

THE AMERICAN LEGION – POST 133
MINUTES OF 9-18-2012 MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Anastasio, Art Sladyk, Mel Stead, Kent Carlson, Bruce Daugherty, Bob Hornish, Frank Simao, Brien Lamkins, and Roger Anderson

GUEST(S) PRESENT: Mitch Tillman, eagle scout candidate

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

Sr. Vice Commander Art Sladyk made a motion to suspend the meeting and proceed to the presentation of our guest. Kent Carlson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mitch Tillman, an eagle-scout candidate, presented his proposed eagle-scout project. Mitch proposes to map the locations of veterans' graves in the Wapping Cemetery. He will produce both a written listing and an electronic version. He will also produce an electronic map that can be printed out and given to people. The listing should help with the placing of flags and wreaths at veterans' graves. He will first confirm existing documentation and then add any new information he picks up while surveying the cemetery. He will also ask the groundskeeper for input. Members commented that it would be a very large project. Mitch will break the cemetery up into sections. Art commented that many of the veterans' headstones don't indicate that they are veterans. Art suggested that the funeral homes in the area might be able to help identifying veterans. There was additional discussion about the project. The members supported the project and told Mitch to contact us if he needed any help.

Adjutant Roger Anderson passed out copies of the September correspondence from Department and the minutes of the June meeting. Brien Lamkins made a motion to accept the minutes of the June meeting. Bob Hornish seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

New Members: NONE

Departed Members: NONE

Finance Officer. Kent Carlson reported that as of August 31st we have \$3,073.70 in our account. Jim thanked Kent for the report.

Sick Call: NONE

Employment: Jim reported that our member Derek Denfeld, an active duty army soldier, will be getting out of the service in October and is looking for work. Jim told him to go to the national Legion website and click on careers. Jim wants Derek to know that the post is here to help him transition back to civilian life. Roger reported that he had Derek added to the state adjutant's distribution for employment emails.

Service Officer. No report.

Committee Reports:

Baseball. Jim reported that both the South Windsor Senior and Junior teams had good years. Jim also talked about the indoor batting facility that was built this year.

Boy Scouts. Jim reported that he attended the eagle-scout board of review for Chris Guay. There will be an eagle-scout court of honor ceremony September 30th at the South Windsor library for both Chris Guay and Chris Moran, both from troop 186.

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

Boys State and Girls State. Roger reported that we did get a boys state application at the last minute but the student got sick the night before the program started and could not attend. Roger also reported that he and Sue Larsen would contact the superintendent of schools. Roger will be putting an ad in the newspaper looking for applicants. Jim suggested talking to the town council and the board of education.

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

Wreaths Across America. Art Sladyk reported that we set up our display at the Armed Forces Day Evening in the Park, at the Strawberry Festival, and at the St. Francis craft fair at Nevers Road Park. Next week we will have our display at Heritage Day and on October 13th at Geissler's for the Community Volunteer Appreciation Day. Art will be speaking at the Rotary Club, the Lion's Club, the Democratic Town Committee, the Republican Town Committee, and the Knights of Columbus. The mailing to 330 businesses last year really didn't work. Art would like members to approach businesses face to face. This year we are going to deliver the wreaths to the cemeteries prior to the ceremony. There was discussion about the signs. Additionally, the cemetery association has agreed to leave the Memorial Day flags up until Veterans' Day and Art would like them to leave them up until we put the wreaths out. There was discussion about how to locate the graves if it snows. 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. We will also ask the students to write thank you notes and put them in a binder. Roger commented that the students could write the names of veterans they know on a piece of paper and put it in a helmet at the ceremony. There was discussion about having the flyers printed. The date of the ceremony this year is December 15th. Cabela's is planning another ceremony this year. We participated in a video for Cabela's that they will use for employee opening ceremonies across the country. Bob Hornish talked about his experience last year when he found himself alone with Art and Art's son trying to get the wreaths out of the boxes and distributed. Bob asked for a list of our post members so that he can try to recruit help this year. Roger will provide the list of post members. There was also discussion about how to handle the situation when a non-legionnaire insists on participating in the ceremony. It was decided to work with the person and allow them to assist.

Oratorical. No report.

Old Business. NONE

Correspondence: Roger handed out copies of the September monthly package from Department. The Adjutant wrote about the Connecticut baseball teams and missing post officer election reports. There was a flyer about the political campaign season. Remember, while we urge you to support your candidates as an individual, please do not wear anything that would imply that you speak for the Legion. There was a flyer showing where the money raised by the Department golf tournament was donated. There was a flyer for the Department Color Guard Lobster Fest fundraiser to be held at Meriden Post 45. There was a flyer urging members to attend their October district meeting to hear about the project to restructure the current seven districts. There was a flyer about the Legion Riders. Roger talked about the local posts that have Legion Rider groups that our members can join. There was a poppy order form and a bingo pledge form. There was a flyer for a car and motorcycle show at the West Haven VA Hospital on September 23rd. There was a flyer for the ninth annual Fallen Hero's tribute, Gold Star Families weekend on September 29th in Trumbull.

New Business:

Bingo At Rocky Hill Veterans' Home. Roger talked about the bingo program that First District posts do at the Rocky Hill Veterans' Home on the second Wednesday of every month. The posts provide the prize money of \$100 in singles and \$50 of refreshments for the patients. There are several months that are available. We would need four or five post members as volunteers to do the program. There was discussion about the program. It was suggested that Roger send out an email to our members to see if any of them are interested in volunteering. The item was tabled until the October meeting.

Good of the Legion:

Roger presented the Chaplain with sympathy cards that he picked up when he was at the national convention. He also presented Art with three pair of white gloves for the color guard. He announced that he also picked up Legion lapel pins for members who attend meetings who have not received them in the past.

Bob Hornish asked why the door was closed at the beginning of each meeting. He felt that it would be more welcoming to leave the door open. The commander explained that the door is closed because it is a private meeting for Legion members only.

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, October 16th. Don't forget items for the food pantry. There being no further business, Commander Anastasio adjourned the meeting with proper ceremony.