

The Monthly Meeting of VFW Post 4541 began at 6 pm with 7 members and officers present.

Opening Ceremonies were conducted.

Roll Call of Officers- all present or excused. Toby out of town; Dustin's son enlisted earlier today.

Quartermaster's Report

- Checking Account Balance: \$2,631.14
- Certificate of Deposit Balance: \$11,297 (This CD matures in April of 2024)
- Savings Account Balance: \$13,750
- Bond Renewal: \$35,000 at approximate cost of \$105/year.
- Renewal for website in June every year- Gary paid this year as a donation.
- EIN Tax Number fee has been paid for the next 2 years.
- Form 900N to sustain our Not-For-Profit status needs to be filed.

Veterans Service Officer Information—Intent to file for the PACT act has been extended until Monday due to the large demand and website problems. The VSO at the Veterans Home is Mr. Rob Logue who can be reached at 417.572.2128 or 417.466.7103.

Comrades in Distress

- John Goden- had triple bypass surgery today, doing well.
- Glen- falls and artery issues; doing better.
- James Monroe- Not feeling well lately.

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen- Information to be received at the next District 7 meeting. Information may be found at <http://www.vfw.org> and we will also post information on our website at <http://www.vfw4541.org>. Assignments to connect with area schools is as follows:

- Russell to contact Miller
- Toby & Don to contact Sarcoxie
- Jeff to contact Marionville
- Gary to contact Mt. Vernon
- Ralph to contact Aurora
- Mel to contact Verona

Prayer was offered on behalf of the VFW National Home

Business Session

1. **Signature cards** still need to be updated.
 - a. Information. All signature cards need to be updated at the bank to reflect current leadership.
 - b. Action: Authorization for a memorandum of the minutes electing our officers (CDR, QM, Trustee (Ralph), and plans were made to meet at the bank at - 10 am Saturday, August 12th.

2. Veteran Home Barbecue

- a. Information: September 30th, noon meal at the Veteran's Home in Mt. Vernon. The Lawrence County Cattleman's Association is contributing meat and grillers. Another group will provide ice cream. We are assisting with coordination, publicity, and manpower.
- b. Action: Need a coordination call with District 7 Commander, David Bozarth, Veteran's Home leadership, and the Cattleman's Association leadership.

3. Post 4541 Fellowship/Recruiting Activity- members, guests, and families.

- a. Information. September 16th from 4:00-6:00 pm at Commander Jeff Edwards' home. Plans are to provide shooting activities, grill hot dogs (or better), conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony, and fellowship. We are encouraged to invite prospective members to see who we are and what we do. (Dustin was not present but we moved forward with the idea noting that delay would place us after ABMD, Fall and Winter.)
- b. Actions.
 - i. The Post will provide 2 boxes of 9mm shells (or .223 .556) for guest use, and members will bring their own hardware and ammo.
 - ii. Publicity is necessary- begin to contact members and prospects. Information to be put on the website and fliers made.
 - iii. Food. Prepare to bring sides, salads, and desserts.

4. Birthday Party for WWII Veteran Lawrence Plaster

- a. Information. Come and go event at Missouri Veterans Home from 1:30 – 3:00 pm on Wednesday, August 16th. Lawrence County Sheriff Dept and MVMO Fire Dept will be present as well.
- b. Actions. Need Certificate Prepared for presentation; wear vests and we'll take pictures for our website.
- c. Issue. Could/Should we work with the Veterans home to recognize ALL centennial birthdays? This would be a way for greater involvement. Monday morning Coffee continues.

5. Apple Butter Making Days

- a. Information. We have two booth-spaces reserved (10x10) and will use our pop-up canopies with signs. Same menu. This is an "all hands activity" requiring shopping, setup, manning the booth, managing money, and teardown. 22 Sierra coffee is welcome to join us again if they do not have their own booth.
- b. Actions.
 - i. Seeking Cammo Netting from Army Surplus, but very expensive; Ralph has a contact. We want cammo to attract attention and provide shade.
 - ii. District 7 Commander, David Bozarth, and District/Department VSO's and others plan to attend in support on Saturday. Needs to be advertised as a VSO event.
 - iii. Motion made and approved to spend up to \$250 utilizing Chamber of Commerce advertising venues such as the digital map. (See Chamber email dated August 1st)

6. November Meeting

- a. Action. Motion made and approved to invite Kim Mobley from Aurora to be guest speaker on November 9th for presentation of Lawrence County's other Medal of Honor

Winner. This is in observance of Veterans Day, and we will open our meeting to the public for this event.

7. Trailer

- a. Information. Toby is not present, but both Ralph and Russell have noted trailer opportunities nearby. We will not be ready for ABMD but prepared to move forward. Ralph indicated an initial willingness to store the trailer at his location.
- b. Action. Motion and approved to authorize and empower Toby to act on any trailer purchase opportunity he deems beneficial for the Post, spending up to \$7500 without further authorization.

8. Vests

- a. Information. Approved an order of vests at last meeting.
- b. Action.
 - i. Order a variety of sizes as per the requirements of the VFW Store website.
 - ii. Upon receipt, contact Mel for embroidering Post information.

9. Shirts

- a. Information. Gary shared research on the polo shirts with pockets requested. However, shirts with required embroidery are too expensive (\$60).
- b. Action. Will not purchase shirts. Instead, we will order the basic black hats with a common Velcro VFW patch. The vests and hats will be our identifying uniform. Gary will order hats and patches and donate the cost.

10. Items for future discussion

- a. Time changed on our sign.
- b. Liability Insurance for the Post.

For the Good of the Post

- VFW Magazine is going digital over time. Members need to log on and provide/verify their email address.
- Don has requested Burial information from a veterans organization and is willing to share with anyone interested.
- The Activity Center is honoring veterans Monday Aug 21st at their noon meal. Lunch served at 1115 is lunch with a program featuring Chaplain Doug Delp at 1230. \$3 for lunch for Seniors.
- Shout out to Glen Dulaney for persistent attempts to attend monthly meetings in the absence of changing information about meeting dates and times.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary D. Gilmore