



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 Cherf called the meeting to order at 19:05 on Tuesday, 21-June-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; Alexis Wickham; Sheri Wickham; Hannah Wikley; Bear Hall

Motion made by Lloyd to suspend the regular meeting for the purpose of hearing from two academic scholarship recipients and have them receive their \$1,000 scholarship award checks, second by Neff. No discussion. Voice vote passes. We welcomed the two recipients, Alexis Wickham from Milford High School, and Hannah Wikley from Lakeland High School, and they read their essays to membership that earned them the scholarship awards, followed by us handing them their \$1,000 checks. Motion by Robinson to resume the regular membership meeting, second by Schimetz. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Approval of Minutes:

Review of Regular Membership meeting minutes from 17 May 2016. Motion to accept by Neff, second by Robinson. Discussion: Per Nevorski, the actual cost to repaint the tank came in under budget with an actual cost of \$644. No further discussion and no corrections. Voice vote passes.

Review of Executive Committee minutes from 14 June 2016. Motion to accept by Lloyd, second by Neff. Discussion: E. Merritt advised that the Adjutant needs to contact Steve Stregal from the Holly post to arrange for officer installation. E. Merritt also advised he cannot do the officer installation for Post 216 on behalf of the 18th District.



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Adjutant Dobransky will make contact with the 18th District to inquire about Post 216 having our officers installed at the July 19 General Membership meeting, in lieu of a formal 18th District ritual team installation. No further discussion and no corrections. Voice vote passes. (Adjutant Note: The (3) elected officers mentioned in the June 14 minutes presented their DD214's to the Adjutant, who then provided them to the membership chairperson, Mike Kotas, so all 2016-2017 elected officers now have on file proof of honorable military service as required by Department By-Laws).

Reports of Officers:

Commander: Cherf. Advised that the raffle license has been approved and obtained by/from the State of Michigan. The tickets are at the printing company now. 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. Advises 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. Advised the annual Post picnic is set for August 6 at Camp Dearborn. Also, he makes a motion to allow up to \$750 for the purchase of supplies for the picnic, second by Colegrove. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Finance Officer: Williams. For the month ended May 31, 2016, total income was \$38,686; Cost of Goods Sold \$21,010; Gross Profit \$17,676; Expenses \$13,438; Net Income = \$4,238. YTD net income = \$12,745. General Fund balance = \$31,480; Special (poppy) Fund balance = \$5,657. All May bills received to date have been paid. Also, although we ended the month of May with a healthy year-to-date net income of \$12,745, heavy anticipated June expenses has reduced this figure to \$1,996 as of today, such as parade related expenses, roof repair, and scholarships. Motion to accept the report subject to future audit by McCall, second by Neff. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Chaplain: Kemper. Keep Archie Noon in our continued prayers.

Service Officer: N. Tibbs agreed to be appointed as the Service Officer. No report.

Historian: N. Tibbs. No report.

Adjutant: Dobransky. Read a thank you note for our Color Guard visit on Memorial Day to the West Hickory nursing home. Read a note that the Holly area Veterans Resource Center had its grand opening yesterday. They provide veterans with information services. Also, read a letter from the Lakeland High Scholl principle for supporting the scholarship program. Also, read a letter from scholarship recipient, Alexis Wickham, thanking us for the \$1,000 scholarship award.

Auxiliary: Cathy Merritt. No report. Next Auxiliary 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.



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Committee Reports:

Membership: Kotas. New Member: Douglas Faull, Army, Vietnam. Member transfers: Leonard Benkosky, USAF, Lebanon/Granada. Motion by Neff to accept the new member and the transfer member, second by Davison. No discussion. Voice vote passes. Also, Post 216 has 443 members in good standing, with 422 paid members for 2016, including transfers. We are gaining on Royal Oak for total members, and Royal Oak is 1st in the District; Post 216 is 2nd.

Color Guard: Robinson. Conducted 2 activities, one at South University in Novi, and the other at Medi-Lodge next door. Will also participate in the Milford July 4 parade. Also, on July 12 there is a large 4-day event being held 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, as the VA could have selected any Post color guard to this event, and they selected Post 216's Color Guard.

Honor Guard: Robinson for Chowaniec. Advised (10) internments were held this past month at GLNC, plus (1) locally.

Poppy: N. Tibbs. The Poppy drive raised \$4,882.14, to be turned over to the Finance Officer. The mailing made up about half of this. The Legion's share of the mass mailing is \$94.50, to be paid to the Auxiliary. The bulk mailing cost was donated by Barb (Auxiliary) & Mike Leach (SAL). Thanks go out to all that supported this year's Poppy drive.

Honor Walk: Dykstra. Three new requests for bricks were received.

Memorial Day Parade: Salvia. Advised the parade was very successful, and thank you to all the participants.

Education and Scholarship: Davison. Presented checks today to the two 2016 scholarship recipients. Still waiting on David Vernon to come forward, who has stated he will now be at July's membership meeting, according to an email from Mr. Vernon to Adjutant Dobransky.

Boys State: E. Merritt. Advises there were (5) boys from the area that are attending Boy's State, with (4) being sponsored by Post (2 from Legion & 2 from SAL), and the other from the Oakland county Post. Also, attended an awards ceremony at Milford High School for that attendee.

Bingo: McDonnell. May 2016: Gross Bingo \$9,359; Gross tickets \$11,344; Ticket Prizes \$8,352; Bingo Prizes \$7,544; Gross Profit \$4,416; Deposit tickets \$2,992; Deposit Bingo \$1,415. Beginning check book balance \$2,251. Ending check book balance \$2,334. Bingo turned over a check to the Legion for \$3,000. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Lloyd; second by Neff. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Club Room: McDonnell. May 2016: Gross Income \$9,669. Cost of Goods Sold \$2,955; Gross Profit \$6,714; Expenses \$5,048. Net Income = \$1,666. The Club Room turned over a check to the Legion for \$500. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Colegrove. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Charitable Gaming Tickets: McDonnell. May 2016: Beginning check book balance \$1,148. Ending check book balance \$1,193. Charitable gaming turned over a check to the Legion for \$1,000. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Colegrove. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.



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American Legion Riders: McCall. The Riders attended an annual grab & run banquet, and at the Director's meeting at the banquet, it was voted and agreed upon that each Post's Riders group would donate \$50 toward the cost of the banquet to help reduce the cost of the host Post's banquet. Also, thoughts and prayers for Ralph Poel and John Schimetz due to recent medical concerns. Also, held a flag retirement ceremony that had the Riders retire 2,431 flags.

House & Building: N. Tibbs. Advised the roof has been repaired, but future repairs are likely. Also, has a company that can do hot tar crack repairs for \$1,500, and is the lowest of 3 bids. Motion by Colegrove to allow the \$1,500 for the crack repairs, second by Neff. Discussion: This would be a long-term repair. No further discussion. Voice vote passes. Also, he is looking into a company for repair to the buildings stucco that is falling apart.

Scouts: Chris Cook. Absent. Per Commander Cherf, a cement pad has been poured on property for a new shed, but the scouts have run into a financial situation, so the building of the shed has been delayed at this time.

Old Business: Dobransky. Nothing to report.

New Business: Commander Cherf advised there are two items for discussion from the Executive Board meeting minutes. The 1st relates to the request from Legion member, Rick Russell, to be donated the use of plot number 29, at Oak Grove cemetery. Judge Advocate Neff would draft up a letter to be sent to Mr. Russell, and to the Twp. Of Milford. Motion by Robinson to allow this plot use by Mr. Russell, second by Colegrove. Discussion: Dobransky advised the deed for the plot would not be transferred to Mr. Russell, only its use by Mr. Russell. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

Commander Cherf advised the Post received a bill from Past Commander Puente related to an annual children's Flag Day event, at a cost of \$146.25, teaching the children about flag etiquette. However, the projected cost for this event was not previously brought in front of membership, and membership was not given prior opportunity to vote on this event. A motion is made by N. Tibbs to allow for payment of the submitted expense, second by Colegrove. General discussion ensued as to why we should or should not allow for this payment. A hand vote ensued with (14) yes votes, and (5) nay votes. The expense will be reimbursed to Past Commander Puente with a copy of the running minutes being sent with the check noting no one is allowed to obligate the Post to any expense without prior approval.

Mike Kotas asked that in regards to Officer Elections, going forward, when individuals are running for office that they ensure they have proof of honorable service on file with the Post. Dobransky advised he can include this notation on any letters issued, and the sign-up sheet that gets posted in the Club Room, related to officer elections.

Mike Kotas was concerned about why the Post allowed a listing of membership names in a local publication without prior approval of membership. Commander Cherf advised this was part of the Memorial Day recognition, and included all area veterans, not just from Post 216, but also Amvets and the VFW. There was no personal information provided, only names of local veterans. A motion was made by Neff to allow this in the future, second by McCall. No discussion. Voice vote passes.



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Commander Cherf advised we are allowed to send up to (8) delegates to the upcoming Department convention. Only (2) members have volunteered to attend the convention from Post 216, being Ron McCall & Ed Merritt. McCall presented documents showing the projected cost could be as high as \$700 for lodging and mileage. His mileage calculation was based on \$0.55 per mile. This per mile rate was discussed, and it was agreed it should only be \$0.40 per mile. This drops the projection to less than \$650. Dobransky made a motion to allow up to \$650 per delegate for the cost to attend the convention on behalf of Post 216, second by McCall. Discussion per the above. Voice vote passes.

Commander Cherf advised of (17) resolutions to be voted upon by the delegates at the Department convention, and each of the resolutions were read to membership. All resolutions gained support of membership, by voice vote, except for the proposal all officers take & pass The American Legion Extension Institute course prior to taking office.

Good of the Legion: Nothing to report.

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

The next meeting is 19 July, 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).