

**Commander - Merlin L. (Bud) Evered**  
**Adjutant - Harrison H. Solt III**  
**Chaplain - James G. McKibben III**  
**Officer of the Day - James A. Knowles**  
**Service Officer - William E. Clarke**

Minutes of 13 December 2010 Post meeting at St. David's Parish Hall, Gales Ferry, CT

The regular meeting was opened at 1:00 PM according to ritual with Commander Evered presiding. A salute to the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance were conducted. There were nine members present. There was one visitor present; District 4 Chaplain John P. Desjardius.

Adjutant Solt read the minutes of the 8 November 2010 meeting and they were accepted as read.

### **Correspondence**

1. The Adjutant introduced a number of State Adjutant emails and Department distributed flyers. Copies on file in the Post Correspondence Log.
  - a. Department VOD/PP Dinner is 1:00 PM Sunday January 16, 2011 at Post 511, New Britain
  - b. 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mary Romano Bingo is 1:00 PM Sunday February 19, 2011 at Post 9929, West Hartford
  - c. 4<sup>th</sup> District Annual Bowling Tournament is 10:00 AM Sunday March 27, 2011 at Norwich Bowling, Norwich
  - d. Election to fill the office of State Quartermaster will be held at the January 31<sup>st</sup> Council of Administration Meeting to be held at Post 9460, Stratford. This position is a 24 hour per week position.
  - e. A posting to fill a paid position as a Department office secretary was announced. The current secretary is retiring after 23 years of service.
2. All were reminded that the Correspondence File is available if members want to review these or previous correspondence.

### **Financial Report**

CDR Evered read the monthly financial reports for November 2010 (period of 1 November 2010 through 30 November 2010). The financial report was approved and accepted as presented.

### **Comrades in Distress**

Neither comrades nor family members were identified in distress.

### **Committee Reports**

**Membership.** Notices have gone out to 13 non-paid members as a reminder to pay their dues. As of this meeting, December 13, a response has been received from one of the thirteen. An emphasis/plea was made to all members to increase their recruiting efforts. All of us know veterans who are eligible but not members of the VFW. Please actively recruit new members. You will be helping yourself, the individual, the Post and the Organization. Everyone is a recruiter; every day is a recruiting day.

**VOD & PP.** The 2010 Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen contests have concluded. Participation this year was lack luster and less than in past years. There were two VOD contestants and no PP contestants. This has been one of our lowest participation years. For information, the High School enrollment is 930 students and the Middle School enrollment is 480 students. Judging of essays has been completed and the winner identified. The Post VOD winner is a male senior at Ledyard High School. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner is a female freshman at Ledyard High School. Both essays were excellent. The winner has now gone on to the District Contest. During a discussion on the poor participation, the District Chaplain (John Desjardus) recommended the Post approach the PTA as well as the school officials regarding the programs. Because the PTA is parent driven, more word might get out and into the students homes. PTA members will be aware of the program and be able to directly encourage their child to participate. Another thought was to seek inclusion of the contests in a Social Studies curriculum.

**Youth Activities/BSA.** The Certificates and awards for Eagle Scout Porter Reim, Ledyard Troop 16, have been received. Eagle Scout Reim's Eagle Court of Honor was held November 23, 2010. The Troop notified the Post at the last minute (November 8, 2010) so it was impossible to acquire and inscribe the awards in time for the ceremony. A letter of congratulations was sent to Scout Reim at that time. The certificates and awards will be forwarded to the Troop for presentation at a time they identify.

**William Williams Cemetery.** Cemetery Chairman Clarke reported that the cemetery maintenance has progressed as needed. The rail and post system still needs to be preserved. Chairman Clarke and Commander Evered have sufficient preservative between them to complete preservation of the rail system. A workday will be scheduled and promulgated separately, most likely in Spring 2011. All members are asked to support this effort.

The recently surfaced 1860 grave marker remains under investigation to determine if any additional markings are present. The cemetery committee will contact local historical society or other anthropology experts, as necessary, for advice and guidance. They will report their findings at a future meeting.

**Public Relations.** No print or electronic media submissions were made since the last meeting. The Post website continues to get 100+ hits per month and gives the Post good exposure.

**Fund Raising.** A solicitation campaign to local businesses has, for all intensive purposes been completed. All in all the campaign was a success and allowed the Post to replenish the Reserve Fund. The Commander has identified three local businesses that he would like to present "Good Neighbor Awards" to. They are Remax Realty Group, LaBlanc's Auto, and Gales Ferry Vision Center.

The Commander noted that we are still receiving donations because of the "MissionFish" EBay program.

**Buddy Poppy.** 1000 Poppies were ordered at the cost of \$120.00/1K. The Poppies have been received and will be retained until Memorial Day 2011.

**Campbell Soup Label Program.** The program goal for 2010 was 1000 labels. That goal was exceeded by several hundred labels. The Ledyard Senior Center was the organization providing the largest amount of labels throughout the year. The 2011 goal is 1400 labels. A committee chair is still needed for the Label Program. The program is up and running and does not take a great deal of time. We need a member to step up for this job. Anyone interested should see the Commander or a Post Officer. This is a great job for someone who cannot always attend meetings or get involved in other ways but still wants to support the Post.

**Post 4608 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognition and Celebration:** Plans are on going to mark and celebrate the Post's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March 2011. Preliminary plans are under development. A Committee chair and Committee members are needed and solicited. Any one interested in helping with this event should contact the Commander. Ideas discussed to this point were special recognition of Charter Members (five have been identified) and acknowledgement of Life members as well as other noteworthy memberships and events. Twenty-five recipients of Longevity pins have been identified. Plans would be to hold a special or open meeting with family and guests. Press releases would be issued and press coverage requested. Department, District, and Civic officials will be invited. Many more plans and ideas need to be developed. This will be a major undertaking and every one's help is needed and welcomed. All members are strongly encouraged to share their ideas and make their thoughts and desires known. This is your Post, some of you are Charter Members, how do you want to recognize the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding? Reminder; all plans must be finalized and notices sent out by the end of January 2011. NOT MUCH TIME REMAINS TO BRING THIS MAJOR AND IMPORTANT UNDERTAKING TOGETHER!

George and Shirley Patenaude have volunteered to create a photographic history of the post for viewing at the March special meeting.

#### **Unfinished Business.**

1. Awards to Businesses: Commander Evered previously suggested we create a simple framed certificate for those businesses that support us physically or monetarily throughout the year. A decision was made to use the "Good neighbor" certificate for this purpose. Certificates will be prepared for a formal presentation to each business so identified. Members should make their recommendation of businesses for recognition to the Commander. The three businesses previously identified in the Fund Raising report will receive the first awards.

#### **New Business.**

1. The District Chaplain was present to conduct a District audit of the conduct of the Post meeting. Chaplain Desjardius reported that he was impressed by the formality and organization of the meeting.

#### **Good of the Order.**

1. With George Patenaude cutting back on his involvement, the Post is without a Photographer. Anyone who can take over for George is asked to contact a Post Officer.

2. With the Post website and the Zip06 account, distribution of photos is no expense and easy to accomplish.
3. Comrade Patenaude addressed the meeting, stating he is 76. He has not been attending meetings in part because he has been busy while still trying to cut back on his involvement in the various organizations he belongs to. In addition he has been the Chaplain for the Local Chapter of the Submarine Veterans of WWII since 2001. He conducts a prayer service at the Wake of each WWII Sub Vet. Unfortunately, the occurrence rate of this important duty is becoming more frequent and taking a larger amount of his time.
4. All were reminded that we have returned to the winter meeting schedule. The January meeting will begin at 1:00 PM on Monday January 10, 2011.

There being no further business the Commander closed the meeting. The meeting was closed at 2:16 PM.

A post meeting gathering was held at the newly opened Brick Oven Restaurant on Route 12 in Gales Ferry. The Commander initiated this gathering in lieu of mid meeting refreshments. The intent was to continue the members' camaraderie while exposing the Post to the community. The staff of Brick Oven was very accommodating and all enjoyed the change and refreshments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. H. Solt III", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

H. H. Solt III  
Adjutant