

The American Legion Minutes

Compiled by: Larry Thronson Date: February 14, 2023 Time Convened: 7:01 PM

Approved by: _____ Post No: 735 Department of Iowa

Attendance: _12_ Officers: 4 Members: 8 Adjourning: 7:48 PM

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Meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Helle. Chaplain Joel Kessler led the post in opening prayer. Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble to the Constitution was said by all. Commander Joe Helle read a statement that we learned from the Linn County meeting that we just hosted: A POW and MIA empty chair is placed at all official meetings of the American Legion. As a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW and MIA that are still not account for all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity and the patriotism of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicated ourselves to this vital endeavor.

GUESTS: Stan Coleman who wants to be a member. He served in the Navy from November 1967 to November 1973.

Update for Tori Paga from Kennedy High School (sophomore) won the Oratorical contest at the County level. She won at the District level in DeWitt. She won the area competition in West Union and received a check for \$125.00. She then won the state competition in Des Moines and received a check for \$2000.00. She will be going to National contest next. This will be in Indianapolis, Indiana from April 21 to April 23, 2023. We wished her good luck.

Minutes of the meeting dated January 10, 2023 was distributed to the members. Motion by Roger Frederick to accept the minutes, 2nd by Bob Sprengeler, and it was subsequently approved by a unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Report: Tim Cunningham read and explained the financial report. Motion by Troy Andersen to accept the financial report as read, 2nd by Kenny Jones and it was subsequently approved by a unanimous vote.

Flag Essay: Joe Helle stated that he will go on February 17th to the schools to present a check for \$25.00 to the winner. Also he will be giving \$1.00 for each student that participated in flag essay contest.

Avenue of Flags: Larry Thronson stated that he received two more Avenue of Flag renewals. The total of flags is 8 now. Tim Cunningham stated that we should build another fifty flags on February 21, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

Building: Rick Pierce stated that the building is still be rented out.

Weapons: No Report.

Website: Mike Coleman stated that the website is up to date. Mike Coleman stated that the most popular pages are (1) Main Page, (2) Bingo (3) Flag Disposal, (4) Building Rental, (5) Contact us, and (6) Avenue of Flags. The 2023 Avenue of Flags subscription form is available from the website. Mike Coleman stated he is advertising the Avenue of Flags and the Scholarship program.

Membership: Gerry Kasier gave us an update email. Joe Helle stated that renewals for 2023 reflect 11 active members from 2022 have not yet renewed.

Scholarship Program: No Report

OFFICER REPORTS:

Post Service Officer? No Report

Sick Call: Kenny Jones is waiting on appointment to see the doctor. No date has been set yet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Rick Pierce stated that everybody got a form for the military tribute banner in the Hiawatha newsletter. Banners will be on the decorative light poles throughout the city. There is a limit of 50 for the first year. They have 35 as of today. They will be displayed for two years. They will be displayed for two years. After the second year the banners will be presented to the families. They will be displayed from Memorial Day to Veterans Day.

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Mike Coleman stated that he was wondering about sponsorship for the baseball team this year. Joe Helle stated that it is in budget for this year.

Joe Helle stated that the flag disposal will be June 10, 2023 at 10:30 AM in Springville, Iowa. It will be held at the fire station and there will be luncheon afterwards.

Joe Helle stated that on January 24, 2023 that Roger Frederick, Joe Kessler and Joe Helle went to the Linn County Meeting. About 50 people attended the Meeting. Also there was 9 out of 10 post that attended the meeting. The state commander was there. The main push was on membership. We need to reach out to the veterans. Post 727 is in real trouble to get members to join their meetings. Joel Kessler stated that the Iowa Veterans Home is not under the Department of Veterans Affairs. There was a lot of people that was upset with the change. They also changed two departments into one. They has dinner for us.

CORRESPONDENCE:

NONE

CLOSING:

Drawing: Gift Card from Scott's Restaurant YES
Winner was: Bob Sprengeler

Motion to adjourn: Motion by Bob Sprengeler to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Joel Kessler, and it was subsequently approved by a unanimous vote.

Chaplain Joel Kessler led the post in a closing prayer.

Joe Helle read the closing statement: Until we meet again lets us all remember our obligation to the country and the people serving with faith performance of all duties of citizenship. That serves the communities, State and Nation be ever remain objective with the American Legion and its members. Let us be every watchful of the honor of our country, our organization and ourselves that nothing should serves us away from the path of justice, freedom and democracy.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM by Commander Joe Helle.