

THE AMERICAN LEGION – POST 133
MINUTES OF 10-16-2012 MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Anastasio, Art Sladyk, Mel Stead, Kent Carlson, Bruce Daugherty, Bob Hornish, Fred Edlund, Brien Lamkins, Leigh Lovering, Bill Eichner, and Roger Anderson

GUEST(S) PRESENT: First District Commander Barry Lazlo
First District Senior Vice Commander Dennis Beauregard
First District Judge Advocate James D'Amato

Commander Jim Anastasio opened the meeting with proper ceremony. All officers were present or accounted for.

Adjutant Roger Anderson made a motion to suspend the regular meeting and proceed to the installation of post officers. Bruce Daugherty seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. First District Commander Barry Lazlo installed the post officers.

Adjutant Roger Anderson passed out copies of the October correspondence from Department and the minutes of the September meeting. Kent Carlson made a motion to accept the minutes of the September meeting. Bruce Daugherty seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

New Members: Commander Anastasio introduced Bill Eichner who recently transferred to our post from Post 52 in Coventry. He moved to South Windsor in 2004. The members welcomed him to the post.

Departed Members: No post members passed away. Jim mentioned that a thirty-five year member of the Army National Guard passed away last week. His name was Billy Mucci. He was Jim's cousin. Kent said that Billy was a typical sergeant.

Finance Officer: Kent Carlson reported that as of September 30th we have \$3,095.70 in our account. Jim thanked Kent for the report.

Sick Call: Bruce mentioned that John Hogan is still not feeling well with heart problems. Art mentioned that Ken Raymo was still recuperating for his hip surgery.

Employment: Jim reported that our member Derek Denfeld, an active duty army soldier, will be getting out of the service soon and is looking for work. We had Derek added to the state adjutant's distribution for employment emails. Derek applied for a police officer position with NSA but he will return to Connecticut.

Service Officer: Fred Edlund reported that things have been pretty quiet. He has one active client whose case is almost done.

Committee Reports:

Baseball: Jim reported that South Windsor has both a senior team and a junior team. Jim also talked about the indoor batting facility that was built. Many baseball groups in town use it.

Boy Scouts: Jim reported that he attended the eagle-scout ceremony for Chris Guay and Chris Moran from troop 186 on September 30th. He presented them with American Legion Good Citizenship

Citations. Fred reported that troop 62 does not invite organizations to their eagle-scout ceremonies. Jim asked Fred in the future to just give us the names of the scouts and we will send them citations.

Girl Scouts. No report. Jim has developed a citation for the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Boys State and Girls State. Roger reported that he attended the Boys State conference in Indianapolis. Roger will be putting notices in the newspapers looking for applicants for Boys State and Girls State.

State Police Youth Week. Roger reported that he would contact the South Windsor police department.

Wreaths Across America. Art Sladyk reported that we have been out talking to whoever will listen to us: the Rotary Club, the Knights of Columbus, the St. Francis Ladies Auxiliary, and the Democratic town committee. We have had some nice donations so far. Our goal is to surpass last year's 450 wreaths. Art passed around a draft of a flyer for the children to fill out to honor a veteran they know. It is an attempt to get the children to attend the ceremony. We have had a good response from all the groups we have contacted. Art is in the process of setting up meetings with the boy scouts and girl scouts. We had 3,500 flyers made up, 1,800 will go to the schools. We are in the process of having the signs made up. Art asked Jim to contact Craig Zimmerman of American Legion baseball. Art asked members to refer any groups they are part of to Art. Art commented that the mailing that was done last year was not effective. If we don't get enough wreaths to do all graves, we will start at the back of the cemetery so that we get the ones we missed last year. Art reported that Connecticut has more participation than any other state. Art commented that we need some type of marker for the flat stones in case of snow. Art reported that we attended the Armed Forces Day Evening in the Park, the Strawberry Festival, the Saint Francis craft fair at Nevers Road Park, Heritage Day, and the Community Volunteer Appreciation Day at Geissler's. Art stated that we would need to get a few more members on board to help us out at the ceremony. Notices will be put in church bulletins, the newspapers, and other media. Jim D'Amato mentioned that he has a contact with Channel 30. He also mentioned that the District would be willing to help out. The Girl Scouts will pass out flyers the week before the ceremony at Geissler's and Dunkin Donuts. Flyers will also go out in the Friday folders with school children the week prior to the ceremony. Fred Edlund mentioned having the ceremony photographed and putting the pictures on the free town public access channel. Fred suggested contacting the town manager's office for contact information. Bruce reported that he talked to the Knights of Columbus and they asked Bruce how many of their deceased members were veterans. Bruce will work with Roger to get the names. The Knights will match the donations of their members.

Oratorical. Roger reported that the district contest would be the first or second Saturday in February. If we have a post contest, it would be in January.

Old Business. NONE

Correspondence: Roger handed out copies of the October monthly package from Department. The Adjutant wrote about a Post Leadership Conference on Saturday, November 17th in Rocky Hill. The Legion Auxiliary will be holding their Christmas Shop at Rocky Hill on November 24th, 25th, and 26th. Roger talked about the Christmas Shop. Department will be holding their Midwinter Conference in Rocky Hill January 25th, 26th, and 27th. There was a flyer about the Department service office in Newington. There was a flyer for the new VA Voluntary Services friendly visitor program. There was a flyer about the proposed restructuring of the districts in Connecticut. The last item was a resolution that is circulated annually concerning the American Legion policy about affiliations with other organizations.

New Business:

Honor Guard At Cabela's. Art reported that Cabela's has contacted us to provide an honor guard on December 9th at 3:00 pm in conjunction with their Wreaths Across America ceremony. We will join up with the East Hartford Police Department. We will need eight flag bearers.

Connecticut Veterans' Day Parade. Kent reported that the post is invited to participate in the Connecticut Veterans' Day parade on Sunday, November 4th. The Town of South Windsor with the Patriotic Commission will sponsor a bus. The bus will depart the Community Center at 10 am. Please contact Kent or Len Glasser so that they know how big a bus to get. Participants can either march in front of the bus or ride on the bus. Roger recommended that members bring something to eat and drink for lunch.

Veterans' Day Ceremony. Kent also reported that on Sunday, November 11th at 11:00 am the Patriotic Commission would hold a Veterans' Day ceremony at Veterans' Memorial Park. The guest speaker will be Col. Bob Feher, a young man born and raised in South Windsor, a former A-10 fighter pilot, who belongs to the Connecticut Air National Guard.

Veterans In The Classroom. Roger reported that on Monday, November 12th there would be a veterans in the classroom event at South Windsor High School. Billy Carroll is coordinating that program. There will be a ceremony in front of the high school at 7:25 am. Veterans will be visiting classrooms and speaking with students throughout the day.

Post Hats And Shirts For Color Guard. Roger passed on information he got off the Emblem Sales website about hats and shirts for the post color guard. Art suggested we go ahead and order ten hats for the color guard. Several members expressed interest in getting individual hats. Bruce made a motion to appropriate the money for the hats for the color guard. Bob Hornish seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Good of the Legion:

Jim commented about a family that immigrated from Russia that spoke with us at our Wreaths Across America booth at Geissler's. The man told us he brought his family from Russia to America. He then put a donation in the jar and said "America is good! God bless America! America is heaven!"

Leigh Lovering asked about the former post home. Fred related the history of the post home on Main Street, which burned down. There was discussion about trying to rebuild. There are expenses like taxes and insurance that we just don't have the money for. Fred said that it was a former Baptist Church that the town gave the post to use. The post built an addition on the back and gutted the inside and put in a basketball court that Union School used for their gym classes. There were bowling alleys downstairs.

Roger presented American Legion lapel pins to Leigh and Bill.

The next First District meeting is Wednesday, October 24th at 7:30 pm at Post 142 in Hartford. The next Post meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20th. Don't forget items for the food pantry. There being no further business, Commander Anastasio adjourned the meeting with proper ceremony.