

AMERICAN LEGION POST # 49

Regular Business Meeting Aug. 4, 2016 1904-2037

Commander Wakild called the meeting to attention a hand salute was given to the colors. 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, the following were present: Commander Stan Wakiid, Sr. Vice. Cmdr. Jed Fall, Jr. Vice Cmdr. Jim McCloughan, Finance Officer Pat Sullivan, Asst Finance Chuck Aubrey Chaplin Art Roderick, Sgt. at Arms Jim Montgomery, SAL Representative Steve Hamilton and Adjutant Tom Breen.

Missing: Judge Advocate Kevin Ferguson, Service Officer Alan Soulliere and Historian John Lambert.

The following Legion members were also present Bruce Thatcher, Mike Rigozzi and Bill McCormick.

The Adjutant then read the minutes of the prior business meeting of 7-7-2016. A correction was made to the minutes in that the parade mention in the minutes was the July 4th parade not the Memorial Day parade. A motion was made to accept the minutes, seconded and passed without objection.

Finance: Report was given by Mr. Sullivan and a copy is attached to this report. Mr. Fall asked about the drop of about \$10,000 in general account. The Post paying bills was cited as the general reason for the difference. A discussion of funds from other means of income involving the pool table, juke box, game machines and popcorn machine followed and it was

deemed that these funds become part of the general account. A motion was made to accept the report was seconded and passed without objection pending an audit.

Adjutant report: The report shows as of 7-1-2016 169 renewals have been received and 11 new members for a total of 181 members. The adjutant stated that because of troubles with past membership cards he believed some of the \$10,000 deficit in the finance report may be because of having to cover members that paid for their cards and never received them in an estimated amount of \$200-\$250. Also, because of the help of Mrs. Ferguson the current situation of getting cards to renewal and new members is going very well, with little or no delays in the system. A discussion ensued on the past Adjutant Rebecca Howell and the warrant that is out for her arrest. In the interest of brevity, the warrant is current but there is a 50 mile limit on serving it on her because of the expense of having her extradited back to South Haven. Mr. Aubrey said he heard she had been in town lately in that her parents live in South Haven and need her assistance. Also that her maiden name is Crawford and he has her parents address. A motion was made to approve the Adjutant's report, seconded and passed without objection.

Board of Directors: No report.

SAL report: Mr. Hamilton took the floor and stated the SAL account is at \$7141 and the membership is at 102%. The SAL has taken on "quite a few new members" recently. Commander Wakild asked how close was the SAL to the limit of SAL members to Legion members ratio were they. Mr. Hamilton said he didn't know and no one understood how/what that ratio worked. A study was deemed necessary to determine the situation. A motion was made to accept the report, seconded and passed without objection.

Sick Call: No one on sick leave.

Service Officer Report: N/A

Unfinished Business: One quote for an audit was \$2000 from Otto CPA. We have not received a quote from the other company, but it is due soon. Cmdr. Wakild opined that it is less than he thought. Mr. Fall asked about the situation with the windows in the bar. Mr. Hamilton took the floor and reported that the windows man came in the bar and started to work on the windows. He left about 15 min. later and hasn't returned. Mr. Hamilton said he is going to look into the situation. Mr. Montgomery gave a report on the upcoming Army band concert on Aug. 14th. The band will come to the post for dinner after the concert. Mr. Montgomery has the cost of the dinner covered through his 50-50 drawings. The Fishing Veterans on Aug. 20th was discussed. The Bangor Post 160 is going to do the Honor Guard firing on the pier when the fishing fleet returns. It was decided that Post 49 is to be decorated with banners as was done in the past. Mr. Bruce Thatcher a member involved with the "Lest We Forget" program took the floor and reported he has 10 tickets for the post for the Sundowner boat that will meet the fishing fleet when it returns and escort the fleet into the harbor and to have some flags on the Sundowner. It was decided since Post 160 is doing the Honor Guard, Post 49 will do the Color Guard. The Adjutant mentioned the possibility of replacing the posts Services flags in that they are looking pretty bad. The Michigan Viet Nam wall was discussed and Mr. Thatcher said it would be here at Post 49 on Sat. Aug. 20th from 0830 to 1600. Mr. Montgomery asked who was responsible for getting the Wall here. The answer he was given was "God".

New Business: Cmdr. Wakild stated he had a conversation with a retired banker here at the post. The banker told him that now would be a good time to refinance the retaining wall. He asked if that would be a good idea especially if we could get a lower rate and that the rate we have on the existing loan is 6%, it was decided that looking into a refinancing would be done. Cmdr. Wakild stated he is having the Adjutant to give an account on the funeral details the Honor Guard does to report to the state and to start

supplying uniform for the guard. Mr. Hamilton stated he is going to outfit two SAL honor guard members as soon as possible in that these members seldom if ever miss a detail. The AED for the post was brought up and suggestions from a donation from the post to 50-50 drawings and Friday night dinners. A motion was made to have the 50-50 drawings and one Friday night dinner per month proceeds go to the AED it was seconded and passed without objection.

A discussion about having veteran t-shirts and beverage jackets (coozees) for sale, available at the post and the proceeds go to the general fund. Mr. Thatcher made a point that he knows a business that has a machine that can make any design and put it on a shirt at \$18.00 for long sleeve and \$14.00 for a short sleeve. Cmdr. asked Mr. Thatcher if he could contact this business and if the price given included the cost of the shirt. Mr. Thatcher said yes to both inquiries. A motion was made to look into the possibility of having the above made available to the Post, seconded and passed without objection.

Cmdr. Wakild suggested we look into replacing the ceiling tiles in the bar with tiles of the five services as in the Bangor post. This was deemed as a very good idea.

Trash bags being made available for the Lion's when they do Sunday breakfast was discussed and solved with the idea of putting extra bags in the bottom of the can.

Cmdr. Wakild apologized for giving a \$100 donation to a woman for the fireworks display on the 4th, saying he didn't think about the last meeting when this was voted down. Apologies accepted.

Mr. Aubrey took the floor and asked for a motion be made to approve two liquor licenses one for a class reunion on 9-17-2016 and the second for a wedding dinner on 10-08-2016. The motion was made, seconded and passed without objection. This leaves the post with 12 licenses left till the end of the year.

Mr. Aubrey reported that our former bartender Angie Smith has filed for unemployment and that he intends to fight against her request. He said he has already asked Mr. Ferguson for any documents he may have to assist Mr. Aubrey and he wants any documents anyone on the board may have.

Mr. Aubrey then provided the attached letter asking for a \$1.00 per hour raise for Kathy Ferguson. He cited how important she has become to the post doing all the tasks she has been given. The Adjutant then gave a short speech citing how important Mrs. Ferguson has been to him in helping him get acclimated to his position as adjutant. Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Fall wanted to delay giving her a raise until the matter of not paying bartenders overtime if they go beyond the 15 min. limit of closing is settled. Mr. Hamilton opined that Mrs. Ferguson may have extra duties helping out her husband at the post and this also should be confirmed or denied before a vote is taken on Mr. Aubrey's proposal, however, a motion was made and seconded a vote was taken and passed at 7 yeas and 2 naes.

Mr. Aubrey then made a motion to provide the finance officer Mr. Sullivan a .14 cent per mile at 192 miles = \$26.88 a week which is rounded up to \$30.00 per week it was seconded and passed without objection.

Cmdr. Wakild read a letter from the Battle Creek VA Medical Center thanking the post for the \$650.00 donation for their outpatient coffee fund. He also had a \$855.00 bill from Otto CPA. and two bills from the pull tab company one for \$3179.00 for their percentage of the pull tabs and the second for \$100.00 for the service on the pull tab machine.

Comdr. Wakild then asked if anyone has anything further for the good of the Legion. There was none.

Chaplin Roderick then gave a closing prayer.

Cmdr Wakild read the "Till We Meet Again" passage, saluted the colors and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Breen
Adjutant Post 49.