

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting of

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

5/6/2009

The regular meeting for the month of May was opened at 1930 hours on 5/6/2009 according to ritual by Commander Chuck Kaminski.

Post Everlasting Ceremony: None.

Guests present: None

Minutes of the previous regular meeting held 04/01/2009 were read and moved to accept as read by Dave Kanary. Second by Bob Walker. Passed unanimous.

New or prospective members present: none.

### Committee Reports:

1. Bar Report: Brian Cashin reported on the January, February & March 2009 Club Operating Committee income statements. Cashin reports as of March the Bar is currently slightly in the black. In response to a question by Gary Piegols that he thought the bar was intended to help support Berryhill Post 165, Cashin reported that bar goals are to stay close to breaking even, not make a profit. Completed Club Operating Committee finances available at post, will be attached to hard copy of the appropriate monthly minutes.
2. Baseball Report: Ed Holder reported for Nels Cronkright that the fund raiser at the armory for Max Yatch went very well. A substantial amount was raised to assist the Yatch family by the joint Berryhill Post 165/Bullock Creek School Association. Max is home and continuing to rehab.
3. Bingo Report: Steve Tracy reports bingo going good. \$1,000 to the general fund. Tracy commented that he didn't want all to think his first choice was to split bingo work & profit with Auxiliary, rather that due to committed lack of Legionnaire assistance in working bingo he saw no choice but to propose over the last few weeks to move in that direction. Pat Hanley spoke up to say that he would take the rap as having seconded the motion at the April meeting – if you can't get volunteers to step up you have to look at other alternatives. Tracy said the \$1,000 amount would probably soon drop as future amounts will reflect the split with the Auxiliary.
4. Building Corporation Report: Chuck Kaminski reported on checking balance.
5. Charity Games Report: Ed Holder reports games going well. \$250 to Building Corp, \$1000 to general fund.
6. Finance Committee Report: No report.
7. Membership Report: Pat Hanley reports that current membership is at 656 paid 2009 members which equates to 91% of the 718 member goal established by Legion Department of Michigan. Checks & cash to Finance Officer Tom Nemeth. Goal for Department of Michigan is 100% by May 13, 2009.
8. General Fund Report: Finance Officer Tom Nemeth reports that funds are tight & will continue so through the beginning of receipt of membership dues for 2010 in July. Nemeth provided a Poppy fund report for 7/1/08 through 6/30/09 minus any proceeds from the Poppy Days May 21, 23 & 23 of 2009. Nemeth provided the same report for the Dinsmore Scholarship Fund and for a report called Earmarked Funds consisting of the Reconnect program, the Honor Guard & the Poppy fund from 7/1/08 through 3/31/09. Nemeth also provided a Full April 2009 General Fund report available at the post & will be attached to hard copy of these minutes. Perhaps Nemeth's most important words were that it was critical that the Post set a good budget for 2009-2010 fiscal year.
9. Kitchen Report: Brian Cashin reports that the Lenten Fish dinners were a smashing success. Cashin had only fantastic words for Deb Rogers & Bill Sofoulis and the volunteer teams that worked with them over the 7 weeks of fund raising dinners. Check to the general fund from the S.A.L (S.A.L. managed the funds for Lenten Fish dinner supplies) for \$1,316. Kitchen \$500 to general fund, \$250 to building corporation. \$1,316 to general fund from Lenten dinners. Cashin noted the flyers at the Post bulletin boards for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ray Rios Pig Roast fund raiser being held Saturday May 9 at Berryhill. Proceeds will go to help Max Yatch and family.

Sick Call, Relief and Employment: Ed Holder reports that Junior Hayes has returned home from TenderCare & that Marv Stein is doing well at TenderCare.

Post Service Officer Report: Ross Ahlich reports opening of the Clare County Veterans' Medical Center. Letters have been sent to the necessary parties for the American Legion Memorial Day parade. Willie Coomer took care of insurance. Schedule as follows: 6 p.m. Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> at Midland cemetery on Orchard, Legionnaires & friends will be placing flags. 1 p.m. Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> in Sanford, a memorial presentation by the Sanford Historical Society. 8 a.m. Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> at Midland cemetery a memorial for all veterans will be held, followed at 8:30 a.m. at the upper bridge a memorial for veterans fallen at sea, followed by 9 a.m. ceremony at the courthouse plaque. Parade starts at 10 a.m. sharp from Revere Street to Nelson Street at Rodd Street. Band shell ceremony immediately follows.

#### Unfinished Business:

1. Chuck Kaminski requested that Adjutant Hanley prepare a letter of appreciation to both Deb Rogers & Bill Sofoulis for their conception, planning & carry through of the Lenten Fish Dinner program.
2. At the March 29, 2009 Executive Committee meeting there was a motion passed unanimously to recognize eighteen year old Adam Douglas Evans, son of Legionnaire John Evans for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout on February 10, 2009. Adam was involved in the past with trips to the Veteran's Hospital in Saginaw to do bingos for the hospitalized veterans. Berryhill Post 165, The American Legion will be presenting a Good Citizenship Citation to Adam at his court of honor on Sunday May 17 at the United Methodist Church in downtown Midland. Copy of the citation attached to these minutes.
3. Over the past several months discarded, damaged American flags found in the community by several citizens have been reported to the Post membership via Dean Titus SAL member. Discussion surrounded publicizing our Flag Day ceremony (Sunday June 14, 2009 – 6 p.m.) to the community in a proactive manner this year. Past Commander Willie Coomer will contact Gerard S. Nowaczyk (Plymouth Elementary School snowbank flag), John Evans will contact William Menzl (Chestnut Hill Pack 3791 Cubmaster), Pat Hanley will contact Nancy Proskow (Daughters of the American Revolution) & Nels Cronkright will contact the Midland Daily News for Flag Day coverage. The end objective will be to enlarge & enhance our Flag Day ceremony on Sunday, June 14 prior to the ceremony.

Applications for Membership: Marine veteran Michael James Dobshensky of Saginaw is applying for membership to Berryhill. Michael is on inactive reserve. Midlander Henry A. Lincoln is a past member who is requesting to become active again. Army veteran Vaughn Murray is applying for membership to Berryhill, he is contacting Service Officer Ross Ahlich to acquire his DD-214. Moved to accept by Steve Tracy & seconded by Ross Ahlich and approved unanimous.

#### New Business (& Correspondence):

1. Thank you card from the family of Don Wheeler, posted to the bulletin board.
2. Pat to address change of email address for the Berryhill email newsletter. Due to Adjutant changing internet access from charter cable to Verizon air card logistics of sending email newsletter from the Berryhill computer in the Club office, the newsletter did not go out for May & but should go out for June.
3. Chuck Kaminski delayed reading of Annual Report due to audit of Club Operating committee still to be completed.
4. Discussion about the importance of advertising for new members by the post took place. Neil Schultz, Ross Ahlich & Willie Coomer raised lower member count, use of MCTV & 106.3 radio being in Memorial Day parade. Pat Hanley read an email from Nancy Proskow, U.S. Flag Committee Chair, John Alden Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution inquiry about flag disposals.
5. Chuck Kaminski asked Adjutant Pat Hanley to hand out & read the new Duties of Officers found in our recently amended By-Laws, Article 6, Sections 1 through 8. Kaminski talked about the impact of increasing expenses of maintaining an aging post, decreasing membership and the difficulty of keeping volunteers on the increased time and energy commitment that would be on those accepting office. He stressed the need to not accept office if you would be unable to plan that time & commitment or arrange coverage for your duties.

6. Election results for 2009-2010 Legion officers are as follows:
  - a. Commander – Chuck Kaminski
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr – Oren Mieske
  - c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr – Nels Cronkright
  - d. Finance – Brian Reichow
  - e. Chaplain – Bob Bauder
  - f. Historian – Dave Canary
  - g. Sergeant-At-Arms – Neil Schultz
7. Election results for 2009-2010 Executive Committee Trustee (Member-at-large) are as follows:
  - a. 3 year term – Dave Canary
  - b. 2 year term – Gail Koch (replacing Nels Cronkright)
  - c. (Executive Committee Member-at-large Tom Nemeth starting his third year)
  - d. (Service Officer, Judge Advocate and Adjutant are appointed not elected offices)
8. Election results for 2009-2010 Club Operating Committee are as follows:
  - a. 3 year term – Bud Martin
  - b. 1 year term (Auxiliary position)
  - c. 1 year term (S.A.L. position)
  - d. Steve Hammond will be continuing into third year.
  - e. Chuck Kaminski will be continuing into second year.
9. Elections for Berryhill Long Range Planning Committee (4 members) are not needed as:
  - a. 3 year term – Willie Coomer is continuing into second year.
  - b. 3 year term - Steve Tracy is continuing into second year.
  - c. 3 year term (Auxiliary position)
  - d. 3 year term (S.A.L. position)
  - e. Building Corporation will need to appoint a member-at-large for one year.
10. Election results for 2009-2010 Building Corporation are as follows:
  - a. 3 year term – Chuck Kaminski, Gail Koch, Bud Martin
  - b. Ross Ahlich & Steve Tracy are continuing into second year.
  - c. Wilson Coomer & Steve Hammond are continuing into third year.

For the Good of the Legion:

1. Harry Smith addressed shirts concerning Poppy Days. Members liked Smith's idea and consensus was for Smith to sell patriotic tee shirts at the post to cover costs with profits to go to Poppy fund.
2. Poppy Days are Thursday, Friday & Saturday, May 21, 22 & 23. Poppy chair Dick Blasy is looking for volunteers to help. Sign up list at the bar. Contact Dick at 989-430-1939 to volunteer your time.
3. Willie Coomer said he had an interested student for Boy's State.
4. Brian Cashin reports the S.A.L. paid for the post liquor license for \$850 for the upcoming year.
5. Brian Cashin gave \$45 to the general fund from SAL dues.
6. Brian Cashin also announced Loons parking fund raiser dates as May 30, Saturday night & August 1, Saturday night at the McKay parking lot. Volunteers see Cashin.
7. Chuck Kaminski called for an Executive Committee meeting on Sunday, May 31, at 7 pm for the purpose of setting a budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year for Berryhill Post 165 and to do preparatory work for this budget he asked our current Finance Officer Tom Nemeth, New Finance Officer Brian Reichow, Adjutant Pat Hanley & 2 Past Commanders (Ross Ahlich & Steve Tracy) to join him as a subcommittee & meet on Tuesday, May 26 at 6:30 pm. Kaminski also wanted to address preparations for Flag Day & Fourth of July observances.
8. Ken Bickel won 50/50 for \$30. \$30 to poppy fund.
9. Chuck Kaminski called for the Building Corporation to hold its annual meeting after a 10 minute break following this meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted, Patrick M. Hanley, Post Adjutant