



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: January 25, 2017.

The meeting was called to order by Commander Gary Crowden 7:00PM. Posting of the Colors was performed by the Post Color Guard, opening prayer was given by the Chaplain Jimmie Perryman, and placement of the POW/MIA chair cover 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 forty-two members present establishing a quorum and conduct business.

Commander Crowden called for any visitors and first time members to introduce themselves.

- Deborah Shaw, first time member introduced herself.
- Commander Crowden introduced Julia Montgomery, representing Folds of Honor Foundation.
- Rick Sessa introduced Elina DiConstanzo and Peg McDonald representing Brunswick Community College. They graciously received our contribution to the P.A.V.E. program for \$6,600.00.
- LTC (Retired) Gordon Coulson, Chairman of the Committee to Honor American's veterans, Mr. Joe Koletor, from Winding River Veterans Organization, Mr. Bob Molloy, Sons of American Legionnaires Squadron 503, and Mr. and Mrs Leblanc were present as contributors and supporters of the donation to P.A.V.E..

2nd Vice Commander, Mike Fegan introduced Mrs Julia Montgomery's presentation representing Folds of Honor. Mrs. Montgomery shared her incredible story of trial and suffering resultant from serious wounds her husband had suffered in service of our country. Every member present was given a renewed energy and commitment to our work after hearing the heroic story presented by Mrs. Montgomery.

Mrs. Montgomery gratefully received our post's contribution to Folds of Honor in the amount of \$3,000.00.

MOTION; A motion was made, seconded and passed approving the General Membership Minutes of 21 DEC 16.

Doug Pratt presented the Finance Committee report.

MOTION: A motion was made seconded and passed to approve the amended budget for 2016-2017.

MOTION: A motion was made seconded and passed to create an endowment fund for the Richie Hat Trick Scholarship Fund.

Adjutant Pom Pomeroy presented the Membership Report. We stand at 160 members which is 97% of our goal of 165.

Commander Crowden presented our post's sick call.

- Jeff Crowden is recovering from ankle surgery
- Larry Cleary is struggling with a lung infectin
- Johnny Holmes is awaiting VA assistance for his heart condition.

Historian, John Muuss presented the media report. He was able to place 1 article in the Pilot, 3 in the star, 2 in the Beacon and 1 in Cat Tales for a total of 7 placements which is an excellent for the month of January.

Doug Pratt shared the great progress that is being made on the construction of our new web site.

MOTION: A motion was made, seconded and approved to eliminate the requirement that we have a 5-year professional outside audit of our financials. Don Cunningham presented the reasoning behind this change.

Commander Crowden presented Bill Nelson with his 30-year of continuous service pin. Commander Crowden also presented numerous American Legion Challenge coins to members of the post that had distinguished themselves through exceptional service to our post.

MOTION: The membership approved a recommendation to the North Carolina American Legion Department that a post must maintain 15 members in order to continue to hold a charter.

2nd Vice Commander Mike Fegan reported on the Oratorical Contest which was well attended by contestants, judges and audience. Mike also updated the membership as to preparations for the St. James Military Appreciation Day Concert and Golf Tournament. Planning is well under way for both.

Rob McKinley informed the membership that nominations are now open for officers and executive committee members of our post. He encouraged all members who are interested in serving to step up.

Commander Crowden again reviewed the reason for the budget revisions and creation of an Endowment for the Oratorical and Richie Hat Trick Scholarship funds.

Pom Pomeroy brought the membership up to date on a survey that is being prepared for the general membership. The survey's purpose is to better learn the preferences of our membership regarding our operating process.

District Commander Tom Ciniglia updated the membership on the recent District Meeting.

Paul Witmer brought the membership up to date as to the many projects that our Veteran's Service team has underway. Their work is truly meaningful in the lives of so many disadvantaged veterans in our community.

Chuck Blackburn shared the great progress the Americanism/National Defense effort has achieved concerning preparations for Boys and Girls State as well as the Trooper programs.

Dick Gudis explained the wonderful success he had with the Christmas shopping for the Wounded Warriors from Camp Lejeune. It is truly heartwarming to learn of the results of Dick's work and the financial contribution of our post to help these heroes.

Bill Morgan reported on the Military Honors that were performed for a veteran in Shallotte. The team did an excellent job.

Commander Crowden notified the membership that the next General Membership meeting will be on February 22, 2017 at the St. James Community Center. We will hear from an expert on PTSD. It should be very informative. Commander Crowden encouraged all the membership to attend.

Commander Crowden conducted the closing ceremony and remarks.

Chaplain Jimmy Perryman offered the closing prayer

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

The Color Guard retired the colors.

Commander Crowden adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.