

DRAFT
Delaware Veterans Post # 1
General Membership Meeting
March 6, 2024

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.

At this time the Commander stated that there are two service awards to be Presented. First, the Commander called on Jim Hostler to come forward and receive his twenty-five (25) year service award, Jim was not present.

Second, the Commander called on Dean Founds to come forward and receive his forty (40) year service award, Dean was not present.

The Commander noted at the January membership meeting that he was going to award three Commanders service awards, two have been presented so far. The Commander stated that the member that will be receiving the third award is a person who works behind the scenes. A few years ago, we realized that our Post communications needed a serious tune up. This person has upgraded the weekly E-Blast, completely overhauled the Post website, and has overall made major improvements in how we communicate with our members. At this time the Commander called on Denise Bernstein to come forward and receive the Commanders service award. The Commander asked if Denise had anything to say and she wanted to thank everyone who gets her the information on a regular basis and for everyone's assistance when needed.

The Commander stated that at this time we will move back to our regular agenda.

Previous General Membership Meeting Minutes – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the previous General Membership Meeting on February 7, 2024.

A motion was made by Harvey Freville to dispense with the reading of the minutes, seconded by Randy Scott, passed by a voice vote.

Special E-Board Meeting 2/14/24 – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the special E-Board meeting on February 14, 2024.

The Secretary read the minutes from the meeting.

The Commander asked for any questions or concerns:

Jim Biddle made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Sean McLaren, passed by a voice vote.

Previous E-Board Meeting Minutes 2/20/24 – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the February 20th, Regular E-Board meeting.

The Secretary read the minutes from the meeting.

The Commander opened the floor for questions:

Gerry Stauffer made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Jim Biddle, passed by a voice vote.

Treasurers Report – Treasurer Michael Janes reported total sales for the month of January were \$69,439.91. The total cost of goods was \$15,378.32 for a gross profit of \$54,061.32. Our total expenses were \$30,956.36 leaving a net income of \$23,268.98. Year to date we are at \$23,268.98.

The Commander asked for any questions regarding the Treasurers report. There were no questions, Harvey Freville made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Tom Rentz, and passed by a voice vote.

Committee Reports

- **Vice Commander – John Pastor - No report.**
- **Executive Board – John Pastor– Reported that Aquasafe pool company came out and looked at the pool water level with us. They agreed that the water level was lower than expected. They sent a team out to perform some tests. They pressure checked the lines and it was good. They then attempted to perform a dye check but were unable to do so because of the water level. They did see some cracks and will be removing the cover soon to make repairs as needed. All repairs are under warranty.**
- **Finance Committee – Bob Morris – All accounts are balanced for February.**

- **Home Inc.** – Jim Brannon – No report.
- **By Laws Committee** – Mark Schilling – Mark stated that the By-Laws committee was scheduled to meet this past Monday but due to a back issue was unable to have the meeting. The meeting will be re-scheduled for the following Monday. There is an issue regarding Significant Others and the Commander has tasked the committee with creating language to address the issue.
- **Bar Committee** – Erin Facciolo – The Commander reported for Erin that there will be a review of our drink prices to make sure we are keeping up with our cost of goods. Keep an eye out for upcoming drink specials.
- **Chaplain** – Randy Scott – Randy reported that he was not aware of any illnesses or deaths recently and asked if anyone had information on anyone.
 - Ed Walsh was in a motorcycle accident and there is no further information.
 - Ken Bonsall was recently in the hospital due to a blood clot in his leg and is home resting.
- **Veteran Affairs** – Rick Rambo – Rick reported that he attended the February meeting with the Commission. Rick reported that on Thursday, March 28, at 11:00 a.m. there will be a meeting on the legislative green to meet with lawmakers to bring attention to the needs of Veterans.
- **Entertainment** – Vince Vandenbrak reported the following schedule:
 - 3/7 – Pizza & Wings 5-7
 - 3/9 – Rick & Connie 7:30-10:30
 - 3/10 – House Rockin Blues in the hall
 - 3/17 – WAC's St. Patty's Dinner
 - 3/21 – Pizza & Wings 5-7
 - 3/23 – Jerry Lee Watkins 7:30 – 10:30
 - 3/24 – Welcome Home Vietnam Vets – In the Hall
 - 3/28 – Phillies Home Opener

Fridays, March 1st & 22nd - Country Line Dancing 7:00 – 11:00

March Madness – Join us for Game & Beer specials

- **Rentals** – John Descioli – John reported that there are 23 events scheduled for the hall in March and April is starting to fill up quickly. John also pointed out that on April 30th, the Post will be hosting a lifeline screening event in the hall. Discounts are available to members.
- **WACS** – Lauren Cullumber – Diane Onorato reported the following:
 - Whacky Bingo was held on Tuesday night, and it was the largest turnout for this event ever. Over two thousand dollars was raised along with a big 50/50. Diane wanted to thank the entire kitchen crew for their hard work.
 - Diane noted that we will be having the annual St. Pats dinner as well as the Irish dancers in the hall.
- **Kitchen** – Andie Chernekoff – Andie reported that we need volunteers for the kitchen in all capacities. She also stated that if you were a food handler certified under Mike Phillips then your certification needs to be renewed. Andy stated that there will be plenty of opportunities to get the certification that is required to work in the kitchen.
- **Pool** – Shawn Coho – Shawn stated that he is going to be approaching the E-Board with pool management contract bids from three companies. Once that is resolved then we can move forward with dues notices. Shawn is working to get the site ready for use.
- **Sports** – No report.
- **Grounds** - Jack McKelvey – Jack stated that he is going to be looking at dates probably in early May for the spring cleanup.
- **In House Committee** – Chip Roop – No report
- **Membership** – Jim Biddle reported:
1st reads.
PRESENT –
Associates

Andrea Whilhelm

Veterans

Thomas W. Adams – USN

William J. Barnett – USA

James P. Dalo – USA

Dean F. Czech – USA

Thomas W. Smith - USMC

NOT PRESENT –

Veterans

Raymond L. Kern – USA/Active Duty

Paul Swezey – USN/active duty

William J. McBride - USN

Associates

2nd reads.

PRESENT

Associate

Veterans

Nicholas Niehoff – USA/NG

Gregory S. Zentz – USMC

NOT PRESENT

- **Progressive Raffle** – Art Chernekoff – Chip Audit in the lounge on 3/7. All are welcome to participate.
- **Honor Guard** – Vince Knoll – Vince informed all new members that they are welcome to join the Honor Guard. Vince stated that their monthly meeting is next Tuesday, if you want to see what we are about please attend the meeting.
- **Scholarship** – Mike Phillips – Mike reported that the committee is reviewing applications at this time.
- **Baseball** – Mike Buono – The Commander stated that Mike is not here, but they did have a player/parent meeting with potential players.

- **Swim Team** – Stephanie Coho – No report.
- **Public Relations** – Florie Henry – No report.
- **Welcoming Committee** – Ed Brinkman – Ed informed all first reads to meet after the meeting so he could meet with them.
- **Facilities Management** – Harvey Freville -No report

The Commander wanted to discuss the Toys for Tots 5K. The Commander stated that Tom and Barbara Cassidy have stepped down after many years of dedicated service to this event. The Commander introduced Dave Acosta as the new Chairman and Florie Henry as the Co-Chair. Florie stated that we donated \$14,000.00 last year to the Marines for this cause and emphasized the importance of this event. Dave stated that he will be looking to grow the committee as well as sponsors. Dave noted that we have lost many of our former sponsors and we need to get that number back up. Next year's race will be November 3, 2024.

- **Old Business** – None
- **New Business** – Mike Baldi stated that he was the Commander of the Phoenixville high school Air Force ROTC program, but it has been decommissioned. He wanted to donate four funeral flags to the Post.
- **Good of the Order** –
 - Karen Freville and Peggy Derhle wanted to thank the Post for the reconditioning of the shuffleboard table. Karen stated it is like brand new. Peggy thanked the Post for the new quates.
 - Jim Biddle wanted to thank all members for paying their dues on time. Jim stated that this was the easiest year he has had yet.
 - Harvey Freville wanted to touch on guest conduct. Harvey had observed a guest who was acting inappropriately and was going to confront the person, but the issue was resolved. Harvey stated that when a member brings a guest into the Post, the guest is the responsibility of the member. If there is an incident it will be the member that goes before the Board.

- **The Vice Commander noted that there are a few member birthdays in March.**
 - **Diane Onorato 3/7**
 - **Harvey Freville 3/15**
 - **Nancy Talley 3/18**

The Secretary objected to Nancy Talley since she was not present and noted that instead of the month-long celebration, she only gets one day.

- **50/50 – Florie Henry won \$113; Post received \$112.00 from ticket purchases.**

The Chaplain recited the Del Vets Prayer.

Taps were sounded.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 20:26 hours.

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary Mark Schilling