



Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
National Security
Americanism
Children and Youth

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

General Membership Meeting of June 28, 2017

Commander Crowden Called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

The Color Guard Advanced the colors

Pom Pomeroy offered the opening prayer.

Mike Fegan covered the POW/MIA Chair.

Commander Crowden led the reading of the Preamble to our and Pledge of Allegiance.

Commander Crowden presided over the roll call of officers. Jimmy Perryman Absent

There were 40 members present constituting a quorum.

Commander Crowden introduced guests and visitors, Nelson Anderson, District Commander District 9, Vice Commander Dale Smith. Michael Rosen, Navy, Denny Wilhelm, Air Force.

MOTION: A motion was made seconded and passed to approve the March, April and May General Meeting minutes.

Commander Crowden presented Pom Pomeroy and Dan Bennett awards for achieving 172 members vs. a goal of 161 or 104.24% of goal. We were the only post in District nine with over 100 members to achieve our goal.

Doug Pratt presented the finance report. All accounts are in order

MOTION: A motion was made seconded and approved to add \$5,000 of the \$7,585 from the budget reserve to Veteran Support. We had increased our Planned Veteran support to \$13,900 at our April General Membership Meeting. The Executive Committee and Finance Committee would like the members to vote and approve this budgetary change.

MOTION: A motion was made seconded and approved to make contributions to the following charities. \$3,000.00 to the Wounded Warrior Project. \$2,000.00 to USO preferably to the Wilmington chapter. Step Up for Soldiers, \$1,000.00. Operation Comfort Warriors \$500.00. Fisher House, \$1,000.00. North State, \$1,500.00. \$500, Special Operations Warrior Foundation. \$500.00, Folds of Honor.

MOTION: A motion was made seconded to approve the expense current expenses for the on going operations of the post until the new budget is presented at the July meeting.

Commander Crowden discussed the Salute to Veterans which will be held on the 2nd of July

We will be participating in the Flag Retirement Ceremony on the 3d of July. Pom Pomeroy will be the speaker, and Ray Clemens will perform Taps.

Bill Morgan covered the 4th of July participation for the parade. We will have a float, jeep and color guard.

John Muuss gave the Media Report. We had 23 insertions, 9 Pilot, 4 Beacon, 5 Star, 4 Brunswick Magazine, and one in Cat Tales.

Commander Crowden presented our successes in awards and representation of various committees at the Department Meeting.

Rick Sessa offered the After Action Report for the SJMAD Concert. It was a great success. We had 500 attend and earned \$6,500. at the concert.

Bill Morgan gave the After Action Report for Memorial Day. We had over 300 in attendance. Our two speakers were both Air Force Chief Master Sergeants. It was a great success.

Mike Fegan gave us an update on the Golf Tournament. It is fully subscribed with 188 players. Neighborhood donations are still coming in at a good pace.

Tom Bednarczyk reported in the great increase in SJMAD shirt sales. We did much better than last year. Our new vendor did a great job for us at a good price.

Commander Crowden presented Dan Bennett with a challenge coin for making our membership goal. Paul Witmer was thanked for his work as service officer. He too was presented with a challenge coin.

Commander Crowden called on Rick Sessa to cover the procedures for membership renewal which will start at the July meeting.

Paul Witmer, Service Officer, presented the 4 situations they have been addressed in the last month. They have been extremely busy with multiple cases.

Commander reported on the Poppy Distribution at the Walmart on 28 May. \$1724.00 was raised.

Steve Muir updated us on the move and capabilities of the new VA Clinic in Shalotte. It is located in the old Novant Hospital quarters on Rte 17. It is a vast improvement over the former location. Steve shared the new legislation that President Trump signed. It will greatly improve the expense control, staff quality, and protection for whistle blowers.

Commander Crowden updated us on the use of Military Exchange Shopping as of Nov 11. You must register. 1-844-868-8672.

Commander Crowden shared that the 855-948-2311 is the new Military Hot Line.

There is a new address for annuitant pay in Indiana.

Commander Crowden thanked his wife, the ladies and the staff that helped him during his tenure.

Bill Morgan, Rick Sessa, Doug Pratt, Mike Fegan all received Legionnaire of The Year special recognition plaques for their unselfish dedication to the post.

Nelson Anderson, District Commander installed the new slate of officers.

Commander Nelson thank Commander Crowden for his outstanding service.

Commander Nelson charged Commander Fegan to maintain the high standards of The American Legion and our post.

Commander Nelson presented the new officers to the post.

Commander Fegan presented his remarks as new commander. Commander Fegan presented the three previous Past Commander with their Past Commander Hat Pins. Commander Fegan listed his process and focus for managing the post going forward.