



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

Meeting Minutes for November 15, 2023

The meeting was held at the Tellico Village Yacht Club.

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 Chaplain Clyde Griffin giving the opening prayer. Post CDR Tallant led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Officers: The Post Adjutant, Jay Carroll moved that the Roll Call be waived as all officers were present or accounted for. ????? seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Motion was approved unanimously.

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

	Present	Excused	Absent	Total
Officers	8	5	0	13
Members	19	?	96	129
Total	27	?	96	142

Overall member attendance rate was 19%.

Attendees from District, Department and other guests

There was one guest at the Post meeting:

- Ed Loewen, a US Army Veteran and VFW Member at Large with service in SW Asia and Korea, attended meeting 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. James Stephenson – US Navy Post Gulf War Era Veteran
2. Ritchie Grethey – US Navy (Seabee) Vietnam Veteran, A Life Member transferred from Post 454 in Wilmington, IL

Report of the Investigating Committee

Jr. Vice Commander/Membership Committee Chairman Tallant reported that an investigation/ad hoc meeting was convened and the above-mentioned Veterans were found eligible to be a member of the VFW and Post 12135.

Ballot On Applications

Jr. Vice Commander/Membership Committee Chairman Tallant made a motion to accept the veterans as new members of the VFW and Post 12135. David Crowden seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously without discussion and the applicants were inducted into VFW Post 12135.

Commander's Report - Comments

- Commander Creange presented the Commander's Report
- **It's been a whirlwind few months**
- **Al and Wayne, as always are leading the Chick-Fil-A and Buddy Poppy Campaigns Well Done!**
- **Our Veteran's Day Celebration was a Huge Success!** Thanks to everyone who planned and executed the event!
- **Even though we were given a difficult obstacle to overcome with the VOD and PP and TOY programs due to the stepping down of the committee chair in the middle of the program, we pulled it off.** I was able to get into several schools and got 6 PP and 7 VoD

submissions. We also selected a TOY. A few of us, to include my wife, a veteran retired teacher, graded all the submission and they have bee submitted to district. We should be in a good place now for All State and All American.

- **District 2 Meeting:** The post once again recognized for being first in membership and community service. Gun raffle.
- **Daniel Campbell has stepped up to to replace Jay Carroll as the Post Adjutant.** Jay and Dan will transition over the next few weeks.
- **Finally, I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our Post Holiday Party at my residence.** The date is set for December 7th, 1800.
- **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

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. David 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 31 October 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 Tony Newton and Bob Provert.
- Although Tony is now at home, he will need assistance getting to his appointments. If you are able to assist, please sign up after the meeting.
- 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 October 2023 report was completed and uploaded to VFW HQ

Membership Committee -- Shawn Tallant, Acting Committee Chairman

- The detailed report is available via the committee's monthly PPPR status report
- Recruiting is going strong. Inducted 9 new members since the new program year.
- Retention is at 100%

Core Projects – Mike Thornton, Chairman

- Status summarized in Commander's comments.

Publicity – Post Promotion – Mike Timmer, Chairman

- Great job with Veterans Day Celebration

Buddy Poppy – Wayne Schroeder, Chairman

- See PPPR
- The Buddy Poppy event in conjunction with Veteran's Day weekend was successful. Total Collected is in the QuarterMaster's Report, \$5702.08.

Fundraising – Rich Vinnece

- Next Chick-fil-A events are scheduled for 22 March, 21 June and 20 September - Al Porell

Adopt A Military Unit -- Jim Halligan, Project Leader

- See PPPR
- \$500 Dollars authorized at last meeting. Decision was made to give 7 families \$50 gift certificates for the Christmas basket program for a total of \$350.

Scout BSA Program – Otto Stutz Project Leader

- NTR

Sea Cadet Program

- See PPPR
- Did a tremendous job at the Veteran's Day Celebration

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.
- NTR

Report of Projects

Clothing Drive (John Lacko)

- Held October 9 – October 21, 2023
- Tally: 142 bags of clothing; 26 Coats; 10 pairs of boots
- Receiving Organizations: Beauty for Ashes, Steps House, Lost Vets Rescue, Karms, and Greg Richmond (Tellico Village resident who brings clothes to homeless in Loudon County)

Veteran's Day Celebration (Shawn Tallant)

- Incredible Event
- Reported that the Mayor of Loudon commented that was best he has seen.
- Vice commander Tallant lauded the superior performance of the Sea Cadets in their performance of Color Guard and Flag Folding Presentation.
- The incredible number of Vietnam Veterans present and receiving pins was a very welcome surprise.
- Presentation of Korean Ambassador Medals was a very heartfelt celebration of their service
- Presentation by the Quilts of Valor group was also very heartfelt.

Ongoing /Unfinished Business

Post Calendar Completed Events

- Fall Clothing Drive – **John Lacko**
- Veteran's Day Celebration
- Fall Buddy Poppy Campaign

Post Calendar On-Going Events

External

- 19 November – Bonnyman Gravside Ceremony
- 7 December – Post Holiday Party – **Post Commander**

Internal

- Sep thru Oct – Core Project Info Dissemination (Complete)
- 15 Oct – Calendar Year Admin Request for Budgets
- 15 Nov – Core Project Entry due at District
- 15 Nov – Scout of the Year Nominations
- 30 Nov – Calendar year budget inputs due

New Business

Relief Committee - Veteran Support Motions (Tony Newton)

- Emergency Action Funding Request #1
 - **Discussion:** John has confirmed through Lost Vets rescue that these veterans are in valid need of support. The goal, is to get them off the street for the next week and bridge the gap until further support from Lost vets is available (see below). My understanding is that they have the location of one veteran and they are trying to locate the other. Estimated hotel cost is 91.49 per night. The emergency action request is to provide the cost of a hotel for up to 10 days for each veteran to ensure we cover the gap. The request is for the EXCOM to approve the expenditure of up to \$1000.00 for each veteran to pay for up to 10 nights of hotel accommodations for a total of \$2000.00. It is understood that the second \$1000.00 would not be expended until the second veteran is located by Lost Vets
 - **Motion; That, in support of the veteran in need, Tellico Village VFW Post 12135 approves the EXCOMs emergency action decision for the release of funds NTE \$1000 per veteran (\$2000 total), with the second veteran's funds for \$1000 to be held until Lost Vets relocates him.**
 - The motion was seconded by James Stutz. After a general discussion, the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.
- Emergency Action Funding Request #2
 - Discussion: Relief committee was contacted to assist a veteran who needed help with his rent, two months at 402 for a total of 804 and past due phone bill of 106.79. The need was verified by the relief committee as valid and meeting the intent of the posts policy on providing support.
 - **Motion; That, in support of the veteran in need, Tellico Village VFW Post 12135 authorize funds in the amount of \$804 for two months rent and \$106.79 for the past due phone bill. Phone bill funding is to reimburse John Lacko.**
 - After a general discussion, the motion was amended to waive the "One and Done" policy in case the veteran is in further need of continued support until benefits have been processed.
 - The motion was seconded by David Crowden and 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 are on 11 November and 8 December.
- **Winter Holiday Social at the Commader's Residence December 7.**

Closing Ceremony

- The Chaplain, Clyde 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, January 17, 2024 at the Tellico Village Yacht Club
- Meeting was adjourned at 2050 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel J. Campbell, Adjutant

REMINDER: THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NUMBER IS

988

FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES