



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

Adjutant Notes – Executive Committee Meeting – Milford POST 216

Commander Cherf called the meeting to order at 19:00 on Tuesday, 14-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: Mike Kotas

New Business: Commander Cherf welcomed the new officers. The Executive Board meetings are always an open forum, and we strive for a general consensus on discussed topics. Meetings will be held on a monthly flex basis, and Commander Cherf will send out an email to the board with a proposed meeting date monthly. The board is an administrative body that can create policy, but anything requiring a vote will be presented to General Membership, such as the spending of Post funds.

Commander Cherf asked if the new officers would like to have a formal installation from District. Based on general discussion, the consensus is we can have Ed Merritt being an 18th District officer, contact District to have someone from District's installation team do the installation at the July general membership meeting, or, being an 18th District officer, perhaps Ed can do the installation of behalf of the 18th District.

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.

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.



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The Memorial Day parade was reviewed and some general changes will occur for next year, such as color-coding the jeeps for ease of parking, assigning names to the various responsibilities, renting a couple of porta-johns for use in the parking lot, to reduce the number of people using the lavatories in the Post, and having a first-aid station established. Also, making sure all bills are paid related to the parade from the restricted parade funds. It would be acceptable to take any excess funds from the parade to pay down any deficit from the prior year's parade. Also, any parade donation solicitations will include a footnote that any excess funds will be earmarked for use by the Post as we deem necessary – this will be relayed to the Parade Committee for upcoming parades.

Discussed the upcoming Department convention and we are sending two delegates, Ron McCall and Ed Merritt. One of the votes to take place at the convention will be an increase of membership dues by Department; our delegates will be charged with voting on this topic based on how general membership decides at our June General Membership meeting.

We had a successful membership campaign this past year by mass mailing area Legion members that do not belong to Post 216, and for the \$200 cost of the mass mailing 200 to 300 letters, we had 27 Legion members transfer their membership to Post 216. It was agreed by the Executive Board we should do another mass mailing, with Senior Vice Ed Merritt being charged to head up this task, and assisted by Mike Kotas, membership chairperson. However, we will need to make a motion at the next General Membership meeting to request the funds needed to do another this mass mailing.

The area of the roof that was leaking has been repaired, but may only hold up for 3 years. The rest of the roof needs to be sealed, and SAL has been asked to take up this project and cost, in support of the Post.

Chairpersons and Committees. The House chairperson will be N. Tibbs, and his committee will include Bill Colegrove, Gary Dykstra, and Butch Maxwell. Bingo committee consists of Mike McDonnell, Commander Cherf, Ray Williams, John Schimetz, and Sam Poel, with an alternate being Gary Dykstra. Club Room committee consists of Mike McDonnell, Fred Morin, Ray Williams, and Commander Cherf.

An event was held in the hall, involving educating children in regards to the American flag, with a cost incurred of about \$150. This was not a pre-approved expenditure of funds, and the bills were simply submitted to the Post by the people hosting the event for reimbursement. A motion will be needed at the next General Membership meeting to vote on if the Post should reimburse for this expense.

The election results have been contested to the extent that (3) of the elected officers do not have proof of honorable service on file at the Post, and according to Department by-laws (read by Judge Advocate Neff at this meeting), within 30 days of the election all officers are required to submit to the Adjutant a copy of their DD214 to verify eligibility. The (3) elected officers will provide to the Adjutant proof of honorable service by the June 21, 2016, General Membership meeting.

Commander Cherf reviewed the twelve objectives he proposed for this past year, advising we met eleven of the twelve, with the one not being met is renovation of the Club Room lavatories. The Riders have \$6,500 set aside for this objective, that will cost about \$21,000, so this is an ongoing objective. Also, for the coming year's objectives, general repair and painting of the exterior of the building is being researched by N. Tibbs.



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We will again man the parking lot to rent it out during Milford Memories, as this was a successful fundraiser last year – of course volunteers will be needed to work this event. Tom Kemper is looking into repair of the canon wheels that are in danger of collapse. He has reached out to some contractors, but thus far not able to find someone willing to do the repair. It may be that we have to build a support bracket taking the weight of the canon off of its wheels; this will be pursued by Ron McCall. Also, looking for ideas to get veterans to visit the Post and support the Club Room, as this creates income for the Post.

We need another signee on the Bingo checks available in the absence of Ray Williams and Mike McDonnell. Gary Dykstra agreed to be this person. Ray will go with Gary to the bank to witness this signature process.

John Robinson advised that at the end of July every state holds an Olympics for the VA, and our state selected our Post's Honor Guard to represent Michigan, this is a high honor.

The Finance Committee consists of Dobransky, Williams and Kotas. A Post financial audit will be conducted, with a date of the audit to be determined promptly.

Old Business: It was agreed the House Chairperson has the final responsibility to ensure the hall is properly maintained, to include the hiring of bartenders for related hall events.

Adjutant Dobransky advised he researched both National and Department by-laws to ensure there are no conflict of interests if an Officer holds an office for the Legion, and is also an officer for another branch of the Post, such as the Sgt. at Arms also being Director for the Riders. The research found nothing in the mentioned by-laws that would prevent an officer of the Post from also being an officer of another branch within the Post.

Ray Williams indicated that one of the \$1,000 scholarship selectees from last year, David Vernon from Lakeland High School, still has not come in to a meeting to accept his money. However, Adjutant Dobransky received an email from David Vernon advising he will be at the June 21, 2016, General Membership meeting to read his essay and receive the \$1,000 scholarship award check.

N. Tibbs read an email from Rick Russell, a 37-year member of Post 216, an honorably discharged, 100% disabled Vietnam combat veteran, and requests plot number 29 at Oakgrove Cemetery for his personal use, and would like a letter from the Post authorizing this request. This will be presented to General Membership for a vote at the June 21, 2016, meeting.

The Post picnic will be held on August 6 at Camp Dearborn. Gary Dykstra will coordinate.

The meeting ended at 20:50. Date of the next meeting is yet to be determined.

Prepared and submitted by: Dennis Dobransky, Adjutant