

Charles A. Woodford American Legion Post 2007

23 September 2019 Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 1902 hrs by the Commander.

The Commander gave the floor to Sam Rosencraz, the youth sponsored by the Post to Boys State. Sam extended his thanks and appreciation for being able to attend and spoke briefly on his experiences.

Roll of Post officers was called with all officers present except Executive Committee member Andrew Dunham.

Guests in attendance Sam Rosencraz, Howard Bateman, Barbara Thomas-Muharram and District Junior Vice Commander Jim Page.

Minutes of previous meeting were read with motion to approve by Doug Jameson and seconded by Bob Burack.

The Executive Meeting minutes were read with motions to accept and seconded. Minutes were approved by membership.

Doug Jameson introduced Barbara Thomas-Muharram, who represented The Joseph Center in East St. Louis. She explained the purpose of the center, which provides assistance to homeless veterans. She gave a short history on the center and described it as a 26 bed facility for homeless veterans. It is an all-male facility, which helps vets get in contact with organizations that can provide benefits. The center has an approximate 75% success rate in helping to get veterans off the streets and into their own place.

The Commander gave a donation of \$100 to Barbara from the Post.

Robert Thomas introduced Howard Bateman. Howard gave a talk on the Honor Flight and his experiences with the program. Departure locations are in both Marion and St Louis. Guardians that accompany the vets pay their own way. Once in D.C., they tour numerous monuments and attend a changing of the guard at Arlington. It was an emotional day with a large number of people greeting them upon their return to Marion. He also advised not to put off the trip.

The Commander then coined Howard.

The Senior Vice then assumed command of the meeting as the Post Commander switched hats to the District Jr. Vice Commander. DJVC Jim Page spoke on renewing membership. He pointed out that the dues year was from 1 January through 31 December and not from whatever month members receive their renewal notice. He pointed out that there were now two time periods for eligibility in the Legion; WWI service and any service after December 7th, 1941 to a future date as determined by Congress.

He also spoke on the recent 5th Division meeting at the Mounds. Membership was spoken on. The per capita is going up. Currently our dues are frozen. The Fall caucus for the 22nd Division will be on 6 October in Dupo.

The Commander resumed his post.

Membership - Sr. Vice announced that there would be a gathering on Thursday between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. at the Coldwell building on Lebanon Ave. Calls would be made to unpaid members to entice them to pay their dues.

Finance Report – John Thomas gave the report with motions to accept subject to audit by Eugene Weil and seconded by Doug Jameson. Membership approved.

Poppies – The next Poppy sale is still scheduled for 2 November at the Belleville WalMart.

Veteran Affairs – Doug Jameson stated that the Veteran's Assistance Commission would be meeting at the Mascoutah American Legion Post. Cost is \$15. Elections will be held and there would be a speaker.

Community Patriotic Observances – no report.

Americanism – no report.

Boy Scouts – no report

Constitution and By Laws – copies of the proposed changes are available for review for suggestions and critique.

Gifts to Yanks – Les O'Neal stated the program was moving along. There were only about six veterans this year instead of the usual 15-16.

Children and Youth – no report.

Oratorical – Rich Gaebble spoke on the program. A motion was made to put aside money for the program. It was seconded and passed. The Commander asked members for help with the program.

Boys State – numbers are down nationwide on youth attending the event. We need to support the program and get youth interested.

No other reports given for the additional program areas.

Sick Call – None.

Unfinished Business – we would like to possible recycle the post flag replacing the current lettering replacing it with Charles A. Woodford. This would be the least expensive route.

Fundraisers – The Commander will talk to McAlister's about setting up a future date. Robin provided a flyer from Panera Bread on their fund raising option. Rich Gaeble stated the Hof Brau also did 10% profit for fundraisers.

New Business – Robert Thomas spoke on the Darmont (?) Tree Farm's desire to provide trees to military families for Christmas. They were looking for donations of \$25 per tree. He motioned to provide \$50 for two trees. It was seconded by Jerry Sauerwein and passed by membership.

There were no known departed members.

For the Good of the Legion – Steve Russel, the Military and Veteran's Liaison Coordinator for Senator Mike Bost would be at the Caseyville VFW on October 2nd from 2:00 to 3:15 p.m. to discuss veterans' issues. Representatives for the IL Dept. of Veteran Affairs will be available.

\$5,000 no fee insurance for accidental death for members on Legion business is available.

Next Meeting will be held on 28 October with Executive Meeting at 1830.

50/50 won by Jim Page who donated the \$20 back to the post for Boys State.

Meeting adjourned at 2050 hrs.