

Veterans of Foreign Wars FW Post 8545
Meeting Minutes
October 2021

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

Quartermaster Report:

- Financial Report:
 - National/Department Dues: \$350.00
 - Post general fund: \$6,439.23
 - 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

Adjutant Report:

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

Service Officer Report:

- Albert G Horton, Jr Memorial Veterans Cemetery has requested 100 volunteers on December 15th and 16th to help assist with the delivery of the wreaths at the Army National Guard Armory from 0900hrs to 1600hrs.
- General public volunteers are needed to place wreaths throughout the cemetery on Saturday, 18 December 2021 starting at 0930hrs.
- Anyone wanting to volunteer can go to www.hortonwreathsociety.org and sign up to volunteer at the bottom of home page at sign up genius.
- Parking will be a premium at the Cemetery so please contact Jim Hartman if you are volunteering and need a ride to the Armory or Cemetery.

Surgeon Report:

- No Report. However, it was noted that flu shots are now available so those interested should contact their medical provider or local VA provider.

Judge Advocate Report:

- Provided information regarding VFW Handbook on Section 702 – Politics. If you are active in partisan politics, you should not be in any attire/hat, etc that represents the VFW.
 - Do not wear your VFW shirt to Polling locations
 - When participating in local governmental meetings and/or committees, you do not speak for the Commander, Post or Organization. You must receive prior approval before speaking for the Commander, Post or Organization.

Building manager rereport:

- Post Home front doors need to be replaced and he is looking at cost for materials and asking members to provide labor. More information will be provided later.
- Cameras will be reinstalled.
- There is \$100,000 worth of equipment in building that is not owned by the Post, therefore it is a liability.
- If you have a key, ensure you lock all doors prior to departing the property.

- During November's officer meeting, a final plan regarding painting of the shed will be addressed.

Commander:

- The Flag storage set up is in the works. Obtained all the PVC at cost and now just need to build out the frame.
- Effective January 2022, the Post will need a new flag team.
- Fire inspection was conducted. The couple of items identified have been corrected to include installation of all fire extinguishers. The Post will have an inspection every 6 months to a year. The last inspection was free and all materials were at cost.
- Post needs to find a company that can clean the build up of grease in the kitchen. Building Manager will work with the Kitchen Chief.

Chaplain

- Reported Bud Gill has been in and out of the hospital.
- Herb lost his brother recently.
- If anyone knows of anyone from Post sick or in distress – contact Chaplain.

Unfinished business:

- Flag room: Everything has been moved with exception of repair items. All PVC pipe was donated and have been cut into 20 - 28 foot sections by the Commander. There will be five boxes consisting of 20 sections. The Commander has also agreed to build out the frames.
- Trim and painting of shed
- Challenge Coins
- Jr. Vice Moon submitted a suggestion for flag and coins last meeting. All other suggestions should be submitted to leadership.
- Herb DeGrof provided information regarding the Post's participation in the Smithfield 2021 Christmas parade. If you have a uniform, you can wear it while marching/carrying a flag. Please contact Herb for more information.
- Josh Moon is heading up this year's Poppy Drive.
 - The Drive will be conducted Saturday 13 November 2021 and Sunday 14 November 2021.

- There will be two shifts each day – 1200hrs to 1400hrs and 1400hrs to 1600hrs.
- Five different locations have been coordinated to host our Poppy Drive tables:
 - Littles true value
 - VA ABC Store
 - Two (2) 7-11 Stores
 - Tractor Supply
 - G-Daddy Bait and Tackle in Carrollton
 - Finley's Country Store
 - Need to ensure we have volunteers for G Daddy and Finley's
 - Our Post will need 20 volunteers to man current locations identified.
 - Remember VFW has agreements with Tractor Supply to be the only Veterans group to solicit at their locations.
- Saturday, 13 November 2021 is also District 2 meeting.
- Post 8545 has not received invoice yet from VSC, fire inspection company. However, payment for Fire Inspection services was previously approved up to \$500.
- Thursday, 14 October 2021 at 1300hrs the Post will be having the last ABC inspection prior to receipt of ABC license.

New Business:

- Commander reported the Post Home did not have Air prior to our September breakfast. The technician who installed the original unit noted the fan motor burned out. The repair cost \$100.00 for the labor and \$416.00 for parts, for a total of \$516.00.
 - Chris Corizzo made a motion to replenish the Commander's fund to \$500 was made, seconded, and passed by the membership.
- BOB Fest Event: Golf cart battery was dead, so the Board was called and approved immediate replacement. Chris Garrett ensured battery was replaced in for golf cart to be utilized during BOB Fest.
 - Jr Vice Moon made a motion to reimburse Chris Garrett for the cost of the golf cart battery. The motion was seconded and passed.
 - Chris Garrett reported he donated to the Post a new trickle charger after he identified that it was broken.

- Service Officer – Horton Wreath Society is having difficulty raising money to laid wreaths at grave sites. We can use relief fund to perpetuate deceased veterans. A motion was made to donate 250.00 to Horton Wreath Society to help defray costs. Motion was seconded and passed.
- Senior Vice provided the following details on Department of Commander prepared 2022 calendar
 - Each winner's ticket will be returned to the pot and have the opportunity to be pulled each time a ticket is pulled as The Calendar project includes the following opportunities to win funds:
 - 3 – \$1000.00 payouts
 - 7 – \$500.00 payouts
 - 2 - \$200.00 payouts
 - 9 – \$100.00 payouts
 - 344 – \$50.00 payouts
- Junior Vice Moon made a motion to support Smithfield Thunder, a girls youth softball team consisting of kids of active duty or veteran military members with a \$250.00 sponsorship and support by attending local games. The motion was seconded and passed. It is noted that this is a one-time sponsorship.
- Commander reported VFW laptop provided to the Quartermaster screen has cracked. Quartermaster is looking at a new laptop for the Post. An email will be sent out requesting approval of the Members to purchase a new laptop once options are identified.
- 1st Year Trustee Tim Munford reported that Smithfield recreation football team is currently undefeated and requested folks come out to home games at Luter Field to support. It was discussed that an email would be sent out to the membership. for football – the team is currently undefeated.

- Commander Fischer discussed community opportunities at Post functions. Active-duty Navy requires community service of service members for promotions, etc. Commander noted we should be asking for Active Duty members to volunteer with us as we are considered a volunteer organization.

Good of the order:

- During the District Inspection it was identified that the Adjutant cannot hold two positions. Therefore, there is a need to open the floor and vote on a 3rd trustee.
- Timothy Munford resigned as 1st year trustee and accepted nomination for 3rd year trustee which was seconded, no other nominations – passed.
- The floor was opened for nominations for a 1st year trustee. Arnold Tappin was nominated but declined.
- Nick Fenton was nominated for 1st year trustee and seconded. With no further nominations, the motion passed.
- Both new trustees were sworn into their new positions.
- 50/50 was held and funds were donated back to the Post Building Fund.:

National Home Prayer and closing prayer were conducted by Chaplain Edwards.

- Commander reminded everyone to turn in their activity reports by going to website, click and provide data.
- Chris Garrett reported he will input BOB festive data, but if you have already submitted your information, please send an email to the VFW email.

Commander:

- 13 November 2021 will be the District 2 Meeting and we will be hosting lunch at 1200hrs with the District 2 meeting to follow at 1300hrs.
- Bob Dolensky noted that there will be 2 turkeys, the auxiliary will provide desserts and serve, Chris Corizzo will prepare the ham, Loretta Ferris will provide casseroles, and Laurie Clay will provide a potato dish. There will be sodas and a cash bar.

Meeting Closed at 2000hrs

Official:

By Order of:

Post Adjutant

Post Commander