



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

**Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2024**

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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

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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 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.**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Status</b>
Commander	Richard Creange	P
Senior Vice Commander	John Lacko	P
Junior Vice Commander	Shawn Tallant	E
Quartermaster	Jeff Corthell	P
Chaplin	Clyde Griffin	E
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

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Total</b>
Officers	9	4	0	13
Members	19		117	136
Total	28	4	117	149

Overall member attendance rate was 19%.

**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:

None

**Report of the Investigating Committee**

None

**Ballot On Applications**

N/A

**Commander's Report – Comments**

- As we are wrapping up our fall activities, I'd like to thank everyone who stepped up and made a difference. September with the suicide awareness campaign, the clothes drive that's currently going on and all our activities. Going into the winter months we will have the Commanders Holiday Open House and Army – Navy watch party on December 14<sup>th</sup> and then our winter social in February. More to follow.
- As we move forward, we still need a few folks to step up and lead some of our upcoming activities. 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 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.
- 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. Dave Crowden seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

**The Motion was approved unanimously.**

**Adjutant's Report – Correspondence:** The Post received a Thank You Card from Isaiah 117 House for assistance given.

**Quartermaster's Report:** Jeff Corthell

Post Quartermaster, Jeff Corthell, provided the report for the period ending September 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**

- James Seidel is also in need of prayers as he continues his battle with ALS.
- 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. None

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

1. Veteran needing assistance with \$465 rent for October 2024. Veteran is 65 years old and lives alone in an HUD VASH apartment. His wife lives in Alabama but travels to TN to assist him at least once a month to take him to pay bills. Veteran has cognitive issues as he experiences hallucinations. Veteran's wife took Veteran to the bank to pay his rent and found out that "Pay Day Loan" had withdrawn a total of \$1044 out of Veteran's account for a loan Veteran had taken out. Veteran cannot recall when he took the loan out and for what reason. Mrs. Hicks has no money to lend him as she is also living in subsidized housing herself in Alabama. Veteran cannot leave TN to live in Alabama as he is on probation till 2025. Veteran's wife says she is going to get on Veteran's account to take care of his finances. Veteran receives \$1300/ month from Social Security, 10% VA disability and Food Stamps. He also receives assistance from LUB for his utilities. Veteran is being seen by a psychologist, psychiatrist, and PCP at the Knoxville VA.

**MOTION:** That the post membership approve the payment of \$465.00 for this Veteran's Rent for October.

**SECOND:** Ed Frandle

**DISCUSSION:** The membership asked if this was a one time thing and the response from the Relief Committee Chair was yes, as long as the Veteran's wife remained involved.

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

2. A 42-year-old Army reservist with wife and 3 children recently back from Kuwait is in need of \$1200 rent for September. Received a call from Good Samaritan saying he asked them for help with his utility bill and rent. Good Sam reached out to Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul and was able to get the utility paid and electric turned back on. September rent remains unpaid. He recently had rotator cuff surgery which means his hours stripping and refinishing wood floors at \$22/hour have been cut because he can't lift the equipment needed to do his job. He expects to be back at work by the end of October. His wife just lost her job and is looking for another. When both he and his wife are working, they bring in \$4300/month. When they are back to work they are financially in good shape,

**MOTION:** That the post membership approve the payment of \$1200.00 for this Veteran's Rent for October.

**SECOND:** John Lacko

**DISCUSSION:** Membership asked if this was a one time thing. The Commander responded that they got into a bad situation when the Veteran couldn't work due to surgery and wife losing her job. Also stated that when they are working they are more than capable of caring for themselves and that many other agencies are also involved with getting this Veteran back on his feet. Concern was raised by the membership over whether he would be able to pay the following month's rent if his recovery from surgery was extended? The Relief Committee chairman was uncertain.

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

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

- September'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

- The new competition year is starting, and the 2024-2025 themes have been released.
- We have two weeks left until the deadline for submissions. We have one VoD submission looking for Patriots Pen submissions.
- Support for CORE Programs

DISCUSSION: The core programs to include Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the year, and others such as First Responder, Scouts, and ROTC are an integral part of the Post's and VFW's community outreach programs. Through these programs the post promotes patriotism, supports the community, and communicates the mission of the VFW. Executing these programs at the post level incurs expenses in the form, of prizes, presentations, and advertising.

**MOTION: That the Post authorize funding NTE \$1000 for the procurement of awards, prizes, and advertising.**

**SECOND:**

**DISCUSSION: Motion withdrawn due to funding being previously budgeted**

**RESULT:**

**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.

- There are still openings for volunteers to step up

**Fund Raising** -- Al Porell

- The latest Chik-fil-A fundraising report states that we brought in ~\$750.00  
- Next opportunity to volunteer for this event will be in March

**Adopt a Unit** -- Jim Halligan

- NSTR

**Scout BSA Program** -- Otto

- NSTR

**Sea Cadet Program** -- Shawn

- Sea Cadets will be present for our Veteran's Day Celebration to present a flag folding demonstration.

**Civil Air Patrol** -- Dave

- NSTR

## **Veteran's Day Celebration**

- Planning is going well. **Reminder that the Yacht Club is normally closed on Monday's but has decided to open for a buffet style dinner in honor of our Veterans. Reservations are needed and must be made through the Yacht Club.**
- A couple of Volunteers are needed to come to the celebration early (1500/3:00 pm) to assist with setup.

## **Report of Projects**

### **1. Clothing Drive**

- About 50 bags of clothing were collected in the first 5 days with about 70 coats. Ed Frandle took some of these coats to the VSO in Madisonville where they were severely needed. The Commander suggested that we look at sending at least a portion of the clothing collected to organizations that are supporting the Hurricane Helene Relief effort.

## **On-Going/Un-Finished Business**

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

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

- \* October – Fall Veterans Clothing Drive
- \* Nov 11- Veterans Day Celebration
- \* Dec 14 – Commander's Christmas Open House

### **Long Range Planning**

- \* Feb 14, 2025 – Post Winter Social

### **Internal**

October 15 – Request for Calendar Year Budget Requests

October 31<sup>st</sup>- Core Program Inputs

November- Scouts of the Year inputs due

November- Calendar Year Budget Requests input Due

## New Business/Discussion Items

### 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, November 9th, 2024!](#)

### 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, November 20th, 2024, at the Tellico Village Yacht Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 2017 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Campbell, Adjutant

REMINDER: THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NUMBER IS

**988**

FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE