

The American Legion Minutes

Second District

Compiled by: Larry Thronson Date: February 13, 2024 Time Convened: 7:04 PM
Approved by: _____ Post No: 735 Department of Iowa
Attendance: _13_ Officers: 4 Members: 9 Adjourning: 7:59 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: A POW and MIA empty chair is placed at all official meetings of The American Legion. As a physical symbol of the many American POW and MIA still on account from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity and the repatriation 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: Mock Trial Team members from Kennedy High School are Tori Paga, Samuella Kasha, Neil Cogdill, and Slader Buckheister. They finished second last year at state. We will sponsor the Mock Trial Team this for \$200.00 again. They will still need our building to practice. They already have their case for this year.

Ron Tyne is the Linn County Adjutant stated that on April 13, 2024 there will be a Military Veterans Ball at American Legion Post 298 (625 31st Street in Marion. Tickets can be purchased at the Marion America Legion building. The tickets are \$50.00 for a couple or \$30.00 for a single. Veterans encouraged to wear Medals or Uniforms (Semi-Formal).

New member: Sam Boldon was 20 years in the National Guard and 3 years in the army reserves.

Minutes of the meeting dated December 12, 2023 and January 9, 2024 (No Meeting) was distributed to the members. Motion by Roger Frederick to accept the minutes, 2nd by Joel Kessler and it was subsequently approved by a unanimous vote. .

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Flag Essay: Joe Helle stated that he will give the winner at Hiawatha School (Caroline Sadler \$25.00) and winner from Viola School (Isaac Long \$25.00) on President's Day. Also there will be \$1.00 given to each person that participated.

Avenue of Flags: Larry Thronson stated that we received 2 new and 5 renewals so far. Larry Thronson will go to Hiawatha City (Amber) tomorrow to give her the Avenue of Flags form for 2024 to put in the March Hiawatha Insights.

Building: Joe Helle stated that there is a leak around the furnace. Rick Pierce stated that he will get a guy to look at it.

Weapons: No Report.

Website: Mike Coleman stated that the website has been updated. Mike Coleman stated that the most popular pages was a tie for first. They are (1) Avenue of Flags (1) Contact us (3) Building Rental (4) Bingo.

Membership: Larry Thronson stated that Gerry Kaiser sent an email. The email stated we are still 10 members short on 2024 renewals based on those who were 2023 members.

Scholarship Program: Tim Cunningham stated that we have one scholarship entry so far and the deadline in April 15, 2024.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Post Service Officer (No Post Service Officer)

Sick Call: No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Troy Andersen stated that he completed setup for the HP computer.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Mike Coleman stated that we will sponsor the Washington High School baseball team this year. There will be 13 boys and maybe 3 more boys for a total of 16 boys on the team. The coach this year is still Matt Kuba. Matt Kuba will attend the Winter Conference. There might be more teams than last year. Mike Coleman stated that the State tournament will be in Grimes, Iowa and the Conference will be in Dubuque or Ottumwa.

Joe Helle stated that the lady from Kennedy sent Joe three names for the Citizenship Award medallion. Joe Helle stated that he did not want to pick one because they all live on his route. Joe told her to pick the winner and we will give them the medallion at the end of April.

Joe Helle stated that a member passed away. The wife was hoping that we could do the color guard for her. We don't have a color guard so she used Marion's color guard. Joe Helle told a shadow box to her and visited for a while. Tom Lage sent flowers to her. She replied with a nice thank you.

Joe Helle went to the Midwinter conference on Saturday to the Oratorical briefing. Joe went to the hospitality room to meet and greet Saturday night. The girl from Marion post finished third in the Oratorical contest. The Midwinter conference is in Des Moines each year.

Joe Helle stated that the Iowa Academic Decathlon State Tournament is being held at Cedar Rapids Kennedy School this year and The Iowa American Legion is a sponsor of the award ceremony. The ceremony is on March 2, 2024 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at The Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Cedar Rapids.

Joe Helle stated that the National Commander is coming to Tama, Iowa on February 17, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

Joe Helle had a request from a mom (who does Avenue of Flags with us) from Eagle Scout Troop 766 is doing a flag education and would like donation of flags to give to kids. Rick Pierce suggested that we can take some flags out of the used flag barrels.

Joe Helle Stated that the money for 2 Hiawatha baseball teams are in the budget this year.

Joel Kessler asked if we should build more flags. Rick Pierce stated that we should, but it would be warmer to do in the spring (Maybe April 2024).

Joe Helle stated that he would get the information for Linn County meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

CLOSING:

Drawing: Gift Card from Scott's Restaurant _____
Winner was: George Letson (\$10.00) _____

Motion to adjourn: Motion by Rick Pierce to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by George Letson and it was subsequently approved by a unanimous vote.

Chaplain Joe Kessler led the post in a closing prayer.

Joe Helle read the closing statement: Till we meet again lets us remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let serves the community, State and Nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion and its members. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization and ourselves that nothing small swerve us away from the path of Justice, Freedom and Democracy.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM by Commander Joe Helle.