

February 2, 2023 Post 266 Meeting Minutes

Baseball representative Heath Mlnarik along with 2 players gave a season update and received \$8,500 Post sponsorship.

Call to Order: Steven Youngberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chaplin Kay gave a prayer.

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

Auxiliary: Announced Legion birthday lunch to be March 12th will include a Quilt of Valor.

Minutes: Motion by Jim Cheek and second by Pete Hunt to approve December meeting minutes; passed.

Financial: Motion by Pete Hunt and second by Jim Cheek to approve financial report; passed.

Old Business:

Money Jar – We continue collections and need to choose a fund to support. Suggestions? Department building fund, JAVELAN service dogs, Outlook Enrichment, National Emergency Fund, Guitars for Vets?

Sons of the American Legion: Squadron planning Easter Egg Hunt for Bennington at Legion Baseball Field on Saturday April 8th. They also purchased Polo shirts for SAL members.

Buddy Check Program – Be the One focus on suicide prevention. Note: Congress bill instructed VA to conduct a national Buddy Check week, page 35 in Legion magazine. Also, see page 6 stories. Lyle update: 83 contacts, 43 responses.

Building Committee: update: need warm weather. Back wall – quotes: \$31,040.25 / \$23,500, tree trimming, Unserviceable US Flags Collection box, WW II Billboard, motion by Lyle Sass and second by Merlin Kay to have Don Johnson repair and install it with Lyle paying repair cost. Idea suggested: billboard damage and repair may be used as a promotion to fund raise.

Tim Ohrt Donation: Finance Officer Rick explained that the June \$1,000 check for playground equipment was not cashed. Motion by Dick Musel and second by Jim Zoulias to keep commitment; Rick to address.

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, on order. Commander sent a get well card to Dick M.

New Business:

Membership: time for 2022-23 notices to pay dues, if you do not pay online with National, Glenn will take your money. Current status: 96 paid of 114 members; 84%.

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. Legionnaire newsletter had a photo of Tomb. Set up on Friday, take down on Sunday. Larry Arp, to notify the city it will be set up near Vets Memorial in city park. Plan recruiting table for Post and Sons with it. F.O. Reed to coordinate activities such as Post Honor Guard, SAL wreath laying, Riders flag line. Rick's motion seconded by Merlin Kay – passed/

Next Meeting: March 2nd; Sons will meet on February 9th and March 9th. Legionnaires encouraged to attend.

Announcements:

District 8 Conference: Saturday, 9am, February 11th at Herman Post 274, 705 Main St. Allowed 5 delegates, includes Commander and Adjutant. D8 Commander, Ron Riley and VC, Doug Vance resigned, expect an election at D8 conference.

Cornhusker Boys State: June 4 – 10, 2023; registration due by March 15, 2023 with \$400 payment; increased from \$375.

Junior Law Cadet Program: Boys, June 20-21; Girls June 22-23, 2023; registration due by March 15, 2023 with \$200 payment.

Member Data Form: Check MyLegion.org to ensure you data is correct and update as needed.

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

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.

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 wants to attend needs to contact Department Adjutant Salak. Schedule: February 26 to March 1.

Login.gov: One account and password. Login.gov is a secure sign-in service used by the public to sign in to participating government agencies. Participating agencies includes the VA. This streamlines your process and eliminates the need to remember multiple usernames and passwords.

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

No other new business.

POW/MIA chair cover: Retrieved by Sergeant-at-Arms Cheek.

Adjourn: Motion adjourn by Jerry Valasek and second by Jim Cheek.