jul 2017- 30 Jun 2018 Year End financial report was presented and approved by the body.
- The 1 Jul 2018- 30 Jun 2019 Budget previously approved by the Board/Executive Committee was presented and approved by the body without alteration.
  - Following approval of the Annual Budget, the body approved a \$500.00 donation to the NC USO's Warrior and Family Program.

11) Service Officer Report: Paul Witmer, Service Officer

- Poppy sales at Walmart in Southport are scheduled for Saturday Nov 10, 2018.

12) Coming Events. Executive Committee & Other Reports (Fegan)

- Near-term coming events were reviewed and included:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>POC</u>
<b>Aug 27</b> <b>6:30pm</b> <small>(Rain date Aug 28)</small>	<b>Post Beach Party</b> <small>(Bring whatever you desire – no glassware)</small>	<b>72<sup>nd</sup> Street</b> <b>Entrance, Oak</b> <b>Island</b>	<b>Rick Sessa</b>
<b>Sep 11</b> <b>10:00am</b>	<b>9/11 Ceremony</b>	<b>Inside St James</b> <b>Community Ctr</b>	<b>Bill Morgan</b>
<b>Oct 5</b> <b>6:45am</b>	<b>Operation North</b> <b>State Pier Fishing</b>	<b>Ocean Crest Pier,</b> <b>Oak Island</b>	<b>Rick Sessa</b>
<b>Oct 17</b>	<b>Warrior Ride thru</b> <b>St. James &amp; Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch Location</b> <b>TBD</b>	<b>Randy Bookout</b>

- EXCOMM Highlights Included:
  - Completion and approval of the 2018-2019 Budget for presentation to the entire body.
  - The continued healthy financial environment of the Post enabled movement of \$4K from the current years' Operating Budget to the Post Reserve Funds account.
  - Warrior Bike Ride Through St. James, Oct 17, 2018 planning continues.
  - SJMAD Golf Tournament final bills and associated payments are being reconciled/made. After this is complete the exact positive proceeds will be known and reported. However, Bill Morgan is optimistic that proceeds will exceed planned expectations.
  - Movement of General Meetings from the current Community location to the St. James Town Hall Chambers was proposed and it was agreed that General Meetings of the Post will remain in its current location.

13) HONORS:

- Mr. Paul Berry, Program Director NC USO's Warrior and Family Program was presented a \$500.00 check by the Post to support his organization's efforts.
- American Legion Meritorious Service Award is awarded to members who have displayed highly exceptional service over an extended period. Recipients at this meeting:
  - Bob Bennett
  - Gary Crowden
  - Steve Muir

14) Closing Remarks & Ceremony & Adjournment (Fegan)

- Closing ceremony was conducted, including prayer and retirement of the Colors
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.



GEORGE R. FREEMAN  
Adjutant



MICHAEL FEGAN  
Commander



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

- 1) Call to Order: Mike Fegan, Commander
  - Advance and Post the Colors and Opening Prayer
- 2) POW/MIA Recognition
- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
- 4) Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion
- 5) Roll Call of Officers
- 6) Welcome to Guests & Sick Call
- 7) Approval of Minutes of June 27, 2018
- 8) Guest Speaker: Paul Berry, Sgt. Maj., USA (ret), USO
- 9) Membership Report
- 10) Finance Report: Doug Pratt, Finance Officer
  - 1 Jul 2017- 30 Jun 2018 Year End Report
  - Approval of 1 Jul 2018- 30 Jun 2019 Budget
- 11) Service Officer Report: Paul Witmer, Service Office
- 12) Coming Events
- 13) Executive Committee Feedback and Other Reports
- 14) HONORS
- 15) Closing Ceremony & Adjournment  
Fellowship

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 22, 2018

ATCH #1