



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

Meeting Minutes for November 20, 2024

The meeting was held at the Tellico Village Yacht Club. A Meet and Greet began at 1905 and the business meeting started at 1930.

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 Commander, Richard Creange 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	E
Judge Advocate (Appointed)	Coleman Lee	E
Surgeon (Appointed)	Bruce Blodget	E
1-Year Trustee	Ed Frandle	E
2-Year Trustee	Larry Schaefer	P
3-Year Trustee	Larry Dill	P
Service Officer (Appointed)	Dan Hall	P
Adjutant (Appointed)	Daniel Campbell	P
Sergeant at Arms (Appointed)	Jimmy Johnson	P

	Present	Excused	Absent	Total
Officers	9	4	0	13
Members	18		117	136
Total	27	4	117	149

Overall member attendance rate was 18%.

Attendees from District, Department and other guests

None

Membership Applications:

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

Steven C. Marti	Army
Gregory M. Russo	Army
Deloras J. Russo	Army
Gerald L. Schwaller	Army

Report of the Investigating Committee

An investigation/Ad Hoc meeting was convened and all potential members before you have been found eligible to be Members of the VFW.

Ballot On Applications

Members of VFW Post 12135 – the potential new members before you been found eligible to join the VFW and Post 12135.

MOTION: That the post membership accept these Veterans as Members of the VFW and Post 12135.

SECOND: Chet Winchell

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously via voice vote

Commander's Report – Comments

- Veterans Day Celebration

This was another tremendous event for the community and the Post. I received many positive comments after the ceremony A special thanks to Shawn who is the inspiration and ultimate organizer for this event and to everyone involved in making this special day a success.

- The fall clothing drive was a great success. Here is a summary of the clothing drive.

151 Bags of Men's and Women's clothing - Thrift Shop Value - \$7,550

115 Coat's for Men and Women - Thrift Shop Value - #1,725

35 Bags of clothing to Karm.

Six different organizations received the cloths.

- As we move forward, we still need a few folks to step up and lead some of our upcoming activities. This is the single biggest issue we have in this post. We need people to step up and lead some of the post's upcoming events. Because of this issue **we will not be All American or All state next year.**

We cannot expect the few who always step up to continue to carry the load. I constantly hear "well I am doing things for the other organization I am involved in so I can't help out." If that's the case, then I guess the VFW is not as important as we believe and maybe we should look at who we are and what we are doing. We cannot continue to exist as an organization if we don't have more than a few folks contribute. The people who are contributing usually are balancing their involvement in several organizations.

As Shawn has always said, people like being part of a winning organization. As an organization, we continue to lead here in the village and are only that winning organization because of those who step up.

WE NEED EVERYONE TO HELP THIS POST ACCOMPLISH ITS MISSION. This post does an incredible job in supporting veterans in need, our youth programs, and our community. That only happens because you all get involved. Please help us continue to be the leading volunteer organization in the village.

We need folks to step up and lead the Winter social...Loyalty Day Commemoration...and VFW Day of Service... also to step in to AI in the Chick-Fil-A fundraisers.

- 1st LT Alexander Bonnyman Graveside ceremony. 23 November 2024, 1100. Highland Cemetery, 4300 Sutherland Ave, Knoxville, TN

- Any comments from the floor or questions for me.

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 October 31, 2024. The VFW Post remains in a strong financial position. Members in good standing wishing for 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 in need of prayers as he continues his battle with ALS.
- Clyde Griffin, our chaplain is in the hospital and could use your prayers and support.
- Tony Newton could also use your support, reach out to him.
- Brian Mitchell, past Adjutant, living in Arizona has been in and out of the hospital and could use some prayers and some phone calls.
- Nick Conthrop's wife has been diagnosed with Stage 4 Cancer and they have family there with her. He appreciates the support but will reach out when more is needed.

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. VASH called asking for assistance for a disabled Army vet and his wife, who will be evicted from their Super 8 motel room tomorrow (Saturday) morning. Vet has no legs, can't work. Draws VA disability at 20% (\$585) and \$1200 in social security which has gone to earlier room rent and food. VASH is actively working with the county to get him a voucher for an apartment. They anticipate this will take about 1 week. The cost of the additional week in the motel is \$575.82.

MOTION: That the post support the EXCOM's decision to pay \$575.82 for one additional week of a motel room for this veteran.

- **SECOND: Richard Laverdure**

- **DISCUSSION: None**

- **RESULT: Motion carried unanimously via voice vote**

2. Received a request from Jonathan Boggs, a counselor with the VA housing program. He is requesting housing assistance for a veteran at a cost of \$65 / night for 14 days. The issue is that the lease signing scheduled for end of October fell through due to an issue with how the water was metered separately by each unit. The landlord refused to comply, and the lease fell through. The veteran has been set up with another apartment but need the funds to transition to the new apartment. The situation was upgraded by the VASH counselor. The veteran has \$300 in his bank account and will be relegated to living in his car after this weekend for a few weeks until the 1st of December. We have assisted this veteran in the past. The amount authorized by the EXCOM was \$939.64.

MOTION: That the post support the EXCOM's decision to pay \$939.64 for two weeks of a motel room for this veteran.

- **SECOND: Richard Laverdure**

- **DISCUSSION: Question was asked about other alternatives (Veteran's Home or other) for this individual. John Lacko explained that VASH goes through many different options before reaching out to us. Most of these other options are at full capacity so unavailable.**

- **RESULT: Motion carried unanimously via voice vote**

B. New Relief Actions to be Presented to Post Membership

None

Post Community Service Effort & Report: Jay Carroll

- October'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.

Core Projects -- Rick Creange, Project Leader

- We received one VoD submission and no PP inputs.

Publicity - PIO -- Mike

- None

Buddy Poppy -- Wayne

- Another successful campaign. The post netted \$5,415.00. Great job by Wayne and all those who participated.

Fund Raising -- Al Porell

- See you in the spring

Adopt a Unit -- Jim Halligan

MOTION: That the post support the 253rd MP Company Christmas Basket Program by authorizing gifts for up to 10 soldiers in need of \$50 each and a Letter of Appreciation for their Service for a donation not to exceed \$500.

- **SECOND: Bryan Moses**

- **DISCUSSION: It was brought from the floor that with the rising costs due to inflation that the Motion be Amended to \$100 each soldier for a donation not to exceed \$1000.**

- **RESULT: Amended Motion carried unanimously via voice vote**

Scout BSA Program – Otto

- NSTR

Sea Cadet Program – Shawn

- The Sea Cadets that participated in the Veteran's Day Celebration by performing a Flag Folding Demonstration did a tremendous job and left a great impression.

Civil Air Patrol – Dave

- NSTR

Golf Committee

- Will ramp up in the new year, Volunteers are needed to assist

Report of Projects

1. Clothing Drive

- The fall clothing drive was a great success. Here is a summary of the clothing drive.

151 Bags of Men's and Women's clothing - Thrift Shop Value - \$7,550

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- **Six different organizations received the clothes**

On-Going/Un-Finished Business

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

External (In-work/Upcoming Key Events)

* Dec 14 – Commander's Christmas Open House. Army/Navy Game

Long Range Planning

* Feb 14, 2025 – Post Winter Social - Rich Laverdure was volunteered to Lead this for the Post and he accepted the responsibility.

Internal

*January 2025 – Officer Slate Search Committee.

For those positions being vacated, the elected/appointed for the coming year will not be without assistance, the incumbents will assist with what is needed to prevent failure.

New Business/Discussion Items

None

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, December 14th, 2024!](#)
2. **Post Commanders Holiday Open House**
As is tradition, the Commanders Holiday Open House replaces the December Post Meeting. This year's gathering will be on December 14th starting at 1500. It is also the Army – Navy game so in addition to the holiday cheer, we will have a watch party for the game with friendly banter between our Army and Navy brothers.
3. Wesley College in Athens has a Dental Clinic, students will work on your teeth but are supervised by the instructors. For Veterans, this service is FREE. They will not only clean your teeth but will do X-rays and evaluate for further work needed.
4. For those that are rated as 100% disabled, the VA has opened a new Dental Clinic on Kingston Pike near the West Side Mall and care is free.

Closing Ceremony

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

Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, January 15th, 2024, at the Tellico Village Yacht Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 201 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Campbell, Adjutant

REMINDER: THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NUMBER IS

988

FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE