



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

Meeting Minutes for August 21, 2024

The meeting was held at the Tellico Village Yacht Club. Awards started at 1905 and the business meeting started at 1930.

Guest Speaker: None

Special Awards / Presentation: The quilt of valor was presented to Ian Smith and Steve Buelow by the Tellico Village Quilt of Honor Society. In addition, the VFW Post 12135 Golden Heart award was presented to the veteran's spouses Erica Smith and Elizabeth Buelow.

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

Roll Call of Officers: The Post Adjutant, moved that the Roll Call be waived as all officers were present or accounted for. Shawn Tallant seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **The Motion was approved unanimously.**

Office	Officer	Status
Commander	Richard Creange	P
Senior Vice Commander	John Lacko	P
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	E
Adjutant (Appointed)	Daniel Campbell	E
Sergeant at Arms (Appointed)	Jimmy Johnson	P

	Present	Excused	Absent	Total
Officers	10	3	0	13
Members	17		115	132
Total	27	3	115	145

Overall member attendance rate was 19%.

Attendees from District, Department and other guests

- There were (4) guests at the Post meeting as potential future members.
- Ron Hutson, the Loudon County VSO attended the meeting and gave a presentation on current VA issues and mission of his office.

Membership Applications:

The following qualified Veterans were presented as new applicants or transferees to VFW Post 12135: None

Report of the Investigating Committee

N/A

Ballot On Applications

N/A

Commander's Report – Comments

- The new year is in full swing.
- We just concluded our annual golf tournament at the beginning of this month. It was another rousing success. After all the dust settled and the bills were paid, the post netted \$15,276.55. As we all know this funding will go directly to our local veterans in need to help them get on their feet. I'd like to give a great thank you to the team that put this event together: Larry Schaffer (who collared all the donors and sponsors), Ed Frandle (with operations) and Mike Timmer (with marketing and advertisement).
- Today we have a special guest with us. Ron Hutson the Loudon County VSO. He will tell us about the latest and greatest with the VA and answer any questions you might have.
- To give Ron as much time as we can, today we will curtail our business meeting to only the essential requirements. This doesn't mean we want to curtail conversation, so if you have an issue or comment to bring before the post please do.

Adjutant's Report - Reading of the Minutes: Adjutant

Adjutant moved that the reading of the meetings be waived as the minutes were posted to the Post's website, an email with a link to them was sent to the membership and that the minutes be approved as written. Jeff Corthell seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

The 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 July 30th, 2024. 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

- James Seidel is also in need of prayers as he continues his battle with ALS.

Report Of All Committees

Relief Committee – Tony Newton, Chairman

A. **Emergency Actions Since Last Post Meeting**

The following emergency actions have been approved by the EXCOM. A motion for the post membership to concur with the action taken by the EXCOM will be brought forward.

1. The relief committee received call from VA Case manager regarding 62-year-old vet living in subsidized housing that is facing eviction for non-payment of rent. He got his apartment earlier this year and is unable to pay August rent because he can't get to work (working at Smokies Ballpark). His truck is not working. His current income besides what he make at the Smokies games is VA disability check for \$171/month. He just turned 62 and he filed for Social Security with the first check for \$1374 expected September 15. His rent is \$200 a month and he pays \$1/day after the first of the month fine for nonpayment. On the 20th he will be evicted. Recommendation is for the post to pay \$210 for August and \$200 for September to get him started on the right track with his social security in hand. Total \$410.00. Case manager came to Tellico Village to pick up the check from Quartermaster.

MOTION: That the post support the EXCOM's emergency action decision to pay \$410.00 for this vet's rent for August and September.

SECOND: Larry Dill

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion Carried Unanimously via voice vote

2. Relief committee received call from VA case manager regarding 62-year-old honorably discharged vet living in Blount County in supported housing and is 2 months behind in his rent. His rent is \$156/month, and his income is \$600/month. His mother had been helping him financially, but she is now unable to further assist. A Blount county 501 is providing \$200 and he is asking for \$144.00 to bring him up to date. We have spoken to the landlord who says the vet is a good tenant and normally pays on time. With his income he will be able to pay future rent.

MOTION: That the Post support the EXCOM's emergency action to pay this vet's rent of \$144.00 to bring him up to date and get him back on track.

SECOND: Al Porell

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion Carried Unanimously via voice vote

B. New Relief Actions to be Presented to the Post Membership

- None

Post Community Service Effort & Report: Jay Carroll

July's Community Service Report submissions are collated and submitted.

Membership Committee – Bryan Moses, Committee Chairman

- The detailed report is available via the committee's monthly PPR status report.
- Recruiting had a strong year. Inducted 17 new members since July 1st.
- Membership for this year is 109.67%, number 43 in District 7

Core Projects -- Rick Creange, Project Leader

- The new competition year is starting, and the 2024-2025 have been released.

- We need someone to step up and run this important committee. The Commander will personally help and provide back-up.

Publicity - PIO -- Mike

- None

Buddy Poppy -- Wayne

- Ramping up for Veteran's Day Campaign November 8 & 9 at Ingles in Lenoir City, Marathon Gas Station and Sloane's Hardware in the Village.

Fund Raising -- Al Porell

- Upcoming Dates: 20 Sept.

Adopt a Unit -- Jim Halligan

- NSTR

Scout BSA Program -- Otto

- NSTR

Sea Cadet Program -- Shawn

- NSTR

Civil Air Patrol – Dave

- NSTR

Golf Committee

- Gathering lessons learned from this year's event. Tournament netted almost \$16,000.

Report of Projects

MCVRF -- John Lacko

- September 17th, 2024, to be held at 103 N. B Street, Lenoir City, TN.
Please attend and show your appreciation for agencies providing services.

Boat Rides for Vets – Mutt Manifold

- NSTR

Other Reports

- None

On-Going/Un-Finished Business

Calendar Review - Next 3 Months (Sep - Nov 2024)

External (In-work/Upcoming Key Events)

- * Sep - Tellico Village VFW Annual Veterans Suicide Awareness Campaign
- * 17 Sep – MCVRF
- * 20 Sep Chick-Fil-A Fundraiser
- * October – Fall Veterans Clothing Drive
- * Nov 11- Veterans Day Celebration

Long Range Planning

- * December – CDRs Holiday Party

Internal

September 18th – Post Inspection

New Business/Discussion Items

1. Support for Isaiah 117 House for Foster Children.

DISCUSSION: At the last EXCOM we heard a presentation from Jennifer Collins of The Isaiah 117 children's sheltered housing. This organization provides immediate need temporary housing for all children from babies on up through teenagers who by court order are removed from their surroundings sometimes in the middle of the night. These environments are usually dangerous for these children to be in and therefore they are taken by DCS with only the clothes on their backs. Isaiah 117 House provides immediate need housing for these children until foster or guardianship housing can be achieved. This can be anywhere from a day up to a few weeks. The need for food, clothing, toiletries, medicine, and other items is spontaneous and can deplete the minimal storage and financial abilities of the home. We, as a still serving VFW are considering partnering with Isaiah 117 to financially support this organization to help ensure that these children obtain the food and items that they need. Since Isaiah 117 is not supported financially by any government organization and depends only on community contributions of said items, our EXCOM has approved the request to support Isaiah 117 financially with a donation of \$1,000 to assist in their goals. In addition, we are considering holding a village wide children's clothing drive sometime in 2025 to fill the home's closets with new items from diapers to teen items to help alleviate the need to spend valuable resources that may be needed for food.

MOTION: That VFW Post 12135 support Isaiah House with a donation of \$1,000 to support children taken into foster care. This donation will help provide needed essentials for their comfort and transition.

SECOND: Otto Stutz

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion Carried Unanimously via voice vote

Good of The Order

1. Ron Huston, the Loudon County Veterans Service Officer spoke to the membership. He outlined some of the changes and new programs in the VA. He also gave a summary of the services his office provides to veterans and their families. His talk was well received by the members in attendance.

2. Reminder - We have a "Breakfast with Veterans the second Saturday of each month, 0830-1000 at Little Italy. No agenda - just comradery with other Veterans and telling stories over eggs!! Next Breakfast with Veterans will be [Saturday, 14 September 2024!](#)

Closing Ceremony

Chaplain Griffin gave the closing prayer then Post Commander Creange led post members in a salute of the American Flag.

Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at the Tellico Village Yacht Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard T. Creange, Commander

REMINDER: THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NUMBER IS

988

FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE