

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 Puente called the meeting to order at 19:15 Tuesday 19-Feb-2013

Opening Ceremonies observed.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Title	Name	Present	Excused	Absent
Commander	Tony Puente	X		
Senior Vice Commander	Vacant	-	-	-
Junior Vice Commander	Phil Weitlauf	X		
Adjutant	Dennis Dobransky	X		
Finance Officer	Ray Williams		X	
Chaplin	Ed Merritt	X		
Historian	Vacant	-	-	-
Sergeant-at-Arms	Skip Davison		X	
Exec. Committee	Rich Chowaniec	X		
Exec. Committee	Don Reddeman	X		
Exec. Committee	Gary Dykstra			X
Exec. Committee Aux	Jody Dowd		X	
Exec. Committee SAL	Butch Maxwell	X		

Approval of Minutes: Review of Regular Membership minutes from 15 Jan, 2013. Motion by Reddeman to accept, Second by Merritt. No discussion, no corrections. Voice Vote passes. Review of Executive Committee Meeting minutes 15 Jan, 2013. Motion by Lloyd to accept, Second Moore. No discussion, no corrections. Voice Vote passes.

Guests Introduced: Mike McDonnell.

Reports of Officers:

Sr. Vice Commander: Vacant

Jr. Vice Commander: Weitlauf. There will be a K-9 Veteran's day activity on March 9 at 11:00. Various law enforcement and search & rescue K-9 operations will be present. K-9 Veteran Sgt. Meah will be laid to rest at the War Dogs Memorial site. Fox 2 News Ron Savage contacted Weitlauf and asked if we could assist with the burial. A full Honor Guard ceremony will take place in May. The burial is awaiting the arrival of the dog's handler coming home from active duty in Afghanistan.

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Financial Officer: Presented by Commander Puente in absence of Williams. Advised current Post revenue and expenses to date. See reports attached. Motion to accept Reddeman, Second Lloyd. Discussion: Dobransky advised that per Jody Dowd, the Aux will be paying \$487 for the cost of the children's Christmas party. Puente advises the Post is in financial crises. We need to cut costs and create revenue. General discussion involving various hall parties and fund raisers, but we need membership involvement and not always the same people. The current Fish Fry is a good example of a revenue source, and the Comedy night success that brought in \$650 net, but had limited member involvement. If we continue down this path the Post cannot survive. Need to get the word out to membership about various Post functions, like via email and the Website. Voice Vote passes.

Chaplain: Merritt. Since taking over position in 2012, there have been (16) deceased members, with (14) being Legion, (1) Aux and (1) SAL, and read their names. Discussed current members sick and recovering. February is the American Legion's birthday. Milford Post 88 years old. Also has a booklet regarding burial availability at Great Lakes National Cemetery. By January 1973 there were more than 56,000 U.S forces lost during Vietnam, and over 1,200 MIA's still not accounted for.

Service Officer: No Report

Historian: Vacant

Adjutant: Dobransky. Volunteered to email members regarding upcoming Post events, but needs email address lists.

Auxiliary: No Report

SAL: Maxwell. 18th District SAL has flag program for area schools, and over 500 flags have been donated.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Scott Hungerford. Membership payments received at 80% to date.

New Members to vote in:

- Samir George, Army, Vietnam. Motion: Reddeman, Second: Robinson. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.
- William Mukavetz, Army, Vietnam. Motion: Reddeman, Second: Lloyd. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Two more potential members, but waiting on DD214's.

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Veterans Honors, Ceremonial:

Color Guard: No Report

Honor Guard: Moore. On January 28, 2013, there were (5) burials at Great Lakes National Cemetery. On February 10, 2013, at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, there was a firing team and bugler for Joseph Kidd, father of Frank Kidd, a member. On February 11, 2013, there was a full military honor funeral for Ronald Mantela, life member. A \$250 donation from the family of Joseph Kidd was received by the Honor Guard. The Honor Guard is out there in any type of weather in support of our membership.

Poppy: No Report

Honor Walk: No Report

Memorial Day Parade: No Report

Education and Scholarship: No Report

Bingo: Puente advises that Dean Haden has stepped down as Bingo chair and he and Mike McDonnell have taken on the responsibility. McDonnell presented the Bingo report. Motion to accept Reddeman, Second Robinson. No discussion. Voice Vote Passes.

Club Room: Mike McDonnell discussed January 2013 results. See attached report. Motion to accept Lloyd, Second Reddeman. Discussion – Mike advises in 2007 the gross revenue to Legion was \$153,000, but 2012 was only \$103,000. Decreasing membership and activities and smoking ban appear to be main causes. Voice Vote passes.

Charitable Gaming Tickets: McDonnell advises a check for \$1,000 was issued to the Legion.

American Legion Riders: First meeting for March 11, 2013.

House & Building: Puente advises the courts are assigning community service people to the Post that can save us about \$500 to \$700 per month in expenses. Flag issues have been repaired. New outdoor lights to be installed by the tank. Parking lot lights need repair, but this will in turn increase the electric bill.

Executive Committee: No Report

Unfinished Business: No Report

New Business: Commander Puente advised that Membership Committee person, Scott Hungerford, is stepping down from the position due to personal reasons involving work and family. Scott will train his replacement, and we are now looking for a replacement.

Correspondence: Dobransky. No Report

Good of the Legion: Commander Puente advises damaged flags are donated by Holly. Damages to pole, etc., are at a cost. A discussion about creating a newsletter came up, and the cost to do so may be prohibitive.

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

Prepared and submitted by: Dennis Dobransky, Adjutant

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Adjutant Notes – Executive Committee Meeting – Milford POST 216

**Junior Vice Commander Weitlauf called the meeting to order at 18:17 Tuesday 19-Feb-2013
 Commander Puente arrived later during the meeting.**

Opening Ceremonies observed.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Title	Name	Present	Excused	Absent
Commander	Tony Puente	X		
Senior Vice Commander	Vacant	-	-	-
Junior Vice Commander	Phil Weitlauf	X		
Adjutant	Dennis Dobransky	X		
Finance Officer	Ray Williams		X	
Chaplin	Ed Merritt	X		
Historian	Vacant	-	-	-
Sergeant-at-Arms	Skip Davison		X	
Exec. Committee	Rich Chowaniec	X		
Exec. Committee	Don Reddeman	X		
Exec. Committee	Gary Dykstra			X
Exec. Committee Aux	Jody Dowd	X		
Exec. Committee SAL	Butch Maxwell	X		

No review of minutes from 15 Jan, 2013. Motion to move review to March meeting Chowaniec, Second Reddeman, Voice vote passes.

Agenda Items: None

Old Business: No Reports

New Business: Maxwell advises the Fish Fry from last Friday broke even, but this is due to supplies being purchased. Going forward he expects to see a profit for the Post.

Dobransky reviewed Financial report details for year-to-date results, combined results from Consolidated report = (\$300). Post needs revenue.

Dowd advised the Aux will cover the cost of the Children’s Christmas party.

Weitlauf inquired if the Club financial report included the cost of utilities. It does not, as it is included in the overall Post expenses.

General discussion by all regarding income vs. expenses. There were several Post improvements that ate into the Post funds, such as handicap ramps and A/C unit work. Discussion included possible income generator being fund raisers.

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There appears to be lack of general membership participation to help grow revenue. For example, the Howell Post generates interest by reaching out to all area Veteran's organizations that contribute to their Post revenue from hall rental fees, fish fry's, etc.

Commander Puente advised that Gary Dykstra has vacated his positions of Service Officer and Executive Committee Member. Also, we have (5) people available to us to provide over 600 hours of Court appointed community service. Dykstra gets paid \$600 to \$700 per month to clean and set up the hall, but we cannot afford to continue this expense when we have people available to us for free. But we cannot just remove Dykstra because of his Veteran's status. Although this matter to be reviewed further, the Post is in a financial crises situation. Puente will discuss with Davison and make a decision.

Commander Puente advised the Comedy night brought in \$880 less expenses for food and beverages for a net income to the Post of between \$500 to \$600.

Fish Fry's proposed to be continued until the Steak Fry nights begin in June.

Maxwell says he will help train the community service people to take over what Dykstra was doing by way of hall set up and cleaning, should Dykstra be relieved from those duties.

Closing: Commander Puente made motion to close Executive Committee meeting, Second Reddeman. Voice Vote Passes. There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee the meeting was adjourned at 18:58 with the proper closing ceremonies being observed. The next meeting is 19 March, 2013, 18:00.

Prepared and submitted by: Dennis Dobransky, Adjutant