

AMERICAN LEGION POST 318

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

November 29, 2017 (Approval Pending)

The Executive Committee Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 PM at Post 318, by Commander Don Bishop.

Matters addressed at the Executive Committee were:

ROLL CALL OF POST OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Adjutant Dan Wolfangel conducted roll call. Present were: Post Officers: Commander Don Bishop; Adjutant Dan Wolfangel; Finance Officer Ron Yersky; Chaplain Jerry Porter; Service Officer Charles Cleves; and Committee Chairs Randy Lindsey (Americanism); Ed Sears (Bingo) and Bob Alfieri (House).

Absent with advance notice were: 1st Vice Commander Bob Kamman; 2nd Vice Commander Matt Lilly; SAA Ralph Caskey; and Committee Chair Ken Knight (Fund-Raising). Absent was Committee Chair Doug Rogers (Community Support) and Jimmy Bussey (Event Coordination)

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Adjutant Wolfangel, noted that the E.C. Meeting Minutes from the October 25, 2017 meeting had been reduced to print and previously distributed to E.C. members, and have also been posted in E.C. Minutes binder in clubroom. They have also been submitted for inclusion on Post web-site. ***A motion (Dan Wolfangel) to accept the meeting's minutes, as printed, was seconded (Bob Alfieri), and was passed unanimously to accept said minutes as printed.***

POST EVENT CALENDAR REVIEW:

Commander Bishop reminded that all should have the on-line calendar for December 2017 and January 2018 updated for upcoming activities in their respective area of responsibility. .

CORRESPONDENCE / ADJUTANT ITEMS:

Adjutant Wolfangel noted the following items:

Correspondence Received:

- Gulf War Memorial (Cumberland, MD) Solicitation: No funds allocated / No action taken.
- People Working Cooperative Solicitation: No funds allocated / No action taken.
- Memorial Day Foundation – Holiday Wreath Program: Noted \$25 allocated within Charities, Inc (C.I.) approved budget for this request. ***E.C. approved \$25 distribution.*** Adjutant to notify C.I. Treasurer.
- Copy of "Hamilton County Veterans Day Parade Program w/Post 318 Advertisement: For file.
- Acknowledgment from Joseph House for of \$100 Donation: Posted on BB.
- Appreciation Letter from Parkside Christian Church for Post 318 "Salute to Veterans Program" Participation: Posted on BB.
- Request for Confirmation for Participation in Local 12 Weather Watch System: Given to Ed Sears for follow-up.
- Registration Information for Dept. of Ohio Mid-Winter Conference – January 19 – 21, 2018, (Columbus, OH): Commander Bishop advised he could not attend, but advised if anyone was interested in attending, to contact him.
- Notice of "Survivors of Suicide" Memorial Service at VAMC – December 5, 2017 – 10 AM: Posted on BB.
- Info on Ohio Senator Wilson's "Veteran Honor Program: Discussion was had regarding our participation through submitting names of deceased Post 318 veterans. ***Chaplain Jerry Porter agreed to submit our four 2017 deceased members (Steve Justice / Frank Kamman / John Previty / Ralph Sinks).***
- Military Veterans Resource Center Solicitation for Donations for Veterans Food Pantry: Following discussion, ***motion made (Don Bishop) to request C.I. to contribute \$25 from the Veterans Account – Undefined Expenses line item. Motion seconded (Jerry Porter), and passed unanimously.***

BUDGET REPORT / FINANCE ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Finance Officer Ron Yersky provided E.C. with copies of a line item budget (Revenue / Expense Actuals) update through October, with copy for Adjutant to file with November E.C. Minutes, and indicated the Operating Account and Capital Projects was in fairly good shape with balances of \$9,922 in Operating Account and just over \$4,454 in Savings/Capital Projects Account. He noted that he just received Bingo check for \$1,200. He noted that there were known expenses for next month of about \$5,400, and are expected to total near \$7,000, however, if the scheduled December dance events are successful, we should be in good shape, and may be able to make a transfer of funds from Operating to Capital/Savings next month.

Finance Officer Yersky reported on his review of a contract proposal from Harbortouch Credit Card Processing. Following discussion, it was determined by E.C. that cost of proposal exceeded Post's benefits, and ***upon motion (Don Bishop) to decline the proposal, second (Ed Sears), E.C. voted unanimously in favor of motion. Yersky is to notify Harbortouch of our declining the proposal.*** Ed Sears suggested we possibly look in purchasing some sort of a pad device, that would support a "square system" similar to the method that was being utilized by Event Coordination Chair Bussey through his personal cell phone. ***Yersky was requested to explore this as a possible solution for the Post to continue to process credit cards, and to report findings back at next E.C. Meeting.***

OPEN ISSUES / OLD BUSINESS: Commander Bishop commented on, led discussions, or updated status regarding following items.

- 1) **Kneeling for National Anthem Issue:** Commander Bishop raised question as to whether we should send advance notice to local schools of our position / policy regarding our Post color guard not appearing or participating in any event or activity where the American Flag or National Anthem was being disrespected. ***Upon motion (Dan Wolfangel) to send such notice to all schools that have requested that we provide color guard service to. The motion was seconded (Ron Yersky), and passed unanimously.*** Commander Bishop will prepare and distribute advance notice.
- 2) **Membership Support and Participation:** Commander Bishop presented a plan for getting more members engaged in Post activities, which included:
 - Reaching out to select members with a letter and task interest survey. ***E.C. approved Commander Bishop sending out the sample letter and survey he prepared.***
 - Actively engaging new members, of which we have eleven, through invitations to Post activities and events. (It was suggested that we might invite to a "New Members Reception" which could be combined with our Orientation Session. Bishop indicated he would discuss with Bob Kamman).
 - Changing methods for engaging, such as personal emails or telephone calls.
 - All be thinking of additional ways to get both old and new members involved / engaged.
- 3) **Party on The Plaza Proposal:** Bishop noted his previous proposal of contacting AACC regarding possibly utilizing the Patriot Center as a backup location in event of weather situations associated with Party On the Plaza band events, is not feasible, as AACC does not enter into any "guaranteed compensation" contracts with bands utilized. They don't play, there is no cost.
- 3) **Post Policies Regarding "Post 318 Clubroom / Patriot Center Utilization":** Adjutant Wolfangel led the discussion, and made reference to the two draft policies that had been sent to all E.C. members. Following discussion, ***a motion was made (Ron Yersky) to accept both the "Post Clubroom Utilization Policy" and the "Patriot Center and Kitchen Utilization Policy" as drafted. Motion seconded (Randy Lindsey), and passed unanimously,*** Wolfangel advised final versions of policies would be placed in appropriate binder in clubroom, and distributed to all members of the E.C.
- 4) **Offer of Donation of Two Grave Sites:** Adjutant Wolfangel updated E.C. on his discussion with Chuck Bowman (current owner of the two sites), and Graceland Memorial Cemetery (Milford, OH), relative to the offer of the donation to Post 318 of the two sites in exchange for a donation acknowledgment letter. The only cost to Post would be a \$95 ownership transfer fee. Following discussion, ***motion was made (Don Bishop) to accept the ownership of the the two burial plots, in exchange for requested donation letter, with \$95 fee being drawn from C.I. Funds. Motion was seconded (Bob Alfieri), and passed unanimously.*** Wolfangel will continue to follow process.

Service Officer Charlie Cleves commented on various V.A. Benefits available in death of a veteran.

- 5) Reference / Resource Links Added to Post Web-site: Adjutant Wolfangel noted that at August 30, 2017 E.C. Meeting, E.C. voted to add four reference / resource web-site links to the Post web-site. Subsequently, there appeared to be second thoughts due to the commercial nature of these links, thus action has not been taken on this as yet. Commander Bishop noted that he was now recommending that they not be added as previously directed, ***Upon a motion made (Don Bishop) to rescind previous E.C. action and not add the links, seconded (Jerry Porter), E.C. voted unanimously in favor of motion.***

NEW ISSUES / NEW BUSINESS (Commander): Commander Bishop commented noted he had no new business or issues at this time.

- 1) Post Insurance: Bishop reported on his meeting with a representative of the Post's insurance carrier. One item discussed was whether we wished to increase our theft coverage which is currently capped at \$5,000 for which we pay \$133 per year. Increase to \$10,000 would be \$269 per year, and \$15,000 would be \$405 per year. In discussion, it was indicated we currently do not maintain any major amount of cash on site. However, Ed Sears (Bingo Chair) noted he would like to see the Post obtain a security safe for secure installation mounting in armory room, to secure bingo funds on-site, as opposed to him personally maintaining the funds in his possession. It would also be available for any other Post valuables needing to be secured. ***Sears was requested to look into the cost of such safe and installation, and report back at next E.C. Meeting.*** No action taken on the theft insurance cap at this time, pending review of matter of maintaining bingo funds on-site.
- 2) Event Coordinator / Event Coordination Committee Chair: Bishop indicated Jimmy Bussey will be stepping down for this position as of December 9th, and current Fund-Raising Chair Ken Knight has agreed to take over the responsibilities. Bishop pointed out that Ken is currently in learning mode and will need some support and patience.
- 3) Fund-Raising Chair Vacancy: Bishop noted that Ken Knight's move to Event Coordinator will require appointment of a new Fund-Raising Chair. Anyone interested in filling this position should contact Bishop.
- 4) POW-MIA Table Bible: Bishop noted need for a small bible for the POW-MIA Table. Randy Lindsey and Jerry Porter both advised they could provide one.

NEW ISSUES / NEW BUSINESS (Polling of Committee Chairs):

Membership: Adjutant Wolfangel, in absence of Chair Kamman, noted that we are currently at 129 members, or 83% of quota (155). Kamman had provided monthly report to Adjutant for file.

Post Activities: Commander Bishop, in absence of Chair Matt Lilly, commented on, or led discussion on the following items:

- Veterans Day Celebration: Bishop noted was well attended with about 160+. Post made \$450 on bar, and we recruited two new members. Entertainment following was sparsely attended and may result in some changes in this area next year..
- Post Christmas Party: _ Bishop noted will be on Friday – December 8th, with social from 5:30 – 6:30 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM, with program to follow. Reservation count still pending.

Chaplain/VAVS: Chair Jerry Porter noted only item he had was member Keith Musselman needed to be contacted by Service Officer Cleves, regarding possible assistance with a V.A. claim.

Commander Bishop raised question as to whether we were going to initiate the Active Duty Gift Program this year, as we had not done it last year. Bob Calder had handled previously. Bishop indicated there was \$500 in a C.I. Budget line item for this program. ***Chaplain Porter indicated he would try to handle the program.*** It was noted that we appear to have only two Post members on active duty, and we would need to act quickly if we are to solicit in FHJ for additional Anderson residents on Active Duty. Wolfangel advised he would send Porter a copy of a previous year's media release, and a copy of letter that was to be sent with the gift package, for his review.

Americanism: Chair Randy Lindsey, advised or commented on:

- A & G Program: Anderson High School had only given the A & G test to about 70 students, as opposed to the 200 they had indicated they would. All 70 were part of an Advance Placement class. He advised there seemed to be little interest in AHS participation in this program, and he suggests dropping the A & G program for this reason. Jerry Porter noted there has been a steady decline in tests given, and also in the test scores. This year we will only have two senior winners. Commander Bishop indicated a need to try to stimulate some interest prior to our dropping them from the program.
- Oratorical Program: Indicated he had at least three candidates and may have up to five. He is meeting with the prospect students next week. Jerry Porter noted need to set date for our Post Oratorical Program competition, so as to meet the subsequent schedule for HCC and 4th District competitions. ***E.C. agreed to tentatively set Saturday - January 13, 2018, at 11:30 AM to 3 PM for the Post Competition.*** Porter requested Lindsey to inform students of the date when he met with them to assure their availability.

Community Support & Recognition: Commander Bishop, in absence of Chair Rogers, commented, on a Hillcrest Cemetery grant request for Headstone Alignment, He noted a grant application for \$5,000 was being submitted. If received will be looking for work parties in the Spring.

Law and Order Program Chair Wolfangel noted he would be soliciting nominations from Anderson Fire Department and Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for Post 318's L & O Program. Noted HCC's L & O Program would be at March 2018 HCC Meeting at Post 534.

Service, Veterans Affairs / Economic / Legislative: Chair Charles Cleves commented or noted:

- Veteran Feldman, who we had been assisting, must be doing better as he has not heard anymore from him, or been able to contact him.
- A recent call from a "supposed" veteran needing immediate financial assistance appears to have been a scam, as he wanted funds for gas, and backed off when offered the gas on a credit card. Appeared to just want the cash.

Bingo: Chair Ed Sears commented or reported on:

- Funds distributed for November were: \$1,200 to Post and \$516 to C.I..
- Would like to have poster or something in Bingo hall showing programs which benefited from bingo proceeds.
- Meeting with Dennis Sakal on December 6th to complete the application for the new Bingo license.

Fund-Raising: Commander Bishop, in absence of Chair Ken Knight, commented on:

- Open Mic Events: Noted that we have last scheduled event this Friday. He gave attendance and financial logistics for the first five events, and recommended that we try an additional six events in 2018, as it appears to be slowly building, and staffing was down to three persons. Plans are to meet with Christina Schnetzer (Open Mic host) at this Friday's event to discuss further expansion proposal and how we can further improve participation. Following discussion, ***motion was made (Don Bishop) to schedule six more events, working around our Lenten Fish Fry schedule. Motion was seconded (Dan Wolfangel), and E.C. voted unanimously in favor of motion.***
- 2018 Dance Schedule: Noted that twelve events were scheduled for January through June, and several more of the dances will be "themed".

Event Coordination: No report in absence of Chair Jimmy Bussey.

House: Chair Alfieri, commented on, or noted the following:

- Roof Leak had been repaired, at no cost to Post.
- New Dumpster has been delivered.
- Thanks to Ed Sears for buffing floors.
- Floor Buffer Needs Replacing: Looking for good deal on new buffer, as current one is on its last legs.
- Letter of Appreciation to Joe Sauter (Finishing Touches): Suggested letter be sent thanking Saute for cleaning up, and mulching of rear parking lot landscape areas. ***Adjutant will send the letter.*** Commander Bishop will also provide a thank you to Sauter in the Post Newsletter

Internal / External Communications: Chair Dan Wolfangel (External Communications) advised no report. Don Bishop (Internal Communications) advised that December Newsletter was ready to go out, and deadline for January Newsletter would be December 22nd.

Uniform Ceremonies: Adjutant Wolfangel, in absence of Chair Caskey, noted following info received from Caskey:

- AHS / THS Basket Ball color guard schedule to be forthcoming.
- Rifles have been inventoried, and required inventory form is ready to be submitted, after Commander Bishop signs and has notarized.

Charities, Inc.: Don Bishop commented or noted:

- "Wave The Flag" Program generated \$2,253.60.
- Poppy Program for 2018 will once again involve Kroger, Belterra Park, and FHSD. Also trying to get connected with Old Coney. Will be meeting with Donna Prues to coordinate the 2nd Annual FHSD Poppy Day.

Hamilton County Council Issues / Concerns: No report.

4th District Issues / Concerns: No report..

Good of Legion: Nothing

Adjournment of Meeting: There being nothing further to come before the Executive Board Meeting, Commander Bishop adjourned the meeting at approximately 9 PM.

Prepared by: