

AMERICAN LEGION POST 543
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 2017

1) Call to Order:

Commander Fegan called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The Honor Color Posted the Colors.

Gary Crowden, Chaplin offered the opening prayer.

2) POW/MIA Empty Chair:

Commander Fegan recognized the POW/MIA Chair.

3) Pledge of Allegiance:

Commander Fegan led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Preamble to Constitution of the American Legion:

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

5) Roll Call of Officers:

Commander Fegan called the Roll of Officers. All members presented and accounted for.

6) Welcome to Guests:

Commander Fegan asked if there were any new veterans here for the first time to stand up and state their names and what branch of service. Two new veterans were welcomed into the Post.

Commander Fegan reported that on Sick Call was Dick Gudis, who had a stroke, but was now home doing better. Our prayers are with Johnny Holmes who has some heart issues. General Joe Kinzer is back with us after knee surgery.

7) Minutes of meetings of October 25 and November 20:

The membership approved the minutes of October 25th and November 20th.

8) Guest Speakers: Rick Sessa:

1st Vice Commander Rick Sessa introduced a Guest Speaker from PAVE and our Colin Furr Nursing Scholarship Winner to speak on both of our American Legion Projects.

9) HONORS: Quinquennial anniversaries of American Legion Membership:

Commander Fegan with the help of Rick Sessa and Dan Bennett awarded the pins to Legion members.

10) Membership Report: Dan Bennett, Adjutant:

Dan Bennett reported that as of tonight we have 175 members renewed. Our goal set by the State was 173 members. We will continue to grow.

11) Finance Report: Doug Pratt, Finance Officer:

Doug Pratt reported on current status of Post. All accounts are where they should be and the Post continues to operate as planned within the budget.

12) Service Officer Report: Paul Witmer, Service Officer:

Paul Witmer gave his monthly report. Paul has been working with the Brunswick Homeless Coalition with homeless veterans. Paul was also working with the Shallotte Legion Post with a veteran that needs financial help. Paul added that the Post paid for building a ramp for a veteran that is wheelchair bound. Paul is also looking for volunteers for the VBAC in March.

13) Old Business: None

14) New Business:

George Freeman gave a presentation to the membership on classes for JROTC at South Brunswick High School.

Rick Sessa 1st Vice Commander announced to the Post that Post 543 was awarded the Brunswick County Sheriff's Award. The post will be looking to get two tables for the Diamonds and Denim Ball on March 2, 2018 at the Community Center. Tickets are \$80.00 each.

15) Reports: Coming Events, Pillar Chairs, Honor Guard, Executive Committee:

Oratorical Contest January 13th at St. James Community Center. Volunteers needed.

Proctors needed for High School Exams.

Each month the Post will put up on the screen coming events for members to get involved with.

Rick Quashne, Defense Pillar Chair reported 107 marines were in St. James for Thanksgiving dinner with the St. James community. Rick had Veterans Dinner at the Members Club. Rick had the Marines Golf Tournament at Members Club, which was a success. Rick will be looking into a Spring Event for membership, more to follow.

Chuck Blackburn, Americanism Pillar Chair reported that the Speakers Program at South Brunswick Middle School was complete, and all other programs are under way.

Bill Morgan gave a report on the successful Veterans Day Ceremony, and the Honor Guard had a ceremony at Cape Fear Cemetery for Wreaths Across America. Kirk Davis was in charge of the Wreath Ceremony.

16) Closing Ceremony:

Commander Fegan presided over closing ceremonies.

17) Adjournment:

Commander Fegan adjourned the meeting at 8:03 P.M.

