

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for December 3, 2015

The December meeting of the American Legion Executive Committee was held at CH-1, on 03 December 2015. The meeting was called to order at 1400 by Post Commander Warren Marr. Members attending included Warren Marr, Nick Alpino, Lou Tirado, Ed Brockett, Mike Layton, Joe Rainey, Sam Higa, Jerry Anderson, Vince Howley, and Kathy Rath. Ken Sigmund and Wally Gramberg were excused from the meeting. Joe Rainey led the invocation. Lou Tirado led members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Nick Alpino, Finance Officer, distributed hand-outs on the Post's "Operating Income Statement" from July through 03 December of this year. (See hand-outs). Nick requested that he be sent an email in the future when financial transactions are made from the two individuals with a Post debit card (Howley and Marr) so that he can correctly update the financial records. Nick still is in process of acquiring the Post Bond. Sam Higa and Joe Rainey will work with Nick on filing the taxes for the Post.

First Vice-Commander, Mike Layton, reported that the membership committee has not met since the last Executive Committee meeting in November. Kathy Rath mentioned that all the local restaurants that offered "free meals" to vets on Veteran's Day were full of vets at noon after our program at CH-3 and some talked with Kathy at the restaurant. It was agreed that it would be a good recruiting idea to send out "teams" to several of these restaurants that offer "free meals" next year on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day, and hopefully sign up some of these vets as new members. Nobody volunteered to Chair the project.

Commander Warren Marr thanked everyone for participating in our Veteran's Day program at CH-3. However, the attendance wasn't as much as hoped...perhaps about 220 attended.

Sponsor Advertising: In the distant past, the cost was \$65.00 a year to advertise a business in the directory, and monthly newsletters. An interim rate of \$65 was reestablished at the last Executive meeting. A new rate of \$100 was agreed upon at this meeting to place a business card ad in the Directory, website and Newsletter. Commander Marr has recruited three sponsors at the \$100 rate; Finance Officer Alpino secured a \$100 sponsorship from The Union Bank. The Commander asked other Committee members to recruit more sponsors.

Our December dinner meeting will be Thursday, 17 December, 2015. The meal will include tri-tip steak and cheesecake. The entertainment will be "Flashback Duo", which also performed at our Fourth of July celebration.

At the January meeting, the Vietnam era vets will be recognized and given a certificate and a pin. (This includes any vets serving between 1961 and 1975). Joe Rainey suggested using our Vietnam experience to help "welcome home" current war vets. Unfortunately, some Vietnam vets have come to a Legion meeting or two, joined the Post, and then don't return again. Joe suggested using the following quote to help welcome new veterans to the Legion: "Welcome home, brothers and sisters!! We Vietnam vets can help our current vets who are coming home from the Middle East."

Our speaker at the January meeting will be author and Vietnam War Combat correspondent Uwe Siemon-Netto. He will use his book entitled "Triumph of the Absurd" as the basis to show how the US military won the war only to have the press influence public opinion in negative ways that forced the unnecessary final outcome.

Commander Marr said we are still looking for a Post photographer and a Second Vice-Commander.

Third Vice-Commander, Jerry Anderson, distributed hand-outs, showing the results of the recent "Poppy Fund Drive". The total collected was \$2,957.00. Many thanks to all those who helped collect donations, and especially to Jerry himself. Jerry alone received \$922.72 in donations!!

The members discussed giving gift certificates to the schools, and considered reducing the amount of the gift certificates. The gift certificates were \$50.00 in the past. It was decided to continue with \$50.00 gift certificates to approximately 40 teachers. Commander Marr, Joe Rainey, Sam Higa and Vince Howley will assist Jerry with this project.

Vince Howley, Service Officer, bought cookie tins to give as gifts to the Globe staff, Clubhouses, and others whose services we have used during this past year. Vince will verify his list with Mike Evan's list, since Mike did this in previous years.

An assisted-living facility wants to express its thanks to the Post by hosting a dinner for Legionnaires. No other details are available at this time.

Bob Meyer, our speaker from our Memorial Day program, has a power wheelchair. His wheelchair is not working properly, and apparently needs new batteries. Several members agreed that Bob should contact Medicare, and they will most likely supply Bob with the needed batteries.

Joe Rainey reported that currently there is nothing on the agenda for the Color Guard. Joe will be installed Monday, 07 December, at 1300, as a board member on the new board (VMSI) that will be replacing PCM in L.W.V.

Commander Marr reported that the woman managing our Post website cannot do it for just \$20.00. She states it "takes too long". Commander Marr will contact her, and cap the wage at no more than 5 hours a month. Also, we are still looking for someone to publish the newsletter, beginning in January.

Sam Higa, Post Historian, recommended eliminating the job of Post Historian. If one wants to research the Legion, one can look on "Google Search", or "Historical Society". A motion was made and seconded to eliminate the job of Post Historian. Motion carried.

Open Mic:

Nick Alpino reported that The V.A. Clinic in Laguna Hills no longer needs coffee furnished for them. The V.A. is now supplying the coffee. A worker at the clinic had suggested a "pizza day", where we provide pizza, and use it for recruiting purposes, as well. Nick moved that we spend \$150.00 for a "pizza day" and recruitment drive. It was seconded, and the motion carried.

Sam Higa suggested an idea for a fund-raiser, "Rock for Vets". It's a music-therapy group. No action taken.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Commander Marr at 1525.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Rath
Secretary