



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 19:00, Tuesday 15-September-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.

Approval of Minutes:

Review of Regular Membership meeting minutes from 18 August 2015. Motion to accept by Robinson, second by Poel. No corrections and no discussion. Voice vote passes.

Review of Executive Committee meeting minutes from 2 September 2015. Motion to accept by Robinson, second by Poel. Discussion: N. Tibbs advised under the Rolling Minutes he disagrees that AmVets is part of Club 216, as they are not a legal membership to the Post. Mike McDonnell stated that AmVets does not have the Post as an address for their meetings; therefore, they are not an authorized organization to utilize Club 216. It was concluded per the Michigan liquor laws, AmVets is not a bona fide member of the Post. Therefore, the reference to AmVets having membership at Club 216 will be stricken from the Rolling Minutes. AmVet members may utilize Club 216 only as a guest of a Post member. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.



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Reports of Officers:

Sr. Vice Commander: Schimetz. No report.

Jr. Vice Commander: Guest. Excused. No report.

Finance Officer: Williams. For the period ended August 31, 2015, total income was \$36,107; Cost of Goods Sold \$22,577; Gross Profit \$13,530; Expenses \$9,733; Net Income = \$3,797. YTD net income \$8,211. The ALR loan balance = \$336. General Fund balance = \$14,071; Special (poppy) Fund balance = \$6,565. All September bills received have been paid to date. Our positive net income figure for August is in large part the result of two sources of income: The Post earned \$2,316 by renting out parking spaces in our lot during Milford Memories. Also, \$1,200 received from the Hartland Area Community Council related to the Memorial Day parade flyover, thus reducing our 2015 parade cost loss to \$2,367. Williams also informed membership that the Post is projecting upcoming liabilities of \$1,500 to include an un-yet paid \$1,000 awarded scholarship, pending the student coming to one of our meetings. Motion to accept subject to future audit by Neff, second by Lloyd. Voice vote passes.

Chaplain: T. Kemper. No report.

Service Officer: Reddeman. Absent. No report.

Historian: Vacant. No report.

Adjutant: Dobransky. Read an invitation to attend a POW/MIA committee of Michigan recognition day ceremony at Oakland Hills cemetery on September 18. Flyer to placed in Club Room. Also, read letter from St. Patrick's church in White Lake informing membership of a fair to be held from September 24 to 27, all veterans invited to attend. Flyer to be posted in the Club Room. Also, read a letter from the national Flight Academy requesting a donation for their cause, or sponsor a student to attend the academy. No motion made for a donation or to be a sponsor.

Auxiliary: Cathy Merritt. Advised that the Auxiliary will be hosting a Halloween dance on October 17, cost of \$25 per person in advance and \$30 at the door. The event includes food, drinks and a band. Must be 21 or older to attend. Also, the children's Halloween party is scheduled for October 18. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Club Room. Also, the children's Christmas party will be held on December 13. Madam Merritt looking for the Post to continue to support the Halloween and Christmas parties via financial funding. General discussion ensued regarding what is defined as support for these events versus financial funding. T. Neff made an motion to financially support both the Halloween and Christmas parties, but we need to know the dollar amounts needed to fund these parties. Second by Lloyd. Discussion: Lloyd suggested we use last year's costs to use for this year's cost. E. Merritt advised there is also the children's Easter party to be funded. T. Neff made a motion to amend his first motion to include the Easter party. Second by Lloyd. Discussion: Williams spoke against the motions to just fund parties without knowing a budget amount for each party as the motions are just too general in nature. Robinson would like us to define "support". What is the amount being requested? Commander Cherf asked that Madam Merritt present a budget for each of the (3) parties and request funding based on submitted budgets for voting upon by General Membership.



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Madam Merritt advised it is very difficult to present a budget due to fluctuating attendance. The first motion is one of support via financial funding by providing an open check book. The amended motion is to include the Easter party, to include the need for a presented budget for each of the (3) parties versus just an open check book. The presented budget would then be presented to Membership for a vote to fund the parties. Voice vote passes for the amended motion. The first motion to include support financially without the use of a budget – voice vote fails.

Commander Cherf opened the floor to discuss the Halloween party. N. Tibbs made a motion to allow up to \$300 toward the cost of the children's Halloween party. Second by Dobransky. Discussion: Commander Cherf asked membership if anyone knows what it takes to raise \$300 for the Post? General comments ensued. Dobransky asked that we request all bills/expenses be presented for reimbursement following the party, and will be limited to \$300. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

SAL: McDonnell. Last steak night is September 17. Hamburger nights start October 1, and will be every Thursday through the 3rd Thursday in May, except Christmas and New Years. Also, pumpkins, corn stalks, and hay will be paid for by SAL for the Halloween party. The SAL golf outing was a huge success, and donated the funds raised to the American Legion in the amount of \$2,480.62, and presented a check to Williams.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Kotas. Advised the 2016 membership goal has been set at 348 members, and we currently have processed 246 renewals, for 70% of goal. Also, the transfer membership campaign, that has been in place now for only about a week, has had 12 transfers to our Post thus far.

New Members: Robert W. Rix, Army, Vietnam and Lebanon/Granada. Also, Edgar Trudeau, Army, Korea. Motion to accept both new members by Kotas; second by Robinson. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Color Guard: Robinson. Attended a 9-11 event at Muir Middle School. Also, did a joint VSO fundraiser event for Corporal Ramieriz to assist in raising funds toward the cost of a service dog for this veteran, and the event raised \$2,800. Also attended the Highland Heritage festival that was well received by the festival attendees.

Honor Guard: Robinson for Chowaniec. Advised (7) internments were held at the Great Lakes National Cemetery.

Poppy: N. Tibbs. No report.

Honor Walk: Gary Dykstra. Absent. No report.

Memorial Day Parade: Commander Cherf for Joe Salvia. Advised Joe has already lined up the jeeps for next parade, and is now working on the flyover aircraft.

Education and Scholarship: Davison. Absent. No report.

Boys State: E. Merritt. Advised he sent letters out to both applicants that were sponsored this past year by the Post, asking that they attend the October 20 meeting to provide a presentation related to their experience while attending Boys State.



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Bingo: McDonnell. August 2015: Gross Bingo \$7,988; Gross tickets \$10,200; Ticket Prizes \$7,579; Bingo Prizes \$5,733; Gross Profit \$4,514; Deposit tickets \$2,621. Deposit Bingo \$1,905. Beginning check book balance \$1,310. Ending check book balance \$931. Bingo turned over \$2,500 to the Post. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Robinson. No discussion. Voice Vote passes. Commander Cherf advised that for November & December volunteers are needed to work Bingo.

Club Room: McDonnell. August 2015: Gross Income \$8,448. Cost of Goods Sold \$2,865; Gross Profit \$5,584; Expenses \$5,554. Net Income = \$30. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Robinson, second by Poel. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Charitable Gaming Tickets: McDonnell. August 2015: Beginning check book balance \$1,095. Ending check book balance \$1,175. Charity Gaming turned over a check to the Post for \$500. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Neff, second by Robinson. Discussion: Dobransky asked how much was turned over to the Post for July. Answer: \$0. No further discussion. Voice Vote passes.

American Legion Riders: Cherf. A spaghetti fundraiser dinner to be held on October 10 in the Club Room, with proceeds to go toward the Club Room restroom renovations. Also, bracelets being sold at a cost of \$5 each with proceeds also for the restroom renovations.

House & Building: N. Tibbs. Advised winterization to occur next month. Also, the cannon in front of the Post is a captured Japanese cannon built in the 1940's. Commander Cherf suggested the money donated from the SAL golf outing be used toward the cost of painting the hall, with labor donated by Post members. Needs a budget for the cost of the paint for presentation at the next meeting. Williams suggested perhaps some window dressing to help the hall look better.

Scouts: Chris Cook. Absent. No report.

Old Business: N. Tibbs advised the Legion picnic start-up money was \$700. Expenses were \$500. Income included 50/50 for \$138; Bingo was \$95; the Wishing Well was \$190; returned items were \$20; left over beer and soda sold for \$66; for total income of \$509. Turned a check over to Finance Officer for \$708, for a net profit of \$8.

Commander Cherf advised at the last meeting a motion was made to cover the cost of the upcoming WWII veterans' dinner for \$500. However, this was only for the cost of the food. Need to have a motion made to amend this to include the cost of the singers. The cost of the singers, Per N. Tibbs, will be \$300. N. Tibbs motions to allow \$300 for the cost of the singers at the WWII veterans' dinner on December 7. This is in addition to the \$500 for the food already approved. Therefore, total cost will be \$800. Second by Lloyd. Discussion: Williams advised last year's total cost was \$500, but was all covered by donations. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

New Business: Robinson advised that Lansing is holding a Vietnam era veterans ceremony on the capitol lawn in a couple of weeks. Flyers are in the Club Room. Also, a bus from the YMCA will be going to this event to help with transportation.



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E. Merritt advised of a State of Michigan Commander's tour for the 18th District on November 8. Multiple officers will be in attendance from the Legion, SAL and Auxiliary. Motion by E. Merritt to provide support for this event, second by Poel. No discussion. Voice vote passes. E. Merritt makes a 2nd motion to donate toward the cost of transportation for the use of a bus in the amount of \$50, second by Dobransky. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

E. Merritt advised that the Post was also awarded a pin for 100% membership to be presented to the Commander.

E. Merritt advised he attended a District meeting and was informed at the National convention a vote passed for an increase of membership dues by \$5. Per commander Cherf, this will be held as an open item to be discussed at a future meeting. Per the Post By-Laws, dues may be increased during the March meeting by a vote from General Membership.

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. The DAV veterans are spread throughout our region, and are looking for a central location to hold their meetings. He is looking to see how many members are in the area to create a Chapter that can meet at the Post, if there are no objections. Joe will look further into this and report back so we can then make this an agenda item for the Executive Committee.

E. Merritt advised of the State Veterans Trust fund that has scholarship money set aside for use by veterans children for tuition costs, and Governor Snyder is looking to move the money into the general fund to be used for road repairs. We need to communicate our objections to our representatives. There is currently about \$50 million in this fund.

Closing: Commander Cherf: There being no further business to come before the membership the meeting was adjourned at 21:00, with the proper closing ceremonies being observed.

The next meeting is 20 October, 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).