

Oct. 7, 2021 Post 266 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Carl Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

POW/MIA Cover Placement: Sergeant-at-Arms Cheek placed the POW/MIA cover on the empty chair while Post Commander recited the ceremonial reading.

Chaplin Kay said a prayer.

Recitation of the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion was led by Jim Osterchill.

Auxiliary announcements: The annual Veterans dinner will be November 7th at 1:00PM.

Minutes: Motion 1st Steve Botos and 2nd Gordon Hansen to approve the minutes. Passed

Financial: Caught-up on tabled reports from prior months. Motion 1st Jared Weinman and 2nd by Jim Cheek to approve all the financial reports. Passed

Old Business:

No update on the hall remodel from Fix-it Phil.

Provided per Nichole Johnson request a color guard for Fireman's 9/11 program. VC Laaker coordinated the squad of 6. Thanks to those who stepped up: Merlin Kay, Dick Musel, Deb Niesen, Carl Patterson, Jerry Valasek and Jared Weinman.

Thanks also to those who met the District 8 officers for the Whirlwind-Hat's-Off Tour on Friday Sept. 10. And to the Auxiliary for providing snacks and drinks.

I attended the Leadership Training / Homecoming: Saturday Aug 14 at Valparaiso to meet new Dept. & Sons Commanders and Auxiliary President.

Copies of my NE Dept. Convention notes and some National Convention programs with notes were available for pick-up by those who wanted one.

New Business:

Thanks to Jim Cheek and Dick Musel for their work on the memorial ceremony for Jeff Dolenski. These 11 attended:

Jim Cheek	Donny Laaker	Jerry Valasek	Carl Patterson	Gale Sass	Les Brauer
Merlin Kay	Dick Musel	Vic Vanarsdel	Ken Dirksen	Deb Niesen – bugle	

Anyone who wants to participate in these honor / color guard events and is not getting called, let me know. Usually, I stop calling once I reach the number needed for the event. I do not want anyone to feel ignored.

Membership: time to pay dues, if you do not pay online with National, Adjutant Glenn will take your money. 79 members have renewed for a 61%. Reporting dates and goal: October 14, 55%; November 10, 65%; December 8, 75%. Our progress is on target.

National Commander Paul E. Dillard, TX set a 3% goal increase for Departments. NE Dept. looks to posts to meet that goal. So if you know veterans who are non-members, recruit them. There are awards for individuals and posts such as the plaques and \$300 we earned for last year.

Nat. Cmdr. Dillard chose his tenure theme – No veteran left behind. He asks us to use the 2019 Buddy Check Program to fulfill it. You can see the program on the National web site. I have handouts here which give a condensed version – background, call scripts and post phone number and email. You can use your personal contact info instead of those. It does not matter if you personally know the member you choose to call, just follow the script. Asked members to agree to make 3 to 5 calls and report on their responses. As an aside, I encourage you to read the bio for Dillard in the October Legion magazine.

Another way to address the No veteran left behind theme would be to visit veterans in the hospital or veteran's home or even serve there. You can reach the contact for the Eastern NE Veteran's Home volunteer coordinator at 402-595-2180 for opportunities.

Sons of the American Legion: Commander Casey spoke to us last August. Jared Weinman has agreed to be our Post Squadron Commander. See Jared to join. Steven Youngberg and Glenn Turner and I will support Jared. That

puts us well on our way to meeting the 10 minimum to establish a squadron. Motion by Jared Weinman and 2nd by Deb Niesen to approve adding a SAL squadron to the post. Passed

National recognized a Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. For 2021 it was Daniel Martin of the Omaha Police Department. National also has a Firefighter/EMS of the year. Anyone want to agree to doing a nomination for Larry Arp? Whether he wins or not, it would be good to try. Larry agreed, so Commander will seek information on making the nomination.

Unserviceable US Flags – post has worked with Boy Scouts on retirement ceremonies. Would having a collection box be a project the Scouts should be asked to make? Some members seemed interested but none volunteered to pursue the project.

Sally has asked for someone to assume the hall scheduling duty. No volunteer. Keep asking.

Last spring, we decided to postpone the pancake feed. We should plan for it to be either March 11 or 18, 2022. We should discuss this at our November and December meetings. I will ask those who got supplies and served to do so again.

Announcements:

SAL Leadership Training – Sunday October 10, 10 a.m. at Benson Post 112; Homecoming celebration with a meal for SAL Commander Chris Casey at 5 p.m.

Fall District 8 Round-up – Saturday October 16 at Gretna Post 216; 9a.m., 11690 S. 216th St., Gretna, NE 68028.

Bennington Founder's Day Celebration – Saturday October 23; why not attend and wear your hat? Talk to vets you meet and recruit new members.

Oratorical Contest program was sent to high schools. District 8 contest, Saturday November 6 at Creighton Prep., 7400 Western Ave., Omaha, NE 68114

Mid-year Conference – January 21-23, Ramada Inn, Columbus. Hotel 402-835-4350; cost \$99.95 plus tax per night.

District 8 Convention – Saturday February 12, 2022, 9 a.m. at Papillion Post 32, 230 W. Lincoln St., Papillion, NE 68046.

District 8 Boys State Orientation - Saturday April 16, 2022 1 p.m. at Valley Post 58, 111 E. Front St., Valley, NE 68064.

District 8 Junior Law - Sunday April 17, 2022, 1 p.m. at Ft. Calhoun Post 348, 1311 Court St., Ft. Calhoun, NE 68023.

Per request by Carl Patterson, web-master Youngberg added the announcements to the post web site calendar. No other new business.

Sergeant-at-arms Cheek recovered the POW/MIA chair cover while Commander recited the ceremonial reading.

Adjourn: Motion 1st James Cheek and 2nd by Pete Hunt. Passed. (**Note:** motion is not debatable, must vote without discussion. If anyone raises a question, “table the motion” and return to New Business to address it. Then motion may be “picked up from the table” and voted upon.)