

THE AMERICAN LEGION



Department of Pennsylvania The Office of District Commander - 36th District Tom Monari, Commander

Minutes: 36th District Meeting November 9th, 2008. Frank R. Kirk Post 145

Meeting opened in proper form at 1:00 P.M. by Commander Monari. Opening prayer by acting Chaplain Carl Yurkovich.

Roll call: 31 delegates and 14 commanders present, making a quorum per Article Nine District 36 Constitution.

Motion to suspend reading of the past meeting's minutes made by Earl Utterback, second William Crookshank. Motion carried

Financial Report: made by Finance Officer Howard McBride, copy attached. Special account closed May 08 due to inactivity, Balance zero due to maintenance fees.

Membership Report: Chuck Magnus: 14 Posts at 75%, a month ahead on membership goals. District 36 is 4th in the Department, 1st in the Section. Howard McBride (as Department V.C. for Membership) added comments about membership workshop availability, need to drive up membership.

Motion to accept reports made by Ron Conley. Motion seconded and carried.

Service Officer Report: Earl Utterback. Asks to be notified of those members who are sick, so we can keep them in our prayers. Notice that any veteran at age 65 qualifies for non-service disability

Committee Reports:

SW Vets Center: Howard McBride: Marcia Miller tentatively named as new Representative. Waiting for Nursing is 38 days, for Personal care 18 days, Alzheimer's unit 1 day. Volunteer hours still down. End of mandatory overtime may cause a shortage in nursing.

Americanism: William Crookshank: Posts are not sending in their reports. Suggests marking on the fly during Post meetings to create a record relevant to consolidated reports.

Children & Youth: Lyle Grover: American Legion Child Welfare Foundation awarded over \$600,000 to 18 organizations including one in PA. Details available on request.

Emblem & Poppy: Robert Kosky: Emblem sales as of October, \$18,949 - \$1089 postage/handling = \$17,860 – cost \$16,967 = \$893 profit, year to date \$17,511. Poppy sales, \$2362- \$1292 cost = \$1069, year to date \$16,686 on 251,314 poppies, 41,223 less than last year.

Hospital entertainment: Report sent to Commander: Dates available for District 36 include Jan 21st 2009 7:00 pm at Oakland & HJ Heinz Feb 18th 2009 7:00 pm. More dates should be forthcoming. Also gave dates and information for Holiday visits, Santa's Workshop.

New Post Home: Report sent to Commander: Reminder to report repairs.

Legion College: Carl Yurkovich- Nov. 1st Legion college in Latrobe was well-attended.

National Security: Edward Ambrose: Meat packing plant in Iowa was raided and found more than 1/3 were illegal, fined almost \$10 million mostly over State labor laws.

POW/MIA: Commander reported recent ID of a Marine in Vietnam via DNA testing.

Public Relations: Bill Crookshank: Spoke about making sure Post Charters are up to date via Supplemental Charter. Call Irene for more information 717-730-9100.

Service: Earl Utterback: New VA phone#s 412-688-6100, 412-688-6101. Veterans' Day "Open House" at Costco and Golden Corral. VA Makes presumption of service related cause of prostate cancer in Vietnam vets. National Cemetery plots available 724-746-4352.

Scouting: Ted Pace: Scouting is a good way for Legionnaires to get involved with their communities' youth. About 2500 Legion organizations charter Scout units.

Sons of the Legion: Edward Giese: District 36 is at 30.67%, 11th in the Department.

Legislative: Ronald Conley: November 10th 8:00 am at RMU Arena is an Entrepreneurship seminar relating to government contracts for veterans. New GI Bill material is on the Legion website. Outsourcing of regulations not likely now due to Legion pressure and letters from legislators. Legion not able to take positions on State legislation because Harrisburg is not forthcoming on providing a slate of pending bills.

Veterans' Affairs: Ronald Conley: Dr Yu to be interviewed about the loss of his work and records. US Attorney's office announced it will prosecute fraudulent Veterans' charities.

Housing for Homeless Veterans: Ron Conley: January HHV Dinner. \$22.50 for tickets.

Motion to accept reports made by William Crookshank, second Earl Utterback. Motion Carried.

Sick Call: Mike Macklen, New County Commander deceased.

Unfinished Business: 36 District needs to fill County Jr Vice position. Nominees Chuck Magnus & George Tracey, balloting selected Chuck Magnus. Commander Magnus vacates the County Delegate seat, George Tracey and Lyle Grover nominated. Balloting selected George Tracey

New Business:

Motion carried to send \$200 for KBS made by William Crookshank.

Good of the Legion:

Howard McBride -read a letter thanking Post 75 for a SPYW sponsorship and telling of their experience.

William Crookshank -reminds of upcoming parade and Oratorical contest brochures.

Bill Babcock -announced hand salute authorized for veterans during National Anthem and Flag Ceremonies. Commended George Tracey's Heroes to Hometowns work.

Ed Ambrose -Post 618 Thanksgiving dinner coming up, usually feeds 400-500 people.

Chuck Magnus -Family of Army Captain Ted Severyn buried September 30th at Queen of Heaven, wants to donate to Honor Guard present that day.

William Crookshank -remarked on Honor guard and attendance of Mike Macklen memorial service.

Commander's remarks. -Department Commander's projects: Memorials at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies and in Shanksville, PA. Donate to PA American Legion c/o Commander's Project PO Box 2324 Harrisburg, PA 17105-2324. -Department guides available.

Motion to Adjourn at 2:51 pm.