



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 19:03, Tuesday 19-April-2016.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Review of Regular Membership meeting minutes from 16 February 2016. Motion to accept by N. Tibbs, second by Welbaum. No discussion and no corrections. Voice vote passes.

Executive Committee. There was not a meeting last month, so there are no minutes to review. Commander Cherf clarified that Tom Neff, being the Judge Advocate, and per the By-Laws of the Post, he is an officer of the Post; therefore, he is welcome to attend and be a part of Executive Committee meetings.

Reports of Officers:

Sr. Vice Commander: Schimetz. Excused. No report.

Jr. Vice Commander: Guest. Is looking to pick a date for the Post picnic at Camp Dearborn, likely one of the first two weeks in August. N. Tibbs advised he will make contact with his contact person at Camp Dearborn to arrange for a date in August, but not to conflict with the SAL golf outing that takes place later in August.



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Finance Officer: Williams. For the month ended March 31, 2016, total income was \$37,558; Cost of Goods Sold \$21,755; Gross Profit \$15,803; Expenses \$9,977; Net Income = \$5,074. YTD net income = \$5,074. General Fund balance = \$34,578; Special (poppy) Fund balance = \$5,607. All April bills received to date have been paid. Also, the Post is projecting upcoming liabilities of \$9,940 to include an un-yet paid \$1,000 awarded scholarship, \$2,000 for upcoming scholarships; \$325 for Legion baseball; \$200 for the kid's Easter party; \$3,365 for the roof repair; \$300 for poppy mailing; \$750 for tank painting; \$650 for Boy's State; and \$1,350 for parade expenses. The positive net income for March was a result of a successful fish fry that netted over \$2,500, Laffs at the Legion event that netted over \$1,000, and parade donations that are starting to flow into the Post. Motion to accept the report subject to future audit by Neff; second by Poel. No discussion, voice vote passes.

Chaplain: T. Kemper. The 18th District held a memorial service for Legion members that have passed in the past year, including six from our Post, as follows: Robert McDonnell; Thomas Hilter; George Devine; William Kercher; Arthur Needam; Donald Vadell. All names were read followed by a ring of the bell, and this was then followed by a poem read by the Chaplain honoring our fallen comrades. Commander Cherf asked that this be an annual memorial for our fallen comrades.

Service Officer: Reddeman/Dykstra. No report. Reddeman was absent.

Historian: Vacant. No report.

Adjutant: Dobransky. Read a letter of thanks from the Wilwin Lodge for our donation of \$250. Also, reminded membership that next month, on May 17, 2016, is officer elections.

Auxiliary: Cathy Merritt. No report.

SAL: McDonnell. The last burger night is May 19. The first steak night is May 26, and continue on the 3rd Thursday of each month through September.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Kotas. We currently have 472 members on the roster, with 442 that are in good standing. Of the 472 members, 413 have paid their 2016 dues, in excess of the 100% goal at this point in time.

New Member: Mathew Lasherook, active duty Army, and is deploying to Afghanistan.

Motion by Kotas to accept the new member, second by Hoobler. Discussion: As Mr. Lasherook is active duty, his membership dues are paid for by the Post. No further discussion. Voice vote passes. Commander Cherf asked how the new member welcome letter is coming along. At this time it has not been created. It was asked that Mike and the Sr. Vice Commander work on the letter for presentation to the Executive Board at their next meeting.

Color Guard: Robinson. Advised the Color Guard, in conjunction with the Honor Guard, held a rifle and flag ceremony at GLNC to honor all Vietnam era veterans, held on April 2.

Honor Guard: Robinson for Chowaniec. Advised 7 internments were held this past month at GLNC, plus 2 other funerals at local cemeteries.



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Poppy: N. Tibbs. The Poppy drive will be May 19, 20 and 21. Still need volunteers and there is a sign-up sheet in the Club Room. A mass mailing for this event is in the process.

Honor Walk: Gary Dykstra. No report.

Memorial Day Parade: Joe Salvia. Absent. Commander Cherf advised \$1,750 has been donated to the Post for the parade to date. A mass mailing was issued for this event at a cost of just over \$600.

Education and Scholarship: Skip Davison. Absent. Dobransky read an email received from Skip advising two recipients for this year's awards have been selected, one each from Milford and Lakeland high schools, and the awards will be presented at their honors night at both schools.

Commander Cherf will check with Skip to see if a committee had been formed to review the essay submissions before these two students were selected.

Boys State: E. Merritt. Has been in contact with both high schools and should be receiving their paperwork for the selected students this Friday. Also, the International Academy has called and advised they have two applicants, and sponsorship for these boys provided by the Optimus Club. Also, Ed will be attending an honors night at Lakeland high school in June, as the Boys State attendee from last year will be presented an award that night for the Boys State attendance.

Bingo: McDonnell. March 2016: Gross Bingo \$10,124; Gross tickets \$11,750; Ticket Prizes \$8,527; Bingo Prizes \$7,847; Gross Profit \$5,145; Deposit tickets \$3,223; Deposit Bingo \$1,927. Beginning check book balance \$1,617. Ending check book balance \$2,102. Bingo turned over a check to the Legion for \$3,000. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff; second by N. Tibbs. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Club Room: McDonnell. March 2016: Gross Income \$8,740. Cost of Goods Sold \$3,436; Gross Profit \$5,305; Expenses \$4,368. Net Income = \$937. The Club Room turned over a check to the Legion for \$1,000. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Lloyd. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Charitable Gaming Tickets: McDonnell. March 2016: Beginning check book balance \$662. Ending check book balance \$881. Charitable gaming turned over a check to the Legion for \$1,000. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Poel. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

American Legion Riders: Cherf. Riders held a chili cook-off, and also hosted a euchre night. On May 14 is Post outdoor clean-up to ready the Post for the parade. On June 12 will be the annual flag retirement to be held at the home of John & Claudia Schimetz. Also, Ron McCall has been elected as the 2016/2017 Director. No other officer changes have taken place.

House & Building: N. Tibbs. The flat roof repair work will be scheduled as soon as the weather permits. The mulch for the Post clean-up is being donated by J.W. Fields, and a letter of appreciation would be in order. The lights for the tank have been repaired by Pat Lloyd. Water Works has been scheduled for the end of the month to maintain the outdoor sprinkler system. A heating & cooling inspection has been scheduled for the A/C unit. Also, the video card for the security system is shot, and the system cannot record for our security. The cost of repairs to the system is quoted at \$700. N. Tibbs makes a motion to allow up to \$700 to repair the security system, second by Poel. No discussion. Voice vote passes.



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Scouts: Chris Cook. Absent. No report.

Old Business: A motion was made at a previous meeting by N. Tibbs to allow up to \$750 to paint the tank out front; second by E. Merritt, and the motion passed. This work is still to be completed.

New Business: Commander Cherf has received a request for our Post to participate in the July 4 parade. We need a reply, via email, as to how many Post members would like to march in the parade. The Adjutant will issue an email to members requesting a response. This may be a joint effort with the AmVets. The Riders and Color Guard will be part of the parade.

Commander Cherf advised we need to allocate \$125 for the purchase of flowers as part of the outdoor clean-up in preparation for the Memorial Day parade. Motion by Robinson to allow up to \$125 for the purchase of flowers, second by Welbaum. Discussion: Williams advised in the past the money has come out of the parade fund, and had budgeted \$100, but the actual cost was \$150. Commander Cherf says the parade money is a restricted fund used only for the cost of the parade; not for Post clean-up costs, but any excess money from the parade could then reimburse the Post for this type of expense. However, Tom Neff asked that the motion be canceled, as he is making a cash donation of \$150 for the cost of the flowers. Therefore, the motion to allow \$125 from the Post's general fund has been declined by voice nay votes, and the motion fails.

Dobransky advised that delegates to the June 2016 Department convention will need to be identified, as we can send up to 8 delegates based on the number of our members. Commander Cherf advised this will be part of May's meeting following the Officer elections, but anyone interested in attending should plan to be at next month's meeting.

Good of the Legion: Williams makes a motion for the bar manager to produce a certificate of appreciation to all the volunteers that participated in the fish fry that netted the Post over \$2,500, and on the certificate to include a \$10 steak dinner at the Post during one of the steak nights, second by Poel. Discussion: Mike McDonnell advised there were 7 or 8 volunteers that participated during the six weeks of the fish fry. Therefore, the maximum cost to the Post would be \$80. No other discussion. Voice vote passes.

Mike Kotas asked that member Merlin Feigley be brought up in front of membership. Merlin, a WWII Army veteran, was presented a Certificate of Continuous Membership, being a 70 year member of the American Legion and Post No. 216, issued by the National Commander. Congrats!!

N. Tibbs advised the Village of Milford purchased 1,440 flags for the area cemeteries, and on May 28 at 0800, the flags will be placed on grave sites at each cemetery by the Boy Scouts and any other volunteer.



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N. Tibbs advises the flags used to line Commerce Road have many with worn out poles. Some of the flags and poles need replacement at a cost of \$52.95 each set, and makes a motion to allow up to \$600 to purchase the replacements that are needed, second by Poel. Discussion: Do we fly the flags year round? No, only during the summer months. How long do the flags last? The current flags are at least 10 years old. T. Neff says he knows of a local company that may be able to replace the poles at a cost less than what has been presented, and Tom will look into this in the next couple of days, as it takes up to 3 weeks to order and receive the flag and pole sets, and they are needed by Memorial Day parade. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

Closing: Commander Cherf: There being no further business to come before the membership the meeting was adjourned at 20:30, with the proper closing ceremonies being observed.

The next meeting is 17 May, 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).
- 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).