



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

Meeting Minutes for May 15, 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.

Roll Call of Officers: The Post Adjutant, moved that the Roll Call be waived as all officers were present or accounted for. Jeff Corthell seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

The Motion was approved unanimously.

Office	Officer	Status
Commander	Richard Creange	P
Senior Vice Commander	Richard Vinnece	A
Junior Vice Commander	Shawn Tallant	P
Quartermaster	Jeff Corthell	E
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	E
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	8	4	1	13
Members	16		115	131
Total	24	4	116	144

Overall member attendance rate was 19%.

Attendees from District, Department and other guests

There were no guests at the Post meeting:

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

- I would like to personally thank all those who stepped up and were elected as the new officers for 2024-2025. The Post made tremendous strides in membership, helping veterans, and supporting our youth. Every one of these programs the membership of Post 12135 can be proud of. As I have said at many previous meetings, what this post does, what you all do, is recognized at the district and state levels during every meeting I attend. We are the Post that everyone wants to emulate. I, and all the post officers, are proud and excited to lead this post to even greater heights in the next year.

- Just to repeat, looks like we have met all the requirements for All-State and All-American VFW Post this year. I'd like to thank everyone who dedicated their time and effort to put us in a position for these awards.

- Can't say enough about the dedication this post has towards supporting our community. The numbers don't lie ...the membership of this post is crushing it. At the District 2 Convention, Tellico Village Post 12135 was recognized as the winner of the District 2 Community Service Award ... by a wide margin. The Post was also 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% in the nation.

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 April 30, 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, Rick Bailey who has had recent surgery and for Jim Seidel as well.
- 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. HUD VASH called asking for help for a 40+ year old honorably discharged Army combat veteran who, with wife is living in a tent, working the mid shift two nights a week on a line in a factory making \$700 a month. No transport (bus dependent), no disability, no other income. HUD VASH has found a few possible housing opportunities, but Vet doesn't have the money for the application fees. Application fees are running \$75/each. HUD VASH case manager says, once in housing, he will have to pay 30% of salary for rent and utilities which he can do. Request the membership approve up to \$400 (as needed) for application fees. The case manager will work with the housing managers to see if they will accept a credit card over the phone. If not I'll deliver.

MOTION: That the Post membership support this veteran in the amount of up to \$400 as needed for application fees.

SECOND: Rich Comiso

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

B. New Relief Actions to be Presented to the Post Membership
None

Post Community Service Effort & Report: Jay Carroll

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- The March 2024 report was completed and uploaded to VFW HQ.
- . Please send all reports to him beginning going forward.

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 1st.
- Membership for this year is 112.15%
- Retention is at 100%

Core Projects: Project leader, Rick Creange

- The 2023-2024 Competition year is complete.
- The new Competition year is beginning, the 2024-2025 themes have been released.
- **We need someone to step up and run this important committee. The Commander will personally help and provide back-up.**

Publicity – Post Promotion – Mike Timmer, Chairman

- NTR

Buddy Poppy – Wayne Schroeder, Chairman

- The Buddy Poppy event for Memorial Day is May 24th and 25th. **11 time slots still need to be filled.**

Fundraising – Al Porell

- The Chick-fil-A event on 22 March netted the Post \$505.16.
- Future dates: 21 June and 20 September.

Adopt A Military Unit -- Jim Hallihan, Project Leader

- Jim Hallihan brought a motion to the floor to support or adopted units summer picnic.

MOTION: That the Post agree to support the 253 Military Police Unit with the sum of \$400.00 for their summer picnic.

SECOND: Pete Kraslansky

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote

Scout BSA Program – Otto Stutz, Project Leader

- NSTR.

Sea Cadet Program

- Post CDR & JVC attended the 14 April Sea Cadets Annual Awards Ceremony and Banquet. Chet Winchell will also attend. The Post presented \$500.00 to the unit to support operating costs.

Civil Air Patrol Program

- The newest Tennessee Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol has had several organization meetings. The JVC arranged for honor guard material, that the Sea Cadet unit had in excess, to be passed to the Civil Air Patrol Squadron
- Dave Crowden, the post coordinator, attended the last CAP meeting.

Golf Committee

- We are off and running for the 2024 tournament on August 3rd.

Report of Projects

Spring Clothing Drive

- On track and receiving many bags of clothes. A final report of the total clothing collected will be presented at the May meeting.

MCVRF

- Work in Progress

Armed Forces Day Picnic

- Invitation is out to the membership. RSVPs are incoming.

Other Reports

- None

Ongoing /Unfinished Business

Post Calendar On-Going Events

External

- 8-20 April Clothing Drive
- 1 May (Loyalty Day)
- 3 May (Day of Service)
- 18 May (Armed Forces Day)
- 24-25 May (Memorial Day/Buddy Poppy).

Internal

- April 2024 – Vote on Officer Slate
- April 2024 – Vote on Annual Donations
- June 2024 – Installation of Officers

Long Range Planning

- June 14 – Flag Day Ceremony and Flag Retirement
- July 13 – Boat rides for Vets
- Aug 3 – Tellico Village VFW Annual Golf Tournament

New Business/Discussion Items

Post Annual Donations to Local Organizations Serving Veterans

Discussion: Various Agencies were discussed and a list of organizations that the Post will support was presented to the membership. The list is as follows:

Good Samaritan Food Bank Lenoir City
Lost Vets Rescue
Ben Ashley (Christmas gifts and bird seed program)
Loudon County Honor Guard
Hugs for our Soldiers
Greenback Public School (supplies/equipment)
Lenoir City Elementary School (supplies/equipment)

MOTION: That the Post support these various organizations with a total of \$7100.00.

SECOND: John Lacko
DISCUSSION: None
RESULT: Motion was unanimously passed by voice vote.

Post 2024-2025 Officer Elections

Before the election of post officers, two motions were presented. The first; On how the vote will be taken, voice vote or secret vote by balloting. Second: On how the positions will be elected; as a slate of all nominations or individually.

There was a motion from the floor made by Tony Newton for an open voice vote to be taken for the election of officers.

MOTION: That the election of Post 12135 officers will be taken by an open voice vote.

SECOND: Larry Dill
DISCUSSION: None
RESULT: Motion passed unanimously by open voice vote.

There was a motion from the floor made by Ian Smith that the nominated officers be elected by membership as a complete slate.

MOTION: That the nominated officers be elected by membership as a complete slate.

SECOND: Jeff Corthell
DISCUSSION: None
RESULT: Motion passed unanimously by open voice vote.

The following slate was presented to membership for election as Post officers for the 2024-2025 business year.

- 3rd Year Trustee (Larry Schaefer)
- 2nd Year Trustee (Ed Frandle)
- 1st Year Trustee (Larry Dill)
- Quartermaster (Jeff Corthell)
- Junior Vice Commander (Shawn Tallant)
- Senior Vice Commander (John Lacko)
- Commander (Rick Creange)

A motion was made by Shawn Tallant to accept and elect this slate of offices for VFW Post 12135 for the 2024-2025 business year.

MOTION: That the post accept and elect the presented slate of officers for the 2024-2025 business year.

- SECOND: Pete Kraslansky
- DISCUSSION: None
- RESULT: Motion passed unanimously by open voice vote

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 [Saturday May 11, 2024](#).

Closing Ceremony

- Dave Crowden 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, May 15, 2024, at the Tellico Village Yacht Club
- The meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard T. Creange, Commander

REMINDER: THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NUMBER IS

988

FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES