

DRAFT
Delaware Veterans Post # 1
General Membership Meeting
November 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order by 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 Commander called on Election Chairman Chip Roop to review the nomination slate for the upcoming elections that will be held in December.

Chip stated that before he read the slate he wanted to thank Rich Robichaud for all of his dedication. Chip noted that Rich has retired. Chip reviewed the slate and asked if there were any further nominations. There were none.

Officers

Commander – Bob Onorato
Vice Commander – John Pastor
Secretary – Mark Schilling
Treasurer – Michael Janes
Treasurer Elect – Open

Chip explained that Michael Janes who was the Treasurer Elect will automatically move to the Treasurers position and we will be electing a Treasurer Elect. As of right now there are no candidates. Any Veteran member that is interested should contact a member of the election committee.

E-Board

Jim Hague
Bob Morris
Vince Knoll

Chip stated that there are two, 2 – year terms and one, 1 – year term.

Home Inc.

Frank Dobson

State Board

Past Commander – Joe Rodriguez

Moon Riley – At Large

The Commander stated that there were five candidates for the Delaware Veteran Member of the Year award.

The Nominees are: Harvey Freville, Bob Morris, Jim Biddle, Vince Vandenbrak, and Mark Parson.

The Commander read the nomination letters submitted for each candidate. At this time the Commander asked if there were any further nominations for this award. There were none and per the Post Motion Book the nomination period was closed.

Previous General Membership Meeting Minutes – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the previous General Membership Meeting on October 4, 2023. A motion was made by Bob Morris to dispense with the reading of the minutes, seconded by Randy Scott, passed by a voice vote.

Previous E-Board Meeting Minutes 10/17/23 – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the October 17th Regular E-Board meeting.

The Commander opened the floor for questions:

Jim Biddle inquired about the discussion regarding the proposed increase to the membership dues. The amount the E-Board is proposing is a \$15.00 per year increase. This would raise the yearly amount from the current \$70.00 per year to \$85.00 per year. Jim asked if this was enough of an increase.

The Commander stated that we can pull this particular subject from the E-Board minutes and discuss it under new business.

There were no further questions from the membership.

Randy Scott made a motion to accept the minutes as read minus the discussion on the dues increase, seconded by Harvey Freville, and passed by a voice vote.

The Treasurers Report – Treasurer Ed Herman reported a negative loss for the month of August in the amount of \$2,710.41 Ed stated that our total sales for the month were \$45,522.58. The total cost of goods was \$14,995.73 for a gross profit of \$30,534.10. Our total expenses were \$33,562.01 leaving a net income of -\$2,710.41. Year to date we are at a positive \$11,239.49.

The Commander asked for any questions regarding the Treasurers report. There were no questions, Bob Morris made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Jim Fitzgerald, passed by a voice vote.

Committee Reports

- **Vice Commander** – John Pastor - No report.
- **Executive Board** – Bob Morris – No report.
- **Finance Committee** – Bob Morris – No report
- **Home Inc.** – Jim Brannon – Not present - No report.
- **By Laws Committee** – Mark Schilling – No Report
- **Bar Committee** – Erin Facciolo – Not present – No report
- **Chaplain** – Randy Scott – The Chaplain reported the following:
 - 42 Year Veteran Member and Past Commander Rich Calhoun passed away, services are private.
 - Veteran Member Bill West passed away and his services have concluded.
 - Life Member Pat Armbruster who was the wife of deceased Veteran Member Chuck Armbruster passed away.
 - Associate Member Mike Phillips was in the hospital but is present with us tonight.
 - Associate Member Chip Owens was in the hospital as of Monday.

- **Veteran Affairs** – Rick Rambo – Not Present, Bob Morris reporting for Rick. Bob stated that Rick was notified by the Commission for Veterans Affairs that any of the participating organizations that have issues that need to be placed in front of the State Legislature to please submit them to their respective representatives so they can be submitted to the Commission for review. Rick reported that Valerie Harwood was the new Chairman and Nolan Lewis was the Vice Chair.
- **Entertainment** – Vince Vandenbrak reported the following schedule:
 - 11/4 – The Sheehan Brothers in the lounge 7:30 – 10:30
 - 11/5 – 25th Annual Toys for Tots 5K
 - 11/11 – Veterans Day Breakfast 10:00 – 1:00 in the hall
 - 11/12 – Harvest Blues Show 1:00 – 6:00 in the hall
 - 11/17 – WAC’s pizza night in the hall featuring the band Helix (pizza 6-8, band 6:30 – 9:30)
 - 11/25 – The Old News Band 7:30 – 10:30 in the lounge

Eagles Football

- 11/5 – vs Cowboys, Kickoff 4:30
 - 11/20 – @ Chiefs, 8:00 kickoff
 - 11/26 – vs Bills, 4:00 kickoff
 - 12/3 – vs 49ers, 4:00 kickoff
- **Rentals** – John Descioli – John reported that the month of November is very busy. There are twenty six total events, fifteen of which are in house events. December is also very busy.
 - **WACS** – Lauren Cullumber – Diane Onorato reported for Lauren. The WAC’s auction will be held on December 5th. The WAC’s are currently holding a coat drive and thanked all those that have donated coats already. All of the coats collected will be donated to Child Inc. on Philadelphia Pike and will be delivered before Thanksgiving. The WAC’s next meeting will be on Tuesday the 7th. Diane thanked the Commander but the Secretary was talking to the Commander at that time. Diane informed Bob that he wasn’t listening!
 - **Kitchen** – Andie Chernekoff – No Report.
 - **Pool** – Shawn Coho – Not present, no report.
 - **Sports** – No report.

- **Grounds** - Jack McKelvey – No report.
- **In House Committee** – Chip Roop – Chip wanted to thank Jim Hague and Bill Frank for installing the new pool pump house door. Chip also wanted to thank Cliff Breeding for installing new shutoff valves for the slop sink in the game room closet.
- **Membership** – Jim Biddle reported:

1st reads

PRESENT

George E. Brooks – Associate

John D. Waldorf – USN

NOT PRESENT –

Veterans

Associates

2nd reads

PRESENT

Gregory E. Nowack – Associate

Patrick Rich - Associate

Francis M. Clymer – USAF

Ronald A. Fox – USA

William R. Suter – USA

Edward Walsh Jr. – USMC

John A. Lynch – USAF/NG

David Charles - USA

James M. Corbett – USN

NOT PRESENT

- **Progressive Raffle** – Art Chernekoff – No report, Chip Audit 11/2
- **Honor Guard** – Vince Knoll – No report. The Commander noted that the Honor Guard donated a keg of beer for the 5K.
- **Scholarship** – Mike Phillips – Mike reported that we are now in the new scholarship year. Mike stated that the committee is considering one change to the application

process, specifically the essay part. Mike stated that the cut off for applications is February 1st. Mike also reported that the scholarship committee is having a pancake breakfast the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- **Baseball** – No Report
- **Swim Team** – Stephanie Coho – No report
- **Public Relations** – Florie Henry – Florie reported that she is working with Lauren Cullumber to have Delvet night at the Blue Coats which is the 76'ers D-League team. Florie also reported on the upcoming 5K. Registration starts at 8:00 and the race starts at 9:00. Florie stated that if you look at the front of the hall behind the Commander there is a blanket that consists of all the shirt designs from the first 25 races and thanked all those that donated the shirts to have the blanket made. Florie thanked Andie Chernenkoff for having the blanket made.
- **Welcoming Committee** – Ed Brinkman – No report
- **Facilities Management** – Harvey Freville – Harvey reported that the dead tree that was affecting one of our neighbors was successful removed without causing any damage to the yard or drive way. Harvey thanked Butch Minner for getting this done at no cost to the Post. The owner of the tree company was a friend of Butch's and donated the job for us.
- **Old Business** – No old business
- **New Business** – The dues increase discussion was placed on the floor by the Commander. There were several questions and concerns regarding the matter. One question was when the last increase was put in place and Mark Schilling responded 2011. This was a ten dollar increase from \$60.00 to the current \$70.00. Mark stated that there are pros and cons to this issue. The biggest con is that any dues increase penalizes in a way the members that are here every day supporting the Post. The pro is that we are long overdue for an increase. Mark stated that if you take the current \$70.00 and divide it by 12 months it equates to \$5.83 per month that we pay to belong to the Post and everything it has to offer. Under the proposed increase and new rate the cost per month would be \$7.08 per month. The question was raised if

we had an estimate of how many members would we lose due to the increase? Mark responded that annually we lose a certain percentage no matter what.

After some brief discussion, the Commander asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak against the proposed increase or have any objections: Hearing none, Jim Hague made a motion to increase the annual Post dues from the current \$70.00 per year to \$85.00 per year equating to a \$15.00 increase. This was seconded by Randy Scott, passed by a voice vote.

- **Good of the Order –**
 - **Bill Redhefer informed the membership that he has been appointed the Ombudsman for the State of Delaware for veteran’s affairs.**
 - **Vince Vandenbrak reminded everyone of the upcoming December 9th adult Christmas party. Vince stated that this is a tiered priced event. The Commander stated that this is not to penalize anyone but we need to know an accurate count for food purposes.**
 - **Jim Biddle informed the membership that the V/A is offering free covid and flu shots.**
 - **John Pastor informed the membership that the National Guard now has a new incentive program for recruiting.**
 - **John Pastor stated that a recognition ceremony on Saturday November 4th for the 40th anniversary of Vietnam War memorial in Wilmington.**
 - **Butch Minner has donated a new gas grill to be raffled off by the Post.**
 - **Mark Schilling wanted to point out the accomplishments of Past Commander Rich Calhoun whom recently passed away. Mark stated that the Rich was integral for moving the Post forward during his tenure and held many positions over the years. He will be dearly missed.**

- **50/50 – Ed Herman won \$176; Post received \$175.00 from ticket purchases.**

Chaplain Randy Scott recited the Del Vets Prayer.

Taps were sounded.

Motion was made by Harvey Freville to adjourn the meeting, Gerry Stauffer seconded the motion, passed by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:55 hours.

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary Mark Schilling