

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of

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

2/4/2009

The regular meeting for the month of June was opened at 1930 hours on 2/4/2009 according to ritual by Commander Chuck Kaminski.

Post Everlasting Ceremony: None

Guests present: None

Minutes of the previous meeting held 1/7/2009 were read and moved to accept as amended by Nels Cronkright. Second Willie Coomer. Passed unanimous.

New or prospective members present: None

Committee Reports:

1. Bar Report: Brian Cashin reports the Club Operating Committee net income is negative for club operations fiscal year to date. Cashin did not have hard copy of the report available. Once that report is available it will be attached to hard copy of these minutes.
2. Baseball Report: Nels Cronkright presented a check for \$100 to the general fund.
3. Bingo Report: Steve Tracy reports a \$1000 check to the general fund. Tracy said the player numbers have rise slightly. Still getting a large percentage of players who are buying low. Larger problem is the lack of volunteers. Currently working with 3 teams. Several new workers have stepped up. Tracy addressed the upcoming Executive Committee meeting on Sunday 2/8 at 7 pm as an important meeting for necessary discussion of bingo options.
4. Building Corporation Report: Chuck Kaminski reports \$575 in account. Ed Holder reports 2 lights out front not working, problem beyond scope of last fall lighting problem.
5. Charity Games Report: Ed Holder reports games going well. \$1000 to the general fund, \$250 to Bldg Corp.
6. Finance Committee Report: No report.
7. Membership Report: Pat Hanley reports that current membership is at 629 paid 2009 members which equates to 88% of the 718 member goal established by Legion Department of Michigan. Goal for Department of Michigan is 85% by February 9, 2009. Checks & cash to Finance Officer Tom Nemeth.
8. General Fund Report: Tom Nemeth reports \$2200 income and \$3500 expenses. Snow removal bill \$900, Consumers bill \$2000.
9. Kitchen Report: Brian Cashin reports nothing at this time.

Sick Call, Relief and Employment: Russell Sugar, Korean Army veteran, member for 3 years has been in the Midland hospital since the beginning of the year. Pretty bad shape – two titanium hips, one being redone for failure. Sugar is currently in rehab in room A419. Junior Hayes had a stroke 3 weeks ago. Junior is hospitalized and is progressing well. Bob Bauder is home recuperating from artery problems – he will be returning for future surgery.

Post Service Officer Report: The VA is to be speeding up claims from 12 months downward to 4 or 5 months.

Unfinished Business:

1. John Evans presented a report on Constitution and By-Laws committee Report of Berryhill American Legion Post 165. Evans' report was as follows: The committee has met seven times from October 29, 2008 through January 25, 2009. A total of 209 hours were utilized in preparation of the proposed amendments. The committee consisted of the following five Legionnaires: Commander Chuck Kaminski, Adjutant Pat Hanley, Past Commanders Steve Tracy and Ross Ahlich and Legionnaire John Evans. The committee had numerous proposed changes to the amendments which had to be discussed in great detail

and at great length. The members of the committee had several disagreements regarding said proposed changes but through lengthy discussions arrived at agreed changes to said Constitution and By-Laws. The committee members handed out copies of the proposed changes of the Constitution and By-Laws to the Legionnaires at two prior meetings. Following each reading at each meeting, Legionnaires contacted committee members regarding proposed changes, typo's and concerns. After due discussion, the committee members did leave certain portions of the Constitution and By-Laws in their original form as the committee agreed there was no reason for changes to those portions of the Constitution and By-Laws. The committee members believe these proposed changes will improve Berryhill for the next generation of veterans and improve communication between each year's officers and exiting committees.

2. Jerry Adams moved that the proposed amendments to Berryhill Post 165, The American Legion's Constitution & By-Laws be voted on as a whole, single, secret, written vote, by Legionnaires who have paid their 2009 dues. Dave Canary second. Commander Chuck Kaminski requested discussion on the motion, with a microphone available, and Sgt-At-Arms Neil Schultz giving 2 minute time intervals to him so that the discussion would be orderly and timely. Discussion ensued as summarized below:
 - a. One member saw many Legionnaires at the meeting, members that he never saw at burger night or at dinners. He observed that there was obviously a stacked deck to ensure passage of the proposed amendments.
 - b. Another member observed that these members, who were not always at burger night or dinners were usually at funerals, were drill team members, bingo workers or were past commanders who had much time invested in Berryhill in a way other than through just club activities.
 - c. Another member credited the Constitution & By-Laws committee with good work.
 - d. Another member said that no changes were permanent, that changes that didn't work could be rescinded in the future through amendment.
 - e. One member in particular took the time to raise specific concerns that rose from his obviously having read the proposed amendments as well as his having discussed changes that the committee removed because of his feedback prior to voting day.
3. With discussion ended Kaminski asked Adjutant Pat Hanley to read Adam's motion for a voice vote. Hanley read the motion as follows: "A whole, single, secret, written vote is to be taken by Legionnaires, who have paid their 2009 dues, to the question "Do you want to adopt the proposed amendments to the Constitution & By-Laws of Berryhill Post 165, The American Legion as presented by the Constitution & By-Laws committee?" "A 'yes' vote will mean the proposed amendments have passed." "A 'no' vote will mean the proposed amendments have failed."
4. Kaminski asked for a voice vote which passed.
5. Kaminski then asked Sgt-At-Arms Schultz to check 2009 membership cards & give ballots to current members. Schultz and John Evans conducted the vote which passed as follows: 25 yes, 3 no, 1 abstain.

Applications for Membership: Past Berryhill member Jim Pfromm of Midland is applying to renew his membership. Marine Vietnam veteran George W Mallery of Midland is applying to transfer his membership from Post 225 to Berryhill. Army Gulf veteran Brent L Ward of Midland is applying to transfer his membership from post 097 to Berryhill. Active duty Air Force veteran Nicholas W Johnson of Midland is applying for membership to Berryhill. Active duty Navy veteran Dwane S. Maze of Midland is applying for membership to Berryhill. DD-214 are in order for these members. Moved to accept by Willie Coomer & seconded by Don McDonald and approved unanimous.

New Business (& Correspondence):

1. Letter of thanks from Luella Delaney, widow of Berryhill 165 Legionnaire Frank Delaney to the bulletin board.
2. Letter of thanks from Ann Pfenniger, widow of Berryhill 165 Legionnaire Bernard Pfenniger to the bulletin board.
3. Card and note of thanks from the Family of Roger Friend to the bulletin board.
4. Card and note of thanks from the Family of Russell Herweyer to the bulletin board.
5. American Legion Johnson-Day Post 104 mailed its monthly newsletter to Berryhill to the bulletin board.

6. Letter from Jordon Grant, 10th grade student at Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw to the bulletin board.
7. Brian Cashin presented a bill of \$367 payable to the SAL to cover printing costs & mailing (by McKay Press) of notification (attached) letter to Legionnaires of the Constitution & By-Laws proposed amendment changes & vote date.
8. Finance Officer Tom Nemeth asked that the checkbook for reconnect be closed out as it never gets used. \$30 in account. Willie Coomer moved same. Second Ross Ahlich. Passed unanimous.
9. Brian Cashin reports that the Kitchen committee wants the membership to know that recently it had been handling funeral dinners differently. Several non member families of deceased non member veterans had asked for dinners. Cashin reports that the committee was charging \$3.50 per plate to non members. Members have, as in the past, been just asked to make a donation.

For the Good of the Legion:

1. Pat Hanley reports Poppy days are May 21, 22 & 23 2009 & that poppies need to be ordered prior to April 30, 2009. Dick Blasy will again chair the Poppy committee. Chuck Kaminski & Pat Hanley will work with Blasy on this committee. Member assistance will be needed.
2. Chuck Kaminski informed members of the change in saluting procedure for non-military. Uncovered (no hat/cap/headgear) salutes are now allowed in the United States.
3. Neil Schultz complimented the team that put together the super bowl party. Schultz further complimented the quality of the funeral dinners. Schultz however complained about the lack of general, day-to-day, week-to-week functions, activities, meals, etc.
4. Ed Holder presented a report on children's party fund. Christmas party for kids on 12/13/08 for 53 kids & grandkids of Berryhill members. A children's Easter party is planned to be held from 1-3 on Saturday, April 4. Signup sheets are on the bulletin board outside the Past Commander's room, please register your kids or grandkids by Thursday, April 2.
5. Chuck Kaminski requested an Executive committee meeting to be held at 7 pm on Sunday, February 8. Topics to include bingo status.
6. Brian Cashin reported that the soup cook-off in the bar was successful. Cashin also invited sign up for the 'Cheat The Chills' chili cook off to be held Saturday, February 21 from 4 to 7 pm in the bar – proceeds to the children's party fund. Cashin presented \$50 to the general fund from SAL dues.
7. Neil Schultz asked how we could assure that the Post not go 31 more years before considering changes to our Constitution & By-Laws. John Evans responded that it now is required that the Post Executive Committee shall establish a By-Laws Committee at least every 5 years to present warranted updates at the December regular meeting, per By-Law article 7, section 6.
8. Willie Coomer reported that the first Saturday in March (3/7/09) would be the District 10 meeting at Berryhill. Coomer requested as past commander of the district that at a minimum the Commander and officers of the Post attend the meeting.
9. Coomer also responded to a question from the floor, as Berryhill Judge Advocate, that the aforementioned amended Constitution & By-Laws of the Post would need to be sent to the Department of Michigan Judge Advocate for review prior to them taking effect.
10. Pat Hanley asked what the status was of the Berryhill SAL holding monthly meetings as had been directed by Roger Rockhold, Zone 4 District SAL Commander at our October 1, 2008 Legion meeting. Brian Cashin reported that the SAL membership was trying to set up the meeting time and place.

Meeting was adjourned at 2054 hours according to ritual by Commander Kaminski.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick M. Hanley - Post Adjutant