



1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman, Jr. Post 12135
P.O. Box 153
Loudon, TN 37774-0153

Meeting Minutes for 19 July 2023

The meeting was held at the Tellico Village Yacht Club.

Guest Speaker: None:

Special Awards / Presentation: None

Opening Ceremonies: The Sergeant at Arms, Jimmy Johnson, closed the doors and the meeting was called to order at 1930 hours by Post Junior Vice CDR Tallant in the absence of the Post CDR and SVC. The Chaplain Clyde Griffin giving the opening prayer. Acting Post CDR Tallant led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Officers: Post Adjutan Carroll moved that the Roll Call be waived as all officers were present or accounted for. Bruce Blodgett seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion was approved unanimously.**

Office	Officer	Status
Commander	Rick Creange	E
Senior Vice Commander	Richard Vinnece	E
Junior Vice Commander	Shawn Tallant	P
Quartermaster	Jeff Corthell	P
Chaplin	Clyde Griffin	P
Judge Advocate (Appointed)	Coleman Lee	E
Surgeon (Appointed)	Bruce Blodget	P
1-Year Trustee	Ed Frandle	P
2-Year Trustee	Larry Schaefer	P
3-Year Trustee	Larry Dill	P
Service Officer (Appointed)	Dan Hall	P
Adjutant (Appointed)	Jay Carroll	P
Sergeant at Arms (Appointed)	Jimmy Johnson	P

	Present	Excused	Absent	Total
Officers	10	3	0	13
Members	18	5	101	124
Total	28	8	109	137

Overall member attendance rate was 20%.

Attendees from District, Department and other guests

There was one guest at the Post meeting:

- Bill Markle, a US Army Veteran attending meeting to get a sense of the Post
- John Cammack, a US Army Veteran also attending to get a sense of the Post

Membership Applications:

The following qualified Veterans were presented as new applicants or transferees to VFW Post 12135:

1. Sean Connors – US Navy Veteran and new VFW Life member

Report of the Investigating Committee

Adjutant Carroll reported that an investigation/ad hoc meeting was convened and the above-mentioned Veteran was found eligible to be a member of the VFW and Post 12135.

Ballot On Applications

Adjutant Carroll made a motion to accept the veterans as new members of the VFW and Post 12135. Bruce Blodgett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously without discussion and the applicant was inducted into VFW Post 12135.

Commander's Report - Comments

- Acting Commander Tallant presented the Commander's Report on behalf of Commander Creange
- The Commander would like to apologize to the post for his absence. Unfortunately, as he is unable to attend the July Post meeting and would like to thank our JVC for filling in!! He wishes to thank everyone for stepping up to the plate once again and continuing to serve....He looks forward to your continued support and leadership as we continue to move the post forward.
- June closed out our 2021-2022 VFW Program Year!! Our Post has excelled in every area – especially in taking care of our Veterans! A 2022-2023 EoY report was sent to TNVFW by the Past Commander. We will put a copy of the EoY report is on the Post web site.

- July starts our 2023-2024 VFW Program Year. There is a 2023-2024 calendar for the EXCOM to review today. Intent is to bring it to the July Post meeting with a motion to accept the calendar as our Post's POA for the next year.
- Post Commander has reviewed all appointed positions to include the EXCOM, Committee and key event leads (Memos are effective 1 July 2023, have been distributed, and are located on the Post Website) (Reminder to all – please update your position's pass down documents). ISSUE: We have a Need for the following positions:
 - * POC for monthly Post Community Service Report
 - * POC to orchestrate/write VoM article (replace Ian)
 - * In addition, Jay will be stepping down as Post Adjutant for personal and family reasons. He will stay on through the inspection. He did an outstanding job as our Adjutant and will leave large shoes to fill. With that said, we need to open the search for his replacement. I am looking to this group to help in the search.
- **Post Commander attended the District 2 meeting on Sunday 9 July: Following are the salient points:**
 - Post 12135 received the 100% Membership Award at the most recent State meeting. Plaque was presented to the Commander at the District Meeting.
 - Post received a Best of the Best Certificate from national for our efforts in supporting the 253rd Military Police Company. Certificate was presented to the Commander at the District meeting.
 - The District Auxiliary announced a joint project in support of the Soldiers Child Foundation. This foundation supports the children of fallen heroes. They are seeking support from the district posts. More info to follow.
 - District is looking to raffle a pistol this year vice a rifle.
 - Training for the Patriots Pen/Voice of Democracy submissions will be held at the Flying Squadron July 29th. More to follow on attendance.
 - Clarified that only one post member can have an account on the site for PP/VoD submission.
- PACT ACT Update---Service officer stated that to get payments back dated to 10 August 2022 for PACT Act claims, veterans must register before 9 August 2023. After that date claims/payments will start on the date of submission.

- The dedication of the Veterans Park at “Our Place” was conducted on July 5th. The ceremony was well attended by Post members. Our JVC and the Sea Cadets conducted a Flag Folding Ceremony and presented VFW coins to the veterans and family of several residents. The Sea Cadet were extremely “Squared Away” and represented their unit and our Post extremely well. It is an honor for this post to be associated with Our Place and continue to give back to the community. They will be starting a memorial brick program in conjunction with their capital fundraising plan for expansion. If you would like to buy and dedicate a brick, please contact Our Place.

- The Post once again, at their request, supported The Village HOA at their June 13th HOA Social with a Flag folding event. Ed Frandle led the demo with Randy Leyshon. The past Post CDR provided some quick remarks.

- The Post once again, held our annual Flag retirement ceremony on Flag Day 14 June.. Well done to Matt Peery and his team!.

- This year’s second Chick-fil-A/VFW fundraiser on June 23, 2023, was extremely successful. Al Porell and his merry volunteers worked for three hours serving customers, bussing tables, schmoozing with customers, and demonstrating how veterans continue to serve. This year’s second fundraiser netted a total of \$626.97 from the owners of the restaurant and \$65.15 from tips (I think the cow got the most). Since its inception 5 years ago this fundraising project has raised \$6,339,69 so we can continue to help veterans. This is a tremendous source of funds. Al and his merry band of volunteers deserve a tremendous thank you for your efforts and a well-deserved BRAVO ZULU.

- As always - we will **review the Post calendar, focusing on the next 3-4 months**. Today’s Post meeting discussion will be focused on any resource or support requests for the following:
 - 05 August – VFW Golf Turney – **Rick Creange**
 - 1-30 Sep – Nat’l Suicide Awareness Month - YC Flags – **Ed Frandle**
 - 19 Sep – Multi-County Veterans Resource Fair (CVRF) – **John Lacko**

Adjutant’s Report - Reading of the Minutes

Adjutant Carroll moved that the reading of the meetings be waived as the minutes were distributed to all members and that the minutes be approved as written. Peter Kraslawsky seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Adjutant’s Report – Correspondence

- None

Quartermaster’s Report: Jeff Corthell

Post Quartermaster, Jeff Corthell, provided the report for the period ending 30 June 2023. The VFW Post remains in a strong financial position. Members in good standing wishing additional information are encouraged to contact the Post Quartermaster.

Service Officers Report

- NTR

Report on Comrades or Families of Comrades in Distress

- Let's keep our prayers going strong for Jim Seidel as he continues his brave battle with ALS!

Report Of All Committees

Relief Committee – Tony Newton, Chairman

- See PPPR
- John Lack provided updates for efforts the relief committee was undertaking to assist two Veterans in the community with accessibility ramp and home repair issues.

Post Community Service Effort & Report Shawn Tallant, Committee Chairman

- June Community Service report submissions is collated & submitted
- VFW Post 12135 received the District 2 Community Service Award
- 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023 VFW Post 12135 recorded over
 - 7200 volunteer hours
 - \$44K dollars donated
- **The post is looking for a volunteer to assume collecting and submitting this montly report.**

Membership Committee -- Shawn Tallant, Committee Chairman

- The detailed report is available via the committee's monthly PPPR status report
- Membership stands at 115.89%, # 1 in our District and #28 in Division 8
- Post received the 100% Membership Award. Award was presented to the CDR at the District Meeting

Core Projects – Mike Thorton, Chairman

- Ramping up for the 2023-24 season
- Training for the new PP/VoD electronic submission will be conducted at the Flying Squadron on 29 July.

Publicity – Post Promotion – Mike Timmer, Chairman

- Working flyers and promotions for:
 - 05 August – VFW Golf Turney – Rick Creange

- 19 September MCVRF - John Lacko

Buddy Poppy – Wayne Schroeder, Chairman

- See PPPR
- Next Buddy Poppy event will be in conjunction with Veteran's Day weekend
- Please contact Wayne if you'd like to volunteer

Fundraising – Rich Vinnece

- Next Chick-fil-A event is scheduled for 22 Sept - Al Porell
- 5 Aug Golf Tourney - Rich Vinnece

Adopt A Military Unit -- Jim Halligan, Project Leader

- See PPPR
- VFW Post 12135 received the VFW Adopt a Unit "BEST of the BEST" Award for our support to the 253rd Military Police Company. Certificate was awarded at the District meeting.

Scout BSA Program – Otto Stutz Project Leader

- Troop 770 is requesting Post members to assist on the Eagle Scout Board of Reviews. They are looking for some adults, especially those who have been scouts or Eagle Scouts to assist in the reviews.

Sea Cadet Program - Shawn Tallant, Committee Chairman

- See PPPR
- Great support from the Sea Cadets at the dedication ceremony for the Veterans Park at Our Place.
- SeaCadet unit has departed for their summer training in Pensacola FL (we supported to Cadets for this training)
- We've received the Units LRTP which this year will focus on the USN SeaBees

Post's Vets in Classroom Program – Vacant

- We would like to ask if someone is willing to step up to the plate and provide leadership for this rewarding program.

Ongoing /Unfinished Business

Post Calendar Completed Events

- 13 June – Flag folding Demo @ HOA Social – **Shawn**
- 14 June – Flag Retirement Ceremony – **Matt Peery**
- 5 July – Our Place Veterans Park Dedication Ceremony – **CDR/JVC**
- 15 July - BoatRides 4 Vets – **Mutt Manifold**

Post Calendar Up-Coming Events

- 05 August – VFW Golf Turney – **Rick Creange**
- 1-30 Sep – Nat'l Suicide Awareness Month – **Ed Frandle**

- 19 Sep – MCVRF – **John Lacko**
- 22 September – Chick-Fil-A Fundraiser – **Al Porell**
- October – Fall Clothing Drive – **John Lacko**

New Business

VFW Post 12135 Elected Officer's Emergency Funding Authorization (POC – Rich Vinnece)

- Discussion: In the past the Post Members have authorized the 8 Elected Post Officers with emergency funding authority for instances where waiting for a members vote at the next monthly Post meeting puts a veteran in need at risk. This approval is teed up annually to ensure and reaffirm Membership intent and approval going forward:
- **Adjutant Carroll made the following Motion: In order to support Veterans in a timely fashion, a Motion for Post 12135 to grant VFW Post 12135 Elected Officers emergency funding authority for situations where delaying funding approval puts the veteran at greater risk. The decision to enact the emergency funding authority will rest with the Post Commander, who will then need a majority concurrence from elected EXCOM Members before releasing relief funds.**
- The motion was seconded by Peter Kraslawsky. After a brief general discussion, the motion was passed unanimously without dissent.

VFW POST 12135 Program Year 2023-2024 Calendar and POA (POC Rich Vinnece)

- Discussion: Draft Program Year 2023-2024 Calendar and POA was promulgated and is requested to be approved by Post Members to be the Post's plan forward for 2023-2024.
- **Adjutant Carroll made the following Motion: In support of our VFW Post 12135 2023-2024 goals, a Motion to approve the draft VFW Post 12135 Program Year 2023-2024 Calendar and POA. The approved calendar will become the basis for the Post's actions and events over the upcoming year. Implied in this motion is the ability for calendar event leads to spend up to \$100 as required for any associated administrative, publicity or program costs. Any major change or deviation from this calendar/POA or event costs that exceed \$100 will be brought back before the Membership.**
- The motion was seconded by Peter Kraslawsky. The motion was passed unanimously without dissent.

VFW Post 12135 Awards Program – Golden Heart Awards (POC – Ian Smith)

- Discussion. The Post has purchased GH awards from the vendor in blocks of ten. We have three of the old GH awards remaining which will be utilized/presented at the August awards ceremony. This necessitates the need to fund/purchase the next block of GH awards. At the June meeting the awards committee and senior Post leadership decided

to upgrade the GH award to a 8x10 Rosewood Piano finish Floating Acrylic Award to replace the lighted Acrylic Golden Heart Award. The price for the Post will be 49.49 for each award totaling \$494.90.

- **Motion: In support of our VFW Post 12135 2023-2024 awards program, a Motion to approve the funds NTE \$500 for the next block of GH awards.**
- The motion was seconded by Jay Carroll. The motion was passed unanimously without dissent.

Establishment of a Scholarship Exploratory Committee (POC - Rick Creange)

- Post 12135 is forming an exploratory committee to investigate the possibility of this Post sponsoring a scholarship(s) for education expenses.
- The Committee will investigate all pertinent information regarding a potential scholarship to include but not limited to:
 - Type of scholarship, eligibility, applicability, funding, selection process, ties to Voice of Democracy inputs, length, etc.
- No decisions will be made by the committee. The committee will be tasked to establish the viability of a scholarship and provide options for a proposal to the post membership at a later date. Target will be a proposal to membership at the September Post meeting.
- **Committee will be led by the Commander and those who would like to serve on this committee are requested to contact the Commander**

VFW Post 2022 Golf Tournament and Fund Raiser – (Ed Frandle)

- Updates on our 2023 Golf Tournament and Fund Raiser scheduled for 5 August at the Toqua golf course
 - Golf signup list opened up on 26 June And was sold out by 0830.
 - We have added two standby teams for a total of 108 players.

Multi-County Veteran Resource Fair, 19 September (John Lacko)

- See PPPR
- Contact John if you can assist with the event, particularly driving from the parking area to the building. Members are encouraged to attend.

Good Of The Order

- **Breakfast with Veterans** is the second Saturday of each month, 0830-1000 at Little Italy. No agenda – just comradery with other Veterans and telling stories over eggs!! The next Breakfast with Vets is on 12 Aug 2023
- Currently we do not have a fall social organized (last year was a trip to the Medal of Honor Museum in Chattanooga, TN.). Unless a fall social trip is organized - our next Post Social Event will be as part of our annual Veterans Day Commemoration scheduled for 11 Nov, 2023. Flyers and invitations will be promulgated in advance!!

Closing Ceremony

- Chaplain Griffin gave the closing prayer, then Acting Commander Tallant led post members in a salute of the American Flag.
- Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, 16 Aug 2023 at the Tellico Village Yacht Club
- Meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay A. Carroll, Adjutant

REMINDER: THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NUMBER IS
988
FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES