

Veterans of Foreign Wars FW Post 8545

Meeting Minutes

11 August 2021

Commander called the meeting to order at 1932hrs.

Chaplain conducted opening prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Dues cards checked and verified; all present allowed to remain.

Adjutant – Roll Call:

- Officers Present: Commander, Chaplain, 3rd Year Trustee, 2nd Year, Service Officer.
- Officers Excused: Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, Quartermaster, 1st Year Trustee, Judge Advocate.
- Positions Vacant: Building Manager.

Quartermaster Report:

- Financial Report:
 - National/Department Dues: \$350.00
 - Post general fund: \$4,431.50
 - Post Relief Fund: \$5,492.61
 - Post Dues Reserve Fund: \$78.73
 - Post Canteen / Club Fund: \$4,572.68
 - Post Home/Building Fund: \$99.05
 - Savings: \$15,745.40
- Grand Total: \$30,760.97

A check for \$765.00 for last parking assignment was received.

- New member applications presented:

John Mazssingill, GWOT Service, 6-91 to present. Served in Cuba and Egypt. Motion made and seconded for membership, approved unanimously. John Massingill was sworn in as members of VFW Post 8545.

Adjutant Report:

- Previous meeting minutes on Post website and emailed to the membership for review. Motion made and seconded to accept as posted, approved unanimously.

Service Officer:

- Access to the Military Travel has been authorized for Veterans. See Americanforcestravel.com
- 2021 War Act before Congress associated with toxic exposure for SW Asia Veterans and burn pits. Also, hypertension appears to be the next condition to be added as a presumptive condition under Agent Orange. However, the law has not been authorized as of this date.
- Department of Veterans Affairs is now processing asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis on presumptive basis for Middle East Veterans.

Judge Advocate:

- No Report

Surgeon Report:

- Why do you need a tetanus shot (Tdap)? It protects against the bacterial infection tetanus. Tetanus symptoms includes tightness of neck or face muscle, shortness of breath, difficulty swallowing, fever, high blood pressure, irritability, and headache.
- It is also important to receive the Tdap to also protect from whooping cough.
 - Whooping cough is contagious.
 - Wear sturdy footwear when outdoors or around sharp objects.
 - Additionally, ensure you receive the shingles shots (2) which can be obtained from your local VAMC.

Chaplain Report:

- Chaplain reported Charlie White passed away Tuesday, 10 August 2021. Chaplain talked with spouse and provided our condolences.

Charlie's service will be held at 1400hrs at Smithfield Christ Episcopal Church on Saturday, 14 November 2021.

- Bud Gill is in the hospital.
- Randy Waters father passed last Saturday. Chaplain sent a card.
- Jim Keck is back home from the hospital. Chaplain sent a card
- Les Bryges passed Saturday a week ago in Tennessee. Chaplain sent a card. Sunday 15 August 2021 Moose Lodge in Newport News, VA will be holding a memorial ceremony.
- Washington DC Military attaché sent 500 masks to the Post for distribution. See Chaplain if interested in a mask.
- Our Post Quartermaster's Mom is being treated for Cancer.
- Members should provide information regarding any illness or death of a member or member's family to the Post Chaplain.
- Member Joe Mangun (sp) and spouse have been diagnosed with COVID. Please keep all in their prayers.

Point of Order: Member asked if we had sufficient members to conduct business. Commander reported we have a quorum.

Unfinished Business:

- Commander discussed the flag room build out noting at this point there are four (4) flags per tube. Housing the flags in this manor will reduced the footprint of the flags. The flags can be hung or placed in a standing position. If interested in reviewing the initial set up, contact the Commander.
 - The plan is to separate the flags by sections of town. Each section will be marked accordingly.
- The caulking of the shed is halfway completed. Upon completion, Adjutant will contact membership for assistance with painting. Email will be sent out for painting party or if you are interested in assisting in the painting, you can contact the Adjutant directly at VFW8545@gmail.com.
- Auxiliary reported they previously purchased service flags and would like to donate them for posting at the Smithfield High School (SHS).

Post Commander requested the Space Force and POW MIA flag also be purchased and donated by the Auxiliary.

- John Edwards and SHS representative will conduct the presentation. Commander asked Herb DeGrof to coordinate any media attendance.
- Member also noted that we will need a Space Force flag for the Post in the future.
- Commander and Chaplain will be donating the Chicken Dinner for September's meeting. Two members volunteered to provide a salad and baked beans.
- Commander has contacted two (2) individuals to provide future Friday night dinners. One cost received is approximately \$12 - \$13.00 per person.
- Commander reported the Auxiliary senior vice was supposed to report and provide Shadow's program and that she had been invited numerous times. Monetary support will be suspended until she provides in person report. It was previously reported by the Auxiliary President that the senior vice may pull Shadow from the VFW program. Commander also noted the Auxiliary President's intent is to discuss full refund.
- ABC License paperwork has been submitted to the Virginia ABC for processing.
- Member Herb DeGrof reported people will be needed for the Christmas Parade. It was noted that the required volunteers have already been identified and Herb will communicate directly with them.
- Challenge Coins: Commander reported we are still looking at the process and identify good prices. Commander asked for membership to provide design for one side of the challenge coin.
- Member asked if the auxiliary doesn't meet the same time and date as Post meeting. Commander reported Auxiliary meets same date at 1100 hrs.
- Kitchen fire suppression system requires recertification, and that the company has failed to communicate with the Post. Adjutant has identified a fire suppression contact for possible donation of time

and services. Meeting is scheduled for Monday, 16 August 2021 to review equipment further.

- Parking detail payment of \$765.00 was received tonight. Jay Hassell stated that the organization was happy with our customer service at the event. The parking detail is set for VFW only. Last event was a low turnout event. Although we had a lot of community volunteers, members need to sign up for future opportunities.
- Pork Butt detail did a great job smoking 72 butts. 3 pork butts were donated = two (2) to Littles and one (1) to a lady that had previously purchased a burnt butt.
- Our Web site has been changed with the exception of past email and phone number transfer. Old site is still functioning until new website is fully operational. The Web site is being set up free by our Sr Vice's spouse.
 - District asked that our new link address be sent to them once completed. This is an All-American requirement.

New Business:

- Commander reported the Franklin Post has a VFW Thrift Store to help earn money. May be an idea for future fundraising. The Thrift Stores Website will be hyperlinked to our new web page.
- Commander stated the Auxiliary would like to assist the Post with future Poppy Drives within Smithfield and not just Carrollton.
 - Member Jay Hassell asked why the times and location are separated for Auxiliary and Post. Commander stated that they are their own organization and utilize their funds for their responsibilities.
 - District 2 Commander stated the Auxiliary bylaws require monetary disbursement for specific organizational needs. We can request funds from Auxiliary for Post needs.
 - District 2 Commander noted bylaws do not allow Posts to share a percentage of Poppy collections with Auxiliary. So there needs to be a separate space/time decision.
 - Poppy's and locations have been requested by our Jr. Vice Commander. As the Jr. Vice Commander has missed meetings,

the Commander will be reaching out for the Jr. Vice intentions regarding this position.

- Bacon and Bourbon Music Festival is scheduled for October 2, 2021. A larger turnout is anticipated for this event. An email will be sent out to all s to sign up. August 27th is the deadline for signing up to volunteer. As of 16 August 2021, only two (2) individuals have volunteered. Another 24 members are needed to complete our mission.
- Commander reported a Christmas committee needs to be set up. An Email will be sent out to ask for volunteers.
- District 2 Commander reported this Saturday District 2 meeting will be held at VFW Post 392. School of instruction will begin a 0900hrs, lunch at 1200hrs and meeting session at 1300hrs.
- Past Commander in Chief Hal will be in attendance.
- District 2 Commander noted the following topics:
 - Three Posts will make All American (AA) for National and will receive AA caps from National.
 - All other All American Posts leadership and members can purchase a cap from National.
 - Pins will be given annually to AA teams.
 - General Orders have been released.
 - All American rules have not yet been updated
 - Sponsorship has been added.
 - National will be monitoring websites to ensure they are being updated.
 - Fritz wants 10% increase in prior year hours and money.
 - November District 2 meeting will be at Post 8545, Smithfield, VA.
 - A Service Officer round table meeting will be held to exchange ideas, etc. A new service officer Task Group will be formed.
 - “How To” presentation will be provided on how to properly add community service hours, mileage, etc.
 - When signing up a new member, obtain email address for the new member to receive VFW Action newsletter from National.

Each Post is asked to sign up five (5) new members for weekly VFW Action newsletter. Anyone, such as family members and friends, can be signed up for the weekly Action newsletter

- District 2 Commander asked Post to consider being a Vietnam Veteran Contributor. Requirements include joining via VFW site, link VFW partners to Post website, submit application for the Post, complete two or three activities during the year, get certificate and commemorative partner flag.
- Posts and Members need to consider becoming a life member of the National Home for Children. A life membership is only \$50.00.
 - District 2 Commander is giving all Posts a 12x18 aerial view of National Home.
- November meeting will be held 13 November at Post 8545. This is during Poppy Drive.
- Commander noted the Post had previously voted to hire someone to clean the post for a cost of \$120.00 a month. Post Officers met and selected an Auxiliary member that was in need of financial assistance.
 - It was moved, seconded, and approved to hire the individual approved by the board. It was noted individual is a member of this organization, and therefore must be bonded.

Good of the Order:

- Proposed adjacent lot building plan was discussed during recent Planning Commission meeting.
 - The proposed parking lot and duplexes were identified. The original building plan was for just homes with street parking only.
 - The Planning Commission has placed the vote on hold for public input.
- Member Herb DeGrof voiced the need for the Post to conduct the POW/MIA ceremony prior to dinner. Commander asked topic be discussed during September meeting.

National Home Prayer was conducted at 2058hrs.

Good of the Order - continued.

- Commander reported the POW/MIA Table was not donated to be part of every meeting ceremony. The POW/MIAs are noted in our prayer. The POW/MIA Ceremony will be held during meetings with special guests / ceremonies.
 - District 2 Commander noted he is State POW/MIA representative and that the meeting ritual does identify POW/MIA ceremony.
- Commander noted that all pictures produced by Member Joe Lupton should be sent to the VFW 8545 Post email for distribution/ publication.
- A 50/50 will be held during 08 September 2021 monthly membership meeting.

Meeting Closed at 2108hrs

Official:

By Order of:

Post Adjutant

Post Commander