



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

Adjutant Notes – Regular Membership Meeting – Milford POST 216

Commander Puente called the meeting to order at 19:08 Tuesday 16-December-2014.

Opening Ceremonies observed.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Title	Name	Present	Excused	Absent
Commander	Tony Puente	X		
Senior Vice Commander	Norm Tibbs	X		
Junior Vice Commander	Bill Colegrove	X		
Adjutant	Dennis Dobransky	X		
Finance Officer	Ray Williams	X		
Chaplain	Tom Kemper	X		
Historian	Ed Merritt	X		
Sergeant-at-Arms	Matt Tibbs		X	
Exec. Committee	Paul Kolleda	X		
Exec. Committee	Rich Cherf		X	
Exec. Committee	Chris Cook	X		
Exec. Committee Aux	Cathy Merritt	X		
Exec. Committee SAL	Mike McDonnell	X		

Guests: Cathy Merritt, Auxiliary; Mike McDonnell, SAL; Butch Maxwell, SAL

Approval of Minutes: Review of Regular Membership minutes from 18 November 2014. Motion to accept by B. Hall, second by J. Salvia. Discussion - corrections needed noted by Dobransky. Voice vote passes.

Reports of Officers:

Sr. Vice Commander: N. Tibbs. No report.

Jr. Vice Commander: Colegrove. Thank you for helping out at the WWII veterans dinner, and donations by several local businesses. Amount spent for the dinner was \$219, and received \$34 back in gifts = \$185 net expense. For the children's Christmas party, we bought (50) \$10 gift certificates. There were (38) kids that showed up to the party. Donations of \$61 received, less cost of pizza \$60.42, so cash returned to Finance Officer of \$0.58. Job well done.

Finance Officer: Williams. For the period ended November 30, 2014, total income was \$27,226; cost of goods sold \$16,478; Gross Profit \$10,748; Expenses \$8,110; Net Income = \$2,638. YTD net loss = (\$2,979). Bank of America loan balance = \$3,692. General fund balance = \$6,210; and Special fund balance = \$5,559.



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Pending bills to December 31= \$46.49. Motion by Neff to accept the report pending any corrections, second by E. Merritt. Discussion: B. Hall asked total cost for the WWII dinner. Cost was \$519, but the Post received donations of \$534, so donations exceeded the total cost of the dinner. Voice vote passes.

Chaplain: T. Kemper. Mr. Caswell needs our prayers, as well as Ray Lapine.

Service Officer: No report.

Historian: E. Merritt. December 7 was Pearl Harbor day. Also, congress is moving to make December 14th a national holiday for Wreaths Across America. We also had a great turnout at Great Lakes National Cemetery places wreaths at the cemetery sites.

Adjutant: Dobransky. No report. Commander Puente advised membership of my being gone for (3) months, but that I will do some work remotely, such as the meeting minutes.

Auxiliary: Cathy Merritt. Planning an identity theft workshop at the Post on January 28 at 7:30pm. Also, still need 45 people to sign up to donate blood so the Red Cross, and sign-up sheet is in the Club Room. If we do not have 45 people to sign up, then the Red Cross will not provide services for a blood drive. Until and if we hit 45 people, a date has not been set for a blood drive. As an added incentive, the Post has (18) \$10 gift cards from Target to give to the first (18) volunteers to sign-up for the blood drive.

SAL: McDonnell. No report.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Kotas. Current paid membership for 2015 = 92% of goal set for December based on Department goal of 86% for December, so we are currently ahead of goal. Kotas will start making phone calls to members that have not yet paid for 2015.

New Member. Howard Christian, Navy, Vietnam. Motion to accept by Powers, second by E. Merritt. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Veterans Honors, Ceremonial:

Color Guard: No report, but we do need a Commander. Any requests for Color Guard have been given to AmVets.

Honor Guard: Chowaniec. Rendered honors for (5) veterans at Great Lakes National Cemetery the past month.

Poppy: Kolleda. No report. On November 10, members of the Post assisted to help a WWII veteran and a Vietnam veteran in moving their household items to storage after being evicted from their housing.

Honor Walk: Kolleda. Frank Serridge's honor walk brick has been picked up and is waiting on good weather to be installed. Commander Puente advised that he still needs to contact Independent Village in White Lake, and will arrange with Kolleda to bring applications to the veterans. T. Neff advises that Frank Serridge's estate is being probated by his office, and Frank's daughter Colleen wants the Post to know how much we are appreciated and how much the brick for her father is appreciated.



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Memorial Day Parade: Commander Puente advises he will be the chairperson, and has already started to assemble the parade committee, and will start to work on the parade after the 1st of the year.

Education and Scholarship: Davison. Has received inquiries from Lakeland and Milford high schools for scholarship information, so he will provide details to the two schools. Also, a letter will be provided to the recipients asking that they provide us with a student ID number or a letter of acceptance to a college showing the recipient is committed to a college before being tendered scholarship funds.

Bingo: McDonnell. November: Gross Bingo \$6,975; Gross tickets \$7,629; Ticket prizes \$5,833; Bingo prizes \$5,477; Gross Profit \$3,010. Deposits tickets \$1,796; Deposits Bingo \$1,228; Beginning check book balance \$857. Ending check book balance \$1,558; Bingo turned over \$1,200 to the Post. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second Nevorski. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Club Room: McDonnell. November: Income \$8,085. Cost of Goods Sold \$2,835; Gross Profit \$5,250; Expenses \$5,069. Net Income = \$181. The Club Room turned over \$1,000 to the Post. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Nevorski. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Charitable Gaming Tickets: McDonnell. Beginning checkbook balance \$287; Ending balance \$1,063. Gaming tickets turned over a check to the Post for \$800 for November. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Powers, second by Nevorski. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

American Legion Riders: Kolleda. Advised of a spaghetti dinner to be held on January 31, 2015, at a cost of \$7.50, with proceeds going to the Post, not the ALR. Also looking to do another chili cook-off some time in February.

House & Building: N. Tibbs. Had seal replaced on the Club Room door, with material donated by Milford Glass.

Scouts: Chris Cook. Advised that about 20 scouts marched in a Christmas parade. Also, increased membership by (11) scouts and (4) adults. Will be awarded a Journey to Excellence gold level, will be the 1st time the pack receives this award since 2011. Also, the pine wood derby is coming up on January 25. Lastly, a preliminary meeting with N. Tibbs to place a scout's shed in a back corner of the parking lot in the spring.

Executive Committee: Reviewed Executive Committee minutes for November 18, 2014. Motion to accept B. Hall, second by Kemper. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Unfinished Business: Dobransky. Advised membership of the proposed changes to the Post's Constitution and By-Laws voted upon at the May 2014 meeting were submitted to Department for review, and Department has suggested further changes mostly of a clean-up nature. We were concerned if this would require another mass mailing to membership, and another vote, so we approached Department with this issue, the answer being that since the suggested changes are only of a clean-up and update nature, another mass mailing is not required, as long as we post this info in the Post's website, the Post's electronic newsletter, and signs placed in the Club Room. Dobransky suggested the vote take place during the February 2015 membership meeting.



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Commander Puente agreed and asked that we post the notices as suggested by Department. Once we vote in February, we would then submit the updated Constitution and By-Laws back to Department for approval. Judge Advocate Neff concurs, and also submitted a couple of further changes related to this issue, to be incorporated into the revised documents prior to the vote in February.

New Business: Dobransky. Advised that at our November meeting there was conversation that centered around voting on a By-Law change (separate from what was discussed under Old Business) that would require a mass mailing to membership. This suggested change would impact the section in the By-Laws pertaining to dues paid for 30 years + members, with the thought being to eliminate this practice, as the Post is losing money on membership dues vs. making money. Also discussed about paying for Past Commanders, but this part is not in the By-Laws, so would not require a By-Law change to eliminate paying for Past Commanders. Commander Puente advised this issue would be placed as Old Business for January for further discussion.

- Dobransky advised the Finance Officer, R. Williams, would like to pay off the Bank of America loan by taking a loan from the ALR. R. Williams made a motion to borrow the money from the Milford ALR to pay off the loan, second by Neff. Discussion: The loan would be paid off to the ALR at an interest rate of 2% for (24) months at \$127.62 per month, with the principle amount being \$3,000. A promissory note has been prepared by Judge Advocate Neff, and reviewed by the ALR and the Finance Officer, and all are in agreement. Voice vote passes.

Good of the Legion: N. Tibbs. Letters of Appreciation provided to several entities for services provided to the Post.

- E. Merritt initiated discussions with the local high schools for Boys State program, as well as looking to go to local entities seeking donations toward this program. He also went to local fire and police departments for fire fighter and police persons of the year.
- Chowaniec made a motion to purchase an Army trench coat for Honor Guard member Mike Kotas, at a cost of \$103.60. Second by Kolleda. No discussion. Voice vote passes.
- Butch Maxwell, State Department Commander, SAL, advised his special project for the coming year is PTSD awareness. Advises the Wilwin Lodge does therapy sessions for PTSD groups. He will be doing a fund-raiser for Wilwin Lodge, and would like to use the Post's hall and liquor license for this fundraiser. Motion by Kolleda to allow use of the hall for this fundraiser, second by Powers. No further discussion. Voice Vote passes.
- B. Hall presented a check to the Post for use of the hall by the Huron Valley Special Olympics.

Closing: Commander Puente: There being no further business to come before the membership the meeting was adjourned at 20:20, with the proper closing ceremonies being observed.

The next meeting is 20 January, 2014, 19:00.

Prepared and submitted by: Dennis Dobransky, Adjutant

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Adjutant Notes – Executive Committee Meeting – Milford POST 216

Commander Puente canceled this meeting scheduled for 18:00 Tuesday 16-December-2014.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Title	Name	Present	Excused	Absent
Commander	Tony Puente		X	
Senior Vice Commander	Norm Tibbs		X	
Junior Vice Commander	Bill Colegrove		X	
Adjutant	Dennis Dobransky		X	
Finance Officer	Ray Williams		X	
Chaplain	Tom Kemper		X	
Historian	Ed Merritt		X	
Sergeant-at-Arms	Matt Tibbs		X	
Exec. Committee	Paul Kolleda		X	
Exec. Committee	Chris Cook		X	
Exec. Committee	Rich Cherf		X	
Exec. Committee Aux	Cathy Merritt		X	
Exec. Committee SAL	Mike McDonnell		X	

No Executive Committee meeting was held on December 16, 2014.

The next meeting is 20 January, 2014 at 18:00.

Prepared and submitted by: Dennis Dobransky, Adjutant