

Meeting Minutes September 2021

Guests: None

Meeting opened at 1905 with 12 Members Present.

Officer Roll Call – All officers were present except the Commander who was excused and the Surgeon who was absent.

New Memberships: 12 Membership apps were read. I made the motion to accept. Motion was seconded by Matt. Motion passed.

Minutes: Motion to dispense with reading of the minutes as they were emailed to all active members and posted on our website made by Frank D.; 2nd by Al C.; motion passed.

Reading of the Bills: No Bills.

Quartermaster's Report were accepted subject to audit. QM also informed the membership that he had won the National Recruiter of the Year Award for 2020-2021 and brought his crystal eagle trophy and VFW cover for all to view.

Members in Distress/Deceased: None

Committee Reports

Community Service/Service Officer – Josh Andrus: Josh briefed us on the new requirements for volunteering at ENVH. Now requires proof of COVID vaccination and a background check. If you are not vaccinated for COVID and were to help with bingo, you would have to remain against the walls rather than assist with veterans need help marking their cards. The flyer listing volunteer opportunities and the required forms have been posted on our Post web site under Announcements (<https://vfw2704.org>)

Membership - Larry Gerlt: We are now at 89.8% and need 36 more members to reach 100%. We have increased our Life membership from 276 to 298. If you have a relative, friend, coworker who may be eligible for the VFW, please ask them if I can contact them about joining the VFW and giving me their contact information. If you want, we can chat with them together. I'm available 24/7. Next membership drive will be Sept 25th, 8:30 A.M. at VI on Fort Crook Rd. Post buys breakfast. Done by about 11:30.

Blood Drive, VA, & Chaplain Report - Frank Durham: VA Hospital requires mask for entry. Parking garage still being worked on.

Surgeon – Rich Klinger: No report

POW/MIA - William Guy: William briefed on Operation Homecoming, Part 7: Lady and the Flag.

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URL: Operation Homecoming Part 7: Lady and the Flag | RememberedSky.com

Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen - Larry Gerlt: Provided PP apps to Matt for his son and Trudy's daughter. Have provided VOD app to my son Jason for Artemis. If anyone has children/grandchildren or has a friend who has children in Junior or senior high, please let me know and I can furnish them entry forms as well.

Buddy Poppy - Darrell McMillan: - Next drive will be scheduled for Oct/Nov at TBD. Have procured a box of surgical gloves for us to wear so that donators know we have not personally handled the poppies. HY-Vee 50th and Center- Letter has been submitted and he has the Manager's email so we should have confirmation before our next meeting. If 23 Oct approved, I will contact everyone to so I can setup the schedule.

Political Action - Matt Whitaker: No report.

Webmaster/Facebook - Rick Imgrund: No report.

Pickle Report – Duke: We lost our last customer. The Nebraska Gaming Commission has been informed we will not be renewing our License and final report was sent to them. QM briefed everyone on closeout of Pickle checking account and transfer of all funds to Post General Funds.

REMEMBER OUR NATIONAL HOME

Correspondence – None

Old Business -

- 1. Subj:** Improving tie with 55th FSS **Content:** I propose we offer to sponsor a \$ 50 Texas Road House Gift card for their Airman, NCO and Senior NCO Quarterly Awards Program and \$100 for Annual Award in each category.. Annual cost is \$150 X 4 + \$300=900. We would apply to National for \$900 to purchase them. We would then purchase \$100 as purchasing \$1000 as they will then give us \$1100 in gift cards. We could then use the extra \$200 for a Christmas party drawing. If National declines, we would pay for the gift cards. I or Matt would then make a presentation of the card at their Commanders Call. Doing so will get us out in front of them and should lead to additional post members. Matt stated they had been unresponsive to his recent requests to talk with them since the new Commander took over. **On hold due to COVID**
- 2. Subj:** July Post Family Picnic **Content:** We had our Picnic on August 21st. All present enjoyed the food and chit chat.

New Business -

- 1. Subj:** Post Christmas Party – Scheduled for Saturday, December 11th, Comfort Inn & Suites. They will box unused meal we have to pay for. Motion to hold it there, charge \$10 for members & their immediate family, \$25 for other guests, comp 3 meals for PP, VOD, TOTY winners, hire DJ for \$300. 2nd by Al C., motion passed.

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2. **Subj:** Veterans Day Activities Content: Unless I am requested to speak at another location, I will be at Graceland Cemetery on Vets Day for the Legion Ceremony at 11 a.m. I would encourage you to be there or at another one here in Omaha. Legion Post 1 puts on one at Memorial Park.
3. **Subj:** Post Memorial at Graceland Cemetery Content: Rick I. briefed us on storm damage that knocked our flag pole for the State flag over into our statue. Care taker has staked it out with ropes to prevent damage to memorial. Flag pole will have to be moved in order to remount it. Will require moving undamaged flag pole so that they remain equal distance from monument. Cost of repairs in \$550. Caretaker will request reimbursement for portion dealing with damaged flag pole. Motion to pay the \$550 for repairs by Al C., 2nd by Matt W, motion passed.
4. **Subj:** Concrete Pad surrounding Graceland Memorial Content: Rick I. stated that there will be holes in the concrete left by removal of the bolts that were securing the two flag poles. He will fill the holes and tile or otherwise find a suitable "topping" for the concrete. Expected cost is \$100 or less. Motion to allocate \$100 for this by Al C, 2nd by Frank D, motion passed.
5. **Subj:** VA Standdown Content: We received a request from Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care for various articles of clothing to give our veterans in need. I stated that if we purchased items, others might purchase the same items while other items went unfurnished. I made a motion we donate \$500 so that they could purchase what they needed. Motion was seconded by Al C. Motion passed.

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

- Commander's Homecoming & Fall Council, Oct 8 & 9, Columbus, NE.
- Big 10 Fall Conference Oct 15 & 16, Rapid City, SD.
- D10 Meeting Oct 10th, 2 PM, Post 2543, Plattsmouth. Attendance counts for All State – the more we have, the more points we earn.
- Frank D. placed condolences in the newspaper for Cpl Paige, the Omaha service member killed by the suicide bomber at the Kabul Airport.
- Our next Post meeting will be on Wed 27 Oct, 7 PM, in the upstairs meeting room of American Legion Post 331.
- Meeting Closed at 2000.



Larry M. Gerlt
Quartermaster