

The Fighting Sixth

Manitowoc
Calumet
Winnebago



Fond du Lac
Green Lake
Marquette

Sixth District Department of Wisconsin The American Legion

Minutes of the September 10, 2008 DEC Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Commander Robert Krause at Post 75 in Fond du Lac.

A roll call of the Executive Committee was conducted. Sergeant at Arms Jerry Opperman and Immediate Past District Commander Bill Stiefvater were absent. Calumet County Commander Ron Schneider, Manitowoc County Commander Jon Jindra, and Fond Du Lac County Jerry Krebsach were absent. There currently is no District Service Officer.

Minutes of the spring 2008 District conference were discussed. Jim Romenek made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Chris Cerney Second. It was pointed out by Rosemarie that her name is one word not two. Motion Carried.

Green Lake County Commander Polly reported County Veterans Day needs a person appointed.

Marquette County Commander Bailey had nothing to report.

Winnebago County Commander Pitz reported posts are running as normal. 28 October will be their County Government Day they will be trying a mock trial this year.

Vice Commander Zietlow reported they are working on a program to document the chain of command. Need emails for all post. His County Commanders are not here because they do not feel it is their job to attend these meetings.

Vice Commander Romnek reminded us to place the flags at half staff tomorrow.

Vice Commander Barke went to New Officer Training on August 9. October 4 there will be membership training in Portage. Be sure you hat and nametags are the same color. The Service Officer in Milwaukee can help with any rejected claims. He was given a manual with eight sections. Temporary Financial Assistance can be given under the Children and Youth Program. Claims are processed by state and checks are awarded by National. Everyone should carry blank membership applications. All Post Officers should be bonded. Jim Romnek said only the finance officer should be bonded. Chris Cerney said it costs a lot of money to bond and if your post doesn't have much how do you pay for it? You should be showing the financial bank statement each meeting. You should be swearing your officers in each year. Rifles belong to the State and must be locked in a safe. The eyeglass program the Legion has is the best out there. The District Commander or the Vice Commanders should be visiting each post each year. Every Post should attend the DEC meetings. We have a post cannibalizing members from other weaker posts. Should this be done? There is a post in Green Lake County doing this. If a member indicates he wants to move it is ok. If it is an attempt to increase members as Princeton is soliciting from other posts the County Commander should step in and say something.

The DEC approved the members of the Americanism Banquet committee of Dan Bailey, Greg Polly, Roy Helms, and Fred Barke. Hall is reserved for 14 Feb 2009. Menu is not set up yet. After discussion on the date it will be changed to 21 Feb 2009. The State Commander's schedule will be checked so he can attend. The Commander will question Headquarters on his availability.

Old Business

1. Fall Conference, 26 October, Host Post 351 in Ripon at CJ's, 9am. Invites have been sent out. Conference cost \$16.50 menu is listed on the invite. They were advised to make sure the cost of coffee is covered last time they were charged extra.
2. Department Conference notes were passed out as well as posted on the web.
3. National Convention no report.
4. Post election reports still needed by the following posts. Fond Du Lac County Council, Post 75, Post 156, Post 210, Post 222, Post 378, Manitowoc County Council Adjutant, Post 88, Post 165, Post 199, Marquette County Council Adjutant, Post 244, Post 329, and Post 423. You need to get a copy of you reports to the 6th District Adjutant ASAP.
5. District Assessment still needed from the following Post 156, Post 222, Post 244 and the following posts I do not show any record of them paying 2007 assessment Post 378 and Post 329. Please get thest to the 6th District Finance Officer ASAP.
6. Communication Officers are needed from each post. Our web site is getting more hits from the Auxiliary than us.
7. If you have articles requests for the Legionnaire one was on FEMA working to help was never submitted but was in the Adjutants notes. Vice Commander East will check on picture and article.
8. We only had 68 hits since the first of the year on the website are we getting our money's worth? We need to get the County Commanders to visit and get them to promote the posts to use.

New Business

1. Set up online access and a savings account to get interest. This should be an administrative decision by the finance officer no further discussion.
2. Dues increase or some way of generating more money is needed. There is enough money for this year till State Convention. If the number of members do not change in the post and the expenses estimated are fairly accurate the following year we will be short \$661 and the year after and all following years short \$1328. We need to do something. Do we do a dues increase of \$0.05, fundraise someway, or go back to a raffle. The only Post wanting a raffle would be Valders. We just need to raise dues and be done with it. What about a 50/50 raffle at all meetings? The finance officer will crunch some numbers and get back at the Fall Conference. A suggestion was to raise dues \$0.10 this year and another \$0.10 next year. There was a lot of grumbling at this meeting about a dues increase and would like to see some sort of fundraiser. What about an District Auction Stan suggested. What if we ask for the \$0.10 increase in a letter comparing it to the dues other organizations pay? This increase will only impact the posts not the members. What if we voluntary ask members to donate money? What if we solicit for donations. Use the website asking for donations? Baseball tournament? Spring Conference we will need to propose how we will increase funds and make a decision by the Spring DEC. At the Fall Conference we will ask for suggestions.
3. Storage of files we will be scanning and putting on a cd and store in a library with a fireproof safe. Old Post Officer reports we do not care about but the minutes need to be done. Should start scanning minutes and when done ask for more. Vice Commander Zietlow motioned to throw out old officer reports and second my Marquette County Commander. Motion Carried.
4. Voting accuracy problems, more people are voting than delegates do we need to go to paper ballots? Paddles should only be given to the delegates so it designates who can vote.
5. Rotation for bids for Central Post 75 will bid at the Fall Conference for the Spring Conference. It was noted we are out of order. Should go East, Central, West so East should do Spring 2010, Central Spring 2009 and West Fall 2009.

6. The Taps program has ended. This was a private organization running the program and has been tabled at this time. This was never a Legion program. The Organization doing the program is not able to handle the cost. It was mentioned that the Legion is not doing justice to their own programs and the Americanism committee should not take this on.
7. Flag Stand replacement we need something lighter. We can get this done for \$48. Harland Zietlow made a motion to replace and second by Chris Cerney. In discussion it was decided we could take it out of the admin supply money and motion rescinded.
8. CD to promote American Legion will cost \$60 and the Commander will pay. The Commander has a list of people to be on. Can we advertise? Public TV can have underwriters which states funding for this program provided by _____. There are about 20 stations for this to air. We should format one for the 6th district and one for the general public. Benefits as to why you should join. Can we get a distribution list of who might pay. Most stations are not manned so if we want it to play we will need a player. The Commander will come over to Ormo to work more on it.
9. Copy costs the Adjutant can save money by making copies at home. Motion made to pay for half the cost of the cartridge and a case of paper. By Harland Zietlow and second by Chris Cerney. Motion carried.
10. Jim Rominek got a phone call from a past County Commander who was relieved in May after elections. The Department Bylaws states Elections and installation of officers shall be between June ^{1st} and September 2^{0th} of each year. State Bylaws take precedent over County and need to be brought up at the Convention look for article number.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was motioned to adjourn by Fred Barke and seconded by Harlen Zietlow. Motion carried and adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Respectively submitted by Barbara Belmont 6th District Adjutant/Finance Officer