

**American Legion Post 341
Membership Meeting May 8, 2017**

Opening Ceremonies:

At 18:30 hours, Commander Jean Meacham called the meeting to order. Opening ceremonies were conducted with the Pledge of Allegiance. The opening prayer was given by Chaplain Norvil Lantz. The POW/MIA Flag Ceremony was conducted by Vice Commander David Winchell.

Guests:

- Lorelei Rockwell, Adjutant of the Overland, MO Post, visited our Post while working a job locally. She said she intends to visit all the local Posts before her job ends and she returns to MO.

New Members:

- Nelson Erdmann was recognized. He has been attending our Post for several years and only this evening realized he was a member of Post 1000 and not Post 341. He will be transferring ASAP.

Roll Call of Officers:

Present were:

Commander Jean Meacham
1st Vice Commander David Winchell
Adjutant Judith Winchell
Finance Office John Chelstrom
Chaplain Norvil Lantz
Judge Advocate Don Naught
Executive Committeeman JJ Johns
Executive Committeeman Pat O'Brien
Past Post Commander Norvil Lantz
Pas Post Commander John Chelstrom

Absent were:

Historian Bob Trager
Sgt-at-Arms Gene Rogers
Executive Committeeman Andy Anderson
Past Post Commander Doug Grant
Past Post and Department Commander Jake Greeling

The positions of 2nd Vice Commander and Service Officer are vacant at this time

A total of 26 members, including above noted officers, were present.

Reading of the Minutes:

It was moved and seconded that the minutes from the April meeting, which are posted on the Post website, be approved as written.

Correspondence:

- The letter from the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks was read. The goal for the April blood drive of 15 units was exceeded by 4 with 24 persons volunteering to donate blood.

Committee Reports:

- Finance report: John Chelstrom reviewed the monthly financials. The report will be posted upstairs outside of the office for all who wish to read it.
- Membership report: Judith Winchell reported that we have 582 members who have renewed for 2017 making this our official membership.
- Consolidated Service report: Judith Winchell reminded members to submit their volunteer hours. Hours volunteered to causes not related to the American Legion are accepted but should be listed separately from those given the Post.
- The House Committee reported that the Cinco de Mayo dinner dance on May 5 was a success. The Post will begin serving lunch tomorrow. Hours and days of operation are posted in the lounge. The VSO will continue to be available at the Post each Wednesday for all veterans. The offices have moved into their new facility in Bentonville and even have a designated parking spot for Purple Heart honorees.

Unfinished Business:

- The need for duty officers was reiterated. The sign-up sheet is in the bar.
- Sign-up sheets are available for those willing to help the Auxiliary with their Poppy Sale on Memorial Day weekend. The Saturday sale has been cancelled due to lack of volunteers. Slots are still available on Friday.
- Nominations were opened for the 2017-2018 slate of officers by Norvil Lantz. The bylaws were consulted on the number of members needing to be present to hold the election and they are silent on this matter.
 - Commander: Jean Meacham was nominated last month. No new nominees were named.
 - 1st Vice Commander: Vic Walker was nominated last month. Fay Ryan and Dan Jeffrey were nominated this evening.
 - 2nd Vice Commander: no nominees last month. Dan Jeffrey and Jeff Vermurlen were nominated this evening.
 - Adjutant: Don Naught was nominated last month. No new nominees were named.
 - Finance Officer: John Chelstrom was nominated last month. No new nominees were named.
 - Chaplain: Norvil Lantz was nominated last month. No new nominees were named.
 - Judge Advocate: Norvil Lantz was nominated last month. Gene Rogers was nominated this evening.

- Sergeant-at-Arms: JJ Johns and Gene Rogers were nominated last month. No new nominees were named.
- Committeemen at large: Armando Martinez and Pat O'Brien were nominated last month. David Winchell was nominated this evening.

Nominations were closed and the active Post members present voted. The ballots were collected and taken upstairs to be counted by George Stevenson (SAL), Dale Wandrie (SAL) and Judith Winchell (Adjutant)

New Business:

- Bylaw revisions were read on the floor. Members will be notified by email two weeks prior to the June meeting when they will be voted on.
- Golf update: Tom Meacham said that the recent flooding has necessitated moving the event to the Kingsdale course. The June 3rd date remains unchanged.
- Operation Reboot has a continuing need for kitchen stuff, furniture, and other supplies.
- The Daisy air gun competition began last Saturday May 6th.

Good of the Legion:

- David Winchell reported on the progress made for the Memorial Day program on Monday, May 29th. Melody Lane Quartet will be singing the national anthem and God Bless America. Mark Golaway, a member of this Post, is the guest speaker. Flags will go up on Sunday, weather permitting, and come down on Monday at 18:00 hours. We will need volunteers to help move and put out the chairs on Monday.
- NWA Veterans Coalition is still accepting volunteers to read the names of veterans buried in the Fayetteville National Cemetery.
- There are approximately 26 suicides in Bella Vista each year. The majority of them are veterans. When the attending police officers learn that the deceased was a veteran, they provide a flag to cover the body when it is removed from the scene. We have been approached by the BVPD with a request that we provide the watch commanders with flags to use in such a case. We would replace the flags on an as needed basis.
- Judith Winchell read the results of this evening's election:
 - Commander: Jean Meacham
 - 1st Vice Commander: Fay Ryan
 - 2nd Vice Commander: Jeff Vermurlen
 - Adjutant: Don Naught
 - Finance Officer: John Chelstrom
 - Chaplain: Norvil Lantz
 - Judge Advocate: Gene Rogers
 - Sergeant-at-Arms: JJ Johns
 - Committeemen-at-Large (3): Armando Martinez, Pat O'Brien, and David Winchell
- The winner of the 50/50 drawing graciously donated it to the sign fund.

Closing:

Closing ceremonies were conducted by Commander Meacham and Chaplain Lantz. The meeting was adjourned at 19:30 hours.

Respectfully submitted by

Jawinchell

Judith A Winchell
Adjutant