



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

Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2024

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

Guest Speaker: None

Special Awards / Presentation: A presentation from the Smoky Mountain Civil Air Patrol. Six members accompanied by their Commander discussed their experiences at this Year's Encampment and answered questions.

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. 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	E
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	10	3	0	13
Members	14		122	136
Total	24	3	115	149

Overall member attendance rate was 16%.

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:

- William (Skip) Willard, New Life Member, USMC
- Dennis Maguire, Life Member Transfer, US Army

Not in attendance:

- Robert Russell, New Life Member, US Army and USN
- Larry Denney, New Annual Member, USMC

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.

Bryan Moses moved to accept these Veterans as Members of the VFW and Post 12135.

Ballot On Applications

MOTION: Members of VFW Post 12135 – the potential new members before you have been found eligible to be members of the VFW and Post 12135. Move to accept?

SECOND: Daniel Campbell

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously via voice vote

Bryan also introduced two potential transfer members: Greg and Delores Russo

Commander's Report – Comments

- As we move into our busy fall activities, I'd like to recognize a few accomplishments so far this year. The Golf Committee, Ed, Larry, and Mike. We raised almost \$16K to help Veterans. The Membership Team led by Shawn and now Bryan for bringing in 17 new Members since last July. I know they will crush it once again this year. AI for another great Chik-fil-A campaign. We are looking for another great time at the restaurant here in September. John, thanks for spearheading another awesome Multi-County Veterans Resource Fair yesterday. It's truly great to be able to bring together so many resources from medical, VA, housing, networking, and employers for Veterans to explore in one location.

- 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 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 assist AI in the Chik-fil-A Fundraisers.

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: None

Quartermaster's Report: Jeff Corthell

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

- 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. VA requests we assist an honorably discharged Army veteran with 1-2 weeks motel while his VA provided home undergoes satisfactory re-inspection and repair. He will be evicted from his current home Wednesday August 28. Veteran has 40% disability for PTSD and severe depression. His right arm was amputated (reason unclear) and his left arm is deemed "constant instability." He cannot work because of both physical and mental reasons. As housing is the base of the veteran's pyramid, I would like us to pay no more than \$1400 for a motel while his housing is repaired. His income is \$755 of which he must pay 30%. I have suggested he get an appointment with Tom Humphries, Knox CVSO, to increase his disability rating and file for SSDI. His VA case manager has agreed to assist with this.

MOTION: That the membership concur with the EXCOM's emergency action to pay an amount not to exceed \$1400 for up to 2 weeks in a motel to keep this veteran from being homeless.

SECOND: Larry Dill

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously via voice vote

2. VA case manager is asking for support for a 64-year-old Army vet who was homeless and separated from his wife. After being homeless and living in his car for 4 months, his mother and sister allowed him to stay with them infrequently. He became a HUD VASH participant in March 2024. He got his new apartment in August 2024. In the process of moving a washer into the apartment he lost his wallet with the \$471 rent money in it. Vet is bipolar, receives SSDI (\$1400) and is 10% VA disabled. He has sufficient income to cover future rent and expenses. Landlord wants a promissory note that rent will be paid by check to stop any additional fees.

MOTION: That the membership concur with the EXCOM's emergency action to pay this vet's rent in the amount of \$471 (plus fees) and that the Post support the EXCOM to allow a promissory email to be sent to the landlord to stop adding future fees.

SECOND: Bruce Blodgett

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously via voice vote

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

1. VA Case manager Boggs asks for motel assistance for a 52 y/o Army veteran that has had a VA Housing voucher since July and been unable to find an apartment until last week due to new college students arriving. He is a stroke victim and needs a first-floor apartment. His apartment is expected to be ready o/a about 45 days. In the meantime, he has been in a Super 8 motel paying a daily rate of \$65 + tax. His income is \$1850 a month from SSDI. He has overloaded his credit card and cannot pay the motel bill without help. I contacted the motel and was quoted a "weekly rate" of \$374. The Excom approved \$1400 for 1 months' rent. Out of nowhere the motel evicted him on Saturday to make way for football fans to move in. I arranged for a room for him in Lenoir City for Saturday night for \$83. On Sunday I went to Super 8 met the vet and to pay for 4 weeks. Spoke with the manager only to find out that they do not have weekly rates, only daily at \$65+ tax and he say the quote of \$374 was incorrect and not enough and I shouldn't have been given that information. At that point I was out of options, I paid the bill for 30 days totaling \$2369.59. If he should move out before the 30 days, we would be credited for the days we paid for, and he does not use.

MOTION: That the post approve the payment of \$2369.59 to keep this vet in a motel for the next 30 days.

SECOND: Ed Frandle

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously via voice vote

Post Community Service Effort & Report: Jay Carroll

August'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 PPPR status report.

Core Projects -- Rick Creange, Project Leader

- The new competition year is starting, and the 2024-2025 have been released.

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.

Fund Raising -- Al Porell

- Upcoming Dates: 20 Sept. at Chik-fil-A which is the National Recognition Day for POW/MIA. They will set up a missing man table.

Adopt a Unit -- Jim Halligan

- NSTR

Scout BSA Program -- Otto

- NSTR

Sea Cadet Program -- Shawn

- NSTR

Civil Air Patrol – Dave

- It was great hearing how our support of this CAP Squadron is making a difference with these youth in our community. The Cadets have meetings every Tuesday at the Monroe County Airport from 1730-1930. Post Members are welcome to stop by.

Golf Committee

We are looking at the lessons learned from the 2024 tournament on August 3rd. Next year's date is set. **We would really like a few new members to join the committee...We can always use a few new ideas.** If you like to play golf...please help, make our tournament the best in the village. Remember this is our largest fundraiser of the year.

Report of Projects

MCVRE -- John Lacko

- Our key event The Multi County Veterans Resource Fair 2024 is in the books.
- Today we had over 60 veterans attend seeking information regarding services available to them. We also helped 3 veterans with housing needs.
- Available to veterans were 30 Veterans Service Organizations as well As 32 employers.
- The Tellico Village Lions Club provided sight testing and blood pressure checks.
- Wamplers Farm Sausage provided lunch for all workers and attendees.
- A special thanks to the members of our post who assisted in this event. Dave Crowden, Mike Timmer, Tony Newton, Larry Dill, Larry Schaefer, Ed Frandle, and Shawn Tallant.

Our partners who also worked to make this a very successful event were John Houser from American Legion Post 70 and Mack McCollum with the American Job Center along with his staff of 5 volunteers to help make this event run smoothly.

Thank you again for all of your hard work and dedication to this veteran's event.

Other Reports

- None

On-Going/Un-Finished Business

Calendar Review - Next 3 Months (Sep - Nov 2024)

External (In-work/Upcoming Key Events)

- * Sep - Tellico Village VFW Annual Veterans Suicide Awareness Campaign
- * 17 Sep – MCVRF
- * 20 Sep Chick-Fil-A Fundraiser
- * October – Fall Veterans Clothing Drive
- * Nov 11- Veterans Day Celebration

MOTION: Asking the members to approve \$500 to offset the cost of the Veteran's Day Celebration.

SECOND: Bruce Blodgett

DISCUSSION:

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously via voice vote

The Yacht Club will open that evening especially for this event. They will prepare a buffet style meal Reservations must be made through the Yacht Club for this meal.

One additional volunteer is needed for the Fall Clothing Drive. See Ed Frandle.

Long Range Planning

* December – CDRs Holiday Party

Internal

October 15 – Request for Calendar Year Budget Requests

October 31st- 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, October 12, 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, October 16, 2024, at the Tellico Village Yacht Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 2010 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Campbell, Adjutant

REMINDER: THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NUMBER IS

988

FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE