

DRAFT

Delaware Veterans Post # 1

General Membership Meeting

January 4, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Vice Commander Bob Onorato at 7:30 PM.

All cell phones were silenced, and hats removed.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was rendered by all attendees.

The Vice Commander reported that Commander Harvey Freville will not be in attendance as he is under the weather. The Vice Commander stated that the recognition awards usually presented by the Commander will be done at the February General Membership meeting. He also reported that Brian Thomas is also under the weather and will not be in attendance to receive his DelVet of the Year award and will also receive it in February.

He informed the membership that the Treasurer for 2023, Bob Walker, will most likely not attend the membership meetings. The financial reports will be read by the Treasurer Elect, Ed Herman who is also not in attendance due to illness. So, The Finance Chairman, Bob Morris will present the financial report for tonight.

The Vice Commander requested that all newly elected officers, E-Board members, State Board and Home Inc. officers please come forward to be sworn in. Assistant Chaplain Sean MaClaren administered the official oath to the new administration. At this time the new officers took their respective positions at the front table.

Previous General Membership Meeting Minutes – Commander Onorato asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the previous General Membership Meeting on December 7, 2022. After the minutes were read the Commander asked for any questions or corrections to the minutes. Gerry Stauffer stated that under the Honor Guard report where it states that they are looking for new members to be clarified as Veteran members. Motion was made by Jim Brannon to accept the minutes, Bob Morris seconded the motion, passed by voice vote.

Previous E-Board Minutes – Commander Onorato asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the special E-Board Meeting on December 7, 2022. Draft minutes were read by the Secretary. The Commander asked for any questions on the minutes, hearing none a motion was made by Gerry Stauffer to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Jim Ebright; passed by a voice vote. The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the December 20th E-Board meeting. Draft minutes were read by the Secretary. The Commander asked for any questions or corrections to the minutes, hearing none a motion was made by Jim Brannon to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Sean MaClaren: Passed by a voice vote.

The Treasurers Report – Finance Chairman Bob Morris reported for Treasurer Bob Walker, net income for November 2022 was a negative -15,905.98, year to date was a negative -\$22,372.78. The Commander asked for any questions, a question was raised regarding the negative year to date figure and how the Post was able to operate in the negative? Bob Morris reported that we have operating money on hand and the checking account is in order. Mark Schilling noted that if you look at the report, the Post wrote off \$36,744.50 in depreciation which would offset the negative amount shown. Motion was made by Joe Kosloski to approve the Treasurers Report. Mike Baldi seconded the motion; passed by a voice vote.

Committee Reports

- **Vice Commander** – Vice Commander John Pastor noted that this position is new territory for him, but he will do his best to make sure that the Post remains a viable entity.
- **Executive Board** – President Bob Morris recalled discussion from a previous membership meeting regarding the issue of front door security noting that only the bartender should be buzzing folks in. He also stated that many of our members are sliding the deadbolt to keep the front door open which allows anyone to enter unannounced. He raised the issue of members tailgating behind one another through the front door when they should be using their keycard to enter on their own. Bob reminded everyone that these are State guidelines and if the Liquor Control Board were to arrive for an inspection, we could be held accountable.

- **Finance Committee** – Bob Morris advised all accounts have been reconciled for the month of December. He also advised that all bank signatures for the new administration were complete, and our online banking was back up and running.
- **Home Inc.** – The Commander advised that President Sam Minutola has resigned his position as President of Home Inc. He then called on new President Jim Brannon. Jim reported no report.
- **By Laws Committee** – Mark Schilling reported that the By-Laws committee will convene on January 9, 2023, to discuss two issues raised by the E-Board. The committee will also be looking at issues that they may want to address in the upcoming year. Mark was also working with Jim Ebright to edit and insert the new language that was passed by the membership.
- **Bar Committee** – Erin Doyle-Facciolo had no report
- **Chaplain** – Sean MacLaren reported for Chaplin Randy Scott: Sean reported that we lost two of our Veteran Members: Larry Doyle and James Whistler. Sean noted that the Honor Guard was in attendance and rendered honors for Larry Doyle.
- **Veteran Affairs** – Commander Onorato noted that this position has been vacant for some time, and he feels that it is time to fill it. He announced that he was appointing Veteran Member Rick Rambo. Rick stated that he has had experience with this type of position when he lived in San Diego. He stated that he would be going to Dover to attend the Commission for Veteran Affairs Monthly meetings and reporting back to the membership. He is also available to assist with members having issues with the V/A as well as providing a list of the local business area that provides Veterans discounts.

- **Entertainment** – Vince Vandenbrak reported that Saturday, January 7th we will have a female country singer in the lounge, January 21st, Rick and Connie in the lounge and January 28th Take Two will be in the lounge. We will also be serving refreshments for this Sunday's Eagles/Giants game as well as all Eagles playoff games.
- **Rentals** – John Descioli was not present, but the Commander advised that the calendar for rentals is quickly filling up, so if you have an event in mind, please check with John to secure your date before it's too late.
- **WACS** – Lauren Cullumber reported the WAC's year end event, the Aunt Mary Pat show was a huge success and wanted to thank Patty Rosbrow, Andie Chernekoff and Sylvia Briscoe for all their help in making the event the success it was.
- **Kitchen** – Andie Chernekoff wanted to thank the folks that volunteered this past year in the kitchen. She also noted that we can always use more and those members that were interested in helping should plan on attending one of the food services classes that will be held periodically this year. She stated that due to the amount of time she spends working with the kitchen, she needs help and has requested the Commander appoint a co-chairman to assist her for this year. Andie noted that during many events, the kitchen staff receives tips for their efforts and stated that the volunteers were not working for tips, therefore, the kitchen staff would like to donate their tips from the past year back to the Post to the following areas: Total was \$448.00, \$150.00 is to go to the building and Maintenance fund, \$149.00 to the Scholarship fund and \$149.00 to the pool league in obtaining a new pool table for the game room.
- **Pool** – Commander reported that Shawn Coho will return as the Pool Chairman. He noted that there would be a revamping of the pool committee going forward. The pool committee is in the process of soliciting Pool Management companies to bid for our pool contract for the upcoming pool season.
- **Sports** – Assistant Coach Mike Annone stated that Coach Mike Buono was unable to make tonight's meeting due to a work emergency. It was noted that the travel ball team that will be representing DelVets is shaping up nicely.

- Grounds No report.
- In House Committee – no report.
- Membership – Jim Biddle reported:

1st Reads

Name	Branch
James Detzi	USANG – not present
William Krupa	USA – not present
Richard E. Longo	USAF (Active Duty) not present
Sheldon Slater	USAF not present
Edward Dietz	USMC present
Daniel Culhane	MM present
Dennis Spivack	USN not present
Sam Pendergraft Jr.	USN not present
David Miller	USN-present
Mark Hines	USMC- present
William West	USA- present
Donald Legg	USA- present

2nd Reads

Name	Branch
Kyle Prescott	USMC – present
Matthew Thompson	USMC – present
Gregory R. Kern	USN – present (Bronze Star Recipient)
Gerald Becker	USA - present
Ben Kline	USN- present

- Del Vets Raffle – Art Chernekoff – No report
- Honor Guard – Vince Knoll – Vince stated that in December the Honor Guard conducted elections for officers: Members were elected to the following positions: President, Vince Knoll, Vice President, Sean MaClaren, Secretary, Bill Conaway, Treasurer, Kim Riccio. Vince stated that they were looking to revamp the Honor Guard membership as well as looking what

needs to be done going forward. Erin Doyle – Facciolo thanked the Honor Guard for their presence and ceremony that was rendered to her father at his visitation, it was very moving.

- **Scholarship** – Mike Phillips – Mike reviewed the qualifications regarding who was eligible to apply for a DelVets scholarship. He also noted that the cutoff date to apply is February 1st, 2023.
- **Baseball** – No Report
- **Swim Team** – The Commander reported that Stephanie Coho would Chair the Swim Team again in 2023.
- The Commander informed everyone that the Post has a Public Relations Committee that has never been used and introduced Florie Henry as the new Chairperson for this committee. Florie thanked the Commander and stated that she has held many positions as well as led many efforts at the Post over the years and is excited about the possibilities that this committee can explore to bring more attention to the organization.

Old Business – Doug Wasson inquired about the swimming pool repairs that were discussed last year. The Commander responded that this was on the E-Boards agenda for this year and is in progress.

New Business – New member Gregg Kern stated that he has two family members that are Veterans, both are his children and was looking for suggestions on how to get them to join. Several suggestions were made, and Gregg will look further into it.

Jim Biddle wanted to remind all members that the continued use of the term club is not appropriate. This is a Veterans Post, not a club.

Florie Henry inquired if the Post had began taking bids for the Pool Management Companies for 2023, the Commander responded not at this time.

Good of the Order – Bob Morris reminded all that the mailbox that is all painted up in front of the building is for old flags that need to be retired. Please do not

place mail of any kind in it or it will not be received. He also stated that the Post is in possession of casket flags. If a member is need of a casket flag for a loved one or someone in need of one to please let him know.

John Pastor noted that there are shirts still available from the Toys for Tots 5K for \$15.00.

The subject of Veterans suicide awareness was mentioned and noted the need to watch for the warning signs of someone who could be contemplating hurting themselves. Member Al Iunami stated that he is a County Police Officer, and his department deals with these issues specifically and if someone is in need direction he would be more than happy to assist.

The Commander wanted to recognize the hard work that some of our members did to make many of our fall and winter functions get done, Karen Freville, Bob and Stacey Edelman. The Commander stated that he will most likely not be using the Commanders parking spot. Since he can not give the spot away, he will allow all Past Commanders to use the spot on a first come first serve basis if it is open.

The Commander stated that he likes to have fun and that will start tonight with a one-hour open bar.

50/50 – Diane Onorato won \$140; Post received \$145 from ticket purchases.

NOTE: Diane stated that Bob will not get the Money!

Sean MacLaren recited the Del Vets Prayer.

Taps was sounded.

Motion was made by Jim Biddle to adjourn the meeting. Bill Conaway seconded the motion, passed by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary Mark Schilling