

DRAFT
Delaware Veterans Post # 1
General Membership Meeting
June 5, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Commander Bob Onorato at 19:30 hours. 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 he wanted to recognize three members for service awards: Twenty-five (25) years - Mrs. Michelle Iacono, Associate, (not present) Mike Brasko, Veteran, (not present). Forty-years (40) Maureen Castellani, widow of deceased Veteran Member Bob Castellani, (not present).

Previous General Membership Meeting Minutes – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the previous General Membership Meeting on May 1, 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 Ron Gower, passed by a voice vote.

Previous E-Board Meeting Minutes 5/21/24 – The Commander asked the Secretary to read the minutes from the May 21st, Regular E-Board meeting.

The Secretary read the minutes from the meeting.

The Commander opened the floor for questions:

There were no questions from the membership.

Jim Biddle made a motion to accept the minutes as read minus the drink price increase proposal, seconded by Gerry Stauffer, and passed by a voice vote.

Treasurers Report – Michael Janes reviewed the monthly financial report for April. Michael stated that the Post had a total income of \$51,311.25. Michael stated that our total cost of goods was \$16,057.56 for a gross profit of \$35,253.78. Our total expenses were \$37,646.21. Our net income for the month was -\$2,137.52. Year to date we are at a positive \$31,145.97.

The Commander asked for any questions regarding the Treasurers report. Jim Brannon made a motion to accept the report as read, seconded by Jack McKelvey, and passed by a voice vote.

Committee Reports

- **Vice Commander** – John Pastor – No report.
- **Executive Board** – John Pastor – President Pastor stated that the E-Board does evaluate and follows up on the needs of the Post and we stay quite busy.
- **Finance Committee** – Bob Morris – Bob stated that all accounts except payroll are balanced for the month of May.
- **Home Inc.** – Jim Brannon – No report.
- **By Laws Committee** – Mark Schilling – Mark presented a proposed By-law change for Section 3, letters A & B that deal with the timelines for By-Law changes. Mark reviewed the proposed changes and asked the membership if they had any questions. There were no questions. This constitutes the first read of this proposed change.
- **Bar Committee** – The Commander reported that Erin has stepped down as Bar Committee Chairman. The Commander thanked Erin for all her hard work over the last several years leading the committee. The Commander announced that he is appointing Co-Chairs for the Committee, Brian Thomas, and Jason Henry.
- **Chaplain** – Randy Scott – Not present - The Commander stated that the Chaplain is under the weather. The Commander stated that Life Associate member Dave Price passed away. There will be no services. The Commander asked if there was anyone who had anything to report. There were no further updates.
- **Veteran Affairs** – Rick Rambo – The Commander reporting for Rick noted the following report:
 - It appears that money bills that have to do with Veterans Affairs will not get out of appropriations because of budget constraints. The Commission will try and bring these bills up again next year.
 - All other bills that have to do with Veteran Affairs have been passed except for HB399. The Commission is currently monitoring this bill.

- Once again, if anyone has any concerns regarding VA claims, much of the red tape has been cleared away due to the PAC's act. If anyone is having problems, contact me when I'm back next week.
- **Entertainment** – Vince Vandenbrak reported the following schedule:
 - 6/7 & 21 – Country Line Dancing
 - 6/8 – Belmont Stakes
 - 6/9 – Breakfast with Bryce – 10:00 a.m.
 - 6/9 – Bourbon tasting, 3:00 - 7:00
 - 6/15 – DelVets Bowling, 10:30
 - 6/15 – Benny, Bill, and Boy on a Box
 - 6/16 – Father's Day
 - 6/22 – Jerry Lee Watkins, 7:30
 - 6/18, 6/27 & 7/9 – DelVets Swim Team home meets
- **Rentals** – John Descioli – John reported that there are 23 events scheduled for the hall in June.
- **WACS** – Lauren Cullumber – Diane Onorato reported for Lauren that the WAC's wanted to extend thanks for all the support they have received to raise over \$12,000.00 this year. The WACs are off for the summer.
- **Kitchen** – Andie Chernekoff – No report
- **Pool** – Shawn Coho – The Commander stated that we have had a bumpy start to the pool season. We have a young staff, and they are under-trained. We have communicated to Aquasafe and hopefully these issues will be addressed.
 - Shawn thanked Chip Roop, the Pool Committee and the Post for helping to get the pool and deck area ready for the season. Shawn noted that he has reached out to the Vice President of Aquasafe to try and get several issues addressed. Shawn noted that the Lifeguards are trained as Lifeguards but are not trained as pool operators.
 - Shawn thanked all those that have communicated with him directly but also noted that there are many communications going out on social media complaining of issues with the pool, but when Shawn walks by these same folks they do not communicate with him directly. Shawn stated that he is willing to

discuss any matter with folks that have items of concern and that complaining on social media does not accomplish anything.

- Shawn also noted that please take your issues up with him but please leave his family out of it.
- At this time Florie Henry read a prepared statement noting several areas of mismanagement that includes some safety & Health issues. Shawn reiterated to Florie that this is why he has reached out to the Vice President of Aquasafe and we are attempting to get the areas of concern addressed.
- Bob Morris wanted to thank the pool committee for their help with the pool finances.
- Shawn wanted to thank Oscar Stevenson who overpaid for his pool dues and donated the over payment to the Post.
- Sue Beeson complained to Shawn about some of the issues noted in Florie's statement. Shawn attempted to address Sue's concerns until Sue began to complain about issues from last year until the Commander closed the discussion.

- **Sports** – No report

- **Grounds** – Bill Carpenter – The Commander recognized Jack McKelvey. Jack stated that as the outgoing Grounds Keeper he was passing on his work bucket to Bill. Bill thanked everyone who helped with the Post cleanup to get ready for the Memorial Day weekend.

- **In-House Committee** – Chip Roop – Chip wanted to thank Bill Frank and Jim Hague, for their help with the pool picnic table repairs and the downstairs bathrooms. Chip thanked Nigel Phillips for donating a television that will replace one of the game room T.V.s Chip also thanked Brian Barrowcliff for welding a bracket for the hall entrance handrail.

- **Membership** – Jim Biddle reported:

1st reads.

PRESENT

Associates

None

Veterans

Dieter Nitschke – USMC

Dominick Cacciatore – USA
Kevin E. Matthews – USN
John C. Jacklin - USA

NOT PRESENT –

Veterans

Raymond L. Kern – USA/Active Duty
Paul Swezey – USN/active duty
William DeJesus – USAF/Active Duty
Logan Malloy – USAf/USA

Associates

2nd reads.

PRESENT

Associate

Veterans

William J. Barnett – USA
Willaim McBride - USN
Aaron M. Metzner – USAF/USA – Active Duty

NOT PRESENT

- **Progressive Raffle – Art Chernekoff – No report**
- **Honor Guard – Vince Knoll –**
 - **On June 9th, bourbon tasting in the hall.**
 - **June 14th – Flag retirement ceremony.**
 - **June 16th – DelVets baseball game at Frawley – Honor Guard will be presenting the colors.**
 - **August 3rd – Annual Pig Roast**

Then Vice Commander thanked the Honor Guard for their assistance with Memorial Day.

Gerry Stauffer thanked all those who participated in the Grave Visitation.

Scholarship – Mike Phillips – No report

- **Baseball** – Mike Buono – Not present
- **Swim Team** – Stephanie Coho – Not present. The pancake Breakfast has been rescheduled for June 30th, from 9:00 to 12:00.
- **Public Relations** – Florie Henry – No report.
- **Welcoming Committee** – Ed Brinkman – Ed asked all first reads to please meet in the far corner of the hall after the meeting.
- **Facilities Management** – Harvey Freville – Not present/no report.
- **Toys for tots** – Dave Acosta – Dave reported that he now has a five-person committee as well as many volunteers. Dave noted that folks are requesting boxes for toys, and he has contacted the reserve center to obtain them. The cost to participate is \$25.00 until the end of July and will increase after that to \$40.00 by race time.
- **Old Business** –
- **New Business** – The issue of the proposed drink price increases was now placed before the membership. The Commander provided a handout listing the areas where drink prices would be raised if approved by the membership. There were a few questions from the floor. Roger Lee made a motion to accept the proposed drink price increases, seconded by Bob Morris, passed by a voice vote.
- **Good of the Order** –
 - Jim Biddle reminded everyone that this is not a club, it is a Veterans Post.
 - The Commander noted that the Memorial Day weekend went very well other than some issues with the swimming pool.
 - Post member Frank Kurtz has had open heart surgery and would like some assistance installing a new mailbox.
- **50/50** – Vince Knoll won \$138.00; Post received \$137.00 from ticket purchases.

The Commander asked the Secretary to recite DelVets prayer.

Taps were sounded.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 20:47 hours.

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary Mark Schilling