

Executive Meeting Minutes November 5, 2015

The November meeting for the American Legion Executive Committee was held at CH-1, on 05 Nov. 2015. The meeting was brought to order by Post Commander Warren Marr at 1605. Those attending included Warren Marr, Lou Tirado, Sam Higa, Chuck Crumley, Ed Brockett, JoAnn Killian, Wally Gramberg, Vanda Bresnan, Mike Layton, Nick Alpino, Ken Sigmund, Jim Juhan, Jerry Anderson, Vince Howley, and Kathy Rath. Jim Juhan led the invocation. All members recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Nick Alpino gave the Finance Officer's report. He reported that he needed more information to secure the Post Bond. At the last Legion dinner meeting (in October) we paid for 103 meals, and had 101 attend (totaling \$1,515.00). \$1,236.00 was paid to the caterer and the entertainers. Our net income from the dinner was \$208.00. For Taco Tuesday, the caterer cost \$907.50, and Doug Houston cost \$250.00. Because of the low turn-out, we had a net loss of approximately \$300.00. Next time, we will strive to have a less-expensive meal.

Our account, including both the general fund and the poppy fund, has a balance of \$7,905.08.

Much discussion followed between Commander Marr, Nick Alpino, and Sam Higa of the Finance Committee regarding the handling of the finances and cash flow. There was a discussion about the need for better financial information on a continuing basis and that a program had yet to be established since July 1, the beginning of the current fiscal year. A motion was made and carried to purchase a laptop computer with a QuickBooks program not to exceed \$800. Later in the meeting, Vanda Bresnan suggested that her husband, Mike, a retired CPA be contacted for his input on how to best set up a simple financial accounting procedure to provide the Committee with the needed info.

Vanda Bresnan gave the Adjutant's report. She reported that 68% of our members (142) have paid their dues for the coming year. Dues will increase to \$45.00 as of Jan., 2016, so it is to everyone's benefit to pay their dues now. Vanda will email members about the dues increasing. We have approximately 50 members who haven't paid their dues. Our goal for the Post is 221 members. It was requested by the Commander that Vanda distribute a list of members who have yet to pay their 2016 dues to the Committee for them to call to solicit payment. We have 23 new members so far this year.

First Vice-Commander Mike Layton reported on membership. We have initiated 20 new members this year (most recently, one this morning). We will initiate at least 3 more members at the December dinner meeting. The membership committee met in October. They plan to shorten the initiation ceremony at the meetings. The membership committee will work on devising a system to encourage new members to follow up with volunteering for assignments or duties. To advertise our Post, we will be getting two free 30-second spots for the Legion on channel 6 courtesy of new member Jon Noell who is executive director of Media 55 there. Mike needs to get a PSA video form national to Jon for the ads. In addition, the first membership ad to be run in the Globe is scheduled for 11/12.

The position of Second Vice-Commander is still open. Commander Marr mentioned that we still need entertainment for the December dinner meeting. Mike Layton will check whether his son, who performed for our Fourth of July celebration, will be able to perform for our December meeting. We do currently have entertainment arranged for both Jan. and Feb. dinner meetings. We also plan to do another Taco Tuesday, or a movie night. There are four reservations for such events during the balance of the fiscal year.

Jerry Anderson reported on the "Poppy Platoon". In preparation for Veteran's Day, the program started last week, in early November. There are now 11 volunteers. Of the 23 previous volunteers, about half said, "No". Stater Bros., Von's, and Ralph's will allow us to ask for poppy donations at their stores. It has been successful, so far. The "Poppy Platoon" will conclude on Veteran's Day, 11 Nov. They will have a table set up in CH-3.

The Service Officer, Vince Howley, reported that they are looking for WWII veterans to join an "Honor Flight" for free, to Washington, D.C. Please let Vince know, if anyone is interested. JoAnn Killian added that they are also looking for people to greet them on their return.

Commander Marr assigned Vince Howley the task of purchasing tins of cookies from Costco for CH-1, CH-3, CH-5, the Globe office, O'Conner Mortuary, the lady who stores the medical aides, and staff of channel 6. These are gifts to them for the holidays. Vince was asked to purchase 8 cookie trays, as well as holiday cards.

Commander Marr addressed the topic of monthly newsletters: We have retained a webmaster to manage our website for \$20.00/month. Commander Marr is also trying to find someone to publish our newsletter. Vanda Bresnan volunteered to do the newsletter for November-December.

We will be publishing a new Legion directory in 2016 to be issued in January. Only Members who have paid their dues by December will be included in the directory. O'Conner Mortuary has paid the cost of the directory in the past. Vanda Bresnan will plan the directory, and double-check names, addresses, etc. for accuracy. All "dinner-callers" should verify address or phone changes with the member when they call the member to confirm reservations for the Dec. dinner meeting. Our next dinner meeting is 17 Dec. Jim Juhan also volunteered to proofread the directory.

There appears to be confusion of what the rates were to charge for advertising in the newsletter, website and directory. In the past, the rate for a business card-size ad was \$65.00. The ad would be published in the newsletters, in the directory, and on the website. A new rate will be considered since we have absorbed \$5.00 of Membership revenue that was diverted to the Department of California last year without an increase in dues. We need to secure more advertising during this next month.

Ken Sigmund needs more people to help with the phone-calling committee. He notified all the new members himself this past month.

Lou Tirado agreed to go around to all the tables prior to the meal at the dinner meetings, to make sure everyone has signed the yellow table list, which is on each table.

Wally Gramberg reported on trips. He said the Dec. bus trip to Laughlin is full. At the meeting today, Wally turned in a check for \$500.00 for the Legion Poppy Fund.

JoAnn Killian, representing the Legion Auxiliary, states she will try to have an Auxiliary "greeter" at the door prior to the dinner meetings. She will also have Auxiliary members present at the doors to the auditorium on Veteran's Day.

Chaplain Jim Juhan said he wants more contact with members who are in the hospital. He is also willing to perform memorial services. Jim is also planning to contact the chaplains at Camp Pendleton for ideas on what might be needed.

Commander Marr needs a list of those who have been members for 25 years or more. Those individuals will be honored at the Jan. meeting.

Regarding Veteran's Day: Joe Rainey and Vanda Bresnan will help with the flags and the staging for our ceremony in CH-3. Commander Marr will recognize any dignitaries present from the podium, including our mayor. A motion was made to donate \$1,000.00 to the 5th Marines. The motion carried. Commander Marr reminded everyone once again to recruit new members and to encourage them to volunteer for extra duties in the Post.

Jerry Anderson stated that he was looking for a new venue to consider for a monthly dinner. "Coco's" and "Olive Garden" were suggested.

The meeting was adjourned at 1800.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Rath
Secretary