



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 18-November-2014.**

**Opening Ceremonies observed.**

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Commander</b>	<b>Tony Puente</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Senior Vice Commander</b>	<b>Norm Tibbs</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Junior Vice Commander</b>	<b>Bill Colegrove</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Adjutant</b>	<b>Dennis Dobransky</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Finance Officer</b>	<b>Ray Williams</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Chaplain</b>	<b>Tom Kemper</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Ed Merritt</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	<b>Matt Tibbs</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Exec. Committee</b>	<b>Paul Kolleda</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Exec. Committee</b>	<b>Rich Cherf</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Exec. Committee</b>	<b>Chris Cook</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Exec. Committee Aux</b>	<b>Cathy Merritt</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Exec. Committee SAL</b>	<b>Mike McDonnell</b>	<b>X</b>		

Guests: Cathy Merritt, Auxiliary; Mike McDonnell, SAL

**Approval of Minutes:** Review of Regular Membership minutes from 21 October 2014. Motion to accept by N. Tibbs, second by Kolleda. No discussion, and corrections needed noted by Dobransky. Voice vote passes.

**Reports of Officers:**

**Sr. Vice Commander:** N. Tibbs. Advised the Commander's tour went very well and was well attended by Post members and officers. A big thank you to all from Commander Puente.

**Jr. Vice Commander:** Colegrove. No report.

**Finance Officer:** Williams. For the period ended October 31, 2014, total income was \$36,049; cost of goods sold \$25,103; Gross Profit \$10,945; Expenses \$12,970; Net Loss = (\$2,024). YTD net loss = (\$6,463). Bank of America loan balance = \$3,692. General fund balance = \$6,210; and Special fund balance = \$5,459. Pending bills to November 30 = \$12.70. Motion by Neff to accept the report pending any corrections, second by Kolleda. Discussion: N. Tibbs asked why a net loss for the month. There are multiple reasons, but mostly due to higher than usual expenses, so we need to find a way to control expenses, such as looking at what we pay our various vendors that provide services and supplies. Voice vote passes.



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**Chaplain:** T. Kemper. Advised that Don Reddeman is doing fine. Also, member Carl Curtis, Sr. passed away and our prayers go to his family.

**Service Officer:** No report.

**Historian:** E. Merritt. Advised the Marine Corps is now 239 years old. Also, the Marine Corps ball in Howell, MI, was well attended.

**Adjutant:** Dobransky. Advised of correspondence from the White Lake's Business Owners Association asking for a \$50 membership renewal for 2014-2015. Motion by Neff to proceed with the \$50 payment, second by Colegrove. Discussion. While we had limited exposure from this association in getting the hall rented out, they do bring business to the Post by way of Laughs at the Legion in January or February, that brings in income of about \$1,600. This alone would be a good return on the \$50 investment. Neff says it is good to be advertised locally by this media. The Laughs at the Legion is booked at the Post for February 28, 2015. Also, donations come in from this event for the Wounded Warrior project. Voice vote passes.

**Auxiliary:** Cathy Merritt. Had a member donate a quilt that when provided to a veteran, their name can be stitched onto the quilt. Also would like to do a blood drive, but the Red Cross needs at least 45 people signed up to donate blood, so date not yet set. Also, working on setting up an identity theft workshop, a date is to be set at a later time. Lastly, the Kids Christmas party is set for December 14.

**SAL:** McDonnell. Advises hamburger night is each Thursday from 5-8pm, and the Legion gets part of the profit, last month was \$104 to the Post. Also, December 6 is the SAL & Legion Christmas party at 1:00pm, paid for by the SAL.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Kotas. Current paid membership for 2015 = 289, and we are at 84% of goal set for December 8 of 75% based on Department goal of 343 paid members, so we are currently ahead of goal.

New Member. Matthew Holman, Navy, Gulf War. Motion to accept by E. Merritt, second by T. Neff. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

**Veterans Honors, Ceremonial:**

**Color Guard:** No report, but we do need a Commander.

**Honor Guard:** Chowaniec. Rendered honors for (9) veterans at Great Lakes National Cemetery the past month, plus (1) local service. Also, a big THANK YOU for lunches provided to the Honor Guard by the Auxiliary.

**Poppy:** Kolleda. On November 10, members of the Post assisted to help a WWII veteran and a Vietnam veteran in moving their household items to storage after being evicted from their housing.

**Honor Walk:** Kolleda. Frank Serridge's honor walk brick is ready for pick-up and will be displayed at the Post until it can be placed in the walk. Commander Puente advised that he had sold some bricks at Independent Village in White Lake, and will arrange with Kolleda to bring applications to the veterans.



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**Memorial Day Parade:** No report. Commander Puente advises we need a chairperson to come forward and volunteer for this important event.

**Education and Scholarship:** Davison. No report.

**Bingo:** McDonnell. October: Gross Bingo \$8,435; Gross tickets \$12,034; Ticket prizes \$9,003; Bingo prizes \$6,495; Gross Profit \$4,584. Deposits tickets \$3,031; Deposits Bingo \$1,550; Beginning check book balance \$1,962. Ending check book balance \$857; Bingo turned over \$2,900 to the Post. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Colegrove. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

**Club Room:** McDonnell. October: Income \$10,297. Cost of Goods Sold \$3,938; Gross Profit \$6,359; Expenses \$5,942. Net Income = \$415. Also, in October certain expenses are paid that are higher than normal, but we still had a good October due to special events held during the month. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Colegrove. Discussion: Cherf advises that the cost of beer on football Sundays has been increased from \$1.25 to \$1.75 per bottle, still a good deal. Voice Vote passes.

**Charitable Gaming Tickets:** McDonnell. Beginning checkbook balance \$199; Ending balance \$287. Gaming tickets turned over a check to the Post for \$1,000. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Nevorski. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

**American Legion Riders:** Kolleda. Advised of November 1 \$500 raffle drawing won by a Dearborn Post member. Also, chili cook-off held on November 1 went well. Bathroom fund is now in excess of \$4,000. Also, \$90 donated to the Post. Bar made about \$500 during the chili cook-off night.

**House & Building:** N. Tibbs. Advised the furnaces have been cleaned. New dumpster company has been obtained at a lower cost. Milford Redi-mix donated cement to pour into the parking lot sink hole. Also, looking to lower cost of supplies and mats by changing from Cintas to another supplier, this is under review, as there is a contract involved.

**Scouts:** Chris Cook. Cub Scouts had a great popcorn sales event selling over \$19,000 based on a goal of \$15,000. This is a 63% increase over the prior year. Also, turned over 1,400 pieces of food to Community Sharing.

**Executive Committee:** Reviewed Executive Committee minutes for October 21, 2014. Motion to accept E. Merritt, second Nevorski. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

**Unfinished Business:** Dobransky. No report.



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**New Business:** E. Merritt. Advised that on December 13 will be held Wreaths Across America, and is looking for a good turnout from membership. Also, the Post does not have an Americanism chairperson, so he has made appointments to see the Police Chiefs for White Lake & Milford to identify an officer of the year, to be voted on the first part of February. Also, is visiting Milford & White Lake high schools to nominate the teachers that held Veterans Day events as teachers of the year. He is also meeting White Lake and Milford fire departments to identify a firefighter of the year.

**Good of the Legion:** Cherf: Would like to nominate R. Williams as the parade chairperson. Commander Puente advised this is an appointed position and will discuss with Williams after the meeting. Cherf: Advised the Post has limited funds that we can raise, and that membership has cost the Post \$436, much of this is due to paying membership fees for 30+ year members, involving about 50 members, many that are not even active in the Post. Suggested a By-Laws change, and Commander Puente asked that this be taken up as new business for December. Cherf: Has issues with the Post's financial statements, and is meeting this Thursday with our accountant, Judy, with Williams and Dobransky to get a clarification of the financial statements. The results of the meeting will be shared with the Post.

Dobransky advised that the Post has received food and cash donations for the upcoming WWII veteran's dinner at the Post, with the cash being \$500. With the cash donations, it may cover the total cost of the dinner, but with the cost of singers, it may not be enough. Would like to see the Post agree to cover any excess cost up to \$250. Motion by Cherf to allow up to \$250, if needed, second by Neff. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Williams advises of cost to maintain the Bank of America loan, to include \$150 per year to keep the line of credit open. The ALR has agreed to loan the balance of the loan to the Legion with minimal interest charged, to help the Post avoid paying the \$150 service fee, with the loan to be paid off by march 2015. It was agreed to table this as new business at the December meeting.

**Closing:** Commander Puente: 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 16 December, 2014, 19:00.**

Prepared and submitted by: Dennis Dobransky, Adjutant



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**Adjutant Notes – Executive Committee Meeting – Milford POST 216**

**Commander Puente called the meeting to order at 18:05 Tuesday 18-November-2014.**

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Title	Name	Present	Excused	Absent
Commander	Tony Puente	X		
Senior Vice Commander	Norm Tibbs	X		
Junior Vice Commander	Bill Colegrove	X		
Adjutant	Dennis Dobransky	X		
Finance Officer	Ray Williams	X		
Chaplain	Tom Kemper		X	
Historian	Ed Merritt	X		
Sergeant-at-Arms	Matt Tibbs	X		
Exec. Committee	Paul Kolleda	X		
Exec. Committee	Chris Cook	X		
Exec. Committee	Rich Cherf	X		
Exec. Committee Aux	Cathy Merritt	X		
Exec. Committee SAL	Mike McDonnell			X

**Approval of Minutes:** Review of Executive Committee minutes from 21 October 2014. Motion to accept by N. Tibbs, second by Colegrove. Discussion – corrections needed as noted by Dobransky. Voice vote passes.

**Old Business:** Commanders Tour was well attended by our Post. Job well done.

Possible membership drive in January. We currently are at 84% of goal for 2015, and this is ahead of goal for this point in time per Department goal requirements.

Kolleda advises the progressive card game, Queen of Hearts, requires \$2,600 in license fees for a year, based on \$50 per week for 52 weeks. Therefore, it has been decided to table this for possible future consideration, as the Post does not have \$2,600 up-front money for the licensing fee.

Colegrove advises there are currently (9) WWII veterans signed up for the upcoming December 7 WWII veteran dinner. General discussion ensued about expanding the number of veterans to be invited, and that we should look at holding the dinner in the hall vs. the Club Room. Butch Maxwell, in attendance during this meeting, advised that the hall is open on both Saturday, December 5 and Saturday, December 12, 2015. It was agreed to reserve December 5, 2015, for the WWII veterans dinner. Also, the Special Olympics event will be penciled in for use of the hall on December 12, 2015. The coordinator for the Special Olympics, Bear Hall, will be advised of same.



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Cost for the dinner will be about \$250, and cost of hiring singers is \$300, for a total cost of about \$550. Williams advised that we received a \$500 donation to be used toward this event. Motion by N. Tibbs, second by Colegrove, to allow up to \$250 in excess of the \$500 donation should the costs of this event exceed \$500. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

Dobranksy advised that veteran Mark Griswold has been reserved a burial site at Oak Grove Cemetery. Mr. Griswold has provided the Post with a donation check for \$500. There is no transfer of deed, only a notarized letter between the Post and Milford Township reserving site No. 28, section 12, to Mr. Griswold.

As a matter of record, Adjutant Dobranksy learned from Milford Township that we do not transfer deeds in the name of a veteran for use of sites in Oak Grove Cemetery. Rather, the deeds remain the property of the Post, and we simply reserve a site for a veteran that may request a site, following approval by the Executive Board, via a notarized letter between the Post and Milford Township. This is the procedure to follow going forward.

Dobranksy advised of a letter received from Department Assistant Judge Advocate, dated October 29, 2014, regarding our proposed changes to the Post Constitution and By-Laws, recommending certain changes to our proposed changes. It was agreed we would solicit further input from Department if we are required to do another mass mailing to membership before incorporating the suggested changes into what membership had already voted and agreed upon. Dobranksy will communicate with Department on this issue.

Williams, during the October meeting, brought up snow plowing service and cost. N. Tibbs to pursue this issue.

**New Business:** Williams advised Post membership cost the Post \$436 in 2014 based on what the Post members pay by way of membership dues less what the Post covers in membership dues for Past Commanders, bingo workers, active duty and 31-year members, to the extent membership is actually costing the Post rather than the Post making money on membership dues. Any change in what the Post covers by way of membership dues requires a By-Laws change. This will be reviewed further with membership.

Williams asked about a Memorial Day parade committee. Commander Puente advised we need a Parade chairperson and committee members to inform membership involving anything to do with the parade, and is requesting someone volunteer to be the Parade chairperson.

Williams suggested we renew the bulk mailing permit for \$200. Commander Puente asked Williams to research the cost benefit of renewing the permit.



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Motion to adjourn meeting by N. Tibbs, Second by M. Tibbs. Discussion. Churf asked about how will a Parade chairperson be appointed. By discussion in front of membership with the hope someone will step up and be the chairperson. Voice vote passes to adjourn with (1) nay vote. The meeting ended at 19:05.

**The next meeting is 16 December, 2014 at 18:00.**

Prepared and submitted by: Dennis Dobransky, Adjutant