



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

Meeting Minutes for July 17, 2024

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 CDR Creange with the Post Chaplain, Clyde Griffin giving the opening prayer. Post CDR Creange led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Un-Draping Ceremony

Before commencing with the regular business meeting – per the National VFW Bylaws and Manual of Procedure – I've requested we open with a special ceremony – Our charter has been draped for the past 30 days in honor of our recently departed Post Member, Tomas Shacklee who passed away in May. Tomas was an active member of our post with his son Mike for many years.

- Will the Sargent of Arms prepare to un-Drape the Post Charter.

Roll Call of Officers: The Post Adjutant, Dan Campbell moved that the Roll Call be waived as all officers were present or accounted for. Chet Winchell 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	P
Sergeant at Arms (Appointed)	Jimmy Johnson	P

	Present	Excused	Absent	Total
Officers	11	2	0	13
Members	15		121	132
Total	23	2	121	145

Overall member attendance rate was 16%.

Attendees from District, Department and other guests

There were three guests at the Post meeting: Larry Denny(USMC), Dennis McGuire(USA), and Scott Byers(USA) as potential future members.

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

- This is the first meeting of the new business year. Although this is the start of the year, the post is in full swing of our support activities and commitments for the summer.

* Boat ride for Vets was a great success last weekend. Great work by Mutt Manifold and all his volunteers for stepping up and providing a great day on the water for our vets. I am told that there were over 50 vets who came out for a great day on the lake.

* Our annual golf tournament is set for 2 weeks from now. We have a rain date, but I don't believe it rains in east Tennessee anymore. We still have 2 openings for the tournament so get the word out so we can fill all the slots.

* September we will ramp up for suicide awareness month led by Ed Frandle and his team.

* Ron Hutson, the Loudon County Veterans Service Officer will join us at our August Meeting to give us the latest update on VA issues and services.

It's going to be a lot of fun...Let's have a great year!!!

Adjutant's Report - Reading of the Minutes: Dan Campbell

Adjutant Dan Campbell 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: Dan Campbell None

Quartermaster's Report: Jeff Corthell

Post Quartermaster, Jeff Corthell, provided the report for the period ending June 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

- Let's keep our prayers going strong for Bob Provart who has been in and out of the hospital the past few months.
- 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. Received an email regarding a proud honorably discharged Marine living at Helen Ross McNabb that is two months behind in his rent to the tune of \$834. He lost his wallet with credit cards and over \$ 500 in cash. He draws \$1200 from Social Security and has 30%VA disability due to prostate and bladder cancer because of 2 tours at Camp Lejeune. He is part of the suit against the Marine Corps that, so far, has not resulted in any money. Helen Ross' manager speaks highly of this vet, he has always been on time with rent, and in her words, he is a stand-up guy. Going forward he has the income to take care of his future obligations. Not sure he has the capacity to do it properly. This vet is on chemo, his mind is "mush" (his words), he is confused, his memory is poor, and he needs support to manage his life.

MOTION. That the Post support the EXCOM approval of payment of \$834 to Helen Ross McNabb for this veteran's back rent.

SECOND: Jim Hallihan

DISCUSSION:

RESULT: Motion Carried Unanimously via voice vote

2. Received a request from Loudon County CVSO Ron Hudson for a wheelchair ramp for TV veteran Lenard Weems, LC Honor Guard member who will return home from rehab in a couple of weeks. Relief member John Lacko visited the home and spoke with the family. They have 7 steps up to the home and a 90 degree turn which will not accept a wheelchair pivot. John recommended a garage wheelchair lift that can be attached to the staircase that they have. He says it will fit their needs perfectly. CVSO has been notified of the visit and discussion.

13. John Houser, Post 5150 received a veteran assistance request from Mr. Lee Allen Brock, former U.S. Navy for help in paying his rent. He states that due to a strained back he has been unable to work and has fell one month behind in his rent for a total of \$900.00. He resides at the Sunset Motel in Philadelphia, TN. Houser still gathering some additional information from the veteran but is in possession of his DD214 verifying his service. To ensure he wasn't in fear of eviction Houser spoke with the manager/owner of the motel on Friday. I explained that Mr. Brock has requested assistance

and that we would be considering ways we may be able to assist. The owner verified that Mr. Brock owes \$900 in past due rent but stated he was not intending to evict Mr. Brock. He volunteered that Mr. Brock has been a good and friendly tenant who he understands is going through some medical challenges now. Please let Houser know if this is a request that we can work together on to find a solution for Mr. Brock. I let him, and the motel manager know I would be getting back with them today or tomorrow. AL 70 will also partner in this assistance. Houser has asked for our commitment by tomorrow so he can notify the motel manager.

MOTION: That EXCOM commit paying \$300 (1/3 of the total) towards this veteran's rent.

SECOND: Ed Frandle

DISCUSSION:

RESULT: Motion Carried Unanimously via voice vote

4. VFW 5150 and AL 70 were asked to help a veteran in Maryville. He is apparently living in a very run down, unsafe home. The home has bare wires and several safety hazards. He is a member of AL 13 in Maryville which is under restrictions by the state legion. The proposal was that all three Loudon posts (70, 5150 and 12135) pitch in. Follow up by Houser indicated that the vet cannot be helped immediately as Maryville is doing an investigation to get a state grant and nothing can be done to the residence until the investigation is complete. Houser further investigated immediate aide to the vet, food, etc. and was told not now. The request has been tabled.

Request tabled. No action taken

5. VA case manager Amelia Blue called with a request for \$865 security deposit assistance for a 66-year-old honorably discharged veteran who resides in a 3d floor walk-up apartment in Oak Ridge. The VA and the veteran, at the behest of his nurse, have been looking for a 1st floor apartment for a year and, until now, have been unsuccessful. Because of the stairs and his frequent falling, it has become imperative. The vet receives \$1650/month SS. No VA disability. VA has asked Am Vets and Amelie Vets(?) for help with no response as yet.

MOTION: That the membership concur with the EXCOM's emergency authorization for the \$865 security deposit for this vet to allow him to move into a 1st floor apartment.

SECOND: Chet Winchell

DISCUSSION:

RESULT: Motion Carried Unanimously via voice vote

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

Received a call from Helen Ross McNab Facility regarding a Marine Veteran who is 2 months behind in his rent (\$696) due to mismanagement of his funds and is in danger of losing his apartment. The Veteran spent \$1500 to a veterinarian for surgery on, what he calls, his PTSD cat. He draws \$1192 SSD/mo., no disability. The Vet according to HRM, is a good tenant and has not faulted on his rent before. His expenses include internet, 3 streaming services and Amazon Prime. I spoke with his VASH counselor, Evan Baker, brought him up to speed on the Vet and requested Baker visit the Vet, help him with his budgeting and prioritization issues and make him understand housing needs to be his priority. He assured me that he would.

MOTION: That the post pay this Vet's back rent of \$696 to HRM with the understanding that he knows this is a one time assistance.

SECOND: Ian Smith

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously via voice vote

Post Community Service Effort & Report: Jay Carroll

June'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

Fund Raising -- Al Porell

Our Chick-fil-A fundraising team successfully completed the event on June 20 with the following results.

The Restaurant owners, Justin, and Audry Young donated \$565.32 for our participation in the event plus restaurant guests donated \$183.45 in tips. The total amount is \$748.77, a record breaker since our Post started this fundraiser in 2019. The total funds raised since inception is \$6,373.26.

Our Post's volunteers, deserve our heartfelt gratitude. Thank you.

- Upcoming Dates: 20 Sept.

- **Adopt a Unit** -- Jim Halligan

Background: A request is being put before the membership to support the 253rd MP Company Competition Team members who will represent the 253rd MP Company in the 117th Military Police Battalion, 3rd Annual Harper's Ferry Competition which took place in June 2024. Propose the Post award Letters of Achievement for the 6 soldiers.

Motion: That VFW Post 12135 provide a Letter of Achievement and an award of \$50.00 to each of the 6 soldiers who were selected to represent the 253rd MP Company at the 3rd Annual Harper's Ferry Competition. Total requested NTE \$300.00

SECOND: Chet Winchell

DISCUSSION:

RESULT: Motion Carried Unanimously via voice vote

Scout BSA Program -- Otto

NSTR

Sea Cadet Program -- Shawn

- NSTR

Civil Air Patrol – Dave

- NSTR

Golf Committee

- We are on track for the 2024 tournament on August 3rd. Tournament is almost full

Report of Projects

MCVRE -- 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

Other Reports

None

OnGoing/UnFinished Business

Calendar Review - Next 3 Months (Aug - Oct 2024)

- **External (In-work/Upcoming Key Events)**

3 August - Tellico Village VFW Annual Golf Tournament

Sep – Tellico Village VFW Annual Veteran's Suicide Awareness Campaign

Long Range Planning

Veteran's Day Celebration

- **Internal**

TBD – Post Inspection

New Business/Discussion Items

1. VFW Post 12135 Elected Officer's Emergency Funding Authorization

Discussion: In the past the Post Members have authorized the 7 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. The intent is to move this authorization into the post by-laws. Until the revised by-laws can make it through the administrative process and be approved by the National Commander, we'd like to reaffirm Membership intent and approval at this time:

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.

SECOND: Chet Winchell

DISCUSSION:

RESULT: Motion Carried Unanimously via voice vote

2. VFW POST 12135 Program Year 2024-2025 Calendar and POA

Discussion: Draft Program Year 2024-2025 Calendar and POA was promulgated and is requested to be approved by Post Members to be the Post's plan forward for 2023-2024.

MOTION: In support of our VFW Post 12135 2024-2025 goals, a Motion to approve the draft VFW Post 12135 Program Year 2024-2025 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 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.

SECOND: Bruce Blodgett

DISCUSSION:

RESULT: Motion Carried Unanimously via voice vote

Good of The Order

1. 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, 10 August 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 2038 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel J. Campbell, Adjutant

REMINDER: THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NUMBER IS

988

FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

