

December 1, 2022 Post 266 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Ken Price lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

POW/MIA Cover Placement: Sergeant-at-Arms, placed the POW/MIA cover on the empty chair.

Chaplin Kay: Gave a prayer?

Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion: led by Dick Musel.

Auxiliary: Announced 92 items donated to Bennington food pantry at the November Sunday 11/6 Dinner.

Minutes: Motion by Jim Cheek and second by Dick Musel to approve minutes of November meeting, passed.

Financial: Motion by Larry Arp and second by Ken Dirksen to approve the financial report, passed.

Old Business:

Money Jar: Donated \$150 to Gifts For Yanks Who Gave. We will continue collections and need to choose a fund to support not made. Suggestions? Possibilities: Department building fund, JAVELAN service dogs, Outlook Enrichment, National Emergency Fund, Helping a Hero. Program from Helping a Hero circulated; led to motion by Larry Arp to donate \$500, second by Steven Youngberg, passed. Organization removed from consideration for money jar going forward.

Sons of the American Legion: Commander Jared noted \$100 in free-will donations given at SAL Trunk-N-Treat activity. Announced next activity would be Presidents Day event; update: plan rescinded.

Buddy Check Program – Be the One focus on suicide prevention. Lyle update: 96 calls made resulted in 66 contacts. See stories in Legion magazine.

Building Committee: Update: Back wall – quotes: \$31,040.25 / \$23,500, no action taken; tree trimming, Unserviceable US Flags Collection box, WW II Billboard repair or replacement: no updates, plan for warm weather suggested.

Consolidated Post Report – continue to track your activities to provide our adjutant input on community involvement hours for the Department summary to Congress.

Replacement Rifle Jim Cheek, update on return of rifle with cracked receiver – no change, waiting on DOD.

Inventory Review – Needs updated – hats, coats, gloves, ties, flags, hat pins, etc., including sizes. We will hold its review for future meeting to see which items we will restock.

Custom Cards: Get well, ordered.

New Business:

Membership: Current status: 89 of 114 renewed, 25 pending. New member rebate: \$5.00 when signed up by November 1st has expired. Post did get 3 new members for a \$15 rebate.

Tomb of Unknown Soldier: Half size replica, will get it for Bennington Daze, June 3, 2023. Size: 4 ft. W x 8 ft L x 5 ft H. Cost: \$500 paid by sponsor Stan Schleifer. Set up on Friday, take down on Sunday. Larry Arp to notify city about set up near Vets Memorial in city park. Plan recruiting table for Post and Sons with it.

Next Meeting: February 2nd; Sons will meet on December 8th and on January 12th. Legionnaires encouraged to attend.

No other new business.

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

Adjourn: Motion by Larry Arp and second by Ken Dirksen to adjourn; passed.

Announcements:

Joseph David Brown, Sr.: Member of Post 266, passed away November 24; service Saturday December 3rd, 11am at Cutler-O'Neill-Meyer-Woordring Funeral Home, 545 Willow Ave., Council Bluffs; interment at Ridgewood Cemetery.

National Crisis Line: new phone number, 988 then press 1 for Veterans' Crisis Line

Department Mid-year Conference: Friday January 13 – Sunday January 15, 2023; Norfolk Lodge, Norfolk; Reservations 402-379-3833, Rate \$99.95 + tax / night.

National Membership Incentive: National Commander Jim Troiola will award a Be The One pin to those who

sign-up 3 new 2023 members; new means they were not a 2022 member. Get certification form from commander or adjutant.

100% Legion Family Ribbon: Post award if Legion, Auxiliary and SAL each meet 100% members by May 31, 2023. See bulletin board for prior ribbons.

Junior Shooting Sports: Gun safety and marksmanship, boys and girls age 14-20, register by December 15.

Progressive Insurance / Enterprise Vehicle Giveaway: Applications accepted May to September; giveaway in November; eligibility – veteran, active duty, Gold Star – plus other criteria. See commander for details if you know someone who may qualify and help them apply.

Washington DC Conference: Lobby Congress on Legionnaires legislative agenda, see November Legion magazine for priorities. Anyone who want to attend needs to contact Department Adjutant Salak. Schedule: February 26 to March 1.

Cornhusker Boys State: June 4 – 10, 2023; registration due by March 15, 2023 with payment raised to \$400.

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Together We Served: Seeking Vietnam War stories for 6-part documentary, contact Stacy-Ann Baptise@72films.com; 44-741-555-8102