

The American Legion Minutes

Second District

Compiled by: Larry Thronson Date: October 08, 2024 Time Convened: 7:02 PM
Approved by: _____ Post No: 735 Department of Iowa
Attendance: _14_ Officers: 4 Members: 10 Adjourning: 7:56 PM

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Meeting was called to order by Commander Joe Helle. Troy Andersen 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:

Michael Moseley (New Member) In the Air Force.

Roy Harter (New Member) in the Navy for 8 years. Sandy Harter (New Member) in the Navy for 20 years.

Minutes of the meeting dated September 10, 2024 was distributed to the members. Motion by Rick Pierce to accept the minutes, 2nd by Mike Coleman and it was subsequently approved by a unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Report: Tim Cunningham read and explained the financial report. Motion by Roger Frederick 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 send out the information. Joe Helle will pick them up the essays in December 2024 and February 2025 will present the winners...

Avenue of Flags: Joe Helle stated that the Avenue of Flags work day was completed with 50 new flags. We also have another flag which is the space force flag. We now have all six branches covered. Joe Helle stated that we put the flags up on Friday

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November 8th at 3:30 PM and take the flags down on Monday November 11th at 3:30 PM.

Building: No Report

Building: No Report

Weapons: No Report

Website: Mike Coleman stated that the website is up to date. Mike Coleman stated that the most popular pages are (1) Building Rental. (2) Bingo (3) Contact us (4) Flag Disposal (5) Post Location.

Membership: No Report

Scholarship Program: Joe Helle stated that he has had a couple of questions about it. He sent them to the website for answers.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Post Service Officer: No Post Service Officer

Sick Call: Kenny Jones has Vertigo now. Mike Coleman's wife has breast cancer. Joe Helle will have surgery on October 16, 2024 (Knee Replacement).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Joe Helle stated that the Christmas party was great

Mike Coleman stated that Rick Pierce, George Letson, and Mike Coleman conducted the annual audit for Post 735 at 1600 (CDT) on September 13, 2024. Tim Cunningham, Post 735 Finance Officer, provided a review of the books and provided real-time confirmation of multiple transactions. There were zero discrepancies identified and 100% balance of all accounts across all financial institutions. The team commends Tim for his rigor, financial stewardship, and preparedness for the audit. The team recommends the audit be accepted as complete. Motion by Mike Coleman to accept the financial audit report as read, 2nd by Rick Pierce and it was subsequently approved by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom Patterson stated that on June 14, 2025 it will be Hiawatha's seventy-fifth anniversary. He was asking if we could have a bingo tent for the anniversary. Joe Helle stated that there is a lot of work to do that. We won't be able to do this because we cannot move the bingo equipment. We will check it out. Tom Patterson was wondering if

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we could go house to house check the renewals. On the Avenue of Flags. Tim Cunningham stated that we already do this.

Joe Helle asked Bill Schaffer to come up to the front so that we can give him gift card for \$100.00 and an American Legion hat for helping the American Legion.

Mike Coleman went to the 2nd it's hard to get people to come to the meeting District Conference this last weekend. It was held in the Veterans building in Cedar Rapids. They asked for the American Legion Charter to be sent in. Tim Cunningham stated that we did that. There was real focus on the membership. There are things that we can do to help recruit membership. There are 13 veterans' organizations to use. Mike Coleman stated that the Spring Conference will be in April 2025.

Joe Helle stated that it's hard to get people to come to the 2nd District Conference.

It will be at Cedar Rapids at downtown Veterans Memorial building.

Joe Helle stated that November 7th is the Marine Corp Ball in downtown Cedar Rapids. Joe Helle stated that the American Legion has an emergency assistance fund to help veterans that could become hopeless.

Joe Helle state that the Oratorical contest is coming up. We will sponsor the same girl as last year which is Toi Paga. Joe Helle stated that at the local level and the county level is all set up. American Legion in Marion will sponsor three girls and Palo will sponsor one girl.

Joe Helle stated that we would like to sponsor music in the park. Joe helle checked with the city and fould out that the price to sponsor was \$7500.00 for the year. This was to much for us.

Rick Pierce stated that his wife and daughters contact Hacap to see if there are any children that needs coats or cloves or scarfs. Joe Helle stated that we could use the \$500.00 (Christmas Family Dinner) for this. Rick will check with his wife.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The ladies from the Shriners sent a thank note for inviting the Shriners to the Christmas party.

CLOSING:

Drawing: Gift Card from Scott's Restaurant
Winner was: Roger Fredrick

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

Troy Andersen led the post in a closing prayer.

Commander 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 7:56 PM by Commander Joe Helle.