

6th District
Fall Conference
October 28, 2007
09:00

Call to order 09:10
Roll Call

Betty Ott Auxiliary-greetings
Special Guest Speaker: Susan Arndt Navy Combat Construction
Talked about the conditions in Iraq December 2005-, and the challenges of being a female in a combat zone

Approval of minutes from previous meeting.

- Stan Jezeski- Roy Helms
- All in favor
- Call for minutes to be straightened out
- Discussion about spring conference vs. DEC meeting minutes
- Minutes amended based on discussion,
- Motion made to reflect that the spring conference minutes were not available
 - Send out minutes to posts and county councils
 -

Commander's report

- Insurance does not have anything to do with veteran's benefits-disregard the notice
- Must have State or National HQ approval for any American Legion emblems, titles etc. this is also applicable to the Auxiliary and the SAL
- Moving wall scheduled to come to the 6th District October 8th through the 13th 2008. Supposed to set it up in Princeton. Fond du Lac will act as a backup. VFW leading from Princeton.

Vice Commander-East

- Property tax credit
- Wisconsin GI Bill
 - Budget signed into law on
- Memberships are coming in
- 6th District is fourth in the state
 - Calumet County is first in the district

Vice Commander Central

- 40/8 round-up yesterday-70 memberships
 - Three posts in Winnebago County
- Commander Kurtz had over 800 memberships

Approval of minutes- Marcus Oksa

- Motion made to approve minutes by Stan Jezeski 2nd by
 - Discussion
 - Motion carried

Chaplain's report

- April 1 is deceased member list deadline
- Wheelchair repair
 - Electric, power chairs, etc.
 - If you know of any chairs please contact Stan
 - **Dauphin street Green Bay, get address from Stan**

Judge Advocate report

- If your constitution and by-laws are altered, please forward a copy to Chris Cerney

Historian

- Calls Bill Stiefvater-presented a book and cd for the past two years of command
- Get a picture of each legion post to Loretta

SGT at Arms- No Report

Service Officer report

- GI Bill extended for families of veterans
- Property tax credits 100% for veterans who qualify with 5 years as a resident of the State of Wisconsin
- Returning veterans are encouraged to file claims especially for joint dysfunction, PTSD, MTBI

- Contact federal representatives to support veterans benefits proposal

County Council Reports

- Calumet County-Dan Dahl
 - Membership going well
 - Congratulation to Brillion 10-23-07 100%
 - Dedicated veteran's memorial
 - County bowling tourney
 - Birthday banquet march
 - Notify department by Nov. 30
 - Letters sent to high school county youth government
 - Lloyd Haberman
 Work will commence in spring for memorial (need post name)
- Fond du Lac County-Vern Farley
 - Membership 75.49%
 - Brandon-Fairwater, North Fond du Lac
 - Waupun person has a handy-capped van with ramps, wants to donate it-contact Stan, he would be happy to receive it
 - Bob addresses troubled posts
 - Inactive posts need to be revitalized or closed
 - There will be further discussion at Mid-winter conference
- Green Lake County-Greg Polly
 - Thank you for the participation
 - New people on the county council
- Marquette County-Bob Krause
 - Second place in membership
 - High-Montello and Briggsville
 - Seeking new county commander
- Manitowoc County-Jon Jindra
 - Would like 100% by January so we do not have to pay the increase to the State
 - Annual Veteran's Day banquet November 10
 - YG Day April 16th
 - County Council time changes 7PM 2nd Thursday for September, March, April and May
 - Patricia (Jane) Babcock new CVSO
- Winnebago County-Rosemarie Pitts
 - Omro has not received first or second notices from National (resolved)
 - Dedication of Memorial on Memorial Day for Neenah, Menasha and Omro
 - YG Day October 30
 - Lost CVSO

District Committee Chair reports

- Americanism-Lloyd Haberman
 - Commanders get to the schools to implement the programs
 - Letters of application for Outstanding Legionnaires sent back to District commander by November 1
 - Contact David Kurtz to see if he will be the principal speaker
 - We need a date set-should be the closest Saturday to George Washington's Birthday
- Americanism and Government Test Program- Bob Wipf
 - State AAG program
 - Declining numbers state-wide
 - Only 4 schools have tests in the 6th district
 - Must go face-to-face to make sure the materials are there
 - Bob needs help on Monday to take the materials to the schools
 - Test can be proctored at the post, need to identify students through the school
- Athletic Activity-Ed Ott
 - Color guard at the last all-star game
- Blood Donor Program-no report
- Camp American Legion-Gladys Hritsko
 - Will get a report in the newsletter
- Children and Youth-Jerry Opperman

- Has not heard from state in over a year
- Poster coloring contest for grade schools
- Membership Program-Roy Helms
 - 4th place at 78%
 - Many posts over 90%
 - Awards programs
 - “Nobody ever asked” is the number one reason members do not join
 - Moving wall to Oshkosh 4/30-5/5 2008 and tributes to all other wars
 - Gold Medal given to Fond du Lac post
- Oratorical-Jon Jindra
 - End of January, should be on the 27th
 - Has not received a response from state
 - Fond du Lac, or any centrally located
 - What is the liability for participants if they are injured in route
 - Judge Advocate?
 - Participants should be escorted
 - Make sure correct pamphlet is given to the schools
- POW/MIA-Vern Farley
 - Look at Badger Legionnaire for information
- Public Relations-Harley
 - Recruiting
 - Omro office has newspaper in the building
 - We need to get into the schools and get a relationship with the key people
 - Badger Legionnaire is now Online www.wilegion.org
- Public Safety-Mike Pemberton-excused
- SAL-Anthony Soda-excused
- Legislative-Delbert Schmidt-excused
- American Legion Riders-Roy Helms
 - Thank you to the district for support
 - Two national events
 - Res 35- adopted ALR as an official organization of the American Legion

Awards:

- Post 329 commander called
- All-time high post membership award for 5 years
- Operation Landstuhl award to the 6th District

Bob Wipf-Communications officer

- Web site presentation

Afternoon session:

Roll Call

Department Commander David Kurtz

- Think forward, look forward, move forward
- Care and rehabilitation of our comrades
- Date for Americanism Banquette
- Value of membership versus the cost of membership
 - Passing along values
 - Communicate the value to the post members
 - At all levels
 - Tell the community what we do
 - Thank you for the support and congratulations for the 100%

Bob Krause-

- Legion emblem and name cannot be used on items for sale without permission
- Bob Wipf called to clarify and define the cost for the motion to create website

- Motion: Marshall Kottke, Jerry Opperman
 - Marshall questions how the post will be compatible A: Bob Wipf: The site is for the District not the post, the post or county can send information to
 - Brillion post haws a website for 1/3 the cost for the year Q: how much research was done? A: BW, extensive research has been done. The attraction is that the content is controlled by us, and there is no hidden or additional costs
 - Is there a size limit? A: there is, but it is not likely that we will use that much at a district level
 - Mirca would like to see the comparison of this site to others, how many people had the opportunity to observe or share the research
 - Can each post have their site run through this site? A: No, this is for district and county
 - Will the district be recommending this same Legion Sites to the posts? A: BW No. The district will not make that decision.
 - Who can load information? A: BW the district will have limited administrators.
 - Show of hands vote 8 opposed, those in favor have the vote by a large margin.

- Spring Conference
 - Chilton with Valders assisting. Last Sunday in April Motion by Mirca, Harley seconds

- Saturday, February 23 Americanism at Fond du Lac post 75.
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- For the good of the legion:
 - Marshall Kottke, why is our fiscal year different for the membership, elections, and finances versus the calendar? A: David Kurtz: If your card says 2007 nit is no longer any good as of 00:01 on January 1. The reason for the membership cards coming out earlier than the 1/1 date is unknown, but could be many reasons. A good veteran renews by veteran's day.
 - Jim Romnick- \$22.00 goes to department now. On 1/1/08 \$25.00 will go to department per membership.
 - Membership dues increases should be in July, not in January
 - Make a Sixth district resolution to change the dues increase dates to be in alignment with the dues fiscal year. Brillion will prepare resolution.
 - Motion made by Brillion
 - Show of hands
 - What is our money spent on? It is part of the budget and makes up a portion of about 20% of the total operating budget. Fundraising has declined, so dues had to be increased.

Adjourned 14:09