

Approved 3 February 2022

Dec. 2, 2021 Post 266 Meeting Minutes

Bill Deardorf, Bennington Geography teacher and coach of the All Girls Robotics Club at BHS, had some team members present details on club activities and requested \$325 to buy team T-shirts. Motion made by Jared Weinman; second by Dr. Steven Youngberg; approved. Post support of club to be recognized on team banner.

Bill Bonney, NE Veterans Service Office Manager and Post 266 member, presented information on VSO functions supporting veterans. Bill works at the Lincoln office and provided contact details: william.bonney@va.gov and cell 402-420-4021. Also gave web site as <https://veterans.nebraska.gov/>

Call to Order: Commander lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chaplin Kay gave a prayer.

Recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion lead by Deb Niesen and all members present

Auxiliary Announcements: The Veterans Day Dinner on November 7th was very successful, about 90 attended.

Minutes: Minutes of November meeting reviewed; no revisions. Motion by James Cheek and second by Pete Hunt to approve the minutes; approved.

Financial: November report reviewed no revisions. Motion by Jared Weinman and second by James Cheek to approve the financial report; approved. Money Jar – Finance officer Reed reported we have more than \$100. Commander ask if we should donate \$100 to one of the National Legion causes – Yanks Who Gave; Comfort Warriors; Child Welfare; National Emergency Fund? Members agreed to continue collecting until Pancake Feed and then donate to Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund which is how the jar is labeled. Motion by Merlin Kay and second by Deb Niesen; approved.

Old Business:

Hall Remodel – Deb Niesen reported on Fix-it Phil, Barnes Construction, Brady Hoffer Construction and Danny Renner Construction. Only Renner would agree to remodel; construction to begin January 17.

Sons of the American Legion: Jared Wineman, SAL update - sign-ups are continuing, have 9, need 1 more to file charter.

Legion National Firefighter/EMS of the year, Larry Arp, not in attendance, unknown if nomination form completed.

Buddy Check Program – No veteran left behind. No one reported making any calls. Lyle Sass working on phone number verification. Expectations to call will continue into 2022.

Unserviceable US Flags – Merlin Kay, collection box project, plans to follow-up after holidays.

Hall Scheduling – Deb Niesen provided info on trash; Christianson sold business to Abes; a 2 Cu. Yd container would cost \$56 with once/week emptying. Vice Commander Donny Laaker agreed to follow-up which resulted in free on-call collections.

Veterans Day – Ridgewood color guard on Thurs. Nov. 11. Attendees: Jim Cheek, Jim Osterchill, Jerry Valasek, Merlin Kay, Ken Dirksen and Les Brauer.

-- **Hy-Vee** – Deb Niesen, Larry Arp and Donny Laaker manned a table. Recruited 3 new members which are Robert Wilmes, Joseph Poteat and Richard Anderson a transfer (Post 266 has 2 Richard Anderson's).

– **Bennington, Heritage, Anchor Pointe and Pine Creek Elementary** – No reports by anyone attending one of the schools.

Afghan Refugee Resettlement – Blair Library. Lyle Sass attended and reported on needs: living quarters, physical help, donations, etc.

Oratorical Contest - District 8, November 6 at Creighton Prep. No one attended; no report.

Bellevue Veterans Day Parade – November 6. No one attended; no report.

Veterans Day Dinner – November 7th, Auxiliary hosted; well attended as Auxiliary reported.

Veterans Burial Benefits Seminar – November 9th at Jewish Community Center. No one attended; no report.
Consolidated Post Report – reminded members to continue tracking activities to provide adjutant input on community involvement hours for the Department summary to Congress. The Department stressed bloodmobiles for December. If you gave, record it on your CPR log.

Pancake Feed – chose Saturday March 19, 2022; set-up on Friday March 18. Those who got supplies and served expected to do so again. Expect February and March requests for help.

Public Relations Recognition – Steven Youngberg submitted his nomination for our website. We wish him well on achieving this award in 2022.

New Business:

Membership: time to pay dues, if you do not pay online with National, Glenn will take your money.

Stood at 78% at December meeting; more paid after the meeting; expect updated numbers at next meeting. The January/February Nebraska Legionnaire newsletter included a notice to unpaid members - *“This is your last issue”* While National sends out renewal notices, we need to encourage members to pay their dues.

Dennis Verdick Honor Guard – held Nov. 30 at Omaha National Cemetery. Attendees: Deb Niesen, Ken Dirksen, Jim Cheek, Vic Vanarsdel, Donny Laaker, Dick Musel, Glenn Turner, Jerry Valsek, Merlin Kay and Les Brauer.

Inventory - Asked adjutant to conduct an inventory of our items on hand – hats, coats, gloves, ties, flags, hat pins, etc., including sizes. Will review at our February meeting to see if we need to do any restocking.

January/February Nebraska Legionnaire newsletter included Taps for 3 members: Dan Else, Melvin Tiedje and Dennis Verdick. We did Honor Guards for Melvin and Dennis but not Dan. Not listed nor did we do an HG for him was Korean veteran Henry Evans. He was presented the Korean medal when distributed last summer.

Thank Yous: We received a thank you card from the Nebraska Medal of Honor Foundation for the Posts \$500 gift to purchase 12 highway signs. The post also received 6 hand-made thank you cards from students. You may have seen them at the November Veterans Day Dinner as they were passed around then.

Announcements:

Mid-year Conference – January 21-23, Ramada Inn, Columbus. Hotel 402-835-4350; cost 99.95 plus tax per night. Merlin and Annette Kay will be our representatives.

Veterans Legislative Day – January 28, 2022 in Lincoln at State Capitol

District 8 Convention – Saturday February 12 2022, 9 a.m. at Papillion Post 32.

Pancake Feed – Saturday March 19, 2022; set-up on Friday March 18

District 8 Boys State Orientation - Saturday April 16, 2022 1 p.m. at Valley Post 58.

District 8 Junior Law - Sunday April 17, 2022, 1 p.m. at Ft. Calhoun Post 348.

Is there any other new business? No other new business.

Post/Vice Commander: Sergeant-at-arms, retrieved the POW/MIA chair cover; Commander recited required reading.

Commander wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year and added enjoy yourselves but be safe in all your travels and activities. Our next meeting will be February 3, 2022.

Adjourn: Motion by Carl Patterson and second by Jared Weinman to adjourn; approved.