



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 19:05, Tuesday 20-October-2015.

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; Bear Hall; Teresa Burke; Scott Rilett; Pam Rilett; Service Dog Howie; Travis Terwillegar; McKenzie Terwillegar; Taylor Terwillegar; Mike McDonnell, SAL

Motion by E. Merritt to suspend the regular meeting for the purpose of hearing from honored guests; second by Schimetz. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Guest Teresa Burke, mother of Boys State attendee, Brian Burke, read from a document prepared by Brian, his experience related to his attendance at Boys State (Brian could not be in attendance due to another commitment).

Guest Travis Terwillegar, attendee at Boys State, verbally advised his experience while attending Boys State.

A presentation of a check for \$3,053.72, to Scott & Pam Rilett, related to a recent fundraiser for the cost of a service dog being used by Corporal Joseph Ramieriz. The fundraiser was a joint veteran's organization effort, and was in large part successful through the assistance of a local business, Hector & Jimmy's.



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Motion by N. Tibbs to resume the regular meeting; second by Robinson. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Approval of Minutes:

Review of Regular Membership meeting minutes from 15 September 2015. Motion to accept by Robinson, second by Neff. Corrections: Under House & Building, Joe Salvia advises it is a cannon that was captured from the Japanese; not a tank. No further corrections and no discussion. Voice vote passes.

Review of Executive Committee. Dobransky advised there are no minutes to review at this time, as the meeting had just taken place prior to this general membership meeting. Will be available for review at the November meeting.

Reports of Officers:

Sr. Vice Commander: Schimetz. No report.

Jr. Vice Commander: Guest. Advised he is making contacts within the Post to move the WWII veteran's dinner forward, with the dinner scheduled for December 7.

Finance Officer: Williams. For the period ended September 30, 2015, total income was \$34,344; Cost of Goods Sold \$19,854; Gross Profit \$14,490; Expenses \$6,687; Net Income = \$7,802. YTD net income \$16,013. The ALR loan balance has been paid off in full. General Fund balance = \$18,714; Special (poppy) Fund balance = \$6,575. All October bills received have been paid to date. Our positive net income figure for September resulted from lower than normal expenses, and two significant donations: \$2,481 from the SAL related to their golf outing; and \$800 from the Knights of Columbus. Williams also informed membership that the Post is projecting upcoming liabilities of \$2,800 to include an un-yet paid \$1,000 awarded scholarship, pending the student coming to one of our meetings; the upcoming raffle to pay out \$1,000; and \$800 earmarked for the upcoming WWII veteran's dinner. Motion to accept subject to future audit by Robinson; second by Neff. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Chaplain: T. Kemper. No report.

Service Officer: Reddeman. Absent. No report.

Historian: Vacant. No report.

Adjutant: Dobransky. Read a small article from the Dispatch publication related to a historical photograph that E. Merritt presented to National as part of the Legion's centennial celebration, representing our Post's history from 1937, and his efforts resulted in the photograph with a narrative being published in the Dispatch. Job well done!!

Read a letter from the Highland White Lake Business Association requesting we renew our membership for 2016 at a cost of \$75, if renewed by November 30. This is a networking association in the local communities. Motion by Dobransky to continue with this association at a cost of \$75; second by Salvia. No discussion. Voice vote passes.



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Read an email from Joe McClellan, 18th District Adjutant, advising of a Buddy2Buddy volunteer veteran program, serving Naval reservists at Selfridge Air National Guard base, that have been supporting Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets given to these Naval reservists, to include clothing for their children. There are 25 reservists that this program is looking to help this year. To date there have been \$1,400 in donations, but they are in need of \$4,000 in donations to help make this event a reality. This is an 18th District endeavor and the 18th District is looking to District members for monetary donations to hit the \$4,000 goal. Motion by Dobransky to have the Post donate \$100 toward this cause; second by Matheson. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Read correspondence from the Veterans Health Care system advising free flu shots are available to enrolled veterans at any VA health care facility, or at any Walgreens. If getting a flu shot at Walgreens, you must provide a group code number. Information to be posted on the Club Room bulletin board.

Advised membership regarding the 18th District Commander's tour, to be held on November 8. They will stop at our Post at 11:00am, and lunch will be provided by our Post. Membership attendance in a show of support is encouraged.

Advised membership that during the National Convention in Baltimore, MD, it was voted upon to increase National dues by \$5, from \$13.50 to \$18.50, beginning in January 2016. Also, there is a probability that Department will vote to raise dues by \$5 during the Department convention in 2016, with the amount our Post submits to Department going from \$34.50 to \$39.50. In addition, we send \$1.00 to the 18th District. Our current regular membership dues is \$40. If Department does increase dues by \$5 in 2016, then after we send \$1.00 to District, our Post will be at a minus (\$0.50) for each \$40 membership paid. Department wants us to report any membership dues increase by December 4, 2015. However, per our Post By-Laws, we cannot vote upon a dues increase until our March 2016 meeting, unless we have a special meeting, that would require a mass mailing to membership informing membership of such meeting, but it is already too late to send out such a mailing due to the December 4 deadline imposed by Department. Therefore, when the Adjutant does his annual mass mailing related to Officer Elections and the dates of our monthly meetings, he will include information related to a vote to occur at the March 2016 meeting related to a potential membership dues increase.

Auxiliary: Cathy Merritt. Advised that the kids Halloween party was held this past Sunday with over 30 kids in attendance with a good for all. A blood drive will occur at the Post on November 4. Also, the kids Christmas party will be held at the Post on December 14, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Commander Cherf asked if a budget will be submitted for the cost of the party. The answer is that it is difficult to project without knowing how many will be in attendance. N. Tibbs entered a motion to allow up to \$800 toward the cost of the kids Christmas party, second by Neff. Discussion: Members only ask that the actual cost of the party be submitted with the appropriate invoices for review. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.



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SAL: McDonnell. Advised SAL donated \$140 for the cost of pumpkins for the kids Halloween party, to include pumpkins for Cub Scouts that were in attendance. Also, hamburger night is every Thursday from 5 to 8pm.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Kotas. Advised we currently have 452 members, with 419 that are active. 293 have already paid their 2016 dues. Department has set our goal at 348 paid members, so we are currently at 84% of goal. Also, our membership transfer campaign, soliciting members of Post 225 (Department), to transfer to Post 216, has netted us 21 transfers to date.

New Members: Thaddeus J. Sienkiewicz, Navy, Vietnam. Also, Wallace K. Clarke, Navy, Vietnam. Motion to accept both new members by Kotas; second by Robinson. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Color Guard: Robinson. Informed membership of multiple Veterans Day events that all are invited to attend. This will include a monument dedication that will occur at Central Park on Veterans Day. These various events are also noted on the Post's website.

Honor Guard: Schimetz for Chowaniec. Advised (10) internments were held at the Great Lakes National Cemetery. Also, Saturday, October 17, was the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Great Lakes National Cemetery. Multiple Honor Guards from around the state were in attendance, and each Post was presented with a plaque to be displayed in the Post.

Poppy: N. Tibbs. No report.

Honor Walk: Gary Dykstra. Absent. No report.

Memorial Day Parade: Joe Salvia. Advised he will start a committee formation in January, to include Finance Officer Williams.

Education and Scholarship: Davison. No report.

Boys State: E. Merritt. Has already approached both high schools and has spoken to the counselors regarding Boys State. Also, had two presentations at this meeting. He will also be meeting with the Optimus Club on November 4 to solicit funds to help send (2) more boys to Boys State than the usual (4) that the Legion and SAL have sent in the past, and will also meet with the Business League to request additional funds.

Bingo: McDonnell. September 2015: Gross Bingo \$8,233; Gross tickets \$11,200; Ticket Prizes \$8,318; Bingo Prizes \$6,673; Gross Profit \$4,052; Deposit tickets \$2,882. Deposit Bingo \$1,171. Beginning check book balance \$931. Ending check book balance \$2,019. Bingo turned over \$2,000 to the Post. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Robinson, second by Neff. No discussion. Voice Vote passes. Commander Cherf advised that for November & December volunteers are needed to work Bingo.

Club Room: McDonnell. September 2015: Gross Income \$7,486. Cost of Goods Sold \$2,191; Gross Profit \$5,295; Expenses \$3,469. Net Income = \$1,826. Club Room turned over a check to the Post for \$1,000. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Schimetz, second by Neff. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.



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Charitable Gaming Tickets: McDonnell. September 2015: Beginning check book balance \$1,175. Ending check book balance \$1,415. Charity Gaming turned over a check to the Post for \$1,000. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Robinson. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

American Legion Riders: Cherf. Hosted a spaghetti fundraiser dinner that netted \$100 to be applied to the bathroom renovation fund, that currently has a fund balance of \$5,100-. All monies raised by the ALR go back into the Post or a charity, and only spends money on a ham for the ALR Christmas party. The ALR is selling bracelets at a cost of \$5 with proceeds also going to the bathroom fund.

House & Building: N. Tibbs. Advised winterization to the sprinkler system has occurred, and all bushes and shrubs have been trimmed down. The heating system will be checked out in the next couple of days. Also, has made contact with the snow removal contractor, and prices will remain the same as last year. All the flags on poles have been replaced. Lights to illuminate the tank have been replaced and were donated by Pat Lloyd. New grease trap was installed in the kitchen. Also, miscellaneous work has been done over the past month, including cleaning of the floors. Painting of the hall will likely occur in January.

Scouts: Chris Cook. Absent. No report.

Old Business: Commander Cherf advises the WWII veterans dinner is moving forward, with Jr. Vice Guest heading up the activity. We also have discussed the Commander's tour, and potential membership dues increase.

New Business: Sam Poel suggested setting up a box for gifts of toys to be located in the Club Room for use at the kids Christmas party. It was suggested this be coordinated with the Auxiliary.

E. Merritt advised when he attended the Department conference, he obtained insurance information that provides coverage at no cost to members for injuries sustained while on Legion business and a lesser coverage for non-Legion business. He is still working to maintain our Post's history for inclusion on the Legion's centennial page, and is always looking for information members may have related to the Post's past history.

Robinson advised he received a request for use of the hall, on December 12, for a Special Olympics Christmas party, and makes a motion we donate the hall for this event, subject to a \$200 refundable deposit. The hall is already reserved for this event; second by Matheson. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Neff made a motion that the Post sign off on the Promissory Note that was put into place when the Post borrowed money from the ALR as a loan to pay off a bank loan, and the loan with the ALR has now been paid in full; second by Williams. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Salvia advises he will make a motion at the next AmVets meeting that they donate \$200 toward the cost of the Post's Christmas party. Also, in talking to various veterans, it was discussed it would be beneficial if the Post would like to host a social evening for veterans to attend, like on the 1st Wednesday of each month.



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Commander Cherf says since this is a Club Room related event this would be something we can support.

Williams advised two members attended the Department fall conference, and makes a motion to reimburse these members for mileage and hotel cost not to exceed \$200 per person; second by Poel. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Good of the Legion: Joe Bishop is looking to try to get a group chapter of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to have their meetings held at our Post, and so far has (14) members, but still needs to get (7) more applications before a chapter can be created. Once a chapter is created then he can open the chapter up for transfers.

Closing: Commander Cherf: There being no further business to come before the membership the meeting was adjourned at 20:40, with the proper closing ceremonies being observed.

The next meeting is 17 November, 2015, 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).