

Veterans of Foreign Wars FW Post 8545
Meeting Minutes
08 September 2021

Chaplain Edwards conducted the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony prior to commencement of Post 8545 meeting.

Commander called the meeting to order at 1930hrs.

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

Quartermaster Report:

- Financial Report:
 - National/Department Dues: \$350.00
 - Post general fund: \$6,601.23
 - Post Relief Fund: \$5,462.61
 - Post Dues Reserve Fund: \$99.73
 - Post Canteen / Club Fund: \$4,617.68
 - Post Home/Building Fund: \$90.05
 - Savings: \$15,748.07
 - Grand Total: \$32,969.37

Commander stated the following:

- No money is allowed to be spent without the prior approval by Post membership.

- Executive committee can spend up to \$500.00 in the case of an emergency without Post membership approval.
- Members should not expect to be reimbursed for any personal money spent for Post operations – monies spent will be considered a donation to the Post. Members can contact Quartermaster Dolensky to bring your requests to spend funds to the Executive Committee.
- Thank you notes will be sent out for any donations identified.

New member applications presented:

- John Mazsingill, 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.

Service Officer Report:

No report.

Assistant Service Officer:

- Provided assistance to three veterans at Post Home with their understanding of VA benefits.

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.

Chaplain Report:

No Report.

Commander asked for an update on Member Bud Gill. Jim Keck reported he would get an update.

Judge Advocate:

No Report

Surgeon Report:

- Reminded membership drive through flu shots will be available at Carrollton Sentara, Suffolk Bell Harbor on 02 October 2021
- 5 tips to stay healthy:
 - Be social
 - Exercise your brain by reading, doing crossword puzzles, etc.
 - Stay active for 15 – 30 minutes each day.
 - Eat healthy.
 - Get tested - for Covid, Hypertension, glucose and get your vaccines – flu and tetanus.
 - A health fair will be held every first Thursday of the month, 1000hrs – 1300hrs.

Unfinished Business:

- Commander discussed the flag room build out noting at this point one shelf has been assembled, but not installed.
 - The Post continues to need donations of 4 inch and 28 inch pipe.
 - Each section will require 20 pvc pipes.
- Pantry relocation – Some items have been moved and once all flags are moved to the shed, the pantry will be set up and organized.
- Shed update – caulking of all nail heads, with the exception of a few at the top that could not be reached, is completed. Adjutant Clay will send out email requesting volunteers to paint the shed last week of a September.
- Challenge coins:
 - Design ideas are needed so a committee can finalize our Post coin. Please send your ideas to the Post email – vfw8545@gmail.com

School Service flags:

- Donation and setup of the Service flags has been completed. The school was very excited with the flag program.
- Chaplain Edwards will be assisting Marie (school rep) with the VFW Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy.

Shadow:

- Last month membership voted to reduce donation to Shadow's fund from \$80.00 to \$40.00.

- Shadow's handler has tendered her resignation from the Post Auxiliary.
- Based on lack of information regarding disbursements for Shadow's upkeep, motion was made and seconded to terminate the monthly \$40.00 support for Shadow.
- Commander noted the last payment made was a catch up payment of \$1380.00. We have requested refund of the last payment, but Auxiliary President must bring to the membership in October. Auxiliary lost all leadership with the exception of the President. They met earlier in the day and installed new officers (VFW State and National Auxiliary in attendance).
- Mike Eggleston noted that Shadow had not received any certifications.
- Motion to terminate any future payments to the Shadow fund was approved.
- Herb DeGrof discussed the 11 December 2021 Christmas Parade and that an email will be sent out asking for 12 volunteers.
- Poppy drive will be held 11th and 12th of November. There will be 5 or 6 stations with two time slots per day. requiring 4 members for each two time slots per day. Sign-up sheets will be available at our Post October meeting.
- District 2 meeting will be held on Saturday, 13 November 2021.
- Veterans Day speaker will be Captain Mark Ogle, USCG Retired Smithfield High School ROTC has been contacted regarding Veterans Day Ceremony.
- Membership was reminded that teenagers can volunteer with the Post as they may need community service hours for school, club, etc.
- Herb DeGrof noted the chairs for Veterans Day Ceremony have been scheduled. He also requested assistance with the speaker system. Details will be discussed during the October meeting.

New Business:

- Sr. Vice Corrizo reported Austin Johnson proposed an eagle scout project for the Post. He will be presenting a Flag donation box to the Post during the October meeting.
- Long term intent is to establish a partnership with boy scouts to assist in their learning of Veterans/War service and conduct eagle scout projects for veterans within the community.

- The Flag donation box will be an old style post office box that will sit at the backdoor of the Post.
- Jr. Vice Moon made a motion to have newspaper here during the presentation.
 - It was noted newspaper is charging for anything other calendar events. Ensure the Post will not be charged for any participation by a newspaper.
 - It was noted that Tidewater and Windsor papers are very supportive and do not charge to out information in their papers.
- Kitchen inspection will be conducted on Friday, 10 September 2021.
 - Fire extinguishers are required for the hallway and shed and the bottle for the extinguisher in kitchen is too small.
 - Company will only charge “at cost” price for all required equipment.
 - Motion to approve payment up to \$500.00 was made, seconded, and approved.
- ABC License – Required inspection will be conducted on Friday, 24 September 2021. Once completed and approved, license will be issued. A final payment should only be \$150.00.

Good of the Order:

- Westside Elementary School will be conducting a Veterans Day Ceremony on Wednesday, 10 November 2021, 0830hrs.
- Remembrance Ceremony will be held at the Memorial Park, off the James River Bridge, Saturday, 11 September 2021 at 0830hrs.
- Remembrance Ceremony will be held at the corner of Cedar and Mason, Saturday, 11 September 2021 at 1000hrs.
- Michael J Mandara submitted his membership application while dropping off his daughter’s Voice of Democracy paperwork.
- Post needs additional volunteers for the parking detail during Bacon and Burger event. Post cancelled the prior food section detail during this event.
 - Approximately 30 pounds of soda can pop tops were delivered to the Richmond Ronald McDonald’s House on 28 August 2021.
 - Ronald McDonald House provides home away from home for families of children receiving medical care.

- Post Christmas event was discussed noting we can keep it low cost/low key. Volunteers will be needed to provide appetizers. A menu will be presented during Post October meeting.
- Freezer was sold for \$500.00. Monies will be placed in the building fund.
- Commander opened the floor for nomination for new 1 year trustee.
 - Tony Perez and Chris Garrett were nominated. Chris Garret declined.
 - Nomination of Tony Perez was seconded and approved at which time he was sworn in as New 1 year trustee.
- Member noted with what has transpired with regards to Afghanistan, some of our members/veterans have been impacted. We are all just a phone call away and here to help.
 - A motion to provide a lifeline on our website was made, seconded, and approved.
 - Member reported Western Tidewater Mental Health Center is available to everyone.
- Chris Garrett reported that he will contact website manager, Darren Kincaid, and cancel website.
 - New website address is: <https://www.smithfieldvfw.org>
- Commander discussed that your Activity Reports can be submitted to Sr. Vice Corrizo or you can go to <https://www.vfwva.org>, click on community activity link, input post number – 8545 and password – 8545.
- State VFW requires Posts to update their Facebook page monthly.
- Next meeting will be 13 October 2021 with social hour at 1800hrs, dinner (lasagna, salad, garlic bread) at 1830hrs, and meeting 1930hrs.
- Auxiliary will be moving their meeting date and time to the Post's meeting time.
- 50/50 was held and funds were donated back to the Post Building Fund.

National Home Prayer and closing prayer were conducted

Meeting Closed at 2045hrs

Official:

By Order of:

Post Adjutant

Post Commander