



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, Tuesday 17-November-2015.

Opening Ceremonies observed.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Title	Name	Present	Excused	Absent
Commander	Rich Cherf	X		
Senior Vice Commander	John Schimetz	X		
Junior Vice Commander	Jerry Guest	X		
Adjutant	Dennis Dobransky	X		
Finance Officer	Ray Williams		X	
Chaplain	Tom Kemper		X	
Historian	Vacant			
Sergeant-at-Arms	Ed Merritt	X		
Exec. Committee	John Robinson	X		
Exec. Committee	Robert Matheson	X		
Exec. Committee	Sam Poel	X		
Exec. Committee Aux	Cathy Merritt	X		
Exec. Committee SAL	Mike McDonnell	X		

Guests: Cathy Merritt, Auxiliary President; Mike McDonnell, SAL; and Bear Hall

Approval of Minutes:

Review of Regular Membership meeting minutes from 20 October 2015. Motion to accept by Robinson, second by Poel. No corrections and no discussion. Voice vote passes.

Review of Executive Committee. Dobransky advised there are two sets of minutes to review, one from 20 October 2015, and the other from 10 November 2015. For the October minutes, motion to accept by Robinson, second by Matheson. No corrections and no discussion. Voice vote passes. For the November minutes, motion to accept by Matheson, second by Robinson. Corrections: N. Tibbs and J. Guest advises for the WWII dinner, the doors open at 4pm, dinner is at 5pm, and the Chiffon Sisters perform at 6pm. No further corrections or discussion. Voice vote passes.



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Reports of Officers:

Sr. Vice Commander: Schimetz. No report.

Jr. Vice Commander: Guest. Advised that a State Representative will be present at the WWII veteran's dinner with his wife, and that a lady from Miracle Quilts will be present and will give hand-made quilts to each WWII veteran in attendance at the dinner. All food for the dinner is lined up along with decorations. So far there will be about 15 veterans in attendance. Commander Cherf advised that Meijer donated a \$300 gift card toward the dinner, as well as \$100 each from six local businesses.

Finance Officer: Dobransky for Williams. For the period ended October 31, 2015, total income was \$38,819; Cost of Goods Sold \$27,047; Gross Profit \$11,771; Expenses \$10,173; Net Income = \$1,598. YTD net income \$16,041. General Fund balance = \$18,714; Special (poppy) Fund balance = \$7,095. All November bills received have been paid to date. Also, the Post is projecting upcoming liabilities of \$2,500 to include an un-yet paid \$1,000 awarded scholarship, pending the student coming to one of our meetings, and the upcoming raffle to pay out \$1,000. Motion to accept subject to future audit by Dobransky; second by Neff. Discussion: Neff asked for clarification on the upcoming insurance premium. Commander Cherf advises the premium is about \$6,000, but we only need to pay 25% for \$1,500, due soon, balance paid during 2016. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

Chaplain: T. Kemper. Excused. Commander Cherf advises Paul Lehr's cancer has returned, thoughts and prayers go out to Paul.

Service Officer: Reddeman. Absent. No report.

Historian: Vacant. No report.

Adjutant: Dobransky. Read a letter from the 18th District SAL requesting donations for an upcoming Christmas dinner they are cooking for about 100 homeless veterans at the Michigan Veterans Foundation in Detroit. The donations will be used to provide gift bags to the veterans at the dinner, and any donations are due by December 8. Motion by Neff to donate \$100 toward this event, second by Poel. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Read some letters from 1st grade students at Spring Mills Elementary, and 2nd grade students from Glengary Elementary thanking veterans for their service, with the letters being written related to Veterans Day. It was agreed that Bonnie Welbaum would write the students, and Dobransky would write a general letter to each of the two classes.

Auxiliary: Cathy Merritt. Advised a blood drive was held at the Post on November 4, collecting 29 pints. There were 10 walk-ins, plus 41 that had set up an appointment to donate blood. The kids Christmas party will be held at the Post on December 13, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. There are currently 28 kids signed up to attend. The Auxiliary is collecting any unwrapped toys that may be donated by Post members. Also, American Plastic Toys has been contacted by N. Tibbs and Colegrove for any donation of toys. Also, the Commanders Tour was on November 8, with a stop at our Post, and we had a good turnout for this tour – well done!



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SAL: McDonnell. Hamburger night every Thursday from 5-8pm. The annual SAL Christmas party is on December 5 at 2pm, and is open to all SAL and Legion members; food and drinks provided.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Kotas. Advised we currently have 458 members, with 426 that are active. 336 have already paid their 2016 dues. Department has set our goal at 75% by December 2, and we have already surpassed the goal. Also, we have had 2 more transfers from Department related to our membership drive, bringing total transfers to 23 from this drive event.

New Members: Bruce Litchfield, Navy, Persian Gulf. Also, David Kates, Air Force, Vietnam. Motion to accept both new members by Kotas; second by Matheson. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Color Guard: Robinson. Advised the Color Guard attended 15 events in the last couple of weeks. Will also attend the Milford Christmas parade on November 28.

Honor Guard: Chowaniec. Advised 11 internments were held at the Great Lakes National Cemetery.

Poppy: N. Tibbs. Received a couple of phone calls requesting assistance, but no further follow-ups from the persons calling after Norm requested a copy of their DD214's.

Honor Walk: Gary Dykstra. Advised 2 new bricks were added in the last couple of months.

Memorial Day Parade: Joe Salvia. Absent. No report.

Education and Scholarship: Davison. Absent. No report.

Boys State: E. Merritt. Advised that next week he will be making his 2nd visit to the local high schools. Ed has made a couple of meetings at the Highland Business League, and will be meeting at the Rotary Club, to raise funds to send six boys for next year, 2 from the Legion, 2 from SAL, and 2 from outside sources.

Bingo: McDonnell. October 2015: Gross Bingo \$11,242; Gross tickets \$13,018; Ticket Prizes \$9,695; Bingo Prizes \$9,023; Gross Profit \$5,163; Deposit tickets \$3,323. Deposit Bingo \$1,849. Beginning check book balance \$2,019. Ending check book balance \$1,579. Bingo turned over \$2,000 to the Post. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Robinson. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Club Room: McDonnell. October 2015: Gross Income \$8,351. Cost of Goods Sold \$3,073; Gross Profit \$5,278; Expenses \$5,357. Net Loss = (\$78). Club Room turned over a check to the Post for \$1,000. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Wellbaum. Discussion: Mike advises the net loss for the month due to taxes, such as workers comp, etc, became due this past month. No further discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Charitable Gaming Tickets: McDonnell. October 2015: Beginning check book balance \$1,415. Ending check book balance \$531. Charity Gaming turned over a check to the Post for \$1,000. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Kotas. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.



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American Legion Riders: Cherf. Advised bracelets still for sale, and sales to date have netted \$470 being applied to the restroom renovation fund. Also, the Riders sponsored a game night on the 1st Wednesday of the month that had 37 people attend. Will continue to host this event.

House & Building: N. Tibbs. Advised winterization to the building has been completed. Commander Cherf asked about a date to paint the hall, looking to January or February. Norm to check with Butch regarding days when there is nothing scheduled for the hall to accommodate days needed to paint the hall.

Scouts: Chris Cook. Advised there are 41 boys in Cub Scout pack 52. Over a dozen boys crossed over to Boy Scouts this past spring. Has been recruiting boys from Kurtz Elementary, as they lost their pack. Has a goal of 50 boys in pack 52. Had a successful popcorn sales campaign this past September. Will be marching in the Milford Christmas parade in November. Is planning on having the pack assist with the WWII veterans dinner on December 7. Working on having a shed built on site, and to renovate the trailer. General discussion centered on whether the cub scouts would be invited to the kids Christmas party, as the Executive Board had voted to not have them attend to help contain the cost of the party. N. Tibbs advised the Scouts are part of the Legion family. C. Merritt advised toys are being donated for the kids Christmas party, and the \$800 earmarked for the Christmas party will not all be spent, so why not include the cub scouts at the party? A motion made by Kotas to include the cub scouts at the kids Christmas party, second by Neff. Discussion: Varied comments about if the cub scouts are part of the Legion family, and how much they assist with certain events around the Post. Hand vote passes.

Old Business: The issue of a potential membership dues increase will be discussed and voted upon at the March 2016 membership meeting, as called for in the Post By-Laws. Dobransky will also include this subject in the annual mass mailing to membership regarding meeting dates and annual election of officers.

The Promissory Note related to the loan between the ALR and the Legion has not yet been signed off on, as the loan has been paid in full.

New Business: Commander Cherf was reviewing MyLegion.org, and there is a link related to “My Story”, and he is looking for members to share in our Post newsletter a story related to their military experience, such as from WWII and from Korea. If interested, present their story to C. Merritt for inclusion in the Post newsletter.

Also, still looking for a temporary Adjutant to fill in for Dobransky while he is in Florida for the winter. Scott Hungerford has tentatively agreed to fill in, but if there is any other interested person let Commander Cherf know. The work would include attending the meetings and recording same, and take notes and read correspondence. The recording would go to Dobransky who will still type the minutes remotely from Florida.

Also, Commander Cherf informed membership of a mid-term self-imposed report card covering several topics, showing the Post is moving in a positive direction, but he is always looking for input, suggestions and assistance.



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Good of the Legion: Bear Hall will work on having pizzas donated for the kids Christmas party. C. Merritt advises of Wreaths Across America to be held on December 12 at Great Lakes National Cemetery, with suggested arrival time of 10am. Dedication ceremony at noon. Last year there were about 3,000 people on site to lay the wreaths on all the grave sites, that took less than an hour to complete.

M. Kotas advised of a letter he received from the Commander of American Legion Holly Post 149, stating that Post's community center has started a veteran's assistance center, with a lot of people backing this organization, that will also have Service Officers present the 1st Tuesday of each month to assist veterans coming forward that are in need.

Closing: Commander Cherf: There being no further business to come before the membership the meeting was adjourned at 20:25, with the proper closing ceremonies being observed.

The next meeting is 15 December, 2015, 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).
- A policy has been implemented putting newly elected officers in place immediately following the general membership meeting held on the day of the annual election of officers. (From July 14, 2015, Executive Committee meeting minutes).