



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

Meeting Minutes for 18 October 2023

The meeting was held at the Tellico Village Yacht Club.

Guest Speaker: None

Special Awards / Presentations: None

Opening Ceremonies: The Sergeant at Arms, closed the doors and the meeting was called to order at 1930 hours by Post CDR Creange with Chaplain Clyde Griffin giving the opening prayer. Post CDR Creange led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Un-Draping - Before commencing with the regular business meeting – per the National VFW Bylaws and Manual of Procedure – CDR Creange requested the Post meeting opened with a special ceremony – “the Un-Draping of the Post Charter”. Our Post Charter has been draped for the last 30 days in honor of our recently departed Post Member, Bill Minks who passed away on July 2nd of this year.

- Chaplin Griffin led Members in a prayer for the departed.
- The Charter was undraped..

Roll Call of Officers: In the Post Adjutant’s absence, the Post Commander moved that the Roll Call be waived as all officers were present or accounted for. Larry Schaefer seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion was approved unanimously.**

| Office | Officer | Status |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Commander | Rick Creange | P |

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Senior Vice Commander | Richard Vinnece | P |
| 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 | Laarry Dill | P |
| Service Officer (Appointed) | Dan Hall | E |
| Adjutant (Appointed) | Jay Carroll | E |
| Sergeant at Arms (Appointed) | Jimmy Johnson | P |

| | Present | Excused | Absent | Total |
|----------|---------|---------|--------|-------|
| Officers | 9 | 4 | 0 | 13 |
| Members | 26 | 5 | 91 | 122 |
| Total | 35 | 9 | 91 | 135 |

Overall member attendance rate was 27%.

Attendees from District, Department and other guests

There were 4 guest at the Post meeting:

- XXX

Membership Applications:

None

Report of the Investigating Committee

N/A

Ballot On Applications

N/A

Commander's Report - Comments

- **Commander Creange presented the Commander's Report**
 - It's been a busy and successful summer for the Post as I mentioned last month.

- Now we are ramping up for the fall events. Al and Wayne, as always is leading the way with the Chick-Fil-A and Buddy Poppy campaigns.
- And we will round out the season with our Veterans Day Celebration. Which is coming together well as our JVC, Shawn, Mike Timmer, and myself put the final pieces together. Sing-ups this year will be on the Website.
- Finally, I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our Post Holiday Party at my residence. The date is set for December 7th, 1800.
- We are making the best of the short notice situation we inherited with our core programs: Patriots Pen/VoD/ Teacher of the Year. I have been driving this effort with the help of Shawn and Otto. We have several teachers in Lenoir City schools who are leading their students to complete an application and Shawn and Otto have done the same with the Sea Cadets and Boy Scouts. As part of the approved funding for this project, I have allocated the following post prizes for our selectees: VoD, \$200 for first, \$100 for second; PP \$100 for first, \$50 for second. We still need everyone's help here in getting word out to youth. Deadline is 31 October.
- District 2 Meeting: November 12th at 1300 for Lunch – 1400 Business meeting. If anyone would like to accompany the Commander, they are welcome.
- We are still looking for someone to step up as Post Adjutant. Jay is hanging on until we find someone.
- Does anyone want to add a shout-out for anything or anyone for any efforts.
- Finally: Our Post leads the way in the District and State. For a post our size we set the standard in many categories including volunteer hours, membership, fundraising and our main mission Helping Veterans. It's because of all the members of this great Post that enables us to accomplish all this.

Adjutant's Report - Reading of the Minutes

JVC as Ating Adjutant moved that the reading of the meetings be waived as the minutes were distributed to all members and that the minutes be approved as written. Dave Crowden seconded the motion. There was no discussion. 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 30 September 2023. 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 Jim Seidel as he continues his brave battle with ALS!

Report Of All Committees

Relief Committee – Tony Newton, Chairman

- Following events were addressed by the relief committee.

- Received a call from a 51-year-old veteran who was a prior recipient of our services. In February 2021 he was a resident of Steps House with several driving offenses against him and had no driver's license. We paid his court costs and fines amounting to \$1202.05. He was then employed as a driver for 2 years and later a forklift operator. This was a success story for us. His back is shot and he is now unemployed, has received an 80% VA disability and just started receiving \$1933/mo. VA wants to do back surgery and he expects that to happen early 2024. Veteran states that the VA disability check will allow him to pay all necessities. He has just moved into a home in Oak Ridge and needs help with getting his utilities turned on. He is living in the dark. Oak Ridge Utilities wants \$325 to do this. (See Motion Summary in New Business)
- Received a call from a social worker at the Knoxville Outpatient Clinic regarding a veteran that is in the Jefferson City Skilled Nursing Facility. This veteran is a 12-year Army honorably discharged 80% disabled veteran. Lost his job because of his illness. He states he is on a liver transplant list and working to raise his disability to 100%. His only income is \$1700/month from VA. His mortgage is \$800/month. He also has normal expenses of power, water, insurance, gas, etc. He is asking for help with his Discover card (\$700) which was cut off last month due to nonpayment. He says he can handle all expenses with his disability check. Due to his illness, he says he cannot work. (See Motion Summary in New Business.).
- Received a call late September from a villager that reported a deceased veteran's wife had dental surgery that cost her \$1600, an amount she was unable to afford. The villager was trying to find Tellico Village organizations that would help her with this bill. I spoke with the wife, confirmed the cost, and understood her financial situation. Recently the Villager reports that the dentist has agreed to reduce the bill by 15% and he is working on a commitment from St. Vincent de Paul for a donation of \$400. Given this, the \$1600 bill will be reduced to \$947.28. The villager continues to look for other assistance and will get back

to me shortly. I am bringing this to the post now to allow us to act when the final amount is understood. (See Motion Summary in New Business.)

Post Community Service Effort & Report

- The September 2023 report was completed and uploaded to VFW HQ
- Thanks to everyone that continues to provide input and highlight the incredible support our post members provide to the local community.

Membership Committee -- Shawn Tallant, Committee Chairman

- Post Membership is off to a strong start with 7 new members, and 100% retention since 1 July.

a. Recruiting is going strong - We inducted 1 new member in June, 1 new inductee at the July meeting, and inducted two new members in August! Plus – we just inducted 3 new members in Sept!

b. Retention is going strong for 2023-2024 @ 100%. Plus – Ron Saltzgiver renewed in August and switched from annual to a Life Membership! Let's push ahead on the Oct - Nov renewals.

c. Overall – National VFW has our Membership already at 95.96%, placing us at number 32 in Division 7. With the number of continuous annual members we have – and the expectation of all annual members to renew - our Post will easily exceed the 100% Membership goal.

- See PPPR

Core Projects – CDR Creange

- Status summarized in Commanders Comments

Publicity – Post Promotion – Mike Timmer, Chairman

- Working flyers and promotions for: 11 November Veterans Day Celebration.

Buddy Poppy – Wayne Schroeder, Chairman

- Next Buddy Poppy will be in conjunction with the Veterans Day weekend November 9 & 10. Also handing out at Veterans Day Celebration.

- See PPPR

Fundraising – Rich Vinnece

- Next actions.
- Chick-Fil-A: Next event planned for Friday 22 September.
- 2024 planned dates are: 22 March, 21 June, and 20 Sept.

Adopt A Military Unit -- Jim Halligan, Project Leader

- Met with the new Commander, Captain Morgan Smith, to discuss the units' 2023 Christmas Basket Program which provides food gifts to needy soldiers and their families. I propose that the VFW Post 12135 provide a grant of up to \$500.00 to support the units' food basket program. The 253rd MP Company Commander will identify members of the unit that qualify for assistance. The funds from the VFW Post 12135 will augment the program.
- Recommendation: The council bring forth to the members a request for VFW Post 12135 to provide a sum not to exceed \$500.00 to support the 253rd MP Company Christmas Basket Program. (See Motion Summary in New Business)

Scout BSA Program – Otto Stutz Project Leader

- Post members attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor this month and presented the Post Eagle Scout Award.

Sea Cadet Program

- As part of VFW Post 12135's Community Outreach/Youth Programs, the Post has stood up a youth program in support a local TN Sea Cadet Unit, the Smokey MT Anchor Division located in Farragut. This past month the Post's Program Lead has established communications to support the Sea Cadets 2023-2024 LRTP focused on the USN Seabees. Two VFW Members, Barnett Alpert and Chet Winchell have volunteered to support.

1. Sea Cadet Program Lead continues to communicate with the Sea Cadet Unit CO and have received the unit's LRTP for this year and working 2023 mentorship coordination.

2. Sea Cadets have received the VFW Youth Scholarship Program info (PP, VoD)

3. Sea Cadet to provide a Color Guard for our 11 Nov Veterans Day Commemoration

- VFW Post 12135's support to the Sea Cadets will be in three main areas:

1. Provide Military Subject Matter Experts (SME's) in the U.S. military to the Sea Cadets during their monthly training weekend. Though the emphasis will be on USN & USCG SME's, all military service/expertise can be offered.

2. Support the Sea Cadet Unit in identifying "Community Service" opportunities where the Sea Cadets can be visible actively supporting veterans and their community.

3. Provide periodic "as needed" financial support to the Sea Cadet Unit to offset training opportunities, provide uniforms, etc. A primary emphasis for the financial support would be to offset Sea Cadet membership costs for Cadets joining the unit from underprivileged households.

Post's Vets in Classroom Program – Vacant

- We would like to ask if someone is willing to step up to the plate and provide leadership for this rewarding program.

REPORT OF PROJECTS

1. Clothing Drive

- Oct 9 – Oct 21.
- Collection boxes to be placed at Tellico Village Welcome Center.

2. Veterans Day Celebration

- Tellico Village VFW Post will again sponsor a Veteran's Day commemoration event, Saturday 11/11, 4-6pm in the Yacht Club lower level.
- See PPPR for Details

Ongoing /Unfinished Business

Post Calendar Completed Events

- 19 Sept MCVRF – John Lacko
- September (ongoing all month) – Suicide Awareness Display at Yacht Club

Post Calendar On-Going Events

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- October – Fall Vets Clothing Drive – John Lacko
- 9-10 Nov Buddy Poppy Campaign – Wayne Schroder
- 11 Nov – Veterans Day Commemoration – Rick Creange/Shawn Tallant
- 19 Nov – Bonnyman Graveside Ceremony
- 7 Dec - Post Holiday Party – Post Commander

Internal Events

- Sep thru Oct- Core Project Info Dissemination (Due 31 October)
- 10 Oct - Calendar Year Admin Request for Budgets
- 15 Nov - Core Projects Entries Due at District
- 15 Nov – Scout of the year nominations
- 30 Nov – Calendar year budget inputs due

New Business

Discussion Items:

1. Veterans at Ease Program. Discussed the Posts Support to this program with an advisory committee.
2. There was discussion of the post supporting the newly formed Civil Air Patrol Unit. More information to be gathered by Shawn Tallant
3. There was a discussion for the potential to Adopt-A-School and provide support TBD after talking to school leadership. Linked to Vets in the Classroom and CORE programs.

Relief Committee - Veteran Support Motion (Tony Newton)

- **EXCOM Emergency Action Funding in the amount of \$345.00..**
 - **Discussion:** See discussion in report of relief committee.
 - **Motion; That the Post Membership concur with the EXCOM's emergency action decision to pay \$345 to Oak Ridge Utilities to turn on this veteran's utilities.**
 - The motion was seconded by Larry Dill. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**

- **Veteran Relief Funding in the amount of \$700.00**
 - Discussion : See discussion in report of relief committee.
 - **Motion: That the Post provide funding for this veteran's credit card bill of \$700.**
 - The motion was seconded by Larry Dill.
 - After a discussion, **a second motion was brought forward to kill the motion by SVC Rich Vennece. The motion was out of order as not a proper way to amend or postpone consideration of the current motion on the floor. After discussion the motion was put to a voice vote where the chair could not determine the outcome. A hand vote was called for and the second motion was rejected by a count of 14 to 9.**
 - The original motion to provide funding in the amount of 700 dollars was then further discussed and the motion was passed by voice vote.

- **Veteran Relief Funding in the amount of \$947.28.**
 - Discussion: See discussion in report of relief committee.
 - **Motion: That the post support the EXCOM vote to pay no more than \$947.28 towards this veteran's wife's dental bill.**
 - The motion was seconded by Shawn Tallant. After a general discussion, the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent

Post General Business

- **Funding in Support the 253rd MP Company Christmas Basket Program.**
 - DISCUSSION: Met with the new Commander, Captain Morgan Smith, to discuss the units' 2023 Christmas Basket Program which provides food gifts to needy soldiers and their families. I propose that the VFW Post 12135 provide a grant of up to \$500.00 to support the unit's food basket program. The 253rd MP Company Commander will identify members of the unit that qualify for assistance. The funds from the VFW Post 12135 will augment the program.
 - **Motion: The Post approve funding to provide a sum not to exceed \$500.00 to support the 253rd MP Company Christmas Basket Program**
 - The motion was seconded by Larry Schaffer. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**

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 14 October 2023.
- 2. Winter Holiday Social at the Commanders Residence December 7th.
- **New Post 12135 Website:** <https://www.tvvfw.org>

Closing Ceremony

- The Post Chaplain, Clyde Griffin, gave the closing prayer, then Post Commander, Rick Creage led post members in a salute of the American Flag.
- Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, 17 January, 2023 at the Tellico Village Yacht Club
- Meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard T. Creange, Commander

REMINDER: THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NUMBER IS
988
FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES