



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, 20-September-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; Barb Stuterman, Auxiliary; Bear Hall; Butch Maxwell, SAL; Mike McDonnell, SAL; Bob Bosch

Approval of Minutes:

Review of Regular Membership meeting minutes from 16 August 2016. Motion to accept by Schimetz, second by Welbaum. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Review of Executive Committee – No meeting this past month, so no minutes to review.

Reports of Officers:

Commander: Cherf. Advised that the \$1,000 raffle is moving forward, and mass mailing will be sent out shortly. 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 September 15, the Department membership stands at 54.4% of goal. Also, our zone is at 54.63% of goal. Post 216 is at 56.47% of goal.



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Jr. Vice Commander: Dykstra. Advised the Highland Business Owners Association has contacted him about making arrangements for Laughs at the Legion, which has been an annual event at the Post over the last few years. This event does bring money into the Post. They are requesting use of the hall on February 25, 2017, and makes a motion to donate use of the hall to them for this event; second by N. Tibbs. Discussion: Robinson asked if we require the \$200 deposit for clean-up, Maxwell advised this is a joint venture with the Legion, so we waive the deposit requirement. Commander Cherf advised volunteers will be needed to assist the night of this event. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

Also, the contact at Camp Dearborn for our annual picnic is retiring, and this contact only invoices the Post for two pavilions at the price of one (2 for 1), and would like us to pay for next year's picnic now to lock in the 2 for 1 deal, so Gary makes a motion to allow \$100 for the payment, second by Schimetz. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Finance Officer: Williams. For the month ended August 31, 2016, total income was \$35,163; Cost of Goods Sold \$20,129; Gross Profit \$15,035; Expenses \$17,075; Net Loss = (\$2,040). YTD net income = \$2,260. General Fund balance = \$24,538; Special (poppy) Fund balance = \$6,133. All September bills received to date have been paid. Approved but yet unpaid expenses include: Easter party \$200; Donated steak dinners \$100; Legion raffle \$400; Membership pins \$50; Roof repair \$2,000; and Honor Guard supplies \$170. Also, this is the 3rd straight month of deficit spending that has decreased our General Fund balance by over \$10,000. However, the General Fund has been built up from a low of only \$2,729 in 2013 to its current balance of \$24,538, thus allowing us to take care of much needed building and property repairs. Motion to accept the report subject to future audit by Neff, second by Robinson. Discussion: Commander Cherf advises no one has come forward for the donated steak dinners, so this will be removed from the liability list. Also, he and Scott Hungerford were on the roof and made repairs as needed, so the \$2,000 allocated to roof repairs can be unobligated. Post volunteers can complete any needed work next spring. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

Chaplain: Kemper. Prayers & thoughts for Ray Lapine and Archie Noon, both are next door at Medi-Lodge. Also, he is doing a eulogy for "Doc" this Saturday at the Post at 2:00pm. Also, continued prayers go out to Tom Neff's wife, Marlene; and for John Schimetz.

Service Officer: N. Tibbs. No report.

Historian: N. Tibbs. No report.

Adjutant: Dobransky. Read correspondence from the Milford library that on September 28 at 2:00pm, a New Hudson author, Beverly Chaisson will be present to discuss her experiences living next to a POW camp at Fort Robinson, Nebraska; flier to be posted in the Club Room. Also, an email from Ray Flum, asking that all District posts and members help support Berkley Post 374 in boycotting showing any NFL football games at District posts involving a list of teams that have players not standing for the National Anthem, including any of these teams that play the Lions (LA Rams). It was discussed that this would potentially impact revenue to the Post, but we would agree to stand for the anthem being played on television during televised NFL games at Post 216.



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Auxiliary: Cathy Merritt. Advised a Blood Drive will be held at the Post on Saturday, September 24. Walk-ins will be taken, but those with pre-registration will be taken first. Also, Halloween party will be held on October 22, 7:00pm to midnight. Tickets are \$25 per person, a live band will play, and food & beverages are included. The Legion family kids Halloween party will be held on October 30 at 3:00pm. Would like to have the Legion provide up to \$200 to help cover the cost of the party. Motion by Welbaum to allow up to \$200 for the kids Halloween party, second by Colegrove. No discussion. Voice vote passes. Also, the Auxiliary has provided the mailing list for the Legion to send out raffle tickets to Auxiliary members, but this has to be requested each year. Also, the Auxiliary voted to not allow their minutes to be posted in the Post's website.

SAL: McDonnell. Advised the SAL provides pumpkins to each kid at the Halloween party. Also, burger night starts again October 6, and continues every Thursday until the 3rd Thursday in May. Also, the golf outing was a huge success with 31 teams participating, with all proceeds going to Wilwin Lodge, with the net donation being just short of \$4,000.

Butch Maxwell advised a New Year's Eve Party is being planned, with proceeds going to the Wilwin Lodge with a live band – MARS band. Tickets would be \$40 per person with dinner provided. He is requesting use of the hall for this event. Motion by N. Tibbs to donate use of the hall for this party, second by Neff. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Kotas. (8) Transfer Member requests. Paul Gokee, Army, Vietnam; Gerald Motley, Army, Vietnam; George Hodges, USMC, Vietnam; Frank Lemley, Navy, WWII; James Snider, Army, Vietnam; Darwin Phillips, USAF, Vietnam; Steven Cox, Army, Vietnam; and James Logan, USAF, Vietnam. Motion by Robinson Kotas to accept the transfers, second by Oberg. Discussion: Where are all these transfers coming from? From our mass mailing to local veterans that are now transferring from Lansing Department 225. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

Also, as of September 20, we are at 63% membership renewals (255 members) for 2017, and have already surpassed the October 5 Department goal.

Color Guard: Robinson. On August 27, the Color Guard will attend a Detroit Red Wing alumni charity softball game. Also, provided a flag etiquette event at Kurtz Elementary. Also, will be busy on Veteran's Day, November 11.

Honor Guard: Robinson for Chowaniec. Advised (7) internments were held this past month at Great Lakes National Cemetery, plus (2) local internments.

Poppy: N. Tibbs. This past month we assisted two veterans with financial issues. This included assistance with utility expenses, and for back taxes.

Honor Walk: Dykstra. No report.

Memorial Day Parade: Salvia. Absent. No report.

Education and Scholarship: Davison. Absent. No report.

Boys State: E. Merritt. Advised letters will be going out this week to the Boys State attendees we supported to attend the October meeting to present their experiences at Boys State and to receive certificates and taking of photos.



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Bingo: McDonnell. August 2016: Gross Bingo \$7,076; Gross tickets \$10,592; Ticket Prizes \$7,745; Bingo Prizes \$5,082; Gross Profit \$4,415; Deposit tickets \$2,847; Deposit Bingo \$1,564. Beginning check book balance \$1,808. Ending check book balance \$1,707. Bingo turned over a check to the Legion for \$3,500. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Colegrove; second by Neff. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Club Room: McDonnell. August 2016: Gross Income \$7,612. Cost of Goods Sold \$2,483; Gross Profit \$5,129; Expenses \$6,032. Net Loss = (\$903). The club Room turned a check over to the Legion for \$500. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Colegrove, second by Neff. Discussion: Why the net loss? Had 3 pay periods in August, plus a deposit for August didn't hit the books until September. No further discussion. Voice Vote passes.

Charitable Gaming Tickets: McDonnell. August July 2016: Beginning check book balance \$407. Ending check book balance \$840. Charitable gaming did not turn over a check to the Legion this past month. Motion to accept pending any corrections by Oberg, second by Welbaum. No discussion. Voice Vote passes.

American Legion Riders: McCall. Advised he 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, October 1 is the annual Andy Russell cider mill ride, this year going to Yates cider mill, rain out date is October 8. Then October 15 the Riders are hosting a German fest at the Post at 5:00pm; cost is \$9 for dinner.

House & Building: N. Tibbs. Advised we have a major electrical issue in the building, at 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: Has some pictures of past commanders and some articles to be submitted next week.

Scouts: Chris Cook. Provided a recap of this past month's scouting activity. The school year just started, so activities are now starting up for this scouting year and a brief overview of upcoming events was provided.. Looking to increase the number of scouts in his pack, with 25 boys currently in the pack. The weekend of October 8 the construction for the scout's storage shed will occur and several fund raisers took place to help pay for the shed.

Old Business: Commander Cherf advised free haircuts to occur at the Post on September 28, but be sure to sign up. Also, November 13 is the Commander's tour, with lunch stop at Post 216. Also, tank markings still need to be completed.



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New Business: Member Gary Johnson provided info related to the Milford Men's Club that help with families in the community that have hardships with funds coming strictly from donations. Since they have limited funds, they are looking for a place to meet, and is requesting use of the Post's hall every other month at 10:00am on a Thursday. Motion by Schimetz to donate the use of the hall to this organization, second by Colegrove. General discussion occurred. Voice vote passes.

Bear Hall requested use of the hall for Special Olympics for (3) events: the 1st being a Halloween party on 10/29/16; the 2nd being a Christmas party on 12/10/16; and the 3rd being a retirement for their area director, after serving 30 years, on 12/14/16. Motion by Welbaum to donate the use of the hall for these events, second by Bishop. Discussion: Bear has already checked with Butch and these dates are currently open. No further discussion. Voice vote passes.

McCall advised of certain resolutions to be discussed at the upcoming fall convention. Williams mentioned the upcoming fall conference, and makes a motion that our attendees be reimbursed up to \$300 per attendee, and he is aware of (3) members that will attend, so for a total of up to \$900 related to hotel and travel and registration expense; second by Bishop. No discussion. Voice vote passes.

Chris Cook asked if it would be okay for the scouts to sell popcorn at Bingo night – all agreed this is acceptable.

E. Merritt advised that the halo that the 18th District and Post 216 sponsored for the Lakeland baseball field has been finished, and an award ceremony will be held at the Post.

Good of the Legion: Neff advises the American Legion Legacy fund tuition assistance program has not yet opened up its website for new applications, and will do so later this year. Once applications are being accepted, they must be submitted by April. He will provide an update once further info is available.

C. Merritt advises that the Oxford Post 108 family is hosting a 50th anniversary welcome home picnic on October 23 for Vietnam veterans and their families from 11:00 to 5:00pm. Attending veterans will receive a pin and a certificate signed by President Obama. Also, there is now an 18th District American Legion family Facebook page for the distribution of information for all members within the 18th District.

Closing: Commander Churf: There being no further business to come before the membership the meeting was adjourned at 20:45, with the proper closing ceremonies being observed.

The next meeting is 18 October, 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).