Meeting Minutes October 2023

Guests: Ernie Garcia, D10 Commander.

Meeting opened at 1900 with 10 Members Present, 3 on Zoom for a total of 13.

Officer Roll Call: All officers were present except Jr. Vice Commander and Surgeon who were excused and the Guard who was absent.

New Memberships: 3 Membership application was read. Larry G. made the motion to accept, 2nd by Frank D. Motion passed.

Minutes: As minutes were emailed to members and posted on our website, a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes was made by Frank D., 2nd by Marty S. Motion passed.

Reading of the Bills: None

Quartermaster's Monthly Report: Accepted subject to audit.

Community Service/Service Officer – Larry Gerlt – ENVH Bingo tomorrow, 4th Thursday. Passing signup sheet around. Show time is 18:15. Lasts till about 19:30.

Members in Distress: Jeff Gillespie had a foot operation.

Members Deceased: None

Committee Reports:

Membership - Larry Gerlt: Now at 93.26%. Next Membership drive will be scheduled Jan. Commander McMillan & I went last Saturday. I received dues from 1 and a life membership from another, but he requested transfer to Post 10727. Commander was shutout! However, he and I recruited at Offutt AFB Retiree Day. He got 2 and I was shutout! I did get two later from contact cards filled out at the event.

Blood Drive/VA & Chaplain Report - Frank Durham: He spoke at length about the CDC meeting he went to this morning. I will forward to all when he sends me a copy in a few days. Operation Hat Trick in cooperation with a Veterans' group would be presenting Fischer House a check for $30,000! The new Physical Therapy building will be dedicated in January. Address of new Vets Center is 2132 S. 42nd St. Various groups will use for meetings.

Surgeon - Bernie Jennings: NR (Excused)

POW/MIA - William Guy: On Nov 4th, 11 a.m. EST DRPA will be livestreaming latest updates. They now have a Found item online repository. Example, someone has the dog tags or other personal item belonging to an MIA that was turned in to them and is later matched with one recovered, it will provide a synapse of the identified MIA.

Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen/TOTY – Larry Gerlt: 2024 VOD & PP forms with the new themes are online. I have them with our post info if you need either or both, please let me know. Deadline of 31 October is approaching fast! We have a TOTY, PP & a VOD entry!

Buddy Poppy - Larry Gerlt: - Next poppy drive is being scheduled for Oct 28th at Hy-Vee, 53rd & Center St. 2-hour shifts, 9-11, 11-1, 1-3, at Hy-Vee, 53rd & Center. Passing around signup sheet.

Political Action - Matt Whitaker: NR

Webmaster/Facebook - Rick Imgrund: All is going well. If you send a picture to be posted on FB and/or website, please include info such as who, what, why & when.

REMEMBER OUR NATIONAL HOME: We preformed the National Home Prayer.

Correspondence - None

Old Business -

1. **Subj:** Adopt a Unit (OPR Marty S.) **Content:** On hold till his pending health issues are resolved.
2. **Subj:** CB Veterans Day Parade **Content:** Nov 4th. We were planning on attending last November, but the weather was horrible and several team members had last minute schedule conflict. Have signed us up. Will have signup sheet at next meeting. I have a confirmed registration email. Parking is find your own. Entrance to parade is 16th Ave & 6th St, CB. Registration is 6th St & 14th Ave. May want to consider meeting here at Legion and taking one vehicle over.
3. **Subj:** Donation to Am. Leg Post 331 **Content:** As our hosts do not charge us for the meeting room and honor our VFW membership for access to their post home, I make a motion we donate $300 to them. Donation made.
4. **Christmas Party:** Unable to get hall on 1st Saturday. Have reserved hall, confirmed caterer and band for 2nd Saturday. I make a motion we keep the same menu – Steak or meatless pasta, vegetable, mashed potatoes & gravy, assorted cheese cakes for dessert. 2nd by Frank. Motion passed.
5. **November Stand-down.** Last month we agreed to donate $300 and for the post to apply for a matching grant. I checked. The community grant is now the still serving grant. Instead of a matching donation they will pay it all. However, you do not get the funds upfront, only after applying and submitting receipts. If there is no money (and they can't/won't confirm if there is as you are submitting at a future date), then there is no money. Per my QM report, we took a big hit on our investments and dropped below the threshold for donations over $200. However, I think we should honor or $300 commitment but not count on a match. I make a motion that we purchase $300 in needed items for the Standdown and apply for the Still Serving grant to replace the funds. 2nd by Frank. Motion passed.

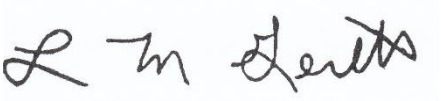
New Business

1. **Subj:** Women Veterans Committee **Content:** Dept. has a Women Veterans Committee whose task is two-fold: a. Encourage women to attend and keep all members apprised of Women Veteran Activities such as the NEVA symposium in Kearny 2 weeks ago. Sonja Kuchma Hosler has agreed to head this committee for our post. I make a motion we create a Post Women Veterans Committee and the Commander appoint Sonja to be its chairperson. 2nd by Marty. Motion passed**.**

2. **VOD & PP Dept. Scholarships.** During these uncertain financial times, we need to protect/husband our investments by reducing our annual expenses. Christmas party funds for this year are already pledged. Cutting officer travel would prevent our officers from attending Department meetings and National Convention. These are important training & networking venues. Our Post's Youth Scholarships are funded via our Relief fund as these programs are considered as Americanism activities. Our scholarships for Department PP & VOD Winners costs $3000 per year. I make a motion we discontinue these two scholarships. I make a motion we discontinue them immediately. 2nd Al. Motion passed.
3. **Subj:** VFW Magazine **Content:** Starting in January, VFW Magazine will go digital. If you wish to continue to receive hard copy, you will need to call them, or I can submit a list of post members to National. Many of our members DO NOT have an email address, especially our older members. I make a motion to do the November newsletter next week to inform them and ask for them to respond by (TBD). I will then forward the list to Nat.
4. **Subj:** Dept. Contract with a publishing company. **Content:** About 5 years ago, our Dept. contracted with a company who will contact all members to verify their contact info, encourage them to submit bio, and offer to sell them the book created from that info and other items. You will probably get a call after the first of the year.

Good of the Order (***All guests should be invited to speak***)

- William spoke about issues his son-in-law who is a VA nurse had with staffing issues (only 2 nurses for 16 patients, 3 who are quadriplegic) and how management didn't seem to care and that the VA Inspector General was involved.
- Frank talked about his being on the reception committee and meeting with the Secretary of the VA. He also mentioned the recent unexpected death of a Sarpy County Deputy from health complications.
- D10 Commander Garcia thanked the Post for all we do.
- Next post meeting will be November 15th (3rd Wednesday) and will be a wing feed. Spouses/significant other invited. Commander McMillan encouraged all to bring side dishes.



Larry M. Gerlt
Quartermaster