



Post No. 216

Ernest F. Oldenburg Post #216, The American Legion, 510 West Commerce Road, Milford, MI 48381
www.milfordlegion216.org

Minutes of the December 15, 2009 General Membership Meeting

Commander Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, proper opening ceremonies were observed.

Chaplin Robert Janoska gave the opening prayer.

Roll Call of Officers

		Present	Excused	Absent
Commander	John Nelson	x		
Senior Vice Commander	Tony Puente	x		
Junior Vice Commander	Todd Herron		x	
Adjutant	Ike Eickholdt	x		
Finance Officer	Ron Nevorski	x		
Chaplain	Bob Janoska	x		
Historian	Robert Maxwell	x		
Sergeant –at-Arms	Skip Davison	x		
Exec. Committee	Mike Allen			x
Exec. Committee	Rich Chowaniec	x		
Exec. Committee	Joe Salvia		x	
Exec. Committee Aux	Sheila Maxwell	x		
Exec. Committee SAL	Mike McDonnell	x		

Motion was presented by Bob Janoska to accept the November 2009 regular meeting minutes upon corrections as required. Motion was seconded by: Robert Maxwell. Motion carried by voice vote.

Guests Introduced: Michael Genson – Post 225 potential transfer
Dennis Symes – Post 225 potential transfer
Tracy Golliday-Champagne – Pontiac Veterans Center

Reports of Officers:

Sr. Vice Commander: Tony Puente reported:

- Legion Baseball poker tournament Sunday was not successful. Future efforts to raise funds from poker will be done at a location that has an active clientele. Mike Genson is here to help.
- Boy Scouts took city trip last week to Chicago
- Citizenship class for some young scouts – flag folding etc. colored pictures for Legion.
- Boys Life Magazine, which is nationally sent to all scouts features Milford Troop 33 doing Ice Fishing at Lost Lake.

Jr. Vice Commander: No report

Finance Officer: Ron Nevorski presented the November 2009 report. Nevorski then made a motion that the report be accepted subject to future audit. Motion was supported by Bowman. Motion carried by voice vote. Report available upon request. In January, if we have money in account, put additional money on loan.

Discussion about bank charges and minimum balances. No change is contemplated, Nevorski recommends loan repayment well ahead of schedule as our line of credit has been reduced from \$60K to \$20K, so we have very little available credit.

Vets In Need is draining down account, now at \$1,600

Chaplains Report: Chaplain Janoska reported on the tragic death of Joe Valentino and his wife. Also reported on members who died in 2009:

- Herb Zachow
- Jerry Bollinger
- Bill Golden
- Glen Comstock
- Jimmy Jackson
- Craig Stevens
- Robert Ford
- Joe Valentine

Norm Tibs is having health problems – surgery in January 2010

Service Officer: With assist from Poppy fund, helped three families last and part of this month.

Historian: No report

Auxilliary: Continuing food baskets – five families – monetary donations., Kids Christmas Party went well.

SAL: New Years Eve Party – 31-DEC \$45.00 – food drinks, live band.

Committee Reports

Membership: Bruce Hayden made a motion to accept into membership in Post 216:

Keith Young	US Army	Vietnam	supported by John Robinson
Kerry Ventivolio	US Army	Persian Gulf	supported by Chuck Bowman
Dennis Richard Symes	USMC	Vietnam	supported by Rich Chowanec
Michael Anthony Genson	USAF	Vietnam	supported by Skip Davison

Motion to approve these new members was approved by voice vote.

Currently have 79.08% membership target

Ceremonial Unit: John Moore – one more session at GLNC on 28th – currently the team has rendered funeral honors to 90 veterans this year.

Latest was Roy Patterson – coldest day at GLNC so far. 3-10 on Dec-28th.

Honor Guard has had meetings and will now have meetings quarterly.

John Robinson reported that the Post 216 color guard led the Milford Christmas Parade.

Commander Nelson commented on the parade: many spectators did not show respect for the flag as the color guard passed. Remind people to stand as the flag passes. Adults need to lead the way.

Bob Janoska commented on the Veterans Day Ceremony – very impressed, many people happy with how the ceremony worked out.

Education & Scholarship: No report

Bingo: Month of November 2009 report given. Report available upon request – see Bruce Hayden. Bruce Hayden made a motion that the report be accepted subject to future audit. Support Davison, The motion was passed by voice vote.

Charitable Gaming Tickets: Bob Janoska reported that it is time to renew our service agreement – money required to service unit on ongoing basis – information available from Janoska upon request. Motion to spend \$400 on the service and warranty contract for club room ticket machine. Supported by John Moore. The motion passed by voice vote.

Clubroom:

Mike McDonnell presented the November 2009 Clubroom report. Problem with report, working with accountant to straighten this out. Will provide report next month.

A reminder, our liquor license allows us to have drinks only in club. Do not bring drinks upstairs

Legion Riders: No report

House: Tank has been painted before winter. Plans to have improved storage for our color guard flags in the storage room; Mike Genson is a plumbing contractor – offer to help with PVC
Commander Nelson asked about the surveillance cameras. Mike McDonnell responded that our surveillance folks are “fly by night”. Mike has a friend that is unemployed that could change some of this out. Waiting on the person to perform the work. Commander Nelson met someone recently who is in that business – will connect him with Mike McD.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commander: Secure storage for auxiliary equipment and supplies. Effort taken in last month – storage in furnace room – take a peek – great work. Took about one day with six people. Next effort will be the storage under the ramp. Discussion about flag storage, using PVC tubing on wall for flag storage.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bonnie: Detroit’s Greatest Generation – event on WDIV

Health Care Bill passed by nine votes – however you feel about it, this will cost a lot of money for FREE Health Care. This is our country, this is important.

Correspondence:

- Received a packet of letters to vets, written by Highland Middle School students.

Robert M: I can scan the letters for history

Various suggestions provided for the use of the letters to help vets.

GOOD OF THE LEGION:

Commander Nelson brought **Tracy Golliday-Champagne** forward to share information about the new Veterans Center in Pontiac. Provide counseling services to combat veterans. Located at 4200 Woodward Ave. Opened in September 2009. Providing PTSD Counseling, bereavement groups, family counseling, “We want to get the word out” – no need to go to Detroit. Services at the center are free to all combat vets, can also point toward the right people for whatever they need. Across from St Joseph Hospital – Lexus building.

Janoska: How many vets has the center handled so far. **Tracy:** So Far about 20. Seven vets in PTSD

Bonnie: If you have Detroit vetrs, what do the have to do to transfer **Tracy:** Just walk in.

Bonnie: Do you have service officers? **Tracy:** No but we are an entity of the VA, we are our own separate entity – you have to sign a release to provide information.

John R: Do you need a DD-214? **Tracy:** If you don't have paperwork we can help.

Bonnie: Do you do education services **Tracy:** No but we will point toward the right office.

Commander: Do you have a list of VSO's? **Tracy:** No **Commander:** We can help you get that information so you can tell the veterans who come to you that Veteran Service Groups exist and can help in many ways (American Legion, VFW, Marine Corps League, etc)

Bonnie: What about homeless vets. – Bonnie to provide her contact info to Tracy

Tracy: Detroit has this and we will point them to Detroit.

Bonnie: Are you licensed **Tracy:** Yes, we have various certifications and licenses.

John M: We should probably put the link on the post web site

Bonnie: Where does funding come from **Tracy:** We get it from VA

Motion by Bob Janoska to remove Mike Allen as an officer / Executive Committee member. Motion supported by Hayden. The motion passed by voice vote. Commander Nelson will make a nomination to fill the position in the next few months.

Chuck B: Lowes veterans discount is 12%, better than the other discounts available.

Rich C: I was just at Lowes, they asked for military ID card. I called the manager and he will educate his staff that vets do not have military ID cards.

John M: The Post 216 Legion has a Facebook presence

Maxwell: Is there a link from the Post 216 web page? **John M:** No but I will put one up.

Bonnie: John, you are doing a beautiful job.

Tony P: I was approached by Pack 52 and they are looking to adopt a family for Christmas.

Commander: If you are a village of Milford resident – Boil Your Water Notice read.

Commander: A request for collaboration in a fund raiser to benefit local veterans. This was discussed in Executive Committee today. Powerhouse Gym – eight people, 15 week weight loss challenge.

Ron N: I recommend that we put money in the “special account”

Commander: If this event is recurring, the group needs to apply for a 501c status.

Call for vote – Motion to partner with Powerhouse Gym – Ike Eickholdt - support Bob Janoska. The motion passed by voice vote.

Call for any further business...

There being no further business to come before the membership the meeting was adjourned at 21:09 with the proper closing ceremonies being observed.

Prepared and submitted by: Ike Eickholdt, Adjutant