

DRAFT
Delaware Veterans Post # 1
General Membership Meeting
April 3, 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 Tiffany Macanulla to come forward and receive her twenty-five (25) year service award. The Commander thanked Tiffany for being a dedicated member especially since he watched her grow up at Delvets pool.

Second, the Commander called on Jim Biddle to come forward and receive his forty (40) year service award. The Commander thanked Jim and asked him if he had any words of wisdom and Jim responded, "Not Here".

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 March 6, 2024.

A motion was made by Bob Morris to dispense with the reading of the minutes as they have been published to the membership, seconded by Gerry Stauffer, passed by a voice vote.

Previous E-Board Meeting Minutes 3/19/24 – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the March 19th, Regular E-Board meeting.

The Secretary read the minutes from the meeting.

The Commander opened the floor for questions:

Jim Biddle noted a mistake in the minutes, the monthly financial report was listed as January, and it should be February. The Secretary will make the correction.

Harvey Freville made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Jim Brannon, and passed by a voice vote.

Special E-Board Meeting 3/26/24 – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the special E-Board meeting on March 26, 2024. This meeting was called to review the three pool management contracts.

The Secretary read the minutes from the meeting.

The Commander asked for any questions or concerns:

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

Special E-Board Meeting 4/1/24 & 4/2/24 – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the special E-Board meeting on April 1st & 2nd. This meeting was called to discuss pool dues for the upcoming 2024 swim season.

The Secretary read the minutes from the meeting.

The Commander asked for any questions or concerns.

Gerry Stauffer made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Mike Brascoe, and passed by a voice vote.

Treasurers Report – Michael Janes reviewed the monthly financial report for February. Michael stated that the Post had a total income of \$66,135.10. Michael stated that our total cost of goods was \$20,297.812 for a gross profit of \$45,837.29. Our total expenses were \$45,120.71. Our net income for the month was \$895.33. Year to date we are at a positive \$23,720.73.

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 Gerry Stauffer, and passed by a voice vote.

Committee Reports

- **Vice Commander** – John Pastor - No report.
- **Executive Board** – John Pastor – President Pastor informed the membership that we had a chair in the lounge break while one of our patrons were sitting in it.

The President stated that the next day all wooden chairs in the lounge were physically inspected and those chairs that had issues were removed for repairs. The President asked that all members be aware of Post furniture that may have issues. If you see something, please say something.

- **Finance Committee** – Bob Morris – All accounts are balanced for March. Bob noted that he had placed an article in the weekly E-Blast regarding the unclaimed property monies that the Post was able to recover and informed the membership that everyone should check into this to see if there are monies owed to you.
- **Home Inc.** – Jim Brannon – At this time President Brannon moved to a session for Home Inc. Jim informed the membership that they recently had a member of Home Inc. resign and that member was the secretary. Jim stated that Rich Delitta who had served on Home Inc. previously was nominated by the Home Inc. Board to take this position for the remainder of the term.

Harvey Freville made a motion to accept the nomination of Rich Delitta, seconded by Bob Morris and passed by a voice vote.

President Brannon concluded the session of Home Inc.

- **By Laws Committee** – Mark Schilling – Mark stated that the By-Laws committee has completed work on the section regarding the timeline for presenting By-laws. Mark noted that the Commander has tasked the committee with creating language to address the issue of Significant Others in the Post. Mark stated that this has not been an easy topic to tackle but was confident that the committee would be able to get the job done.
- **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 – The Chaplain was not present, but Jim Biddle reported that Seargent at Arms Joe Koslowski recently had an operation and was now home.
- **Veteran Affairs** – Rick Rambo – Rick reported that he attended a House Committee Meeting on Veterans Affairs on March 27th, to consider three bills:
 - HB 310 – To amend several Titles with the Delaware Code to include the Space Force. This bill was passed.

- **SB183 – To amend Title 20 to allow qualified retired military judges to serve when needed for the Delaware National Guard. This bill was passed.**
- **HB303 – To amend Title 14 of the Delaware Code to modify Veterans with 80% or greater disability to receive a School Tax Credit against taxation on qualified property. Current law only allows 100% disability. This bill was tabled. Rick noted that this is a money bill. These types of bills are normally tabled until late May or early June when the State budget is formulated. It will be reconsidered at that time.**
- **Entertainment – Vince Vandenbrak reported the following schedule:**
 - **4/6 – Frank and Michele in the lounge 7:00 – 10:00**
 - **4/12 – Helixx in the hall 7:00-10:00 – five-dollar cover, (proceeds benefit WAC’s)**
 - **4/26 – Take Two in the hall 7:00 – 10:00, open to the public**
- **Rentals – John Descioli – John reported that there are 26 events scheduled for the hall in April. John also pointed out that on Tuesday, April 30th, the Post will be hosting a lifeline screening event in the hall. Discounts are available to members.**
- **WACS – Lauren Cullumber – Lauren reported that the WAC’s have been busy.**
 - **Whacky Bingo was a great event. Lauren thanked the Post for donations.**
 - **Lauren noted that there were 119 tickets sold for the St. Pats dinner.**
 - **Helixx will be in the hall on Friday, April 12th. The kitchen will be open from 6:00 to 8:00. There will also be drink specials.**
 - **Lauren stated that at their April meeting they will be donating \$1,000.00 to the Scholarship fund in the name of Jack Houck.**
- **Kitchen – Andie Chernekoff – No report**
- **Pool – Shawn Coho – Sue Gorman reported for Shawn, no report.**
- **Sports – No report.**
- **Grounds - Jack McKelvey – The Commander stated that Jack has retired from the Grounds position and wanted to thank him for all his hard work over the last several years. The Commander introduced Bill Carpenter as the new Grounds**

Chairman. Bill thanked the Commander for the opportunity and noted that he will be looking for volunteers to assist him going forward. Bill is still looking for his parking spot!

- **In-House Committee – Chip Roop – Chip wanted to thank Bill Frank and Jim Hague for installing a wall downstairs in the mechanical room around the heating and A/C unit. Chip thanked Bill Frank for his assistance in painting the hall. Chip also thanked the Vice Commander for taking the lead on the lounge chair repair issue.**
- **Membership – Jim Biddle reported:**

1st reads.

PRESENT

Associates

None

Veterans

William J. McBride – USN

Ryan Michele Rustark – USA

NOT PRESENT –

Veterans

Raymond L. Kern – USA/Active Duty

Paul Swezey – USN/active duty

Associates

2nd reads.

PRESENT

Associate

Andrea Whilhelm

Veterans

Thomas W. Adams – USN

James P. Dalo – USA

Dean F. Czech – USA

Thomas W. Smith - USMC

NOT PRESENT

William J. Barnett – USA

Jim noted that the remaining membership cards that were not picked up at the Post will be mailed out.

- **Progressive Raffle – Art Chernekoff – No report**
- **Honor Guard – Vince Knoll – Vince reported that on Sunday, June 9th, the Honor Guard will be hosting a bourbon tasting event in the hall. Gerry Stauffer informed the membership that the flags that are used to line Veterans drive on Memorial Day weekend are available for members. Gerry noted that these flags are like new and if any member would like to have some for home, they are welcome to them. Contact Gerry if interested.**
- **Scholarship – Mike Phillips – Mike reported that the committee is reviewing applications at this time.**
- **Baseball – Mike Buono – Mike reported that the upcoming season begins the first weekend of June and ends in late July. The State Tournament will start the last week of July. Mike feels that we will be fielding another competitive team. We have 16 returning players and a total of 28 trying out for the team. Mike noted that the team will have three exhibition games against out of state teams. Mike stated that on June 16th, Father's Day, we will be playing the American Legion team from Las Vegas at Frawley Stadium. This is the American Legion team that Bryce Harper of the Phillies played for. Mike has requested that the Honor Guard present the colors pregame.**
- **Swim Team – Stephanie Coho – Not present.**
- **Public Relations – Florie Henry – No report.**
- **Welcoming Committee – Ed Brinkman – not present. Bill Redheffer will meet with first reads after the meeting.**

- **Facilities Management** – Harvey Freville – Harvey reported that the Post is looking at several projects but that none will be started until we see what our budget will allow.
- **Old Business** – None
- **New Business** –
 - Jared Czarnota noted that most of our rentals use chair coverings for the events and inquired if we could purchase our own and offer them as an option for rentals.
 - Andie Chernekoff noted that this option has been researched in the past and it was not a feasible option for the Post.
 - Bob Morris reported that 50 new chairs have been ordered for the hall and we are awaiting delivery.
 - New member Bill McBride stated that he works for Stroehman bread and offered to assist the Post with bread products going forward.
- **Good of the Order** –
 - Florie Henry wanted to remind everyone that the Toys for Tots 5K committee needs members.
 - Gerry Herman stated that he was going to post a flyer in the foyer that is from the V/A regarding “Tackle Tuesday” for the Delaware National Guard.
 - Andie Chernekoff wanted to thank Sue and Jon Beeson for replacing the sheers in the hall. They replaced them with ones that can be taken down and laundered periodically. The Commander also noted that they saved us money by replacing them.
 - Bob Morris thanked the Post for hosting the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event. He also thanked the kitchen staff for the outstanding job they did with providing food for the event.
 - Art Chernekoff wanted to wish his wife Andie a happy birthday. The Commander noted that there will be cake after the meeting.
- **50/50** – Jim Dalo won \$123; Post received \$122.00 from ticket purchases. Jim donated the money back to the Post.

The Commander asked the Secretary to recite the Del Vets Prayer in the absence of the Chaplain.

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 20:42 hours.

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary Mark Schilling