

THE AMERICAN LEGION – POST 133
MINUTES OF 3-19-2013 MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Anastasio, Art Sladyk, Leigh Lovering, Bruce Daugherty, Kent Carlson, Mel Stead, Ken Lewis, Bob Hornish, Bill Eichner, Frank Simao, Bob Shaffer, and Roger Anderson.

GUEST(S) PRESENT:

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

Adjutant Roger Anderson passed out copies of the March correspondence from Department and the minutes of the February meeting. Bruce Daugherty made a motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting. Art Sladyk seconded the motion. Art mentioned that he did email his report. The Wreaths Across America signs are in. The amended minutes passed unanimously.

New Members: NONE.

Departed Members: NONE.

Finance Officer. Kent Carlson reported that as of February 28th we have \$4,919.95 in our account. All bills have been paid. Jim thanked Kent for the report.

Sick Call: Jim reported that Randy Kurtzman and his wife have not been well. Bruce reported that he sent them get-well cards.

Employment: NONE.

Service Officer. No report. Jim reported that we have a couple people interested in the service officer position when Fred Edlund retires in June. Both Jim and Roger have spoken to Fred about the transfer of responsibilities. Leigh Lovering announced that he spoke to Fred for about an hour. Ken Lewis reported that he also spoke to Fred. There was a comment that it might be beneficial to have two service officers. Ken commented that there did not appear to be much activity. Jim mentioned that it would be important to get the names of the contacts that Fred uses. Fred told Ken that the social services department in town has some of the application forms that need to be filled out. A veteran in need can get the form and fill it out, but they still need to come through our service officer. Fred suggested that the new service officer go to social services and ask them not to give the form out, but to send any needy veteran to us. Kent suggested that the post set up a fund for immediate help to tide a needy veteran over. He also commented that there are funds available through the National Guard Foundation. Fred told Leigh that he first meets with the veteran and helps to fill out the paperwork and make sure that the required documentation is complete. Fred then takes the paperwork to the Hartford office for them to process and make a decision. Leigh mentioned that Fred has clients come to his house and Leigh would prefer to

meet clients at some other site. He had heard that there was a room in the South Windsor Community House set aside for the VFW and the American Legion. Roger said that he would check with Gary Waterhouse, the commander of the VFW. Leigh stated that he felt the post should have one service officer and he withdrew his name from consideration. Both Leigh and Ken felt that the level of activity was low enough that one person could easily handle it.

Committee Reports:

Baseball. Jim reported that they are currently doing indoor batting practice. He also received another letter from Craig Zimmerman about the upcoming golf tournament fundraiser. This year it will be Sunday, June 2nd at Long Hill Country Club in East Hartford. Roger mentioned that there was also a letter about the Legion baseball banner.

Boy Scouts. Jim reported that he attended two eagle-scout ceremonies for Troop 880 last month. On March 3rd there was one for Ethan William Gasta and Jonathan Paul Ockert. Then on March 10th there was one for Eric Van Niel. He just turned seventeen when he made eagle-scout. Jim talked about Eric's project. Art reported that he received two letters about courts of honor for two brothers, Michael Douglas Edson and Matthew Dillon Edson of Troop 880 coming up on Saturday, May 4th. Jim read a thank-you letter he received from Ethan Gasta for attending his court of honor.

Girl Scouts. We have not heard about the Girl Scouts' Gold Award ceremony yet. We have citations.

Wreaths Across America. Art Sladyk reported that he has the seven new big signs at his shop and the top parts with the date are being made up now. Once he has all the parts, it will only take about an hour if he can get a couple of helpers. That will give us fourteen signs. The date of the ceremony is Saturday, December 14th. Our post will also host the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the state capitol on Monday, December 9th at 11:30 am in the Hall of Flags. It will be a short ceremony. Art would like to have the post color guard participate. Art will be sending out letters to past contributors thanking them for their support in the past and asking them to consider donating again. He also asked members to help him go out and solicit donations from businesses in town. On Sunday, December 8th our color guard should be participating in the ceremony at Cabela's. It is good exposure for our post. Leigh suggested using boy scouts if we can't get enough members for the color guard. Art reported that we need thirteen members for the color guard, nine for the flags, two for the American Legion banner, and two for the Wreaths Across America banner. Art thanked the members that marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade, especially Lydia Schortman who called cadence all the way around. Art commented that we were the only veterans' group in the parade and we got numerous "thank you" comments from the spectators.

Boys' State and Girls' State. Roger reported that he just sent a long email to Bob LaRoche and Dave Archibald at the high school giving them the dates for the three programs. The application process for Boys' State and Girls' State will be different this year. The students will go directly to the websites to print off the application forms. Once they have completed the forms and gotten all the signatures, they will mail them to our post office box. Boys' State will be held June 22nd to June 27th. Girls' State will be held June 8th to July 3rd. Kent suggested getting the information out to the scout troops. Art said that he has the contact information for the boys scout troops. Art also suggested that we set up time to talk to each of the junior classes. Jim asked how many students we could send. It all depends on how many applications we get. Roger will also be putting articles in the newspapers looking for applicants. Art suggested also putting the article in the Patch. Roger talked about the program at the Glastonbury post. The cost for Boys' State and Girls' State for 2013 is \$300 per student.

State Police Youth Week. Roger reported that State Police Youth Week would be held August 4th to August 10th.

Oratorical. No report.

Old Business.

Website. Jim noted that Bill Dopirak offered to create a post website. On the Monday after the last meeting, Jim, Roger, and Ken meet to discuss preliminary design items. Ken reported that he had a power point presentation to show those present. He handed out paper copies of the slides. He then walked the members through the details of the first draft of the website. There will be a public side available to everyone and a private side available only to members. Ken runs the website for his condominium association. Jim and Ken asked for suggestions of what members would like to see. Art commented that we still need to get the email addresses that we don't currently have. Jim recalled Bill saying that it would cost the post around \$100 every two years. There was discussion about links to other sites and forms that can be downloaded or printed. Jim thanked Ken for all the work he did.

Color Guard. Leigh asked about coming up with a reasonably priced uniform for the post color guard. Jim mentioned that the emblem sales catalog does have uniform shirts, pants, and belts. Art said that they would cost \$550 to \$600 for each set. Art suggested keeping it simple, tan (kaki) slacks, a dark blue polo shirt, and brown shoes for warm weather. For colder weather Art is trying to find a source for jackets that we could use. The post should provide the shirts and jackets for the color guard. We looked through the emblem sales catalog and agreed on shirt number 707.715X. It was agreed that the members would order the shirts individually and the post would reimburse them. Art mentioned that we also have the South Windsor Fire Department parade in September.

Correspondence: The post received a letter from Department about the Americanism Award. The post also received an email from Department about the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marine Fund. There was an article in the New London Day. In the monthly mailing from Department, the 2013 membership report showed we had 97 members as of March 1st. The Kids Walk is coming up April 20th in Bristol. There was a page containing application forms for the legion, auxiliary, and SAL. There was an item about Alison Wood, our department executive assistant, having a fire at her house. There were flyers for two events on March 30th, one in Hartford and one in New Britain. There was a flyer for the Department golf tournament Wednesday, May 22nd at Blackledge CC in Hebron. There was a flyer for the American Legion college to be held in Ashford. The post also received a petition for a POW/MIA forever postage stamp. The petition was passed around for members to sign.

New Business:

Memorial Day Parade. Jim reported that the Memorial Day parade is coming up Monday, May 27th and he asked what members thought about renting golf carts like the VFW did last year. Each cart holds up to four people. Bill Eichner said that he has an ATV that can carry four people. He also has a couple of trailers that we could use, one 5'X8' and one 6'X5'. Kent said members also could ride in cars. There

was discussion about getting convertibles. Art measured the parade route at exactly one mile. Roger commented that the St. Patrick's Day parade was 1.4 miles. Kent commented that the post would have to get liability insurance if we get golf carts. Jim mentioned that in the past Paul Mozzicato had made arrangements for two humvees. Art mentioned that there is a place on Sullivan Avenue that makes magnetic signs and suggested that the post get two signs.

American Legion Baseball Banner. Roger Anderson made a motion that the post donates \$200 toward the South Windsor American Legion baseball program banner. Bruce Daugherty seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Kids Walk. Bruce Daugherty made a motion that the post donates \$25 to the Kids Walk through Roger. Bob Hornish seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Assistance For Timothy Edwards Student. Jim reported that South Windsor human services brought it to the post's attention that there is a single parent family with three children that has an eighth grade student at Timothy Edwards School who needs financial assistance for a class trip to Washington DC in May. Art mentioned that the total cost of the trip is \$800. Human services indicated that this is an extreme hardship case. There was discussion about the amount and how to contribute. Bruce Daugherty made a motion to donate \$200 to assist with the cost of the student's trip, contingent on the whole amount being raised. Ken Lewis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Art will follow up with human services. Jim asked Bruce to bring this up at the next Knights of Columbus meeting to see if they will help out.

Good of the Legion:

Bob Shaffer commented that the post covers a lot of business and he is trying to digest it all.

There was discussion about post members who had not renewed their membership yet.

Bruce reported that he sent out sympathy and get well cards last month on behalf of the post. He has a supply of both types of cards so let Bruce know if you know of a case where a card should be sent out.

Art reported that he would send out another email to our members looking for volunteers for the color guard. It would be nice to have a full representation at the Memorial Day parade.

Kent noted that the Patriotic Commission had sent the post an invitation to Evening In The Park to be held May 18th.

Roger reported that they are building housing for homeless veterans on the grounds of the Newington VA hospital. The development is called Victory Gardens. They have started taking applications and will continue through April 7th. Roger urged members to tell anyone they know who needs housing to apply soon. Roger talked about attending the groundbreaking ceremony. There is a second project that is just kicking off called Veterans' Landing that will be an assisted living facility for veterans, also located on

the grounds of the Newington VA hospital. Kent mentioned a mansion in Vernon that is being converted to housing for homeless veterans.

Roger also reminded members to look over the awards listing that he had passed out at the February meeting and we would discuss them at the April meeting.

The next First District meeting is Wednesday, March 20th at 6:30 pm at Post 102 in Manchester. The next Post meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th. Don't forget items for the food pantry. There being no further business, Commander Anastasio adjourned the meeting with proper ceremony.