



Post No. 216

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

Minutes of the February 16, 2010 General Membership Meeting

Commander Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, proper opening ceremonies were observed. Acting Chaplain Chuck Bowman 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	Rich Chowaniec	x		
Exec. Committee	Joe Salvia	x		
Exec. Committee Aux	Sheila Maxwell	x		
Exec. Committee SAL	Mike McDonnell	x		

Motion was presented by Ike Eickholdt to accept the January 2010 regular meeting minutes, subject to future corrections as required. Motion was seconded by: Todd Herron. Motion carried by voice vote.

Guests Introduced:

Warren Johnson

Alyssa Stevens, Milford HS, Post 216 Oratorical Contest Winner

Members who are attending the meeting for the first time were recognized: Henry Storm

Motion was presented by Skip Davison to suspend business to allow guest to present.

Motion was seconded by: Robert Maxwell. Motion carried by voice vote.

Commander Nelson invited Alyssa to share what she gained from the Oratorical Contest experience. A brief description of the contest was also given, then Commander Nelson presented Miss Stevens with a \$100 check

Motion to continue with the normal order of business made by Salvia, supported by Janoska. Motion carried by voice vote.

Reports of Officers:

Sr. Vice Commander: No report.

Jr. Vice Commander: No report

Finance Officer: Ron Nevorski gives the December and January Reports and moved for their acceptance, subject to future audit. Support: Herron; Motion carried by voice vote. Reports are available upon request.

Chaplains Report: No Report.

Service Officer: No Report.

Historian: No Report.

Auxiliary: President Maxwell shared that the Auxiliary is collecting coupons that will be sent to military members, who can use them in the commissary, or base/post exchange.

SAL: No report

Committee Reports

Membership: Tony Puente made a motion to accept into membership in Post 216:

Robert Loper (transfer from 557)	US Army	WWII	supported by Joe Salvia
Raymond Williams (transfer from 224)	US Navy	Vietnam	supported by Robert Maxwell
Jason Brown (Active Duty)	US Army	Persian Gulf	supported by Chuck Bowman

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

374 paid to date. 392 is goal.

Ceremonial Unit: John Moore reported the team conducted honors at four interments at GLNC, with weather cold as usual. Honors were also given to John Laidlaw in Oak Grove cemetery.

Bingo: Month of January 2010 report given. Report available upon request. Tony Puente made a motion that the report be accepted subject to future audit. Support Nevorski. The motion was passed by voice vote. \$3,000 turned over to post from the bingo team.

Charitable Gaming Tickets: Tony Puente gave the quarterly Charity Gaming Ticket report.

Clubroom:

Mike McDonnell presented the January 2010 Clubroom report and moved is approval. Report available upon request. Support Davison. Motion carries with voice vote.

For 2009, the clubroom remitted to the post a total of \$17,900.

Legion Riders: No report

House: House Chairman Ron Nevorski reported that the 75 gallon hot water blew the safety valve and needed to be replaced. Furnace room was flooded. Two SAL members installed the new hot water heater. Advanced Plumbing and Heating gave us a \$100 discount for the Legion. The job was completed in six hours – great job by everyone involved.

Commander Nelson commented that there is lots of skill and talent in this post, in all three parts of the Legion family. We should try and use the professional services of members of the legion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Fire Safety Education. Rich Chowanec – this is actually the Firehouse Committee – same folks that do the pancake committee – also stressed they already have a tax payer funded budget. Commander: The township will have less operational money this year. This post has taken a lead role in safety, kids on safety patrol as an example. Rober M: Also sponsored a program for physicals for sporting events, also CPR for life guards Commander: We will table for now but should discuss more Robert M: Post also had a say, back in the 50-‘s of stop sign placement, working with police force
- Request for use of hall, prior to 6:00 pm for training and testing of potential candidates, by U.S. Census. Salvia commented: I have a hard time believing they do not have any money for a facility with all the marketing they do. Commander: If they can't pay, they do not use the facility.
- Tony Puente requested approval to conduct 4 Texas Hold'Em Poker events to support Legion 216 baseball and other programs of the post. The poker events will be held at Card Sharks on Dixie Hwy in

Waterford. Anticipate proceeds of approximately \$16,000 for the 4 events. Discussion of Texas Hold'Em and operations at Card Sharks followed. Commander Nelson called for a motion to approve applying for 4 gaming licenses for events to be held in June 2010. Motion made by Robert Maxwell to approve \$800 for four gaming licenses. Support by Salvia. Discussion: License fee is \$50 per day, so each 4 day event requires a \$200 license, for a total of \$800 needed for the four licenses. If one of the events is focused on raising money for Legion Baseball, that will be enough for the year. The other three events' proceeds can be used for other programs and needs at the Post. Poker will be played from 4pm till 2am, and two members of the post need to be on site during the event to handle money and chips. Two shifts will be arranged for each day. One event could be used to pay down our building improvement loan; could use money to help local families of veterans; could use some money for the scholarship fund. Exact dates of the events will be shared at the March meeting. End of discussion. Motion passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

- John Moore shared that Wednesday February 17, Post 216 will be the location for honoring a WWII veteran, Jack Rayneart, who will receive a Bronze Star medal from Senator Levin. Time of the event is 4:30 pm; be there if you can make it. Michigan American Legion Commander Carney Jackson will be present, as will Channel 2 news.
- Bonnie Welbaum shared that National Office of PVA in D.C. received a gift in the amount of just under \$340,000 from the Edward Rose Real Estate Company. List of states eligible to receive up to \$20k for work on home etc. Call National Office for Edward Rose grant.
- PVA is working with Brain Injury, June 12th, Bass Masters are bringing nice bass boats to take younger active troops out for fishing. Bands, picnic, fishing contest, giant fish bowl, lots of other events. Is being hosted by Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI) and PVA.
- AMVETS 2006 has been using facilities here since 2006 and has seen phenomenal growth - at 72 members now. A few weeks ago, Commander Salvia presented a check for \$50 to help with Post overhead – THANK YOU to the AMVETS. Thanks for presence in the community to offer a place for ALL vets. This is the first of intended monthly contributions from the AMVETS of Huron Valley.
- If you are interested in a cruise to the Southern Caribbean with other local veterans, AMVETS Post 2006 is organizing a trip for next year. Details to follow.
- Commander Nelson shared that the 18th District will be considering a proposal to change its constitution and bylaws related to meeting frequency and meeting day/time. The 18th District has been meeting for many years on Friday evening at 8 pm – bad time on other side of county. Commander introduced a recommendation to modify the frequency and day and time – proposed at least six meetings instead of eleven. Change meeting date and time to the fourth Sunday at 2 pm. Commander Nelson called for a motion of support: Motion by Salvia, supported by Maxwell. Discussion: the meeting times and dates are currently 'painful'. A change is sure to result in a stronger turn-out. Some asked why Sunday afternoon. Commander Nelson shared that most American Legion Districts in Michigan meet on either Sunday afternoon or Saturday afternoon, either 4 or 6 times each year. The resolution is in reality a starting point for a discussion on this topic, but the weekend meeting time has worked for other locations in the state. End of discussion. Motion passed by voice vote. Commander Nelson will convey Post 216's position on this measure at the District meeting in April.
- The Post Executive Committee has been meeting on how to respond to resignation of Bruce Hayden from his positions as Bingo Chairman and Membership Chairman. Trying to divide the responsibilities to make it easier for folks to participate. Focus on recruiting Vietnam and younger. Thanks to Korean and WWII but it's our turn to pick up the torch and run with this. Look for more at the March meeting.

- American Legion Shooting Program: Todd Herron will make a full presentation at the next meeting. Commander Nelson shared that of the American Legion Children and Youth Programs, there are only two in which Post 216 is NOT currently active: the Shooting Program and School Medals program.
- Robert Maxwell made a motion that Post 216 sponsor 3 boys to Boys State for 2010: one from Milford HS, one from Lakeland HS, and one from International Academy West (that meets on the Lakeland campus). Supported by Welbaum. Discussion: the SAL will also sponsor 2 boys. If there is interest in inviting other groups and businesses in the community to sponsor a boy and/or a girl to attend Boys State / Girls State, then there will be more than 3, but Post 216 itself will sponsor from our budgeted money three boys. End of discussion. Motion passed.

GOOD OF THE LEGION:

- Joe Salvia: District is changing hours. Motion to support this post to change meeting time from 7:30 to something more like 7:00 or maybe earlier. Support by Robert Maxwell. Commander Nelson called for a motion to table action on this motion. Motion by Nevorski, supported by Maxwell. Motion carried. This will give sufficient time to canvass the membership regarding their wishes. Any change would not take effect until fall 2010.
- Commander Nelson shared that the coming weekend is the Michigan American Legion Mid-Winter Leadership conference. He will be attending.
- Commander Nelson shared that member Gerald Radtke has a relative deployed to Afghanistan from Fort Bragg, whose wife is making wrist bands from paracord. These are for sale and half the proceeds will be given to the Wounded Warrior project. If interested, see Commander Nelson.
- Post member Kerry Ventivolio is running for the office State Senator, for the seat currently held by Nancy Cassis. Kerry may come visit in the near future to share his views and intentions relative to issues important to veterans.
- Auxiliary President Maxwell shared that the Auxiliary is planning to have a benefit for a member of the post and his family – they lost all their belongings when they were stolen during a PCS move to Texas. Sheila moved that the hall be made available as a donation, at no cost for this benefit. Supported by Moore. Discussion: The name of the member is being withheld for the time being; his wife is in Texas, the Poppy fund has helped, but this newlywed couple had stolen from them their wedding gifts, appliances, clothes, etc. End of discussion. Motion passed by voice vote.

There being no further business to come before the membership the meeting was adjourned at 21:05 with the proper closing ceremonies being observed.

Prepared and submitted by: Ike Eickholdt, Adjutant