

May 4, 2023 Post 266 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Jerry Valasek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

POW/MIA Cover Placement

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

Chaplin Kay said a prayer

Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion: led by Ken Price

Auxiliary: Announced food sales for Bennington Daze June 3rd.

Minutes: Motion by Jim Cheek and second by Merlin Kay to approve minutes; passed.

Financial: Motion by Donny Laaker and second by Jerry Valasek 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? Seven Patriot Songs, book of poems, \$7.95; received and distributed: 4 elementary schools, high & both middle school libraries but not public library. Initial motion was for 4 copies: high & both middle school libraries and public library. Instructed finance officer to purchase public library copy.

Sons of the American Legion: Commander Jared absent, SAL Squadron had a successful Egg Hunt; Post provided Color Guard; see April minutes for other details.

Buddy Check Program: Lyle reported 38 contacts.

Building Committee: Updates, Back wall, no activity – quotes: \$31,040.25 / \$23,500; tree trimming, Commander talked to neighbor who agreed OK to trim as needed and talked to neighbor “Chuck” but he failed to followup; Unserviceable US Flags Collection box, placement completed by Memorial Day; WW II Memorial Display repaired and installed by Don Johnson by Memorial Day.

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

Inventory Review Update pending – 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, received.

Tomb of Unknown Soldier: F.O Rick Reed update: Larry Arp notified city about set up, replica arrives Friday June 2nd, picked-up 6pm Saturday June 3rd; speakers: Congressman Don Bacon, Offutt 55th Wing Field Officer, maybe Bennington Mayor Johns; SAL wreath laying; Post firing squad; taps; Legion Riders Flag line; high school band ensemble; Rick to MC event. Stan Schleifer sponsored replica's \$500 cost. Motion by Steve Botos and second by Donny Laaker to purchase 1000 replica flag bracelets to hand out, cost \$20; passed.

Veterans Memorial Flags: Rick Reed, Larry Arp update: coordinate with Fire Dept. for American and NE State flags; also replacing trucks, ropes and pulleys. Dick Musel ordered Legion replacement flag.

New Business:

Membership: Current status: 102/114; 89.48%.

Pancake Feed: Saturday April 29, 2023; received \$1960. Also sold two 3X5 flags for \$23 each. Post A.L. site on Next Door had 946 views. Supplies, etc. attached including 2024 adjustments recommended.

Memorial Day: 3 ceremonies; need volunteers: 7 rifles, 4 flags, bugler, Chaplin and Commander, 14 total, more welcome. Times: 9.15am meet at hall, 9.30 leave for Flower Hill for 10am ceremony, followed by German at 11 and Prairie View at 12. Dress: long sleeve white shirt, black pants, tie and cap. Expect calls in prior week for volunteers. Excellent attendance: Post: Steve Botos, Bill Botos, Jim Cheek, Ken Dirksen, Merlin Kay, Donny Laaker, Deb Niesen, Jim Osterchill, Gale Sass, Lyle Sass, Dick Musel, Jerry Valasek, Steven Youngberg
SAL: Goeff Getzschman, Jim Musel, Mike Valasek, Jaydon Weinman.

Dual Members: Les Brauer, Van Mohr, Glenn Turner, Jared Weinman

Bennington Daze Parade: Saturday June 3rd; meet at hall at 10.15am, leave for Middle School at 10.30, parade starts at 11am. Dress: polo shirts, black pants and cap. Tomb of the Unknowns ceremony follows at 12:30 -1pm. Need flags, rifles and bugler.

Helping a Hero: F.O. Reed attended May 4th home ground breaking for Ben Marksmier and presented \$500 donation.

Fireworks: Insurance, no increase, \$5700; City license, \$250; State license, \$26.50; fire suppression inspection scheduled for Jun 6th.

Post Sign: blue American Legion not lit; Commander contacted Superior Lightening, 402-345-0800, Service: parts plus \$80/hr. Labor.

Next Meeting: June 1st. Sons will meet on May 11th. Legionnaires encouraged to attend.

Announcements:

Bellevue Military Day: Saturday May 6th. Family event, encourage you to attend. See K-9 dog show, paratrooper jump-in, blackhawk helicopter and other military vehicles.

Honor Veteran and Military Spouses Day: Thursday May 11.

Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home: Thursday May 11 to May 13, Washington D.C.

Memorial Day Parade: Saturday, May 27, 2023 – 10AM; Downtown Omaha and Gene Leahy Mall includes “RISE ABOVE” Traveling Tuskegee Exhibit with free admission from 9am-5pm May 26 & 27; free USMC Band Concert at Gene Leahy Mall after parade, Fort Riley’s Mounted Color Guard and chance to bid on 1 of 2 flights on a fully restored original P-51C Mustang (HiBid.com) that was flown by Tuskegee Airmen during WW II.

GEARS Auto Show: Sunday May 28, Bennington, Waterfront St.

Department Convention: June 22 – 25, Younes Center Kearney. Joint Sessions, 1pm June 23.

Veterans' Appreciation Day: State Fair, Monday September 4th.

No other new business.

POW/MIA Chair Cover: Retrieved by Sergeant-at-Arms Cheek.

Adjourn: Motion by Jim Cheek and second by Ken Dirksen to adjourn; passed.

\$50 Gift Card – Bakers no gift card provided, Jerry Valasek donated \$50 for supplies; remove Bakers in 2024.

47 Dozen Eggs – Jim Zoulias HyVee not donating but offered 10% discount, Larry Arp purchased, 12 dz. Left over, sold for \$2/dz. Jared Weinman donated \$60 towards purchase. Reduce in 2024.

16 Dozen Eggs – Mike Valasek, 156th St outside of Bennington, no donation, lacks chickens, had donated before; remove in 2024.

100 Cartons White and 150 Cartons Chocolate Milk and 200 Cartons Orange Juice – Hiland Dairy, Steven Youngberg. Add 2 gals. for Eggs. Consider Hiland for 2024 vendor award.

5 Gallons Regular Syrup, on hand and purchased – Dick Musel.

3 Gallons Canola Oil – Dick Musel.

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

4 Sugar-free 16 oz. Containers – Pete Hunt.

Hot Sauce – purchased 3 bottles, only 1 partially used – Pete Hunt.

5 – 10 lbs. Boxes of Sausage and 1 Propane Tank – Cubbys – Merlin Kay.

Pancake Batter: 3 – 25 lb. Bags, Jimmy's Egg (Les Brauer purchased, will donate). Mix beforehand. Only 2 used, reduce in 2024.

Other items – check on-hand or purchase:

9 – 8 Ounce Tubs Butter – Larry Arp, Merlin Kay.

1 Big Jar Lemon Juice – Glenn Turner, Deb Niesen.

Pam Spray – Glenn Turner, Deb Niesen.

1 Big Bottle Dawn Soap – Glenn Turner, Deb Niesen.

Napkins – Glenn Turner, Deb Niesen.

Gallon Storage Bags – Glenn Turner, Deb Niesen.

3 Rolls Paper Towels – on hand.

Forks / Spoons / Knives – Jim Zoulias.

Plates – 500 Paper – Jim Zoulias.

Styrofoam cups – Rick Reed.

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

Aluminum Foil: on hand.

Signs – Diane Warrick, Merlin Kay.