

March 2, 2023 Post 266 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Lyle Sass 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 Steve Botos.

Auxiliary: Reviewed the March 12th Legion Birthday lunch, Quilts of Valor presented and indicated the evening's refreshments were donated by the Bennington Foundation.

Minutes: Motion by Jared Weinman and second by Jim Cheek to approve February meeting minutes; passed

Financial: Motion by Pete Hunt and second by Ken Dirksen to approve the financial report.

Old Business:

Money Jar – We will continue collections and need to choose a fund to support: Department building fund, JAVELAN service dogs, Outlook Enrichment, National Emergency Fund? Patriot Songs, book of poems, \$7.95; motion by Steven Youngberg and second by Ken Price to purchase 4 copies – high school & both middle school libraries and public library; passed.

Sons of the American Legion: Commander Jared on SAL Squadron activities: Saturday 8 April hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at Legion Baseball Field, 11 am – 2 pm, with hot dogs and chips. Legion to provide a color guard for opening ceremony.

Buddy Check Program – Be the One focus on suicide prevention, see page 10 Legion magazine. Note Congress bill instructed VA to conduct a national Buddy Check week. Lyle update: 48 contacts, 33 responses, 15 failed to respond.

Building Committee: Activity pending warm weather. Back wall – quotes: \$31,040.25 / \$23,500, tree trimming, Unserviceable US Flags Collection box, WW II Memorial Display repair by Don Johnson underway.

Tim Ohrt Donation: Deposit of \$1,000 for playground equipment made.

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 – after meeting DOD agreed to send a return box.

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, order pending.

Tomb of Unknown Soldier: Half size replica 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, notified the city it will be set up at Vets Memorial in city park. F.O Rick Reed to coordinate program. B-Daze meeting, 30 March, agreed to schedule event 30 minutes after parade ends. Probably inclusions for ceremony: color guard, rifle salute, wreath laying. Riders flag line, Representative General Bacon to speak.

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: 98 of 114 for 85.9% renewals.

Department Awards: Americanism; 90% Membership

Cornhusker Boys State: 2 applications; Elijah College; Ryan Dawo; motion by Merlin Kay and second by Ken Dickson to approve \$800 for scholarships; approved. Department sent acceptance letters to both applicants.

Spaghetti Dinner, March 22 / Maple Ridge Fundraisers, March 13-18.

Pancake Feed: Chose Saturday April 29, 2023; set-up on Friday April 28. Those who got supplies and served expected to do so again. 2022 event served about 200 adults plus children and raised \$2,179. Supplies list at end of minutes.

Fireworks: Merlin Kay met with Kaboomers, expect delivery after 17 June.

Veterans Memorial Flags: Weathered, need replaced. Rick Reed and Larry Arp to address.

Next Meeting: April 6th. Sons will meet on March 9th. Legionnaires encouraged to attend.

Announcements:

District 8 Conference: Held Saturday, February 11th at Herman Post 274. Commander elected as delegate to National Convention, Charlotte, NC in August 2023.

Cornhusker Boys State: June 4 – 10, 2023; registration due by March 15, 2023 with \$400 payment; increased from \$375. Orientation April 22, 2023 at Valley Post 58.

Junior Law Cadet Program: No applicants; 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.

Washington DC Conference: Lobby Congress on Legionnaires legislative agenda, see Legion.org for priorities. National Commander Troiola testified on 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.

No other new business.

Post/Vice Commander: Sergeant-at-Arms retrieve the POW/MIA chair cover.

Adjourn: Motion by Jim Cheek and second by Steve Botos to adjourn, passed.

Pancake Feed Supplies:

\$50 Gift Card – Bakers (spent on various items), Jerry Valasek

60 Dozen Eggs – Jim Zoulias HyVee not donating but offering 10% discount, Jared Weinman – Costco sells 5 dz. crates at \$13.39 (2.68/dz.) but limits 2 per customer, Jared will donate \$60 towards purchase.

16 Dozen Eggs – Mike Valasek, 156th St outside of Bennington

100 Cartons White and 150 Cartons Chocolate Milk and 200 Cartons Orange Juice – Hiland Dary, Steven Youngberg.

5 Gallons Regular Syrup and 10 Sugar-free 2 quart Containers – Dick Musel – completed.

3 Gallons Canola Oil – Dick Musel – completed.

1 Each 3 lbs (Regular and Decaf) Coffee - Dick Musel – completed.

5 – 10 lbs. Boxes of Sausage and 1 Propane Tank – Cubbys; Steve Botos

Pancake Batter: 3 – 25 lb. Bags, Jimmy's Egg (Les Brauer ordered, will donate). Need to make beforehand.

Other items – check on-hand or purchase:

9 – 8 Ounce Tubs Butter or patties – Larry Arp

1 Big Jar Lemon Juice – Glenn Turner

Pam Spray – Glenn Turner

1 Big Bottle Dawn Soap – Glenn Turner

Napkins – Glenn Turner

Gallon Storage Bags – Glenn Turner

3 Rolls Paper Towels – on hand

Forks / Spoons / Knives – Jim Zoulias

7 Ounce Cups for Juice – bought although Hiland Dairy donated in 2022; plenty on hand.

Plates – 500 Paper – Jim Zoulias

Aluminum Foil: on hand

Signs – Diane Warrick, Merlin Kay, Glenn Turner