

**American Legion Post 341
Membership Meeting November 14, 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:

- J.W. Smith, American Legion Commander for the State of Arkansas. He spoke about the tickets for a drawing to be held on Sunday, 01/14/17. All members of the American Legion should have received these in the mail. He talked about the five (5) goals for 2017 that he and the state vice commanders decided upon when they were elected this spring. These are membership (he spoke about last year's winning recruiter), retention, communication (the AR edition of the newsletter will be sent out four times this year in a new format), training (six 2-hour classes will be given on 01/13/17; they are open and free to all members), and recognition.

New Members:

- New members Don Wiggins (a transfer from Illinois) and Ralph Lemmeyer (a transfer from Texas) were recognized.

Roll Call of Officers:

Present were:

Commander Jean Meacham
1st Vice Commander David Winchell
Adjutant Judith Winchell
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 Commander Norvil Lantz
Past Post and District Commander Jake Greeling

Absent were:

Finance Office John Chelstrom
Service Officer Tim Sturgeons
Executive Committeeman Andy Anderson
Past Post Commanders John Chelstrom and Doug Grant
The position of 2nd Vice Commander is vacant at this time

A total of 40 members, including above noted officers, were present.

Reading of the Minutes:

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

Correspondence:

- Jean Meacham read a letter from the Village Art Club thanking the Post for those members who provided pre-festival security this year. A check for those services accompanied the letter.

Committee Reports:

- Finance report: Don Naught reported that the Post continues to meet its expenses and all areas are in the black. The P&L statement is on the bulletin board upstairs for any who are interested. This year's Oktoberfest generated more profit than the initial festival last year. The motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the report.
- Membership report: Judith Winchell reported that we have 720 members with 445 renewals (62%) to date. All transfers and new memberships have been processed; however, those submitted from 10/01/16 forward 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 reminded members that an inmate work detail will be at the Post this Wednesday. Members of the Garden Club will also be around this week. This coming Friday we will be having our second Friday night dance. The first one two weeks ago was popular. He announced that the Post will be closed for a long weekend over Thanksgiving. Planning for the Post Christmas party on 12/12 is wrapping up. The admission cost is \$10 and an unwrapped toy per person. Wednesday Trivia is a money maker for food while Thursday Karaoke is a money maker for bar sales. He reminded people that we are no longer serving food on Saturday since we did not generate enough revenue to cover the cook's salary.

Unfinished Business:

- The need for duty officers was reiterated. All Saturdays are taken care of by the Post officers and House Committee members. The sign-up sheet is in the bar.

New Business:

- Jean Meacham reported on research concerning electronic signage. The sign most suitable for our needs will cost \$16-17K. It will be a one sided sign and fit the space where our current sign is. We have \$6K from Saturday breakfasts for the sign as well as an anonymous donation of \$5K. We need to discuss about taking the balance of the money for the sign from the Building Fund. It was clarified that the Saturday breakfast money is a subaccount in the Building Fund and therefore included in the grand total of the Building Fund account. Subtracting that plus the additional requested funds would draw that account

down to +/- \$2K. Permitting for the sign has been investigated and our sign would be approved. Pat O'Brien withdrew the motion to pull the additional funding for the sign. Jake Greeling made the motion that all funds present and future for the sign be placed in a separate account in a bank other than Arvest. This was seconded and carried.

Good of the Legion:

- News articles should be in to Jean no later than 11/20 for inclusion in the December edition of the newsletter.
- Jake reported that the new Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs Nursing Home opened in North Little Rock on Veterans' Day.
- Dale Wandrie, Chaplain of the SAL, said that they now meet at 18:00 on the same day as the Post general meeting. A charter signing event is being planned for January.
- The 50/50 drawing of \$50 was graciously donated to the sign fund by its winner.

Closing:

Closing ceremonies were conducted by Commander Meacham and Chaplain Lantz. The meeting was adjourned at 19:35 hours.

Respectfully submitted by

Jawinchell

Judith A Winchell
Adjutant