

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 8 November 2010 for Post meeting at St. David's 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 six members present. There were no visitors.

Adjutant Solt read the minutes of the 11 October 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.
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 October 2010 (period of 1 October 2010 through 31 October 2010). The financial report was approved and accepted as presented.

Comrades in Distress

There were no reports of comrades or family members in distress.

Committee Reports

Membership. 30 September 2010 Membership report states the Post has 78 members of record, 58 of the 78 are members in good standing. This puts the post at 74.36%. We are short 20 members. The Committee estimates that we should be able to get 10 of the 20 members to renew. 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. Judging of essays has been completed and the winner identified. The Post VOD winner is a male senior at Ledyard High School. The 2nd place winner is a female freshman at Ledyard High School. Both essays were excellent. The winner will now go on to the District contest.

William Williams Cemetery. Cemetery Chairman Clarke reported that the cemetery maintenance has progressed as needed. Some more new rails are needed and will be procured, either from growth on site or commercially. 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. All members are asked to support this effort.

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. 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.

A future solicitation is planned but not scheduled. It was noted that if the local business knew an active Post members they were more likely to respond positively. Members are asked to recommend businesses to be contacted during the next campaign and to identify those that they would agree to allow their name to be cited in the solicitation letter.

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. As of the October meeting the goal was reached and exceeded. The Ledyard Senior Center was the organization providing the largest amount of labels throughout the year. A suggestion was made that a framed certificate be presented to the Senior Center recognizing their contribution and support of the program. It was further proposed that an envelope be submitted to the Groton Senior Center. The thought being that the Groton center donation level might be comparable to that of the Ledyard Senior Center.

Post 4608 20th Anniversary Recognition and Celebration: Plans are on going to mark and celebrate the Post's 20th 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 a Post Officer. 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. Awarding of Longevity pins. 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, how do you want to recognize the 20th anniversary of its founding?

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 certificate will be generated and prepared for a formal presentation to each business so identified. Members should make their recommendation of businesses for recognition to the Commander.

New Business.

1. Commander Evered reminded all that a budget line item of \$300.00 had been established and approved for our annual Christmas program. The program makes donations in goods and funds to Connecticut Veteran's Hospitals and organizations. We have done this for years and have a number of hospitals and organizations that we have always supported. Members should make the Commander aware of any new or different organizations or causes they would like to see included in this program.

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. With the Post website and the Zip06 account distribution of photos is no expense and easy to accomplish.
2. All were reminded that we have returned to the winter meeting schedule. The December meeting will begin at 1:00 PM on Monday December 13, 2010.
3. Based on the expressed low level of interest and possible schedule conflicts during a busy holiday season the consensus was that there would not be a 2010 Post Christmas party/gathering.

There being no further business the Commander closed the meeting. The meeting was closed at 2:15 PM.

A post meeting gathering was held at Valentino's Pizza in Ledyard Center. 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. Valentino's was very accommodating and all enjoyed the change and refreshments.



H. H. Solt III
Adjutant