

American Legion Post #49

Regular Business Meeting Sept. 1, 2016 1905-2015

Commander Wakild called the meeting to attention and the colors were saluted. Chaplin Roderick gave the benediction and the POW/MIA's were honored. The pledge of allegiance was recited then the Preamble of the Legion Constitution was given.

Roll call was called by the adjutant and the following were present: Cmdr. Wakild, Finance officer Pat Sullivan, Asst. finance Chuck Aubrey, Chaplin Art Roderick, SAL Steve Hamilton, Sgt at Arms Jim Montgomery, Adjutant Tom Breen and Legionnaire Dick Kennedy. A quorum was declared and the meeting commenced.

SAL representative Steve Hamilton was recognized and addressed a point of interest raised at the previous meeting of a ratio of SAL membership exceeding the membership. He contacted Rodney at committee member at the National HQ and was informed that a few years ago a ratio was discussed on a national level, but it never got legs as of now there is no such ratio.

Finance report: was given by Mr. Sullivan and a copy is attached to this report. A motion was made to accept the report seconded and passed without objection pending an audit.

Adjutant report: Between the August meeting and this meeting 28 members have renewed their membership for a total of 200 renewals and with 12 new memberships received we a total of 212 memberships. A motion was made to accept the report seconded and passed without objection.

The adjutant then produced 7 new memberships to the board for acceptance into the Legion. The applications were reviewed and a motion was made to accept them into the Legion it was seconded and passed without objection.

Board of Directors Report: N/A

Cmdr. Wakild took the floor and informed the meeting that "our good friend Darcy" has shown her head again. It seems she is upset that a letter of recommendation for her son who worked as a bar back at the post and served 200 hours as a volunteer, has not been sent to her or her son. Her complaint is that he has been turned down for admittance to two universities because of this and she threatened another lawsuit if the letter was not given very soon. Mr. Aubrey took the floor and explained that there is a letter written on the Posts letterhead for such a recommendation. It mysteriously turned up in the box of Kevin Ferguson which Mr. Ferguson says he did not write. Evidently this is the letter Darcy is inferring in her tirade to the Commander. She also told Cmdr. Wakild that she has the conversation with Kevin on tape recorder. Cmdr. wants to research the possibility of barring Darcy and her husband Jim Hager from the post. A copy of the Commander's letter to the BOD is attached to this report. Mr. Aubrey continued saying he contact the attorney we used in the lawsuit and have her(Susan Finnigan of Finnigan, Plunkett and Cooney) research our by laws to see if we could bar her and that, since her son did work here it might be a good idea to go ahead and write the letter. The attorney Susan Finnigan advised Mr. Aubrey that to do the research and give the Post any advise a retainer of \$500 would be required. The adjutant suggested that we ask Darcy for a list of the universities her son was rejected from so the Post could send them a copy of the letter she wants. He also hinted that if she could not produce such a list the word "FRAUD" may be attached to this sordid incident on her side of the debate, of course. A motion was made to ask for the list of universities, pay \$500 for the research of barring Darcy and submitting the letter it was seconded and passed without objection.

SAL: Mr. Hamilton said SAL has taken on 14 new members and SAL finances are \$7300. A motion was made to accept the SAL report seconded and passed without objection.

Women Aux: N/A

No one on sick call.

Service Officers report: Absent.

Unfinished Business: An estimate of \$1800 to \$2900 from Otto CPA was reported with a second estimate from another company not yet in. Progress on Becky Howell's warrant was discussed. It was later learned there was no warrant on her at the time of this meeting, however, myself and Mr. Aubrey met with Det. Adam DeBor of the South Haven PD. He took more detailed information and said he will try to get a warrant and will let us know when it is active. Det. DeBor also stated he has a current address on her in Indianapolis. I let Det. DeBor know that I would be able to get the warrant served if he need me to.

The status of the bugle being fixed has been solved. Filbrandt funeral home returned the bugle to us about a week prior to this meeting and they absorbed the total cost of the repair.

The issue of the legion license plates was brought up, they have been restored to the wall in the Post. it was noted that any duplicate plates be removed so as to make room for new ones. Mr. Montgomery stated that any plate to be removed because of duplication should be checked because some people write a message on on the back of a plate before giving it to the Post. The 100 anniversary of the Legion was discussed, Mr. Hamilton stated it is in 2019 and plans are already in motion to make t-shirts, sweatshirts, challenge coins etc, to make available to sell at the post. A motion to purchase any anniversary items was tabled until a catalogue is available to make any decisions on what to purchase.

The subject of raising hall rental was discussed at a previous meeting in which it was decided to talk to Kathy Ferguson first but no one was detailed to do that. Mr. Aubrey stated he would talk to her and get back to the board at a later date. He stated the Post this year to date has had about 6 cancellations due to the price of the rental. T-shirts for the post was brought up and the adjutant mentioned the previous meeting in which Bruce Thatcher had advised about a local business that could produce the shirts at a lower price. It was decided to contact Mr. Thatcher and get more information on this subject. The adjutant then stated that on Saturday Aug. 10, 2016 the Honor Guard performed at the services of WWII Army veteran Marilyn Itzen who served the the Army Nurse Corps. Due to the weather the guard was unable to toast Marilyn properly at the Post. He proposed that after the meeting is adjourned the board retire to the bar and give her the toast she deserved. The board agreed.

Mr. Montgomery brought forth the continuing argument of the city not helping with the payment for the wall and that the reason given by the city was if they helped us they would have to do the same for anyone else. Mr. Hamilton advised that that is what he was told and that it was a purely political stance to not have to due its (the city's) due diligence. The adjutant then took the floor and made a motion that whenever the city asks the Post for any donation no matter what the reason is, the answer is "ok, how much do you want?" Then whatever the amount asked for a check for that amount is issued and paid on the principle of the loan for the wall in the name of the City of South Haven. It was seconded and passed without objection.

New Business: Cmdr. Wakild stated that Jennifer our bartender wanted to know if the Post would like to assist the Bangor post in helping the clean up crews for the tornado in Bangor by feeding them on daily basis. Jennifer addressed the meeting and gave a report on what the Bangor post was doing serving meals to volunteers cleaning up down trees. It was decided to contact the Bangor mayor Bill Snyder and find out if what we could do. Cmdr. Wakild stated he will call our Service Officer Alan Soulliere and have him work on this project.

A discussion of putting together a committee to try to get the 4th parade back on main street was started, but Mr. Aubrey stated that a bunch of business 2-3 dozen had already petitioned the city to do just that and that they were successful and the 4th parade has been restored to its proper parade route. Cmdr. Wakild brought up the condition of the air ducts in the building. Ben Newton had taken some photos of their condition and in one word they were "deplorable." The Cmdr. then gave the board an estimate from Stanley Steamer that broke down the cleaning of the ducts room by room and that it amounted to \$1572. The fact that clean ducts would reduce the cost of heating and air conditioning and over a period of time pay for itself. The condition of the fans in the bar area that are suppose to be "smoke eaters" was discussed and they needed to be cleaned also they have stopped using them because they need to be cleaned and filters replaced. It was decided to research the cost of filters to replace them. The fact that the only estimate was from Stanley Steamer and we should get a second one. Mr. Newton said another company did give a quote and was about \$200 more than Stanley Steamer and in that case a motion was made to accept the Steamer quote it was seconded and passed without objection.

A motion was made that after the fans (smoke eaters) were checked to see if they worked \$200 be made available to purchase new filters for them it was seconded and passed without objection.

The Van Buren United Civic Org. asked for a donation anywhere from \$250 and up. It was voted down.

The South Haven Harborfest is asking for a donation for \$200 and up, it was pointed out what the previous motion involving donations for the city dictated ie, "200 to the wall guys". A motion was made to make a \$200 payment on our wall in the name of the City of South Haven "harborfest" it was seconded and passed without objection.

Mr. Hamilton took the floor and brought up the fact that a donor has an automobile he would like to donate to a veteran who needs one. It was decided that this should be handled by the service officer and Mr. Soulliere will be contacted to handle this detail. Mr. Hamilton then told the meeting about the incident involving two bartenders that was discussed and decided at the

BOD meeting the previous week. He wanted to know what the protocol on handling the situation of damage to legion property and is is a Board of Trustees problem. Mr. Aubrey then informed that the Board did discuss the problem and that a letter admonishing the parties involved put in their files.

For The Good of the Legion: Adjutants Statement; On Aug. 20, 2016 the Post hosted the Michigan Vietnam Memorial Wall. I was not here when it arrived but got here after it was assembled. I walked into this room and was taken aback on the effect it had, it brought back a lot of memories. I have been to Washington D.C. twice and have done a lot of etching off that wall. I looked at the wall here and two or three times I walked up and down it and I'll tell you what it was a very sobering and honorable encounter. I consider it a privilege to have hosted that wall here. Even if it was only for a short time on one day.

No further business was brought up the closing prayer was given. And the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Breen
Adjutant Post #49