



## Post No. 216

Ernest F. Oldenburg Post #216, The American Legion, 510 West Commerce Road, Milford, MI 48381  
[www.milfordlegion216.org](http://www.milfordlegion216.org)

### Minutes of the November 18, 2008 General Membership Meeting

Commander Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the proper opening ceremonies being observed.

Chaplin Robert Janoska 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	Charles Hoobler	x		
Finance Officer	Ron Nevorski	x		
Chaplain	Bob Janoska	x		
Historian	Robert Maxwell	x		
Sergeant –at-Arms	Skip Davison	x		
Exec. Committee	Dennis Finkbeiner	x		
Exec. Committee	Jim Hunter	x		
Exec. Committee	Jack Winder		x	
Exec. Committee Aux	Linda Maxwell			x
Exec. Committee SAL	Mike McDonnell	x		

### **Minutes:**

Adjutant Hoobler presented the minutes of the October 2008 Membership Meeting. B. Janoska made a motion to accept the minutes. Second was Robert Maxwell. The motion passed.

### **Guests:**

Lori Grigg “For Better Independent Assistance Dogs”

### **Guest Presentations:**

A motion was made by B. Janoska to suspend the regular order of business to allow for guest presentations. Seconded by R. Chowaniec, and passed by voice vote.

- Lori Grigg presented Ditto, a Golden Retriever who is trained to assist the hearing impaired, and Henry – he is a Black Lab trained as an assistance dog to help the physically challenged. Lori and her business partner Beth Spanski trained assistance dogs in their Leslie MI business. Henry will be a door greeter at the Henry Ford Hospital starting in January 2009. Lori explained the Assistance Dog Training and the reason that they are a productive part of society and how they can assist those people who are in need of their services. Their goal is to train 20 dogs a year. In

this group will be dogs to assist GI's returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Lori and Beth are seeking assistance to support their not for profit organization.

A motion was made by B. Janoska to return to the regular order of business. Seconded by C. Hoobler, and passed by voice vote.

## **Report of Officers**

**Senior Vice Commander:** Tony Puento reported:

- **Flag Retirement:** BS Troop 33 assisted in the Flag Retirement on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 1000 flags were retired.
- **Baseball:** Practice has been ongoing for the past 2 weeks and the players are getting better with each session. The District Baseball Banquet to be held July 11<sup>th</sup> is going to be held at the Post. This should be a money making event for Post 216. The game will be held at 2:00PM and the banquet will start at 7:00PM that evening.

**Junior Vice Commander:** No Report.

**Finance Officer:** Ron Nevorski reported:

- The new bank for Post 216 "American Bank" has not provided a statement yet so there's no October 2008 Finance Report as of this meeting. He also reported that all of the bills for the month are paid and there is still money left in the bank.
- Mike McDonnell commented that Ron can download the monthly bank statement from the bank website on the internet.

**Chaplain:** Bob Janoska reported:

- Skip Davison is back with us raising trouble once again. Welcome back Skip.
- Commander Nelson reported that his Sister in Law passed away last Monday in the Chicago IL area.

**Historian:** Bob Maxwell reported:

- Veterans Day at Milford HS had 6 veterans from Post 216 + 2 AMVETS Members who attended. The veterans attended a Leadership Class, participated in a Flag Raising with the assistance of the school.
- Teacher Scott McGregor one of the American Legion Baseball Coaches as well as the school principal were in attendance.
- J. Salvia commented that we as veterans need to be there, and that we need a better showing at these types of events.

**Auxiliary:** No Report

**SAL:** Mike McDonnell reported:

- Hamburger Night is on Thursday. Help is needed. Please sign up in the kitchen.
- On December 6<sup>th</sup> the SAL will host their annual Christmas Party at Post 216. The party will start at 1:00PM and all SAL, Auxiliary and Legion Members are invited to attend.

## **Committee Reports**

**Service Officer:** Bruce Hayden reported:

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- The Legion, SAL and Auxiliary combined efforts to assist a veteran and family with food and gifts for Christmas.
- A request was received from the Red Hat Society for the name of a veteran to assist this Christmas. They were provided the name of this same veteran.

**Membership:**

- Bruce Hayden made a motion that the following applicants be approved for membership in Post 216:

Roger O. Bohn, USA, Vietnam - Support by C. Hoobler.  
 Donald G. Skinner, USN, Vietnam – Support by R. Maxwell.  
 Stephen J. Kielian, USA, WWII – Support by C. Bowman. Stephen is a Trf from Post 400 FL.  
 Andrew L. Matus, USAF, PG – Support by T. Herron.

- Bruce Hayden reported that the Post has a goal of 419 members for 2009 and currently has 310 paid members. We have obtained 12 new members this month. We are the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Post in 18<sup>th</sup> District and have the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest number of renewal or new members.

**Boys State:** No report.

**Ceremonial Committee:** Reported b Commander Nelson:

- Commander Nelson read a Certificate that was presented to the Post at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala for the Color Guard Services' it has provided.
- The Ceremonial Unit Honor Guard provided honors at 5 veterans at GLNC the end of October. They provided honors for a Navy veteran today and another is scheduled for Friday. On Veterans Day they were at the Highland Cemetery to provide honors.
- The Legion Blue Jacket is being replaced with an imported jacket that is not the same color as the one used now.

**Scholarship Committee:** No report.

**Honor Walk:** No report.

**Poppy Committee:** No report.

**Memorial Day Parade Committee:** No report

**Bingo:** Reported by Bruce Hayden:

- Bruce gave the October 2008 Bingo report. A check for \$2800.00 was remitted to the Post Finance Officer. Bruce made a motion that the report be accepted subject to future audit. Seconded by J. Salvia. The motion was passed by voice vote.

**Charitable Gaming Tickets:** No report.

**Clubroom:** Reported by Mike McDonnell:

- Mike gave the Clubroom Report for October 2008. A check for \$2000.00 was remitted to the Post Finance Officer. Mike made a motion that the report be accepted subject to future audit. Seconded by B. Mathison. The motion passed by voice vote.

- Mike reported that a member from the Wixom American Legion Post had requested permission to have a table in the back of the Clubroom on November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. He is licensed to buy and sell Gold. He has promised the Post 10% of his profits for the 2 days. A motion was presented by M. McDonnell to allow the table for the 2days 11:00AM – 5:00PM in the Clubroom. Second was R. Nevorski. The motion passed.

### **Legion Riders:**

- M. McDonnell reported that the Legion Riders have a new director. The past director Jack Olmstead moved to Virginia to accept a job there and has been replaced by Butch Maxwell.
- J. Nelson reported that the By-Laws are being reviewed and revised to update safety requirements for rides. The requirement for non-members to sign a waiver of liability and release emergency contact information.

### **House:**

- Reported by Tony Puente: A scout fell and broke his arm in 2 places and a finger on the retaining rock wall. The injuries are covered by the Boy Scouts Insurance Policy. R. Mathison recommended the possible use of Landscape Glue to secure the rocks. J. Nelson recommended consideration of possibly fencing the area off as place of honor rather than signs. It was also reported that during events at the Post children have been observed unsupervised climbing on the retaining walls, as well as the tank out front. M. McDonnell reported that the Contract for the Hall Rental has a liability release in it.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- **Thanksgiving Day Parade:** The parade starts at 10:00AM Nov 29<sup>th</sup>. A color guard is needed for the parade if you want to participate contact Commander Nelson.
- **American Ceremonial and Post Flag –** Bob Godwin reported that the flags are becoming unserviceable and need replacement.
- **Poinsettia Sales –** J. Salvia asked again about the Post supporting the HV State Bank Poinsettia Sales. A motion was presented by B. Janoska that the Post allows the display of the Poinsettia's in support of the Banks annual sale. Support was J. Salvia. The motion passed.

### **New Business:**

- **Correspondence:**
  - a) Adjutant Hoobler read correspondence from:
    - 1) Dave Feigley – Thank You card for the honors paid to his father by the Post Honor guard.
    - 2) Paralyzed Veterans of America – Thanking the Post for supporting the 2008 Salute to Veterans Gala by presenting the colors.
    - 3) First Church of the Nazarene – Inviting the membership to a 1940's Christmas Homecoming on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM.
- Bonnie Welbaum reported that Mark Kidd's dad wanted to join the Legion and AMVETS. Bonnie made a motion to place a photo of Mark Kidd who was a KIA 2 years ago and any close family member who is KIA on a memorial wall in the Post. Support was B. Hayden. Bonnie presented an amendment to the original motion to read any Active Duty Member who is KIA and any close family member. Support was C. Bowman. B. Janoska made a motion to table the motion and amendment. Commander Nelson tabled the original motion and amendment.
- Bonnie Welbaum reported on the Commanders Meeting in Grand Rapids. Points of interest were:
  1. Making halls accessible to disabled veterans a priority.
  2. Recommended allowance increase for travel to VA Hospitals.

3. October 22/23 Stand-down at the State Fair Grounds cost the VA Fund \$6,000.00.
4. The new director of Ft. Custer in Battle Creek was introduced.
5. The Assistant Director of GLNC was introduced.
6. 2 new centers are being planned for veterans with nerve and spinal cord injuries.

### **Good of the Legion:**

- **Veterans Day Legion and AMVETS:** J. Salvia reported that he provided information to the Milford Times and Oakland Press for their use. He does not know what will be posted.
- **Veterans Day:** Commander Nelson thanked all who participated, and reported that the event is growing.
- **Legions Children's Christmas Party:** Mike McDonnell reported that the Legion's Children Christmas Party would be held from 11:00AM – 1:00PM on December 7<sup>th</sup> in the Post upstairs hall. Sign-up is downstairs and the party is for children and grandchildren 12 years of age or under.

There being no more business to come before the membership the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM with the proper closing ceremonies being observed.

Prepared and submitted by.

Charles L. Hoobler  
Adjutant