

**Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**June 15, 2015**

PRESENT: R. Farrington, F. Hutchings, W. Willinsky, T. Dickerson, W. Petras, R. Cote

ABSENT: K. Burke, P. DeRing, J. Sterry

OTHERS PRESENT: None

**1. CHAIRMAN CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman R. Farrington called the REGULAR meeting to order at 6:35 PM at the American Legion Hall, located at 12 Freestone Avenue, Portland, Connecticut.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY**

**3. ACCEPT AGENDA**

There was a motion by W. Willinsky, seconded by T. Dickerson, to accept the agenda as presented. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

**4. ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES**

Three amendments to the minutes from the prior meeting were requested:

- 1) The date on the top of the minutes was incorrect. It should read May 18, 2015 instead of April 20, 2015.
- 2) R. Farrington's name was spelled incorrectly in sections 9 and 10.

There was a motion by T. Dickerson, seconded by R. Farrington, to approve the meeting minutes of May 18, 2015 as amended. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

**5. VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT (J. Sterry)**

No report.

**6. VETERANS BENEFITS & INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT (P. DeRing)**

No report.

**7. COMMISSION ADVISOR'S REPORT (W. Willinsky)**

W. Willinsky stated that he felt the Memorial Day Ceremony was well planned and executed.

R. Farrington added that there was only one issue from his perspective. The politicians broke off the parade route at the viewing stand to observe the remainder of the parade. No one was assigned to greet the guests and keep them entertained until the ceremony. In this case, Mr. Robert DeCarlo and Pastor Kari Rinas had no escorts. R. Farrington filled the void but for future parades, someone needs to be assigned to escort the chaplains and any guests.

## **8. OLD BUSINESS**

Discussed the state budget and if the Honor Guard was funded or not. It was believed that funding was not restored although no one was 100% sure.

R. Farrington said the honor guards could be in limbo because they won't have enough funding to do all of the honor ceremonies with a full staff. An Honor Guard participant he spoke with said they were not sure if they would continue to send a full Honor Guard staff until funding runs out or if they would try to cut the Honor Guard staff down and make it last longer in the new Fiscal Year. Either way, it is not a good situation.

The VAC members felt we needed to push our legislators to put funding for the Honor Guards back into the budget. T. Dickerson will draft an e-mail to our legislators signed by the VAC members in attendance.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

R. Farrington desires to step down as the Chairman of the Veteran Affairs Committee but remain on as a member.

T. Dickerson nominated W. Willinsky to be the next Chairman of the Veteran Affairs Committee. No other nominations were made.

A motion was made by R. Cote, seconded by T. Dickerson for W. Willinsky to be the next Chairman of the Veteran Affairs Committee. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

## **10. GENERAL DISCUSSION / PUBLIC COMMENT**

Any update on the Wreathes across America? W. Petras stated he had not heard a peep. He did not even know if they would be coming through Connecticut this year. Someone asked if we need to approve any funding now for wreathes or wait until September? All agreed to wait until September, when Portland's new FY budget is in effect.

Discussed what we purchased this fiscal year with the VAC funds. (American flags for cemeteries, Wreathes across America wreathes, monument engraving, memorial wreaths.) Anything else? T. Dickerson to find out everything that was purchased with the VAC line item and report back at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be September 21, 2015.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

There was a motion by R. Cote, seconded by T. Dickerson, to adjourn the meeting. Vote unanimous, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy E. Dickerson

Recording Secretary