



**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Alexander Bonnyman, Jr. Post 12135**  
**P.O. Box 153**  
**Loudon, TN 37774-0153**

**Meeting Minutes for June 19, 2024**

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The meeting was held at the Tellico Village Yacht Club.

**Guest Speaker:** Ginger Maples from the U of TN Medical Center.

- She is the We Honor Veterans Coordinator Hospice Services. She will talk about the program and see if anyone would like to volunteer to help.

**Special Awards / Presentation:** None

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**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.

**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 – **“The Draping of our Post Charter”** - in honor of our recently departed Post Member, Tomas Shacklee who passed away in May. Tomas has been an active member of our post with his son Mike for many years. In September of last year, we were able to honor Tomas with the Tellico Village VFW Veteran of the month. He was also presented with the Quilt of Valor at our annual Veterans Day celebration. Tomas had a distinguished career in the United States Army and retired as a Sergeant Major after 30 years of service to his country. Tomas will be missed by all that knew him. This Post was blessed to have him as a part of our brotherhood. Rest in Peace my friend and fellow warrior.

**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.**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Status</b>
Commander	Richard Creange	P
Senior Vice Commander	Richard Vinnece	A
Junior Vice Commander	Shawn Tallant	P
Quartermaster	Jeff Corthell	P
Chaplin	Clyde Griffin	P
Judge Advocate (Appointed)	Coleman Lee	E
Surgeon (Appointed)	Bruce Blodget	E
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

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Total</b>
Officers	9	3	1	13
Members	19		111	130
Total	28	3	112	143

Overall member attendance rate was 22%.

**Attendees from District, Department and other guests**

There was one guest at the Post meeting: Bryan McDaniel was a guest as a potential future member.

**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 basically the last meeting of the 2023- 2024 business year. For this post, it has been a banner year. Thanks to the leadership and dedication of the members, this post has accomplished more than most in the district and in the country for that matter.

- We are once again an All State and All-American Post.
- We helped a significant number of veterans get back on their feet.
- We achieved unbelievable heights in community service. The post was recognized as # 4 in the State of Tennessee, and # 72 in the nation. Think about that...There are over 6000 posts and 1.4 million members of the VFW in the nation. This post is #72 of 6000!!!! That's the top 1.2 percent in the nation.

- We raise more money than ever at our Veterans benefit golf tournament.
- We helped the youth of our community through the sponsorship of our Boy Scout Troops, the Sea Cadets, and now the Civil Air Patrol.
- We led the district in membership with 17 new members.
- These are just a few of the many accomplishments we should be proud of as a post.
- I ask the members seated here today...what are you proud of...

A little later in the meeting we will have the induction of the officers for the 2024-2025 business year which starts next month. We will only be replacing one officer, that of SVC. I'd like to thank Rich Vinnece for his service to the post these last few years and welcome John Lacko to the leadership team once again. I think the continuity of leadership is a positive for this post going forward.

- Thank you all for 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. Chet Winchell 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 May 31, 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.
- There were no other reports of families or members in distress.

## **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 a call from Ft. Loudon Hospital regarding the hospitalized widow of a deceased Korean war vet who fell at home and was taken by ambulance to hospital and is now ready to be released to home. She has an unsafe living environment and can't be alone. Her out of town daughter will return Friday night. Until then she needs a sitter for Thursday and Friday. The committee lead met with her, and she found a neighbor who is willing to be with the widow for the two days. The neighbor will take 2 days off work to sit. The committee is asking the post to pay the

neighbor \$100 a day to do this. Request is that the EXCOM approve up to \$200 for the sitter to drive the widow home and be with her for 2 days.

**MOTION: That the Post membership concur with the EXCOM's emergency action decision to support this veteran's widow in the amount up to \$200 for the neighbor and sitter to drive the widow home and be with her for 2 days.**

**SECOND: Jeff Corthell**

**DISCUSSION: None**

**RESULT: Carried unanimously via voice vote**

2. Relief Committee member John Lacko received a call from a VA case manager regarding a 70% disabled and unemployed Army veteran. He has a wife and 3 children and is behind in his rent almost \$5K. Vet has lived in the area since 2019, has held a number of jobs and for multiple reasons left all of them. He is originally from Houston, TX where he wants to go back to as he has family and contacts and is sure he can find work. The vet has PTSD because of his 2 tours in Iraq. He is working a payment plan with his landlord who is very understanding. He plans on leaving Knoxville late this month will stop in Nashville where his father-in-law will put better tires on his truck, and he will continue on Texas. He has arranged for a home to rent in Houston. Vet is requesting \$1,000 for gas and food during the trip.

**MOTION: That the Post membership concur with the EXCOM's emergency action decision to support this veteran in the amount up to \$1,000 for gas and food for the vet and his family to get to Houston to reset his life.**

**SECOND: AI Porell**

**DISCUSSION: None**

**RESULT: Carried unanimously via voice vote**

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

Received an email from CVSO Ron Hudson regarding a 100% honorably discharged and disabled veteran from a car accident whom we served in January 2023. At that time he and his wife were living in a 10' x 10' shed in his son's backyard with no water, facilities or heat and paying his son \$300/month. John Lacko successfully placed him in an apartment. At that time we partnered with VFW Post 5150 who paid two months rent and we paid \$859.87 for various fees, back electricity and security deposit. He has since been evicted. His living situation has improved in that his sister is giving him a trailer to live in. HE is on SSI receiving \$924/month and receiving no VA Services or money. He is asking for approximately \$700 to put brakes on his car which he needs for shopping and getting around. I received a call from Post 5150 Sr Vice Cdr Rob Knox suggesting we partner once again. Knox will speak with the repair facility to confirm the price.

**MOTION: That the Post Membership agree to pay one half of the repair bill not to exceed \$500 While VFW Post 5150 has agreed to pay the other half.**

**SECOND: Bryan Moses**

**DISCUSSION: None**

**RESULT: Carries unanimously via voice vote**

**Post Community Service Effort & Report:** Jay Carroll

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

**Membership Committee** -- Shawn Tallant, Acting Committee Chairman

- The detailed report is available via the committee's monthly PPPR status report.
- Recruiting is going strong. Inducted 17 new members since July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Membership for this year is 109.67%, number 37 in District 7

**Core Projects** -- Rick Creange, Project Leader

- The new competition year is starting, and the 2024-2025 have been released.
- Dan Campbell has stepped up to join the Commander in this Project

**Publicity - PIO** -- Mike

- None

**Buddy Poppy** -- Wayne

- Results. The Memorial Day Buddy Poppy Campaign netted \$5,718.38. The amount was an increase of \$96.17 over last year. Many thanks to all our members that served those two (2) days.

**Fund Raising** -- Al Porell

- Upcoming Dates: 21 June and 20 September
- **Adopt a Unit** -- Jim Halligan
- NSTR

**Scout BSA Program** -- Otto

NSTR

**Sea Cadet Program** -- Shawn

- NSTR

**Civil Air Patrol** -- Dave

- This year, the TN State CAP Summer Encampment is held at Camp Hinsch, which is a pre-Ranger training facility. The Camp is in Tennessee located within the boundaries of the Ft Campbell Reservation.

This is the newest CAP Squadron in the State of Tennessee, and they are trying to send 13 cadets to summer encampment in July. This is the largest cadet participation by any Squadron in the State.

Most of those attending either are self-funded or did receive financial assistance from the National level CAP.

The two cadets that are in need of funding did apply for assistance from the National CAP

but were denied for lack of funds. The scholarship / assistance fund was exhausted by the time they were considered.

These two cadets (siblings - brother and sister) are enrolled in the "free and/or decreased school lunch program, as are many of the cadets in the Squadron. Their parents / family qualify for TN State food assistance.

The encampment fee is \$175 per cadet, so the request is for an additional \$350. These two cadets have uniforms and necessary uniform accessories (hat, rank, etc) that is either self-funded or funded by the CAP Squadron's funds.

**MOTION: Request the post agree to fund an additional \$350 to the Sequoyah CAP Squadron (TN-330) to send these two cadets to the summer encampment, July 8-13, 2024.**

**SECOND: Chet Winchell**

**DISCUSSION: None**

**RESULT: Carried unanimously via voice vote**

### **Golf Committee**

- We are on track for the 2024 tournament on August 3rd. Sign-up for this year's tournament will be exclusively on our website. Sign-up will open on June 24, 2024 for Members and their Team and open on July 1, 2024 to the general public. More info to follow.

## **Report of Projects**

### **Spring Clothing Drive** -- John Lacko

Collection, sorting, re-bagging yielded 232 bags of men and women's clothing. Including new socks and underwear and several boxes of shoes

Receiving organizations: Karms Headquarters in Knoxville Veterans Services, East Tennessee Valley Coalition for the Homeless Veterans Services, Volunteers of America Veterans Service, Steps House for recovering Veterans, Lost Vets Rescue, Tellico Village Volunteer serving homeless persons in the tri-county area.

### **MCVRE** -- John Lacko

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

### **Armed Forces Day Picnic** – Shawn

### **Boat Rides for Vets** – Mutt Manifold

### **Other Reports**

None

## **OnGoing/UnFinished Business**

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

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

13 July - Boat Rides for Vets

3 August - Tellico Village VFW Annual Golf Tournament

**Long Range Planning**

September – Tellico Village VFW Annual Veterans Suicide Awareness Campaign

-**Internal**

June Meeting - Installation of Officers

July – Promulgation of Post Calendar for 2024-2025

TBD – Post Inspection

## **New Business/Discussion Items**

### INSTALLATION OF POST OFFICERS

Past Commander Tony Newton presided

#### Elected Officers for 2024-2025

Post Commander	Rick Creange
Senior Vice Commander	John Lacko
Junior Vice Commander	Shawn Tallant
Quartermaster	Jeff Corthell
1 <sup>st</sup> Year Trustee	Ed Frandle
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Trustee	Larry Schaefer
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Trustee	Larry Dill
Chaplain	Clyde Griffin

#### Appointed Officers for 2024 -2025

Adjutant	Dan Campbell
Service Officer	Dan Hall
Surgeon	Bruce Blodgett
Judge Advocate	Coleman (Colie Lee)
Sgt at Arms	Jimmy Johnson

## 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, 13 July 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, June 19, 2024, at the Tellico Village Yacht Club

The meeting was adjourned at 2027 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel J. Campbell, Adjutant

REMINDER: THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NUMBER IS

**988**

FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES







