

District 8 “Winter” Meeting

February 8, 2020

Valley Post #58

Joint American Family Meeting

District 8 Commander Dave Doolen open the “winter” meeting at 9:02 am. Following the opening ceremony Commander Doolen then introduced the following guest: National, Department, District Eight, Past District 8 American Legion Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents.

District 8 Adjutant Tom Robbins then read the roll call and 13 posts were in attendance.

Department Commander Gary Wooten then asked the members in attendance to work on membership using the new Legion Act to get the veterans who were not eligible before to join and asking members who have not renewed to rejoin. He reported that Gretna was at 100% and Bennington and Herman were at 99%. Currently Department is at 85% with 3,600 members not renewed from 2019.

He stated that post are not limited to just one student for Boys State. Send in all the students who qualify, and money will be found to pay the fee. We were 50 students short of our goal of 400 last year. We have a new Boys State poster that has a QR stamp which when open will have an application form for the students use. The deadline for applications for Junior Law Cadet is March 15.

Post are asked to use the Department Facebook page to upload articles and pictures. Post Commander and Adjutants were also asked to use the My Legion web site to keep their information current for the annual Post Consolidation Report. He also asks post to consider sending in a \$.50 per member donation to help with special programs.

Mike Sheridan read the minutes of the February 9, 2019 meeting, because the adjutant was having eye problems. There were no additions or corrections.

District Eight Finance Officer Joe Sladky reported the District bank balance was \$5,638.51.

Commander Doolen gave his year in review report spent a lot of time at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home, took a class on how to push a wheelchair, attend the Bingo program numerous times. Completed the Leadership school, helped with Sarpy County Government Day and programs conducted at Offutt, Helped with Dollar Days, Sandown and Oratorical Contest.

Department Vic Commander Larry Mach spoke about County Government Day and getting support with funding from the County Superintendent or County Board. He also gave his qualification for running for Department Commander.

NEC Representative Fred Craigie spoke about getting the military fully funded, protecting the flag and keeping the VA system strong.

Department Dave Salak spoke about American Legion 101st birthday, having 50 yr lapel pins available for sale, not free, November 1-6 is the Legion College program, making sue member are signed up for the free insurance, and filling out the 900-federal tax form at least every 3 years.

The state convention will be in Kearney June 25-28. The National convention will be in Louisville, KY August 23-28

He asked for support for LB 153 which would save 50% of a veteran's military pension from Nebraska taxes. LB770 would give active duty military free access to state and national parks and LB58 the "Red Flag" bill that would allow officials to take away anyone's guns following a complaint.

SAL Detachment Commander Bud Neel spoke about supporting Children & Youth programs and seeking funds to help the Nebraska State Patrol replace their K9 officers.

Sons NEC George Sevick stated that only 25% of all squadrons nationwide submit an annual Consolidated Squadron Report. During the past year Squadrons have donated 8 million to Child Welfare

Brian Riley from South Omaha Post #331 was introduced as a veteran helping fellow veterans fighting suicide. If you would like to volunteer in this area the VA and other organizations offer training. You would learn the meaning of White & Red smoke among other things.

Department Membership Committee Member Bruce Husted spoke about membership and reported that District 8 was an 89% He has a current list of members in Post 500 and past members that he would be willing to give to post for them to contact these veterans in hopes that they transfer to their post. He also asked for membership and had only 2 from Benson turned in.

Bruce talked about the Veterans Bridge Fund and responsibilities.

Department Wooten then presented 11 National Children & Youth Awards, 11 Americanism Awards, 9 Service to Community Awards, 3 100% membership ribbons and 1, 95% ribbon and 9 Retention Awards to District 8 posts.

WE then took a break for the chairman of 4 items could complete their mission.

Upon reopening the meeting, the following was reported: 2020 Jr Law Cadet Selection will be held on April 19, at Ralston Post. 2020 Boy and Girls State orientation will be May 3, at Valley Post, 2020 Oratorical Contest November 14 at Creighton Prep hosted by Post 1, 2021 Boys & Girls State orientation will be hosted by Valley in May, exact day will be set later, 2020 Fall Roundup will be held October 21 at South Omaha Post #331 and the 2021 Junior Law Cadet selection will be hosted by Ft Calhoun in April exact day to be set later.

The delegates for the 2020 National Convention will be: Commander Doolen, Mike Sheridan, Fred Tisdale, John Henry Percy and alternate Jim Costello

The District 8 Citizenship Award was presented to Fred Tisdale

The “Get up & Go” award was presented to Marty Timberlake

Candidates for various Department Officers were allowed to introduce themselves.

Jim Costello made a motion for the District to donate \$200 to the Medal of Honor Highway Route 20 program and the motion carried

We then recessed for lunch.

At 1:08 p.m. Commander Doolen opened the joint meeting. The introduction of National, Department and District guest was made.

Vice Commander Shelton then introduced Chief Master Sgt. Richard Dawson who gave greeting from the command staff at Strat Com. He then spoke about the meaning of Presidents Day and about the 1.8 million veterans that have received the Purple Heart.

Colleen Vonderhaar spoke about the new addition at the VA Medical Center Fisher House. The program was started in 1990 by a couple that wanted to help the families of veterans confined to the hospital. The facility will open in June and will have 16 rooms with 4 people per room. To qualify the person must live over 50 miles from Omaha. Children can be included, and they will have programs suited from them. They will be seeking volunteers to help cook and will be accepting all types of clothing.

Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home Auxiliary Representative Leatrice Doolen and John Wenninghoff stated that the residents are taken to a dinner outside of the home occasionally, they have Bingo, Ice Cream days, play games, have a Luycnt gaming Projector with 100 games the members in the Allegiance unit can play. g They have door prizes, are taken to Gilmore Lake with weather permitting to fish. They recently took a trip to the National Cemetery. There are 115 residents at the home.

Rose Sheehy stated that the new ambulatory building will have a ribbon cutting on July 22 and open on August 3. The annual VA picnic has been postponed.

Fred Tisdale reported that a new American Legion monument will be dedicated on March 15 in the National Cemetery at noon. They will be putting a Gold Star Mothers memorial in Memorial Park.

Sons NEC George Sevick reported that the annual dues will be increasing \$5 for 2021 membership year.

The Metal of Honor Highway Route 20 was renamed on January 31.

Post 58 Commander Richard Rowe explained how the Post Home was open to the residents of the community during the 2019 flood.

The meeting adjourned following the singing of “God Bless America” and invocation at 3:00 p.m.

Following the Closing a Post Everlasting program was conducted. With a total of 81 names read and honored.

\Submitted by

Tom Robbins,

District 8 Adjutant

