

The American Legion Minutes

Second District

Compiled by: Larry Thronson Date: March 12, 2024 Time Convened: 7:05 PM
Approved by: _____ Post No: 735 Department of Iowa
Attendance: 12 Officers: 3 Members: 9 Adjourning: 7:50 PM

The American Legion

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: New member Gary Holst who was in the Navy. He enlisted in 1959 and discharged in 1962. He then went into the selective service in 1973. He was born in DeWitt, Iowa. He transferred from Walker post to Hiawatha post.

Minutes of the meeting dated February 13, 2023 was distributed to the members. Motion by Joel Kessler to accept the minutes, 2nd by Errol Lindsey and it was subsequently approved by a unanimous vote. .

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Flag Essay: Joe Helle stated that the kid from Viola school place 3rd at state. He will receive another check for \$25.00.

Avenue of Flags: Larry Thronson stated that we have 323 flags. We have 24 new flags. Last year we had 893 flags. We will create 50 new flags on April 2, 2024 at 9:00 AM at the post.

The American Legion Minutes

Building: Rick Pierce stated that we have to buy a new furnace to be replaced next month. The cost will be \$4,280.00. Rick Pierce stated that he will asked them to check the air condition system also.

Weapons: No Report.

Website: No Report

Membership: Larry Thronson stated that he has been sending the renewals and new memberships from the online entries to Gerry Kasier.

Scholarship Program: Tim Cunningham stated that we have one scholarship entry. Rick Pierce stated that he had 2 calls. There might be two more entries? Tim Cunningham, Larry Thronson, and Joel Kessler will be on the committee.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Post Service Officer (No Post Service Officer)

Sick Call: No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Troy Andersen has completed setup for the new HP computer. Joe Helle stated that he was going to the Linn County meeting on March 26, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Christmas party will be September 27, 2024. Kenny Jones will order the Christmas party food. It will be the same menu as last year.

Joe Helle stated that he received information about the Cedar Valley Veterans Network They are hosting an event on April 3, 2024 at the Big Grove Brewery downtown. It's for unemployed or under-employed veterans and their spouses to connect with community businesses. It's from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

Joe Helle stated that our next meeting is April 9, 2024 and he will be on vacation.

Joe Helle asked if anybody was going to the Military Veterans Ball on April 13, 2024. It will be at the American Legion Post 298 in Marion.

The American Legion Minutes

Rick Pierce stated that April 20, 2024 is Earth Day (Saturday morning). We will be collect flags and phones. The Lions club will collect glasses.

Joe Helle stated that on April 3, 2024 (Wednesday) is the Shrine Extreme Circus at 6:30 PM. It will be at the Alliant Energy Power House at 370 1st Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401. We have tickets.

Joe Helle stated that the Eagle Scout projects is to paint the lines in the parking lot. Rick Pierce will check on the cost to seal the parking lot before we paint. The Scout will also do landscaping around the building. If there is another scout that would want to build flag shadow boxes. Bill Schaffer will cut the wood form for the kids.

Joe Helle stated that the Academic Decathlon State Tournament was a great event. The place was packed with 350 kids. The American Legion paid for all the awards. They also wanted legion post in the community to hand out the award. The kids thanked the veterans who handed out the awards.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

CLOSING:

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

Motion to adjourn: Motion by Rick Pierce to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Roger Frederick 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 7:50 PM by Commander Joe Helle.