

Veterans Affairs Committee
REGULAR MEETING
November 16, 2015

PRESENT: W. Willinsky, T. Dickerson, P. DeRing, R. Cote

ABSENT: K. Burke, W. Petras, R. Farrington, F. Hutchings, J. Sterry

OTHERS PRESENT: None

1. CHAIRMAN CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman W. Willinsky called the REGULAR meeting to order at 6:40 PM at the American Legion Hall, located at 12 Freestone Avenue, Portland, Connecticut. There was not a quorum of members present (5 are required) so this meeting was an informational session only.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY

3. ACCEPT AGENDA

N/A

4. ACCEPT MEETING MINUTES

N/A

5. Secretary's Report

T. Dickerson noted that there was no October meeting held as the potluck dinner honoring the Boys and Girls State participants was held in its place.

6. VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT (J. Sterry)

N/A

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

N/A

8. COMMISSION ADVISOR'S REPORT (R. Farrington)

N/A

9. OLD BUSINESS

The Veterans Day Dinner was held on 11/11/15 at the Portland High School. 194 tickets were collected at the door including 9 walk-ins. (210 tickets were handed out in advance.) We may want to cut back the number of tickets available for next year to 200. (Down from 250 this year.) With 250 tickets available this year, S. Milardo cooked for 280. If we cut back to 200 tickets, S. Milardo would probably still cook for about 225.

We discussed the soliciting of donations at the Veterans Dinner. (One veteran had a jar they used to collect donations for a Veterans Memorial to be built in another local town.) All present at this meeting agreed that we would not want this to happen again, especially since it was for a project outside of Portland. We will continue discussing this at the next meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

We discussed purchasing the 100 wreaths for wreathes across America, which we had already discussed at the June meeting. Without a quorum, we could not vote on it, but all in attendance were in favor of purchasing 100 wreathes like we did last year. No vote was taken in June as the members felt it inappropriate to vote on spending FY15/16 funds in FY14/15 before the funds were approved.

(Note: Post meeting, Susan Bransfield was contacted. She said that as the VAC is only an advisory group, we could speak with other members who were not present to get their consensus. This was done and the 100 wreathes were purchased.)

W. Willinsky asked M. Ceppaglia to draft a thank you note to S. Milardo and he would deliver it.

W. Willinsky said the R. Farrington would put a thank you in the River East newspaper for the Veterans Breakfast, Veterans Dinner, and Red, White and Blue mass.

W. Willinsky said that on December 4th, the State Services Medal would be presented to Portland resident Leo Boyko.

W. Willinsky said that another Veterans presentation was going to be held at the Portland Middle School on November 20th at 9:00 AM if anyone can attend.

11. GENERAL DISCUSSION / PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

12. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is December 21, 2015 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy E. Dickerson

Recording Secretary