

# VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (VAC)

Minutes of Regular Meeting

**Monday, December 15th, 2014 @ 6:30 P.M.**

American Legion Hall  
12 Freestone Avenue, Portland, Connecticut

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Members in attendance: R. Farrington-Chairman, T. Dickerson, W. Willinsky, W. Petras, J. Sterry, P. DeRing

Absent: K. Burke, R. Walton, R. Cote, D. Hutchins

Guest(s) in attendance: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 18:30.

Two changes to the minutes from last meeting. (Strikethrough shows the removed words and underlines show the added words.)

Susan received an e-mail from the Parent Teacher Organization from Valley View looking for the names of any Portland armed service members overseas so they can send cards. We will look at putting a ~~bullet~~ an announcement in the River East asking parents of service members stationed overseas to submit their names and addresses if they would like cards sent to them. We will also mention that there are blue star flags available at the town hall.

W. Willinsky shared that they had 240 persons attend the Veterans dinner. Last year all of the ~~set-up~~ set-up went very smoothly. This year, it did not go as smoothly. There were no table clothes and not many there to set up. The custodian (Valerie) did a great job setting up for us. No one was sure who did it last year. We will look into how it was done last year and make improvements for next year. We will also look at buying rolls of plastic to cover the tables.

There was a motion by W. Petras, seconded by W. Willinsky to accept the minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous; motion carried.

The V.A.C. gave a special thank you to the Portland Town Crew. They did a very nice job repairing the leaning wall on the side of the Civil War Memorial. W. Willinsky thanked Mr. Kelsey in person.

Wreathes Across America update:

W. Petras said that the wreathes came in on Wednesday. He picked them up and dropped them off on Thursday to the cemeteries, schools, veterans monument, senior center, and town hall. Eighty-eight were sent to the State Veteran's Cemetery and placed on Saturday. There were a lot of volunteers but could use more wreathes next year.

There was a motion by W. Willinsky, seconded by P. DeRing to suspend the Jan 2015 meeting. The vote was unanimous; motion carried.

W. Willinsky and R. Farrington picked up flags Friday after school. Four volunteers from the Portland High School Key Club assisted them.

R. Farrington reported that a couple of weeks ago, he and W. Willinsky burned the damaged flags at the Town Recycling Center. Town employees said they might have an old used oil tank that they may be able to cut in half and move to the Recycling Center for future flag burnings.

There was a motion by W. Willinsky, seconded by J. Sterry to set the 2015 dates for all the regular VAC meetings. Regular meetings will be held in the following months: February, March, April, May, June, September, October, November, and December. February's meeting will be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month due to the federal holiday on the 16<sup>th</sup> and all other meetings will be held the third Monday of the month. There will be no regular meetings in the months of January, July, and August. The vote was unanimous; motion carried.

The standard agenda for 2015 is revised. The agenda item titled Secretary's Report is removed and the agenda item Approval of Agenda is moved up before Approval of Minutes from last Meeting. All were in favor.

P. DeRing wanted to pass his sincere thanks to both the Portland Valley View Elementary School and Mrs. McDaniel from East Hampton. The 192<sup>nd</sup> Engineering Battalion (Major DeRing's battalion) was holding an awards ceremony when someone delivered numerous handmade cards for the service members. These cards were hand made by the students at the Valley View School. P. DeRing stated that the service members really appreciated them.

J. Sterry - Veterans Service Officer reported that he was working on one issue.

There was a motion by R. Farrington, seconded by J. Sterry, to adjourn the REGULAR meeting. Vote unanimous, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 (due to Feb 16<sup>th</sup> being a holiday).

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy Dickerson