

**American Legion Post 341
Membership Meeting August 8, 2016**

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 1st Vice Commander David Winchell.

Guests:

- Gene Rogers introduced this year's boys who went to Boys State and their sponsors. The following were present: Dawson Lee (sponsored by Nunnally Chevrolet), Hunter Simmons (sponsored by Arvest Bank), Kurt Jarrett (sponsored by Larry Stokenbrand), Ryan Balfe (sponsored by the Bella Vista American Legion), and Samuel Uzere (sponsored by the Bella Vista Business Assoc.). Each boy was invited to speak about what the experience meant to him before a group picture of the attendees, their sponsors and Gene was taken.
- Carolyn, with Arvest, spoke briefly about this years Heroes and Legends trip. Flyers were left at the rear of the meeting hall for those interested.
- Linda Lloyd, BV Business Assoc chair, spoke briefly about the association and its commitment to Bella Vista.
- 60 year membership pins were awarded to Derrick Jackson and Forrest Strickler by Jean Meacham. Pictures were taken.
- David Lee Spencer was the surprised recipient of a Quilt of Valor made by the Star Valley Quilters in Utah. His family had worked hard with Jean to get him to the meeting without his knowing about the quilt. A picture was taken of David, the quilt and his family.

New Members:

- Dale Vincent, US Army Airborne, is a new member
- Chris Williams, US Army, is a transfer from El Paso, TX
- Walt Cloyd, US Army, is a transfer from Post 1000

Roll Call of Officers:

Present were:

Commander Jean Meacham

1st Vice Commander David Winchell

Adjutant Judith Winchell

Finance Officer John Chelstrom

Historian Bob Trager

Chaplain Norvil Lantz

Judge Advocate Don Naught

Sgt-at-Arms Gene Rogers

Executive Committeemen James Johns and Pat O'Brien

Past Post Commanders John Chelstrom and Norvil Lantz

Absent were:

2nd Vice Commander Mike Montes

Service Officer Tim Sturgeons

Committeeman Andy Anderson

Past Post Commanders Jake Greeling and Doug Grant

Past District Commander Jake Greeling

A total of 68 members, including above noted officers, were present.

Reading of the Minutes:

The minutes of the June meeting have been posted on the website. The motion was made, seconded and passed to accept them as posted. It was noted that the website is not updated. The domain name has been reactivated. Faye Ryan has agreed to take over from Roy Blakeslee in keeping the website updated. All missing minutes will be posted.

Correspondence:

- Jean read a letter from People Helping People a.k.a. Random Acts of Kindness, concerning Danny Gage, a volunteer at the Recycling Center, who needs a new knee. He has insurance, but he can use help to meet daily living expenses during his rehab. Donations are accepted at Arvest Bank.
- A letter from the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks has been received. The next blood drive will be Monday, August 29, 2016 from 10:00 until 2:00 at Post 341. We fell short of the goal set for the last drive; let us try to exceed it this time.

Committee Reports:

- Finance report: John Chelstrom reported that the Post continues to meet its expenses but our reserves are not back to where they should be. The P&L statement is on the bulletin board upstairs for any who are interested.
- Membership report: Judith Winchell reported that we have 707 members with 322 renewals (45%) to date. All transfers and new memberships have been processed; however, renewals, applications, and transfer requests have not yet been processed by state. There is a greater than 31 day turn around time.
- 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.
- House Committee report: JJ Johns reported that the Arkansas and POW/MIA flags have been replaced. The large meeting room is being used on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings to accommodate increased attendance. Volunteers are still needed for duty officers.

- Jean Meacham reported that the Silent Auction ended on 07/31/16 and prizes are being awarded. The final revenues are coming in from the Golf Tournament which looks like it was a success.

Unfinished Business:

- David Winchell passed around a sign-up sheet for people willing to volunteer a couple of hours during the coming month at the recycling center. He will fill out a new grant. When questioned, he said volunteers earn \$7/hour for their designated charity. Non-Legion people can also volunteer at the center for the Legion.
- Norvil Lantz passed around a sign-up sheet for duty officers. He noted that the officers and members of the House committee have already signed up to work on Saturday evenings.
- Jean Meacham, reporting for Mike Montes, awarded Gene Rogers a trophy for being the top shooter at the 1st Daisy Shootout. The service trophy was won by those shooting for the Navy. That trophy will be displayed on the mantel in the lounge.

New Business:

- Don Naught requested that all members holding keys to the building or office confirm the key number with him. Anyone with an unnumbered key needs to see him to have the key stamped with a number. We now have the capability to do so.
- Norvil Lantz again stated the request that we re-institute the practice of donating \$10 to the Legion Foundation for each member of the Post when we are notified of their death. It was moved, seconded and passed by the members present.

Good of the Legion:

- News articles should be in to Jean no later than 08/22 for inclusion in the August edition of the newsletter.
- Don Naught asked if anyone saw the notice in the Sunday paper concerning tonight's meeting.
- The Executive Board will meet the 1st Tuesday in August, 09/06, at 10:00 AM, since the 1st Monday is Labor Day Holiday.
- Jake Greeling reminded members that we are the largest Post in our District and can have an important say in the activities of our District. The next meeting is this Saturday, 8/13, at 10:00 AM at Post 29 in Siloam Springs.
- Discussion was held concerning the memorial bricks in our memorial garden. An article was placed in the BV magazine. John Chelstrom has recently sent in an order to the engraver to have about a dozen bricks engraved. Any further action concerning increasing sale of these bricks was tabled by a vote of the membership.

- The 50/50 drawing of \$55 was graciously donated to the building fund by its winner.

Closing:

Closing ceremonies were conducted by Commander Meacham and Chaplain Lantz. The meeting was adjourned at 19:40 hours.

Respectfully submitted by

Jawinchell

Judith A Winchell
Adjutant