



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

Adjutant Notes – Regular General Membership Meeting – Milford POST 216

Commander Cherf called the meeting to order at 19:05 on Tuesday, 19-July-2016.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Title	Name	Present	Excused	Absent
Commander	Rich Cherf	X		
Senior Vice Commander	Ed Merritt	X		
Junior Vice Commander	Gary Dykstra		X	
Adjutant	Dennis Dobransky	X		
Finance Officer	Ray Williams	X		
Chaplain	Tom Kemper		X	
Judge Advocate	Tom Neff	X		
Sergeant-at-Arms	Ron McCall	X		
Historian	Norm Tibbs	X		
Exec. Committee	John Robinson	X		
Exec. Committee	Bill Colegrove	X		
Exec. Committee	Joe Bishop	X		
Exec. Committee Aux	Cathy Merritt	X		
Exec. Committee SAL	Mike McDonnell	X		

Guests: Cathy Merritt, Auxiliary President; Mike McDonnell, SAL; Stephen Stevens, Commander, 18th District; Rodney Galbraith, 18th District; Ray Flum, 18th District; David Vernon; Hunter Barnes

Motion made by Neff to suspend the regular meeting for the purpose of hearing from an academic scholarship recipient, David Vernon, and have him receive his \$1,000 scholarship award check; also, to hear from a Boys State attendee, Hunter Barnes; also, to hold an Officer Installation ceremony for the incoming officers by the 18th District, second by Neff. No discussion. Voice vote passes. We welcomed David Vernon & Hunter Barnes, and both young men spoke in regards to their experiences. We then held the officer installation done by representatives from the 18th District. Motion Bryant to resume the regular membership meeting, second by Welbaum. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Approval of Minutes:

Review of Regular Membership meeting minutes from 21 June 2016. Motion to accept by Robinson, second by Colegrove. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Review of Executive Committee minutes from 12 July 2016. Motion to accept by Colegrove, second by N. Tibbs. No discussion. Voice vote passes.



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Reports of Officers:

Commander: Cherf. Advised that the raffle license has been approved and a mass mailing will be issued to the Legion and SAL. Per C. Merritt, the Auxiliary cannot commit to a mass mailing to their members without first asking their membership if they want to partake in this raffle, and this will be an agenda item at their next meeting in September.

Sr. Vice Commander: E. Merritt. Advised draft letters for welcoming new members and the other for soliciting transfer members from Post 225 (Lansing) are in the final stages of being completed. Dobransky advised he had fine-tuned the draft letters and the letters were read to membership. Also, for new members that attend a general membership meeting will be presented with a new member pin. Also, he is working on a new member kiosk to be placed on a table in the Club Room near the main entrance. that the Department of Michigan has a current paid membership of 70,364, and this is 85% of goal. District 18 has 9 of 23 posts at 100% of membership goals, with Post 216 being one of the 9. Commander Cherf asked that E. Merritt and Mike Kotas pursue a mass mailing to area Legion members that are not currently members of Post 216, but are part of Lansing, to have them transfer their membership to Post 216. A motion is made by Neff to allow up to \$300 to cover the cost of a mass mailing, second by McCall. Discussion: Bear Hall will assist with the mass mailing logistics. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

Jr. Vice Commander: Dykstra. Excused. Per N. Tibbs, the Post picnic is moving forward for August 6, at Camp Dearborn.

Finance Officer: Williams. For the month ended June 30, 2016, total income was \$36,091; Cost of Goods Sold \$21,564; Gross Profit \$14,527; Expenses \$18,939; Net Loss = (\$4,412). YTD net income = \$8,333. General Fund balance = \$29,800; Special (poppy) Fund balance = \$10,444. All June bills received to date have been paid. Approved but yet unpaid expenses include: Easter party \$200; Donated steak dinners \$100; Convention \$650; Mass mailing \$300; Legion raffle \$500. Also, despite anticipated heavy June expenses, that include the roof repairs, convention expenses, parade costs, and scholarships, our Consolidated Financial Statement, YTD net income, shows a positive balance of \$8,333. The 2016 Memorial Day parade financials ended up with an excess fund of \$2,332, more than offsetting the \$1,717 loss we incurred last year. Motion to accept the report subject to future audit by Neff, second by Bishop. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Chaplain: Kemper. Excused. No report.

Service Officer: N. Tibbs. No report.

Historian: N. Tibbs. No report.

Adjutant: Dobransky. Read thank you notes for our Honor Guard services at internments. Also, read a thank you letter from the Hartland Area Community Council for the wonderful fly-over during the Memorial Day parade, to include a donation check to help cover the cost of the fly-over for \$1,400. Also, a note of thanks and a donation of \$300 from South University in Novi for our Color Guard attendance at their graduation ceremony.



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Auxiliary: Cathy Merritt. At the Department convention, she was presented with 4 certificates; one being for Outstanding unit Children & Youth work, honorable mention; also, a Leadership Development award for members taking the basic Auxiliary course; also, citations for the best all-around platform, and other areas of recognition. Also, the Auxiliary has 3 members that sit on various Department committees. Also, 2 members that are officers of the 18th District. The next meeting is in September.

SAL: McDonnell. Golf outing is coming up on August 21, and steak nights are the 3rd Thursday of each month through September. Also, looking for a motion that the American Legion donate \$100 to sponsor a hole at the upcoming SAL golf outing. Motion by N. Tibbs, second by Colegrove to donate \$100 for this event. No discussion. Voice vote passes. Also, the SAL is now at over 100% membership; this is the first time in a few years.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Kotas. New Member: Robert Kulka, Army & US Coast Guard, Lebanon/Granada. Motion by Neff to accept the new member, second by Welbaum. No discussion. Voice vote passes. Also, has prepared 300 letters to solicit members to transfer to our Post that currently belong to Post 225, Lansing. Also, closed out 2016 with 115% membership.

Color Guard: Robinson. Attended an event on July 12 in Detroit honoring veterans, and the VA requested Post 216 to do the closing Color Guard ceremony, this being a high honor for our Post.

Honor Guard: Robinson for Chowaniec. Advised (9) internments were held this past month at Great Lakes National Cemetery.

Poppy: N. Tibbs. Advised a veteran is in need of help to pay his mortgage and is looking for \$15,000; Norm referred him to other organizations. Commander Cherf advised there were 10 people on the streets this year for the Poppy Fund drive that raised over \$3,100, and the top three were Ed Merritt, Bear Hall, and Bonnie Welbaum, job well done!!

Honor Walk: Dykstra. Excused, but 3 new bricks were received.

Memorial Day Parade: Salvia. Absent. No report.

Education and Scholarship: Davison. Absent. However, all scholarship recipients have been paid.

Boys State: E. Merritt. Advised there were 271 boys in attendance this year from around the state. Also 58 pints of blood were donated during Boys State. Also, Boys State is moving next year from Northwood University to Grand Valley State University.

Bingo: McDonnell. June 2016: Gross Bingo \$8,551; Gross tickets \$11,930; Ticket Prizes \$9,012; Bingo Prizes \$5,917; Gross Profit \$5,198; Deposit tickets \$2,918; Deposit Bingo \$2,254. Beginning check book balance \$2,334. Ending check book balance \$1,466. Bingo turned over a check to the Legion for \$3,000. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Robinson; second by Tibbs. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.



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Club Room: McDonnell. June 2016: Gross Income \$7,125. Cost of Goods Sold \$2,902; Gross Profit \$4,223; Expenses \$4,673. Net Loss = (\$450). Motion to accept pending any corrections by Colegrove, second by McCall. Discussion – why did we lose money this month? Business is down due to the summer months, but we had a good last month to help offset this month's loss. No further discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Charitable Gaming Tickets: McDonnell. June 2016: Beginning check book balance \$1,193. Ending check book balance \$1,016. Charitable gaming turned over a check to the Legion for \$1,000. Motion to accept pending any corrections by E. Merritt, second by Neff. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

American Legion Riders: McCall. The Riders have been active doing various rides, to include some plaque grab & run rides. Also, the Riders have, to date, in excess of \$6,500 to contribute toward the \$21,000 cost to renovate the Club Room bathrooms. Also, Ron is the chairperson for next year's legacy ride to start at our Post and end at the Department convention at Grand Blanc. The legacy ride receives donations toward the Legacy Fund that is used to assist children of KIA or 50% or more disabled veterans with the cost of a college education.

House & Building: N. Tibbs. Advised the roof has been repaired. Also, 1500 feet of cracks in the parking lot have been sealed. Also, solicited bids from 4 companies to repair the crumbling stucco on the building. Only 1 company has responded at a cost of \$5,850. This does not cover the cost of flashing that will also need to be done. T. Neff reviewed the bid and advises it has no mention of a warranty. A motion is made by N. Tibbs to accept the bid for \$5,850, plus added cost for flashing, so allow up to \$6,500 to cover the cost of the flashing, and subject to workmanship warranty, second by Oberg. General discussion centered on the timing of flashing work with the stucco work. Voice vote passes. Also, Tibbs advises the Milford Memories use of our parking lot at a cost of \$10 a car should bring into the Post about \$2,000, as we earned \$2,300 last year. McDonnell advises a motor on the A/C unit is going bad and needs a heating & cooling contractor to look at same. Also, per Ron McCall, the markings will be placed on the tank this coming Thursday. Also, the wheels on the canon will be raised off of the ground using a brace configuration.

Scouts: Chris Cook. Absent. No report

Old Business: Dobransky. No report. Neff advises he has completed letters needed and have delivered same to member Richard Russell, for his requested use of plot number 29, lot 12, at Oak Grove cemetery, and received Richard's signature. Neff will now deliver the letter, along with a separate letter authorizing the transfer of the site to Mr. Russell, to the Charter Township of Milford.

Dobransky advised the Post's annual financial audit has been completed without issue.

New Business: E. Merritt makes a motion to purchase 15 Legion membership pins from Flag & Emblem to be given to new members that attend a meeting. The cost is \$2.95 each plus shipping, so he would like to be allowed up to \$50 for the cost of the pins, second by Welbaum. No discussion. Voice vote passes.



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J. Bishop made a motion to display a charter document for the DAV that meets at the Post, second by Neff. Discussion: Commander Cherf advised since the Post charters are posted in the Club Room, he would prefer the DAV charter be posted in the hall. Some concerns raised about posting charters for other organizations at the Post, but this does support area veterans. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

Commander Cherf advised that Ron McCall has been appointed by Department Commander Money to the position of Alternate Member of the Department of Internal Affairs.

Good of the Legion: E. Merritt relayed information from the resolutions we voted upon for the Department convention. All resolutions passed, except the 2 that the Post did not pass will be voted upon at the fall conference, these include the resolution that all Post officers take and pass an American Legion class prior to taking office. Also, Michigan did not make its membership goals by 200 members. Also, a donation from one Post for \$15,000 was presented at the convention to be given to Wilwin Lodge to help build cabins. Also, Department officer elections were held, and the new Department Commander is Larry Money. Also, the Legacy ride earned over \$5,000 in donations, and a check was presented to the State Commander for this fund for \$10,000.

Closing: Commander Cherf: There being no further business to come before the membership the meeting was adjourned at 21:15, with the proper closing ceremonies being observed.

The next meeting is 16 August, 2016, 19:00.

Prepared and submitted by: Dennis Dobransky, Adjutant



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ROLLING MINUTES (Used to capture significant agreements and/or votes of a permanent nature unless later eliminated or changed by membership or the Executive Committee as is allowed). This document will form a part of each monthly meeting minutes to be used for quick reference as may be needed.

- The Post Commander is granted \$250 in discretionary expense spending per transaction. (From June 16, 2015, General Membership meeting minutes).
- Emergency expense funding, such as the breakdown of the building furnace or A/C unit. As long as the Club Room manager, or the building chairperson, contact the board to advise of the emergency situation, then the emergency funding will be authorized. This is different than say the cost to resurface the parking lot, which is not an emergency situation that would be presented to General Membership for review and approval. (From June 16, 2015, General Membership meeting minutes).
- A policy has been implemented that any person that financially obligates the Post for non-emergency related expenses, aside from the Commander's \$250 discretionary expense authorization, without the prior consent of the general membership, can be held personally liable for the expense. (From July 14, 2015, Executive Committee meeting minutes).
- The Executive Board decided the start date for new officers will assume office at the 1st Executive Board meeting following the election process. This will allow the incoming officers to coordinate with the departing officers the passing of the office. (From June 14, 2016, Executive Committee meeting minutes).
- The Executive Board decided in regards to the election vote process, tie breakers will be determined by a re-vote of present members, and the Post Commander will not cast a vote. (From June 14, 2016, Executive Committee meeting minutes).
- General membership voted to allow a listing of Legion member names in local publications designed to honor them for their service to our country, during such times as Memorial day and the 4th of July holidays. (From June 21, 2016, General Membership meeting minutes).