

THE AMERICAN LEGION – POST 133
MINUTES OF 6-19-2012 MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Anastasio, Mel Stead, Bob Hornish, Leigh Lovering, Fred Edlund, Al Tedford, Tyler Lesniak and Roger Anderson

GUEST(S) PRESENT: Chris Guay, David Guay, and Mitch Tillman

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

Adjutant Roger Anderson made a motion that the regular meeting be suspended to allow Chris Guay to report on his Eagle Scout project. Bob Hornish seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chris Guay from Troop 186 talked about his Eagle Scout project, which was to catalog the location of the graves of all veterans in Center Cemetery at 993 Main Street in South Windsor. The first step was when a group of scouts spent six hours doing a survey of the graves in the cemetery. Then a couple of weeks later, Chris and a couple other scouts went to the high school and typed in all the information they found. Chris then printed out the listing and three weeks later went back to the cemetery with his family and verified the information. He presented a binder containing the information to the post. The binder contains a map of the cemetery and a listing of all the graves, with those of veterans indicated. Chris described the information that is presented for each grave. The cemetery was divided into seven sections. Each monument was designated a single number and all names appearing on that monument were assigned that monument's number. The custodian knew of a few veterans' graves that were not marked on the stones and they are noted on the list as veterans. Chris did not try to match his list to Barney Daley's list. Chris reported that he identified 215 veterans' graves in the cemetery. Commander Anastasio and Bob Hornish thanked Chris for all his hard work.

Adjutant Roger Anderson passed out copies of the minutes of the May meeting. Bob Hornish made a motion to accept the minutes. Mel Stead seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

New Members:

Tyler Lesniak is a member of the 439th Logistics/Maintenance Squadron stationed at Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee, MA. He stated that he drives anything. His first tour was for three months to Saudi Arabia. He was in Germany for about a month. He discussed additional assignments. He finished basic training at Lackland AFB almost two years ago. In July he will be deploying to Portugal for three weeks. He joined the post because he loves to help veterans.

Leigh Lovering grew up in Massachusetts. He graduated from Norwich University in Northfield, VT. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant and spent two years from 1966 to 1968 at Fort Knox, KY. He did armor officer basic down there and never saw a tank again. He spent two years instructing basic rifle marksmanship trainees. He talked about his service after active duty. He retired out of the Army and the CT National Guard around 1990 as a Lt. Colonel. He is real close to retiring at the end of this year and would like to get involved.

Departed Members: NONE

Sick Call: Jim reported that his son, Airman First Class David Anastasio, a member of our post, has completely recovered from his bout with appendicitis. David will be flying home this Saturday on leave for a couple of weeks.

Finance Officer. Jim reported that Finance Officer Kent Carlson was excused. Jim reported that as of May 31st we have \$2,813.70 in our bank account. Bob asked about 2013 dues. Roger reported that members should receive a renewal reminder in July and the dues are sent to our post office box in South Windsor. Jim reported that members can pay their membership online with a credit card.

Service Officer. Fred Edlund reported that he just finished one claim and has two active claims. Jim asked that Fred keep him informed of the claim activity that he is handling. Jim would like to act as Fred's backup. Fred also reported that East Windsor and Vernon are sending claims to Fred. Leigh asked Fred to describe what he does. Fred talked about the help that the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund provides to needy veterans.

Committee Reports:

Baseball. Jim reported that members of the post provided a color guard for the opening ceremony for the Ralph Giansanti tournament. He gave details about the history of the American Legion baseball program in South Windsor. Craig Zimmerman is going to contribute to our Wreaths Across America program.

Boy Scouts. Jim mentioned that there are two Eagle Scouts from Troop 186 coming up in the very near future. Chris Guay, a scout from troop 186 who gave his report tonight, has completed his Eagle Scout project. Chris's dad David is a member of our post. Chris Moran, also from troop 186, just completed his Eagle Scout project. He will be the third Eagle Scout in his family. His two brothers are eagle scouts.

Girl Scouts. Jim reported that he attended the Girl Scouts' Gold Award ceremony on May 20th for three girl scouts, Emily Gasta, Katerina Marlin, and Shaylyn Young. Jim presented each of them with good citizenship certificates.

Wreaths Across America. Roger reported that we set up a display at the Strawberry Festival. There was a very large crowd. We handed out a lot of information and received \$195 in donations. At the Evening in the Park we received donations of \$180. The date of the Wreaths Across America ceremony this year is Dec. 15th. Bob Hornish asked what we can do to get our members to volunteer to help out with the programs. There was discussion about getting volunteers.

Oratorical, Boys' State, and Girls' State. For Boys' State, Roger reported that we did finally receive an application for Connor Lucca. There were no candidates for Girls' State or State Police Youth Week. Roger talked about the Boys' State and Girls' State programs.

Old Business.

Post Picnic in Nevers Road Park. There was no activity.

Post Dinner Meeting. Jim reported that he is talking with Lena's, The Red Onion, and The Nutmeg to see about holding the September post meeting as a dinner meeting. Leigh mentioned that the Olive Garden is good for dinner meetings. There was additional discussion.

Election of Officers. Adjutant Anderson read the list of current officers. Sergeant-At-Arms John Hogan asked to step down at the May meeting. Bob Hornish was nominated to fill that position. Junior Vice Commander Mel Stead asked to step down. Leigh Lovering was nominated to fill that position. Historian Art Sladyk nominated Brien Lamkins for that position at the May meeting. Tyler Lesniak was nominated for the Chaplain position. The following positions were uncontested and elected by a vote of the Adjutant: Commander Jim Anastasio, Senior Vice Commander Art Sladyk, Junior Vice Commander

Leigh Lovering, Finance Officer Kent Carlson, Adjutant Roger Anderson, Service Officer Fred Edlund, Sergeant-At-Arms Bob Hornish, and Historian Brien Lamkins. The Chaplain position had two nominees, Bruce Daugherty and Tyler Lesniak. The members present took a secret ballot and Bruce Daugherty was elected Chaplain.

Correspondence: Roger reported that the post received a letter from the Rock Cats. The Rock Cats and Outback Steakhouse are offering free tickets to active military personnel and veterans to a Rock Cats game against Trenton on Thursday, July 12th. All family and friends will receive discounted tickets. Roger read a letter that Art Sladyk wrote to the coordinator of the Strawberry Festival thanking them for allowing us to set up a display for Wreaths Across America. Roger read an email about the special Connecticut Legion Family national convention shirt. This year the proceeds from the shirt sales will go to support the candidacy of Janet Jeffers, an auxiliary member from Glastonbury, for national Auxiliary President. Leigh Lovering asked to purchase a shirt. The post received the call to the Department convention at the Marriott in Rocky Hill on July 12th, 13th, and 14th. Our post has four delegates and four alternates. Roger was elected as a delegate to represent the post. Roger apologized for misplacing the June monthly package from Department.

New Business:

Veteran At Strawberry Festival. Jim reported that a veteran approached him at the Strawberry Festival. The veteran had military service from 1976 to 1980. Those dates are not within the dates that are eligible for membership in the American Legion. Jim would like the post to accept this veteran to our meetings and offer him comradeship, even though he cannot become a member. There was discussion about the eligibility dates for membership. The members unanimously agreed to invite him to join our meetings.

Good of the Legion:

Tyler asked if South Windsor ever did a stand down. Commander Anastasio reported that there is a statewide stand down held at the Rocky Hill Veterans Home. Jim talked about all the services that are available for the veterans at stand down. Roger mentioned that the town has a Patriotic Commission to watch over patriotic observances. Tyler said that he helped out at an event held in Chicopee and he wondered if South Windsor did anything like that. Tyler felt that there are veterans in town that could use some help. He asked what the process was to help veterans. Jim and Fred talked about the help that is available through the post service officers. Fred also talked about help available at the VA hospitals. Tyler mentioned a female Navy veteran he knows who isn't getting help. Leigh suggested that she visit the Hartford Vet Center in Rocky Hill.

Tyler mentioned that there would be a free air show at Westover AFB August 4th and 5th.

There was discussion about what the members do when a post member passes away. In some cases we simply attend the wake, in some cases, if the family agrees, we will stand honor guard, and in some cases we will perform a special memorial service.

There was discussion about post members participating in Memorial Day parades and Veterans Day parades. We used Roger's car in the 2012 Memorial Day parade. We may look into renting golf carts. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts place the flags in the cemeteries. Members also discussed the other ceremonies in town and the Veterans in the Classroom project.

The next First District meeting is Wednesday, September 26th at 7:30 pm at Post 96 in West Hartford. The next Post meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18th. Don't forget items for the food pantry. There being no further business, Commander Anastasio adjourned the meeting with proper ceremony.