



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

Adjutant Notes – Regular General Membership Meeting – Milford POST 216

Commander Cherf called the meeting to order at 19:00 on Tuesday, 18-October-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: Cathy Merritt, Auxiliary President; Bear Hall; Mike McDonnell, SAL; Howard Ambinder

Motion to suspend regular meeting by E. Merritt, second by Kemper, for the purpose of hearing from guest, Howard Ambinder, from the Freedom Center. No discussion. Voice vote passes. Mr. Ambinder informed membership of a hospitality center, located at/in Metro Airport, a place for veterans and armed forces personnel and their family members to relax while at the airport. The Freedom Center is 100% donation based. Donations in the form of monetary or snacks are accepted. There are 2 locations at Metro Airport, and one each in Troy and Lansing, where the Troy and Lansing locations are geared toward new enlistee personnel and their family members. Motion by E. Merritt, second by Bishop, to reconvene the regular meeting. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Approval of Minutes:

Review of Regular Membership meeting minutes from 20 September 2016. Motion to accept by Bishop, second by E. Merritt. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Review of Executive Committee meeting minutes from 5 October 2016. Motion to accept by Neff, second by Davison. No discussion. Voice vote passes.



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Reports of Officers:

Commander: Cherf. Advised that the \$1,000 raffle is moving forward, and a mass mailing has been sent out to membership. Also, for Veteran's Day, November 11, he will be out of country and will rely on other officers to step up and take the lead.

Sr. Vice Commander: E. Merritt. Advised as of October 13, the Department membership stands at 60.18% of goal. The Department goal for 2017 is 68,507 members. Also, our zone (3rd zone) is at 61.78% of goal. District 18 is currently at 58.78% of goal. Post 216 goal for 2017 is 402 members, and we are at 255 paid, = 63.43% of goal. We are ahead of National's goal of 55% for this point in time. The goal for November is 65%.

Jr. Vice Commander: Dykstra. Excused. Commander Cherf advised the Highland Business Owners Association (HBOA) has submitted an invoice to the Legion for \$75 to continue as a member of the HBOA. The HBOA also arranges for the Laughs at the Legion, which is a fund raising event at the Post. Commander Cherf would like to entertain a motion to pay the invoice to continue our membership as part of the HBOA. Dobransky makes said motion, noting that the Laughs at the Legion typically raises \$1,000 for the Post's general fund. Second by Colegrove. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Commander Cherf also advises, related to the upcoming WWII dinner, we have received a \$400 gift card donation from Meijer, and that Bear Hall's area connections typically donate \$400. We also have 4 turkeys donated for the dinner. Commander Cherf also suggested we open the dinner up to Korean War veterans. After general discussion, it was agreed the dinner would be open to both WWII veterans, and Korean War veterans, with the invite to Korean War veterans be extended by word of mouth.

Finance Officer: Williams. For the month ended September 30, 2016, total income was \$38,988; Cost of Goods Sold \$26,954; Gross Profit \$12,034; Expenses \$9,820; Net Income = \$2,214. YTD net income = \$4,690. General Fund balance = \$28,045; Special (poppy) Fund balance = \$5,733. All September bills received to date have been paid. Approved but yet unpaid expenses include: Donated steak dinners \$100; Legion raffle \$1,000; Membership pins \$50; ALA Halloween Party \$200; Electrical repairs \$5,000; Fall conference \$600. Motion to accept the report subject to future audit by Neff, second by Nevorski. Discussion: Commander Cherf advises no one has come forward for the donated steak dinners, so this will be removed from the liability list. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

Chaplain: Kemper. No report.

Service Officer: N. Tibbs. No report.

Historian: N. Tibbs. No report.

Adjutant: Dobransky. Read correspondence from a group called Military Support Programs & Networks. It is a free program to help military and related spouses and family that will create locations in Southfield and Center Line. This group will assist people in adjusting to life in the military or post-military. Also, a letter from Dennis & Kathy Symes that typically donate to the Post, and ask that we no longer send them thank you cards, as they would prefer we save the stamps.



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Also, read correspondence from Barbara Maher, advising that a local Milford attorney, Steve Lebowski, will be holding his annual Christmas party at our hall on November 27, with all proceeds from this event going to Community Sharing, a non-profit organization that provides food for the less fortunate in the Milford & Highland communities. They would like us to waive the \$200 rental fee for use of the hall. Dobransky makes a motion we waive the \$200 hall rental fee, second by Colegrove. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Auxiliary: Cathy Merritt. Reminded members of the Halloween party that will be held on October 22, 7:00pm to midnight, and tickets are \$25 per person, and are available in the Club Room. There will be a live band, and food & beverages are included. Also, the kid's Halloween Party is to be held on October 30 at 3:00pm.

SAL: McDonnell. Advised hamburger nights are every Thursday. Also, the SAL & Legion Christmas party is on December 3, right after the SAL meeting at noon, so the party will start about 1:00pm. Also, the SAL is hosting a New Year's Eve Party with a live band – MARS band. Tickets are \$40 per person, with dinner provided. The proceeds from the dance will be shared between the Wilwin Lodge and for new chairs in the hall.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Kotas. (3) Transfer Member requests as follows: David Foss, USAF, Vietnam; Dennis Devaney, Navy, Vietnam; and Gerald Luczak, Navy, Vietnam. Motion by Bishop to accept the transfers, second by Cook. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Color Guard: Robinson. Excused. No report.

Honor Guard: Nevorski for Chowaniec. Advised (6) internments were held this past month at Great Lakes National Cemetery, plus (2) local internments.

Poppy: N. Tibbs. This past month we assisted one veteran with a leaking roof skylight for \$450. Williams advised we also paid \$500 for the cost of shipping 805 boxes to active military from the United Military Families organization.

Honor Walk: Dykstra. Excused. No report.

Memorial Day Parade: Salvia. Absent. No report.

Education and Scholarship: Davison. Has received scholarship requests from Milford High School. Their honors night is scheduled for May 24, 2017. Davison advises his committee will assist with the scholarship selection process.

Boys State: E. Merritt. Advised at the fall conference he learned that there will be a Boys State 80th Anniversary dinner in 2017 to be held in Lansing at the Crowne Plaza. Also, next month he will start going to the local High Schools to look for new boys to sponsor for 2017. Also, if other Posts do not participate in sponsoring Boys State, then the cost of \$325 per boy will need to be increased to help with the cost of putting on Boys State.



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Bingo: McDonnell. September 2016: Gross Bingo \$10,540; Gross tickets \$14,607; Ticket Prizes \$10,697; Bingo Prizes \$7,778; Gross Profit \$6,251; Deposit tickets \$3,910; Deposit Bingo \$2,341. Beginning check book balance \$1,707. Ending check book balance \$1,958. Bingo turned over a check to the Legion for \$2,500. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Tibbs; second by Neff. No discussion. Voice Vote passes. **Volunteers are always welcome to work Bingo.**

Club Room: McDonnell. September 2016: Gross Income \$9,225. Cost of Goods Sold \$2,654; Gross Profit \$6,571; Expenses \$4,881. Net Income = \$1,690. The club Room turned a check over to the Legion for \$500. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by E. Merritt. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Charitable Gaming Tickets: McDonnell. September 2016: Beginning check book balance \$840. Ending check book balance \$560. Charitable gaming turned over a check to the Legion for September in the amount of \$1,000. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Colegrove. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

American Legion Riders: Commander Cherf for McCall. Advised McCall is the chairperson for the 2017 Legacy ride, and the ride will kick off at Post 216, riding up to Ludington and the Wilwin Lodge, ending at the Department convention in Grand Blanc. Also, the Riders are hosting a euchre tournament on November 5, all interested are invited to participate.

House & Building: N. Tibbs. Advised the sprinkler system has been winterized. The heating & cooling contractor was on site and readied the system for the upcoming heating season. The electrical issue in the building is on hold pending an alternate plan and cost to repair same; the cost may come in at about \$5,000. Commander Cherf advises the tank markings and painting are complete. The materials for the canon are in and await installation to raise the wheels off of the ground. has an estimated cost of \$3,000 to \$4,000 to correct the electrical. DTE and the electrician are finalizing what is required, and bids are being pursued. Motion by Schimetz to allow up to \$5,000 toward this need, second by McCall. Discussion; Commander Cherf advises we have sufficient funds in the General Fund to cover this needed work. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

Publicity: Welbaum. Absent. Commander Cherf advises some articles have been printed in the local newspapers.

Scouts: Chris Cook. Advised the local pack membership is now up to 43 boys. Several activities occurred this past month. Advised the scouts will assist with Post clean-up activities in November. Also, the new storage shed is up and some shelves will be installed. Thank you to Legion members that helped with the shed's construction.

Old Business: Commander Cherf advised the fall raffle is moving along with money coming in. Also, free haircuts to occur at the Post on October 26, but be sure to sign up. Also, November 13 is the Commander's tour, with lunch stop at Post 216. Commander Cherf reminded membership of Veterans Day coming up on November 11.



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New Business: Commander Cherf advised he was contacted by DAR wanting to place a wreath at Central Park on Veterans day, and this is okay.

Williams advised that on October 22, the War Dog Memorial will be hosting a spaghetti dinner at the Duck Lake VFW hall, to help raise funds for the War Dog Memorial.

E. Merritt advises he is putting together a kiosk to be placed in the Club Room that helps explain the American Legion, and would help assist to introduce new members or potential members to the American Legion.

Good of the Legion: E. Merritt advises there are 6 new veteran group homes being proposed for Michigan, to be completed by 2022. The homes will be located around Michigan, and the homes will be built in 6 phases (some of the homes are already completed). Solicit our congressmen for the building of these homes.

Commander Cherf is still looking for articles from our members related to their experiences in the military for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.

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 15 November, 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).
- 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. (From June 14, 2016, Executive Committee meeting minutes).
- 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. (From June 14, 2016, Executive Committee meeting minutes).
- General membership voted to allow a listing of Legion member names in local publications designed to honor them for their service to our country, during such times as Memorial day and the 4th of July holidays. (From June 21, 2016, General Membership meeting minutes).