



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

Meeting Minutes for 21 June 2023

The meeting was held at the Tellico Village Yacht Club.

Guest Speaker: Prior to the start of the official meeting, Post 12135 Member Bruce Blodgett provided a special presentation on Wreaths Across America. Anyone wishing to support this worthwhile cause can visit the link at: <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/pages/164479> or see the additional information attached to these minutes.

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

Roll Call of Officers: In the Post Adjutant's absence, the Post Quartermaster/Jeff Corthell moved that the Roll Call be waived as all officers were present or accounted for. Randy Leyshton seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion was approved unanimously.**

Office	Officer	Status
Commander	Shawn Tallant	P
Senior Vice Commander	Richard Vinnece	P
Junior Vice Commander	Wayne Schroeder	P
Quartermaster	Jeff Corthell	P
Chaplin	Clyde Griffin	P
Judge Advocate (Appointed)	Coleman Lee	E
Surgeon (Appointed)	Rob Reinbold	P
1-Year Trustee	Larry Schaefer	P
2-Year Trustee	Larry Dill	P
3-Year Trustee	Dave Nichols	E
Service Officer (Appointed)	Dan Hall	P
Adjutant (Appointed)	Jay Carroll	P
Sergeant at Arms (Appointed)	Jimmy Johnson	P

	Present	Excused	Absent	Total
Officers	11	2	0	13
Members	22	5	96	122
Total	33	7	96	135

Overall member attendance rate was 24%.

Attendees from District, Department and other guests

There was one guest at the Post meeting:

- Bill Markle, a US Army Veteran attending meeting to get a sense of the Post
- Sean Connors, a US Navy Veteran also attending to get a sense of the Post

Membership Applications:

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

1. Dana Brown – US Army Veteran and new VFW Life member

Report of the Investigating Committee

Adjutant Carroll reported that an investigation/ad hoc meeting was convened and the above-mentioned Veteran was found eligible to be a member of the VFW and Post 12135.

Ballot On Applications

Adjutant Carroll made a motion to accept the veterans as new members of the VFW and Post 12135. Dan Hall seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously without discussion and the applicant was inducted into VFW Post 12135.

Commander's Report - Comments

- Commander Tallant presented the Commander's Report
- **June Closes out our VFW 2022-2023 Program Year!!** Our Post has excelled in every area – especially in taking care of our Veterans! And – our community, our youth, and our own members! Our success is an entire Team effort. Well done to every Post Member!!
- **I hope everyone was able to read the article on our VFW Post in the May Pulse Magazine** – if not you should! It is a superb article highlighting all the great things this Post is doing for veterans, local youth and the greater Village and Loudon communities. As the article emphasizes, this is solely due to the volunteer efforts of our members – again – well done!
- **Well done and thanks to Rich Vinnece for driving the Post's VFW "Day of Service"**. The VFW Post Members approved a motion to support a "Day of Service" with the "Good

Samaritan (Lenior City) and Letter Carriers Annual Can Food Drive” on May 13th. Rich will provide an event summary later on!

- **Well done to Membership Committee (Larry Schaefer, Colie Lee, JJ Johnson, plus Ian Smith and Mike Timmer) for another great Armed Forces Day picnic!**
 - o Great event with over 110 attendees!
 - o Cost was within budget
 - o Presented awards to three deserving Post members, Tom Quinn, Gary Kimball, and Peter Kraslawski and their spouses!
- **Well done to Tony Newton and his “Cemetery Flag Team”** for orchestrating our Memorial Day Cemetery Flag Placement
- **Well done to Wayne Schroeder and his “Buddy Poppy Team”** as we again were visible to our community over the Memorial weekend and at the same time bringing in over \$5500 to further provide Veterans a “hands up”!
- **Well done and thanks to Ed Frandle and Randall Leyshon** who joined me on 13 June at the Village HOA Social where we (again) introduced the VFW Post to Village HOA Members, and provided them with a Flag Folding demonstration!
- **And most recently - Well done to Matt Peery and his “Flag Team”** for orchestrating our 14 June Flag Retirement ceremony!
- **Thanks to all who have volunteered to continue into next year’s Post leadership!!** Installation of the 2023-2024 Post officers will be towards the end of tonight’ business meeting by Past All-American Post Commander, Tony Newton (Thanks Tony!)
 - o **Post Commander** **Rick Creange**
 - o **Senior Vice Commander** **Richard Vinnece**
 - o **Junior Vice Commander** **Shawn Tallant**
 - o **Quartermaster** **Jeff Corthell**
 - o **1st Year Trustee** **Ed Frandle**
 - o **2nd Year Trustee** **Larry Schaefer**
 - o **3rd Year Trustee** **Larry Dill**
- **FYI - The Veterans Park at “Our Place” is being completed** – There will be a dedication ceremony on the 5th of July! Our newly sponsored Sea Cadet Unit will participate with a Flag folding demonstration!
- As always - we will **review the Post calendar, focusing on the next 3-4 months.** Today’s EXCOM discussion should be focused on any resource or support requests for the following:
 - o 15 July - BoatRides 4 Vets – **Mutt Manifold**

- 05 August – VFW Golf Turney – **Rick Creange**
- 1-30 Sep – Nat'l Suicide Awareness Month - YC Flags – **Ed Frandle**
- 19 Sep – MCVRF – **John Lacko**

Adjutant's Report - Reading of the Minutes

Adjutant Carroll 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. Jeff Corthell 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 31 May 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!
- Our fellow Charter Post Member Al Descourourez has moved to assisted living facility in Florida, near his family. We wish him all the best!
- Post member Gary Kimball continues to battle his recent health issues. As an update, Past Post CDR (Shawn) visited Gary on 6/29 and reports he has taken a turn for the better and expects to be home in time for the 4th of July!!
- There were no other reports of families or members in distress.

Report Of All Committees

Relief Committee – Tony Newton, Chairman

- See PPPR for Emergency Funding actions this past month, and a new motion for support under new business.

Post Community Service Effort & Report

- The May 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. For the second year in a row, our VFW Post received the District 2 Community Service Award!
- **The post is looking for a volunteer to assume collecting and submitting this montly report.**

Membership Committee -- Shawn Tallant, Acting Committee Chairman

- The detailed report is available via the committee's monthly PPPR status report
- Post **membership stands at 115%, #28 in Division 8**
- Annual picnic & Membership drive completed
- 110 attendees: 4 potential new members attended; 2 have completed applications

Core Projects – Richard Laverdure, Chairman

- 2022 Core Programs are complete and the Program is stood down – no reports required at this time

Publicity – Post Promotion – Mike Timmer, Chairman

- Working flyers and promotions for:
 - o 15 July - Boat Rides 4 Vets – Mutt Manifold
 - o 05 August – VFW Golf Turney – Rick Creange

Buddy Poppy – Wayne Schroeder, Chairman

- See PPPR
- Next Buddy Poppy event will be in conjunction with Veterran's Day weekend
- Please contact Wayne if you'd like to volunteer

Fundraising – Rich Vinnece

- Next Chick-fil-A event is scheduled for 23 June - Al Porell
- 5 Aug Golf Tourney - Rich Vinnece

Adopt A Military Unit -- Jim Halligan, Project Leader

- See PPPR
- 253rd MP Unit is very appreciative of our support for their summer family picnics (\$800)
- 253rd MP Unit CO will attended our 5/20 picnic

Scout BSA Program – Otto Stutz Project Leader

- NTR

Sea Cadet Program

- See PPPR

Post's Vets in Classroom Program – Vacant

- NTR

Ongoing /Unfinished Business

Post Calendar Completed Events

- 13 May – VFW Post “Day in Service – **Rich Vinnece**

- 20 May – Annual picnic & Membership drive – **Shawn Tallant & MC**
- Memorial Weekend/Day Events:
 - o 5/26-28 – Buddy Poppy – **Wayne Schroeder**
 - o 5/26-6/2 - Memorial Day Cemetery Flag Placement – **Tony Newton**
 - o 5/29 – Memorial Day Celebration @ TV Library – **Shawn Tallant**
- 13 June – Flag folding Demo @ HOA Social – **Shawn**
- 14 June – Flag Retirement Ceremony – **Matt Peery**

Post Calendar On-Going Events

- 23 June – VFW fund raiser at Chick-fil-A - **Al Porell**
- 15 July - BoatRides 4 Vets – **Mutt Manifold**
- 05 August – VFW Golf Turney – **Rick Creange**
- 1-30 Sep – Nat’l Suicide Awareness Month – **Ed Frandle**
- 16 Sep – Infinite Warrior/Suicide Prevention Ride – **Ed Frandle/Mike Timmer**
- 19 Sep – MCVRF – **John Lacko**

New Business

Relief Committee - Veteran Support Motions (Tony Newton)

- Emergency Action Funding Request #1
 - o **Discussion:** In November 2022 the post approved \$750 for a veteran needing a new apartment. The veteran had to leave his apartment due to the building be sold and new owners not accepting Section 8 housing (a recurring theme apparently). The money was to pay for the application fee and 1st months rent. The veteran has been looking all this time for an available apartment and has finally found one. It is the same veteran that I met in at the Section 8 agency in Knoxville last week and paid his \$40 application fee. The apartment is being painted and new rugs being installed. The first months rent (plus application fee) is \$967, \$217 more than was approved in November.
 - o EXCOM approved an additional \$217 for this veteran.
 - o **Motion; That, in support of the veteran in need, Tellico Village VFW Post 12135 approves the EXCOMs emergency action to provide additional funds of \$217 to assist with the emergent rent requirements. This request augments the previously approved \$750 – with the Post’s support now totaling \$967.**
 - o The motion was seconded by Larry Dill. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**
- Emergency Action Funding Request #2

- Discussion: Relief committee received a call from Lost Vets Rescue about a veteran who needs assistance in paying his rent which is due NLT Friday June 16, 2023. Veteran lives with his wife and 3 small children in Knoxville. He is combat disabled due to IED incident. For nine years he was a diesel mechanic and was fired due to seizures he was having on the job. He is working with the Knoxville VSO and the VA to have his disability pension increased. His wife works and the vet is interviewing for jobs in the diesel repair field. The request for assistance is for \$1565.76.
- EXCOM approved emergency funds in the amount of \$1565.76 for this veteran.
- **Motion; That, in support of the veteran in need, Tellico Village VFW Post 12135 approves the EXCOMs emergency action to provide additional funds of \$1565.76 to provide this veteran with a “hands up” assist with his emergent rent requirements.**
- The motion was seconded by Dave Crowder. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**

VFW Post 12135 support of for the 2023 BoatRide4Vets - (Mutt Manifold)

- Discussion – Saturday, July 15 from 9:00AM – 3:00PM, VFW Post 12135 will host the 9th Annual Boat Rides for Vets at the Wind River Marina. This event is sponsored by VFW Post 12135 (based out of Tellico Village Yacht Club). Active Military and Veterans, along with their families are invited to enjoy a free day cruising, tubing and fishing on Tellico and Ft. Loudon Lakes. Wind River Marina will be (again) the boarding and departure point for all boats.
- The 2023 Boat Ride for Vets scheduled for 15 July at the WindRiver Marina
- See Note sent to Post Members looking for boats and volunteers
- **Please contact Matt "Mutt" Manifold at (520) 444-9333 or muttf16@gmail.com if you can help support this event!**

Post 12135 Annual Golf Tournament and Fund Raiser - (Ed Frandle and Team)

- Scheduled for 5 August at the Toqua golf course
- Golf signup list opens up on 26 June – last year all slots were filled in 3 days!

VFW Post 12135 – Infinite Warrior/Suicide Prevention Ride - (Mike Timmer/Ed Frandle)

- Discussion: VFW Post support of the “Infinite Warrior/Suicide Prevention Ride” planned for 16 Sept 2023.
- EXCOM has concurred with initial concept/awaiting details
- No motion at this time. More details at the June-July Post Meeting

Multi-County Veteran Resource Fair, 19 September (John Lacko)

- John Lack led a brief discussion of the event's history provided an update on the 2023 Multi-County Veteran Resource Fair
- **Motion; That, in support of the 2023 Multi-County Veteran Resource Fair, Tellico Village VFW Post 12135 approves to provide funds NTE \$500 to assist with event administrative requirements.**
- The motion was seconded by Rich Vinnece. The motion was seconded by Dave Crowder. After a general discussion, the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.

- 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 8 July.
- Currently we do not have a fall social organized (last year was a trip to the Medal of Honor Museum in Chattanooga, TN.). Unless a fall social trip is organized - our next Post Social Event will be as part of our annual Veterans Day Commemoration scheduled for 11 Nov, 2023. Flyers and invitations will be promulgated in advance!!
- Rich Vinnece reminded the post about the Vietnam Era Service Pin and Certificate. Please contact Rich if you served during this period and would like to receive yours.
- **New Post 12135 Website:** <https://www.tvvfw.org>

Installation of the 2023-2024 Post Officers

Post Commander Shawn Tallant - Out Going Post Commander Comments:

First – let me simply state it has been an absolute honor to be your VFW Post CDR for the past two years. I’ve been proud of many things over my life – I’ve had the privilege to defend our Country for close to 30 years, serving in naval aviation and surface commands. I’ve had the privilege to be a senior executive in the aerospace industry. Plus – I’ve had the opportunity to serve in an executive position as part of several 501(c)3 organizations. Seeing what this VFW Post accomplished as I stood alongside each of you veterans & warriors makes me equally proud! As the VFW sez: We are veterans “Still Serving”!

- So – let me say thank you this year’s VFW Post Officers who worked for our Post the entire past year – attending every EXCOM & Post meeting and often wearing multiple hats! Please accept my personal “Well Done & thanks” for everything you did this past year! As “the 16 Post’s” Knights of this Round Table, you’ve stepped up to the plate and ably steered this Post throughout the year!

Elected Officers	Member
Senior Vice CDR	Richard Vinnece
Junior Vice CDR	Wayne Schroeder
Quartermaster	Jeff Corthell
Chaplin	Clyde Griffin
1-Year Trustee	Larry Schaefer
2-Year Trustee	Larry Dill
3-Year Trustee	Dave Nichols

Appointed Officers	Member
Service Officer (A)	Dan Hall
Judge Advocate (A)	Coleman Lee
Surgeon (A)	Rob Reinbold
Adjutant (A)	Jay Carroll
Sgt at Arms (A)	Jimmy Johnson
Key Committee & Programs	Member
Relief	Tony Newton
Membership	Tallant (Acting)
Fundraising	Richard Vinnece
Buddy Poppy	Wayne Schroeder
Post Promotion	Mike Timmer
Adopt-a-Unit	Jim Halligan
Scout BSA	Jim "Otto"Stutz

I want to say a special thanks to one of our younger members – Ian Smith!! For the past year Ian has worked behind the scenes as the guy really making our Post’s awards program stay on the rails – VoM, QoV, & GH! As he receives the nominated names, Ian is the member who coordinated the interview and then wrote and submitted the VoM article, submitted the QoV application, and then ordered/picked up the Post’s GH awards. What you may not know is Ian brought us the GH award concept, and wrote the original award citation. Ian has asked to step down from the VoM and QoV administrative program (he’ll keep the GH award role) for some dubious rationale like he’s working full time and now has taken on a significant role with the BSA (and his son)!.. Ian – I just wanted to personally say thanks for making this Post better at recognizing our own!

And – finally – I’d like to say “thank you” to every Post member. I’m proud that our Post has doubled in size over the past two years – but I’m so much prouder of what we’ve accomplished. I can’t tell you the number of times I’ve started a conversation with.. “let me tell you about our VFW Post”!! It is eyewatering to see where so many of you have repeatedly stepped up as volunteers to “pay it forward” to assist our local veterans, local youth and greater community at large. I opened today’s meeting commenting on the article in the May “Pulse” magazine – what a great testimate to what each of you have accomplished!

Special Ceremony – Installation of 2023-2024 VFW Post 12135 Officers

Installation Officer; Past All American Post 12135 Commander, Tony Newton”presided over the installation of the newly elected officers.

- Post Commander Rick Creange
- Senior Vice Commander Richard Vinnece
- Junior Vice Commander Shawn Tallant
- Quartermaster Jeff Corthell
- 1st Year Trustee Ed Frandle
- 2nd Year Trustee Larry Schaefer
- 3rd Year Trustee Larry Dill

Incoming Post CDR Opening Comments:

CDR Creange provided brief remarks as he assumed the role post commander.

- **Formal appointment of new Post Officers;** As the incoming 2023-2024 VFW Post 12135 CDR, I have appointed the following as 2023-2024 VFW Post “Appointed” EXCOM Officers as of 1 July 2023. A formal notice of appointment will be promulgated:
 - Judge Advocate Coleman (Colie) Lee
 - Service Officer Dan Hall
 - Surgeon Bruce Blodget
 - Adjutant Jay Carroll
 - Sgt at Arms Jimmy Johnson
 - Chaplin Clyde Griffin
- **VFW Post 12135 Key Committee & Program Leads;** I will be reaching out to existing committee members to confirm their intent to serve into next year. My goal is to send a Post notice out formally appointing all appointed and committee positions.
- **2023-2024 VFW Post 12135 Calendar;** I will be completing a proposed 2023-2024 calendar and bringing it to the July EXCOM/Post meeting to obtain Membership approval.
 - With your approval, your 2023-2024 EXCOM and all members will have an event calendar to plan around.
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Closing Ceremony

- The Post Chaplain, Clyde Griffin, gave the closing prayer, then the new Post Commander, Rick Creage led post members in a salute of the American Flag.
- Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, 19 July, 2023 at the Tellico Village Yacht Club
- Meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay A. Carroll, Adjutant

REMINDER: THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NUMBER IS

988

FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES