

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 14 June 2010 for meeting at St. David's Hall, Gales Ferry, CT

The regular meeting was opened at 6:30 PM according to ritual with Commander Evered presiding. A salute to the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance were conducted. There were ten members present. There were no visitors.

Adjutant Solt read the minutes of the 10 May 2010 meeting and they were accepted as read.

Correspondence

1. Glastonbury VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Collection of summer supplies for the Troops are underway. Donations are requested.
2. State Adjutant email reporting that the State Convention agenda is posted on the State website.

The Adjutant reminded all that the correspondence file is available if members want to review these or previous correspondence.

Financial Report

CDR Evered read the monthly financial report for May 2010 (period of 1 May 2010 through 31 May 2010). The financial report was accepted as read [McKibben/Lefebvre].

Comrades in Distress

Chaplin McKibben reported on VA Hospital contact person Kamal Kassim who was burned in an accident at home while lighting a fire pit. Mr. Kassim is now recuperating at home. Mr. Kassim has been a great help to many who use the VA Hospital and Chaplin McKibben asked all to remember Mr. Kassim.

Commander Evered reported that comrade George Patenaude has expressed a desire to cut back his activities due to medical issues. The Commander also reported on comrade Bill Gult.

Committee Reports

VOD & PP. The VOD & PP awardees to be recognized were invited to the June Post meeting where they were to receive recognition and their awards. The VOD second place winner (Callie Bateman) was to read her essay. For unknown reasons none of the awardees attended the meeting. Commander Evered will investigate and report at the next meeting.

William Williams Cemetery. Cemetery Chairman Clarke reported that the cemetery that minor vandalism has occurred at the cemetery. One of the new rails recently installed is now missing and an old rail has been installed in its place.

The rail and post system still needs to be preserved. Chairman Clarke reports that he has some preservative. Commander Evered reports that he too also has some preservative. Between the two there should be enough preservative to complete the task.

The recently surfaced 1860 grave marker will be investigated to determine if any additional markings are present. The cemetery committee will contact local historical society or other anthropology experts for advice and guidance.

Public Relations. Chairman Solt presented the Committees May report. Copy attached hereto.

Fund Raising. Commander Evered reported that fund raising efforts are going well. Four sets of letters went out to the membership (Letters to Gales Ferry members, Ledyard members, members who live outside Gales Ferry and Ledyard, but within Connecticut, and those members who live outside Connecticut. The letters main theme was contribute when and how you can. If you cannot participate in events and meetings perhaps, you can support the Post with a monetary gift. As of this meeting, 15 responses have been received. Anyone who sent money received a thank you on the VFW National note card.

A solicitation campaign to local businesses is being conducted. The emphasis of this drive is to replenish the Post Reserve Fund. Letters went have gone out to 23 local businesses. Members are asked to recommend additional businesses to be contacted and to identify those that they frequent/have ties too and would agree to allow their name to be cited in the solicitation letter.

The "Buddy Poppy" drive conducted at Wal-Mart in Groton on Saturday May 29, 2010 netted \$305.00 for the three-hour drive. One hundred dollars per hour has been the normal hourly take for the past few years. Crews walking the Ledyard Memorial Day parade route collected \$335.00 in donations. This was the highest donations ever collected at a Ledyard Memorial Day parade. Miscellaneous donations retted \$76.92. All told the collections/donations for the months of May and June (to date) is \$1295.92. .It was emphasized that the "Buddy Poppy" drive was the Post's major fundraiser for the year. To be successful, monetarily, we need to reach our goal of \$1000.00. The Commander was happy to report that with receipts still coming in we have exceeded our goal.

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

New Business.

No New Business was introduced.

Good of the Order.

Jr. Vice Commander Walters reported on a NAUS (National Association for Uniformed Services) letter to CT Representative Joe Courtney (VA Rep Ed Burke) regarding The "Doc Fix" concerning Medicare and TRICARE payments to physicians. The House approved H.R. 4213, the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010. This bill contained a provision avoiding the physician reimbursement reduction until December 2011, a period of 19 months. Unfortunately,

the Senate did not act on this bill in time to stop the 21.2 percent cut in physician payments. The NAUS letter was read into the record. A copy of the letter is in the Post Correspondence Log.

Commander Evered reported that in discussions with State Officers at the June 12 State Convention breakfast he discussed Post memberships in general and membership versus meeting attendance ratios. He was told that regardless of the Post size, be it 400 or 50 members, the normal meeting attendance number is between 8 and 10 members.

Comrade Lefebvre suggested that the Post be clearer when recruiting members regarding organization, programs, missions, visions, and goals. He was not aware of all the things the Post did until he became a member and attended meetings. His feeling was that many others would be more inclined to join the Post and VFW in general if they had a better understanding of what we do.

There being no further business the CDR closed the meeting. The meeting was closed at 7:35 PM.

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