

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of

Berryhill Post #165, The American Legion, Department of Michigan

12/3/2008

The regular meeting for the month of June was opened at 1930 hours on 12/3/2008 according to ritual by Commander Chuck Kaminski.

Post Everlasting Ceremony: None

Guests present: Jeff Vovillia, State of Michigan, Department of Human Services.

Minutes of the previous Regular meeting held November 5, 2008 as well as the minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting held November 13, 2008 were read, moved to accept as amended by Bob Bauder & Dave Canary.

New or prospective members present: None.

Committee Reports:

1. Bar Report: Brian Cashin reports the September & October Club Operating Committee are both losses. Net income is negative for club operations fiscal year to date. Complete Club Operating Committee finances available at post, will be attached to hard copy of these minutes.
2. Baseball Report: Nels Cronkright reports 3 young men who have been involved in Berryhill Post 165 American Legion baseball have been recently honored by acceptance to Division 1 & Division 2 college ball programs. The men are Eric Dawson (Dayton, Ohio), Jordan Dean (Central Michigan University) & Kyle Oyle (Saginaw Valley). On a separate matter, Cronkright announced that Baseball would be selling \$5 raffle tickets for a whole hog, processed & packaged. Hog donated by the Varners & Benners. Tickets can be purchased at the Club, from any Baseball committee member or from Nels Cronkright (989) 615-8990. Raffle will be held February 14, 2009. Cronkright presented a check for \$100 to the general fund.
3. Bingo Report: No report. Steve Tracy welcoming daughter Angela home & unable to make meeting.
4. Building Corporation Report: Chuck Kaminski reports that Don Blasy was paid for the outside lighting repairs done this fall.
5. Charity Games Report: Ed Holder reports pull tabs going well. \$1,000 to general fund & \$250 to Building Corporation.
6. Finance Committee Report: None.
7. Membership Report: Pat Hanley reports that current membership is at 557 paid 2009 members which equates to 78% of the 718 member goal established by Legion Department of Michigan. Goal for Department of Michigan is 75% by December 8, 2008. Checks & cash to Finance Officer Tom Nemeth.
8. General Fund Report: Tom Nemeth reports a slow month for both income & expenses, not a bad thing. Nemeth reports \$250 from SAL dues. \$176 from Thursday night Euchre.
9. Kitchen Report: Brian Cashin reports that he's waiting shopping report from Jan Gordon. Cashin reports \$500 to general fund & \$250 to Building Corporation for November after the meeting. Nothing at this time for December.

Sick Call, Relief and Employment: None.

Post Service Officer Report: Ross Ahlich reports that a new Gulf War review by the Veterans Administration about illnesses being real and not imagined has come out. Ahlich expects to be able to report more detail at the January meeting. Ahlich spoke to Sgt. Mom (letter soliciting help read at 11/5 Regular Post meeting) and reports that it is not in our interest at this time.

Unfinished Business:

1. In November, Adjutant Hanley mailed the 50 & 60 year Continuous Year Membership certificates & Legion lapel pins that members were unable earlier this year able to make it to the Post to receive. Also in November, Adjutant Hanley mailed data update letters to all 65 PUFL members of the Post. This is part of an effort to update all Berryhill Legion data, as a similar letter has been sent to each member as they have paid their 2009 dues. Over 50 email address have been added to our address list. Over 75 each, phone numbers, dates of birth, branch of service as well as war era have been corrected or added. There has been a cost in postage as well as effort by all respondents.
2. Willie Coomer reports that the Reconnect Program is going well. There is a Sunday meeting upcoming.

Applications for Membership: Vietnam Air Force veteran James A. Miller of Saginaw is applying for membership to Berryhill. James DD-214 are in order. Moved to accept by Steve Hammond & seconded by Bob Walker and approved unanimous.

New Business (& Correspondence):

1. Note of appreciation for expressions of sympathy by the family of Wayne W. Welling – post to bulletin board.
2. Lisa from the City of Midland called the Post requesting volunteers to answer children's calls as Mr. & Mrs. Claus on December 15, 16 & 17 from 6-7:30 pm.
3. Larry Badour raised question of Sons of the American Legion, VFW & AmVets wanting to help in ritual teams on funeral services, funeral detail & color guard.
4. Brian Cashin raised question of VFW & American Legion members receiving drink chits after services. Question was tabled until a later meeting.

For the Good of the Legion:

1. Jeff Vovillia, State of Michigan, Department of Human Services, spoke to the membership concerning a local need for men to support young men & boys, ages 14 to 23, who are currently in the foster system. This is not Big Brothers organization, rather a State program. Vovillia gave a phone number & forms to Adjutant Hanley (copies to bulletin board). Anyone interested in helping should call Mr. Vovillia at his office at 989-772-8407.
2. Willie Coomer reminded the membership that the next District 10 meeting would be Saturday, January 3, 2009 in Oscoda.
3. Nels Cronkright moved that \$100 be given from the Poppy fund to support the Children's Christmas party, Saturday, December 13. Steve Hammond second. Passed unanimous. SAL and Baseball will be contributing also.
4. Brian Cashin and Ross Ahlich addressed comments made by the daughter of Noel Schrantz, a Midland Area Veteran who recently passed. Comments praised the joint Legion/VFW funeral detail for their service and expressed wishes that any donations be sent to the Veterans Administration Hospital in Saginaw for the support of veterans.
5. Steve Hammond addressed funds raised to support the 1460<sup>th</sup> service members and their families both in June of this year as well as during the month of November. Hammond reports that the total amount has been given to the 1460<sup>th</sup> family service organization.
6. Pat Hanley asked that all members who are on active duty, or their family or friend, should notify an officer of the Post so that we can pay 2009 dues for our active duty veterans who have not yet had their 2009 dues paid.
7. Ross Ahlich said Christmas baskets for veterans and dependants will be distributed the last Saturday prior to Christmas (December 20). Anyone wishing to assist in this effort please call Ross at 989-832-6843. Nels Cronkright moved that the cost of the baskets be taken from the poppy fund, second by Steve Hammond. Passed unanimous.

8. Ross Ahlich and Wilson Coomer presented a “conceptual phase” change of the existing World War II memorial at the Midland County Courthouse to include World War I, Korea, Vietnam and conflicts since. Drawings of and discussion about repairing and updating the existing memorial took place. Enthusiasm was high. Bob Bauder moved that the American Legion support these conceptual changes. Pat Hanley second. Passed unanimous.
9. Chuck Kaminski read the following statement: As you know, with support of the Long Range Planning Committee, I have appointed a Constitution & By-Laws Update Committee. Pat Hanley, Adjutant, will be reading proposed amendments offered by that committee tonight. This reading is in compliance with the guidelines set forth in Article 8 – Amendments, Section 2 on page 5 and Article 17 – Amendments on page 16 of the “Constitution & By-Laws” Revised As Of October 19, 1977. The time for this reading is not to be for discussion, rather for the official first reading of those proposed amendments. With this reading we will complete the first of four requirements for the completion of possible amendment(s) of Berryhill’s Constitution & By-Laws. Upon completion of this reading, here’s what will follow:
  - a. At the January 7, 2009 Regular meeting, the second reading will take place;
  - b. By January 21, 2009 written notice to all members will be sent by post card (14 days prior to the February 4, 2009 Regular meeting);
  - c. At the February 4, 2009 Regular Post meeting, or other special meeting, the amendment(s) will be voted upon by the present membership. (These 3 things will complete what is required by the existing Constitution & By-Laws.)
  - d. Nowhere in the existing Constitution & By-Laws have I found anything that provides for discussion. As Commander, I am requesting, in the form of a motion, that you honor the readings, without interruption for the sake of order. I’m sure that you’ll agree that discussion will be necessary, so I am recommending that following the readings & between the meetings, that you contact Ross Ahlich, myself, John Evans, Pat Hanley or Steve Tracy for comment as well as discussing the amendments among yourselves. (These members of the committee have worked for over 150 man hours to compile these proposed amendments). In addition, I move that discussion on the floor take place at the February 4, 2009 Regular Post meeting, or other special meeting, prior to the vote.
10. Steve Hammond seconded the motion. Passed unanimous.
11. Adjutant Hanley read proposed amendments.
12. 50/50 raffle held - \$39 to Oren Mieske & \$39 to Poppy fund.

Meeting was adjourned at 2115 hours according to ritual by Commander Kaminski.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick M. Hanley, Post Adjutant