

**American Legion Post 341
Membership Meeting
April 8, 2019**

OPENING CEREMONIES - At 1831 hours Commander Jean Meacham called the Post meeting to order. Commander Meacham led the Pledge of Allegiance. Norvil Lantz led the membership in the opening prayer. The group's recitation of the Preamble to the Legion's Constitution and Bylaws were guided by the Commander. Forty-one members attended this meeting.

The Commander introduced .

The Commander introduced a new member to the membership. The new member was warmly received by the membership.

The Commander next introduced:

- **Two young ladies who raised \$370 for the Post Building Fund through their personal efforts as a part of a (class project.) The membership expressed their deep appreciation for their efforts on behalf of the Post.**
- **Elizabeth Lamey was introduced and commended again for her efforts on behalf of "Wreaths Across America". Ms. Lamey introduced Mariano Versalino as her successor to lead the efforts during the upcoming year. In addition, the group's goals will be to expand our success throughout Bentonville, Rogers, Washington County, and Centerton. The Post will continue to support these efforts to benefit area veterans.**
- **Tom Mecham briefly reviewed the progress of the Post's upcoming golf tournament. He related the fact the tournaments have generated approximately \$9,000 each year for Post funding through entry fees and sale of hole signage. He also related the Sons of the Legion have donated \$500 to enable the Post to purchase a new round table and chairs for the bar area.**

ADJUTANT'S REPORT – The report consisted of the following sections:

- **The minutes from the March meeting were requested to be read and were approved as presented.**
- **The minutes are posted outside the Legion office and are being placed on the Legion's web page by Mike Montes.**
- **Naught reviewed the current membership status. The Post currently has the potential for 614 individuals on the rolls but we still have 118 members who have not renewed at the date of the meeting. This leaves 496 2019 paid members including 57 Paid Up For Life members (PUFLS).**

Naught reiterated the need for members to pay their 2019 dues since the 2020 membership drive will commence within a few weeks.

- Naught reported he had contacted the schedule makers for both U.S. Representative Womack and Senator Bozeman to attend the April 29th “kick off” meeting for the 2020 “Wreaths Across America” fund drive. Womack never responded and Bozeman’s scheduler indicated he could not meet that date because he would be in Washing DC for a vote.
- Naught closed with a standard request for members to submit their volunteer hours to him right away.

FINANCE OFFICER’S REPORT: Jeff Vermurlen (First Vice Commander) gave the Finance report for Greg Halle. This report indicated the Post:

- Had a March profit of \$7,079 versus \$1,408 for February, 2019. Total cash flow was a positive \$12,751 but Building Fund receipts were included in that total.
- The \$4,000 loan taken out from the Reserve fund was repaid at the end of March.
- As of the meeting the fund balances were:
 - General fund – (\$1,608).
 - CD - \$6,041.
 - Building fund - \$18,029.
 - Reserve fund - \$7,363.
 - Total cash reserves - \$28,825.
- Bar profit was \$8,291 with A 30% Cost of Sales (COS). Compared to February’s results sales increased by \$6,177 or 75%.
- Kitchen profit was \$3,014 with a COS of 46%. Bar sales increased were up by 65% with a net profit of \$5,392 or 641%.
- Employee meals were \$858 or 6% of sales.
- March building fund campaign efforts raised \$8,138 and paired with the matching funds produces a fund of \$16,276. Fund raising efforts continue to attempt to receive the full amount of matching funds offered. At meeting time only 46 members have contributed to this drive.
- Since the objective of this funds drive to solidify the Post’s future financial position the efforts will continue. March has produced a several \$1,000 to \$2,000 days to exceed the Post’s financial breakeven point which allows funding to cover other Legion needs beyond building financial security.

The Commander made two general announcements before proceeding to Old Business.

- The Corn Hole contests and practice sessions have been the generator of March’s financial recovery. The players are satisfied and wish to continue in the future.
- Brad Kennel and Craig Graham are commended for their roles in promoting their two very valuable additions to our financial stabilization efforts.

- Lee Howerton, our Veteran's Service Officer injured her foot and hasn't been mobile enough to perform her duties at our Post. Instead, Lee can be reached at her Fayetteville office until such time as it is safe enough for her to travel. **GET WELL QUICKLY LEE. WE MISS YOU!!!**

OLD BUSINESS – The Commander proceeded to Old Business but none was raised. She related:

- The Blood Drive held this day (2/8/19) seemed to be successful but she hadn't heard anything final results yet from the Red Cross.
- The "salamander" range is due to arrive and be installed within the next two weeks.

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT: Graham reported:

- The very successful Corn Hole games on Friday evenings provide contestants their challenges for computer matched partnerships for a \$5 entry fee.
- Saturday tournaments (when scheduled) allow contestants to choose their own partners.
- Friday evening entertainment is regularly provided by the popular duo David and Buffy. **THEY PLAY FOR TIPS SO BE GENEROUS.**
- Our Assistant Cook Jim Beherans, has broken his foot and will not be available until at least mid-May. This means **WE NEED KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS MORE THAN EVER. PLEASE JOIN US AND HELP US CONTINUE THE MARCH TO GREAT FOOD PRODUCTS.**
- Sunday night, April 14, the Young Marines with producing a "SPAGHETTI FEED" for all comers. **LET'S SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS!!**
- We have agreed to sponsor a "Chili Cook Off" in the future. A specific date for this event has yet to be scheduled but is being driven by Mike Montes. Call him to enter and help with the preparations.
- Mike Montes has met initially with the Bright Water Culinary Academy but final plans are yet to be made.

The Commander announced planning for the April 29th meeting "Wreaths Across America" are still proceeding well. She also let everyone know we are continuing efforts to garner financial grants from Walmart and J.B.Hunt but we need volunteer assistance to complete these processes.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION – The following items were discussed:

- A new traffic light will be installed at the intersection of Kingsdale Road and I-49. This will be beneficial for Post advertising and safety.
- A new display case will be installed for member memorabilia beside the fireplace in the bar. Please support this effort with your contributions.

- A potential gun and coin show at the Post was discussed. Plans are yet to be developed for this sale.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS – The following Post positions and nominations for them thus far are:

- Commander – Brad Kennel.
- First Vice Commander – Dave Nieman.
- Second Vice Commander – No one nominated yet.
- Finance Director – No one nominated yet.
- Adjutant – No one nominated yet.
- Judge Advocate – Gene Rogers.
- Sergeant at Arms – Don Naught.
- Historian – No one nominated yet.
- Committee Persons:
 - Gregg Graham.
 - Jeff Vermurlin.
 - Pat O'Brien.

It is readily apparent that more nominees willing to get actively involved are need for ALL POSITIONS. If you can volunteer at this time drag a good person ready to work to the next meeting. WE WILL NOT ONLY FINISH NOMINATIONS BUT WE WILL ELECT OUR 2019 OFFICERS.

THIS ORGANIZATION CAN NOT RUN WITHOUT YOUR COMMITMENT AND ASSISTANCE!!!

There being no further business the Commander moved the meeting to the meeting closing procedures.

CLOSING CEREMONIES:

Commander Meacham and Chaplain Lantz conducted the closing ceremonies at approximately 1940 hours.

Respectfully submitted

Don Naught

**Bella Vista Adjutant
American Legion Post 0341
Bella Vista, AR**