

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

American Legion Post 257 Executive Committee meeting was held on 03 September, 2015 in the main dining room of CH-1 in Laguna Woods. The meeting was called to order at 1203 hrs by Commander Warren Marr. Those attending included Warren Marr, Ken Sigmund, Hugh Seamster, Ken Simonson, Vanda Bresnan, Jerry Anderson, Sam Higa, Wally Gramberg, Mike Layton, Lou Tirado, Ed Brockett, Mike Evans, Joe Rainey, Vince Howley, and Kathy Rath. The Commander introduced a new member to our committee, Ken Simonson. Ken is a Viet Nam vet, who will assist Hugh Seamster with his duties. The invocation was led by Joe Rainey. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commander Marr. Commander Marr mentioned that the primary purpose of this meeting is for a "walk-through" of the format for our up-coming dinner meetings. He added that, in most cases, we will be performing the "short version" of required "rituals". The minutes from the July meeting were approved and seconded. The motion was carried, with one minor change in the reversal of two names. Commander Marr announced that Jim Juhan will be our new Post Chaplain, and Ray Fico will be the Chaplain Emeritus. He also announced that Finance Officer, Nick Alpino, is excused from this meeting.

Commander Marr thanked everyone who helped to make the 4th of July celebration a big success!! 300 tickets were sold to the event, and some people had to be turned away. The profit from the event was \$713.00.

Combined, our total from the general fund and the poppy fund is \$10,162.00.

Commander Marr stated that the primary goal of our Post is to help veterans and to do so we need to recruit new members. He distributed a handout showing FY 2014 and FY 2015. Both our Post income and expenses were down in 2015, compared to 2014. However, the cost of our operations increased during 2015. These concerns will be addressed by the Finance Committee and reported on at the next Executive Committee meeting. Commander Marr would like to know if any of our new members have expertise with finances and computer skills. Vanda Bresnan stated that we have reached 49% of paid membership renewals for a total of 108. Our membership goal this year is 221 per the District. Current membership is 185.

1st Vice Commander Mike Layton projects that we will welcome 13 or 14 new members at the September dinner meeting. Paperwork for some of the new members is still pending. The initiation of the new members will be more "formal" than previously. Commander Marr stressed again about recruiting new veterans to join our Post. There will be articles placed in upcoming issues of the "Globe", and flyers will be made.....all encouraging veterans to join Post 257.

Joe Rainey mentioned that WW II glider pilot, Bob Meyer, would like to join our Post, but is having a difficult time financially. (Bob Meyer was the keynote speaker at our Memorial Day ceremony). Joe moved that the Post pay Bob Meyer's dues. The motion was seconded, and carried.

Mike Layton said he will be meeting with the new members after the September dinner meeting, to discuss their future involvement with the Post....to serve as greeters, serve on committees, etc. Our long-time members of the Legion will be honored at the September dinner meeting. We currently have 2 members with Legion membership of more than 60 years, and 1 member with 59 years.

2nd Vice Commander, Hugh Seamster announced the entertainment for the October

22nd dinner meeting. It is a musical group called "The Cover", consisting of 2 singers and a keyboard player. There will not be entertainment at the September meeting, due to the new member initiation. Ken Simonson and Joe Rainey will be assisting Hugh on the Events Committee.

Another upcoming Legion-sponsored event will be Taco Tuesday, on 06 October. There will be line-dancing with Doug Houston, and it will be held at CH-5. (The time is yet to be determined).

Veteran's Day is 11 November. Our speaker will be Col. Ken Kastner, Commanding Officer of the 5th Marine Regiment. The Orange High School Jr. ROTC cadet drill team will participate. This ceremony will be held at CH-3, from 1100 to 1200.

3rd Vice Commander, Jerry Anderson, reminded us that the next "Polly's Pies" dinner will be Thursday, 10 September. This monthly event is routinely held the 2nd Thursday of the mo. 26 attended in August, which was a better turnout than usual. The time will be changed slightly, and will now be 1630 to 1800. This will be advertised in the "Globe".

The Post needs volunteers to help distribute poppies prior to Veteran's Day. The "poppy platoon" will be working for approximately a week or so prior to Veteran's Day.

Vince Howley reported that he had "run out of wheelchairs". Vince has also ordered lots of supplies for the new members' ceremonies. He also mentioned that Vanda Bresnan wants a replacement for her 1/2 day role, working with veterans at the Florence Sylvester Senior Center. She works 0815 to 1130, on the 1st Wed. of each month. This position might be a good opportunity for a new member.

Commander Marr mentioned that plaques of appreciation need to be presented at the September dinner meeting to John Draper, Ray Fico and Jim Shaffer who have served the Post so well.

Vince Howley also mentioned that the VA will compensate those vets with a hearing loss, due to a combat situation. Those who have been denied claims for a hearing loss in the past should re-submit their claims. The Commander requested that this info be provided in the September newsletter by the Service Officer.

Wally Gramberg stated that the bus trip to Laughlin, scheduled for 14 September, is "filled". The cruise on "Princess" to Mexico, scheduled for 08 November, has 20 staterooms filled. On 14 December there will be another bus trip to Laughlin.

Joe Rainey also mentioned that the Honor Guard will be performing at the funeral for Herb Guinness. (Herb is a vet who ditched his plane during combat, and died recently). Vince Howley will play taps at the service. The service will be next Tuesday, at 1300.

Wally Gramberg mentioned that the memorial in front of CH-1 is overgrown, and needs attention.

Commander Marr proposed that the Historian collect the monthly documents and flyers, if any, for transference to the Post Archives on the Post's website. Sam Higa questioned the difficulty of going through existing documents from years back to digitize. The Commander asked that we at least start with this year to implement a procedure that works going forward. Mike Evans mentioned he has many files and documents stored at his home from several years ago. Mike will make recommendations by the next meeting, as to what items should be reviewed, or digitalized.

Commander Marr mentioned that we are advertising for someone to

manage our website/social media/newsletter at \$9.00/Hr. This individual would probably have to invest approximately 10 hours a month to the job, and more hours initially.

Commander Marr asked about any interest in holding an event/ceremony at our Memorial in honor of 9-11. We did not do anything in particular last year, and the city is not planning anything for this year. There did not seem to be much interest at this meeting. The issue was dropped.

Commander Marr asked for feedback about the menu selections for the dinner meetings. It will be a sit-down dinner service, beginning in October. Everyone agreed the choices were satisfactory. It was moved and seconded that we select those menu choices. The motion carried.

The 4 attendees from Boys State and Girls State and their parents will be our guests at the September meeting. Also, scholarships will be presented to the ROTC cadets on Veteran's Day. The Post is also donating school supplies to local schools.

Joe Rainey asked that he be notified if anyone in the Post is ill or having surgery. He is the "Sunshine Chairman", and will make sure they receive a card from the Post.

Commander Marr mentioned attending the Newport Harbor dinner and meeting in May. We will be adjusting our format this year, beginning in October: We will start with dinner at 1730, begin the meeting at 1830, and then have the entertainment.

Next, we held a "walk-through" of the future meetings. Several questions were asked, and seating assignments were addressed and changed. The "order" will consist of the Color Guard, the invocation, the POW ceremony, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the song. This will be followed by 1-minute reports by the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vice Commanders. This will be followed by reports from the Adjutant, the Service Officer, and the Finance Officer. Then the new members will be welcomed, and receive the new member packets. Then the Paid-Up-for-Life members and those with 59 or 60 years in the Legion will be honored.

We were shown samples of the various pins to be given to long-standing members for various years of commitment to Legion membership. The "Reserved" tables near the front of the room are for the evening's honorees and the new members.

We will follow proper flag etiquette when saluting during the meetings. The benediction, Color Guard, and taps will conclude the meetings. Then the entertainment will begin. The raffle will be at the very end.

Commander Marr adjourned the meeting at 1445.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Rath
Secretary