

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: 4 Dec 2023

Attendees: Wayne Maruska, Ed Stern, Mamie Havelka, Bob Bird, Dan Rustvang, Janette Fetch

Meeting Minutes: are posted on the website. www.americanlegionbismarck.org

Financial Report: The report was passed out for review. The Financial Report was accepted by the Executive Committee. Available Cash for office use \$59,971. \$370,000 in bonds. \$107,000 in CD's. Foundation funds to be used for donations \$629,659.00. Post 1 Admin to be used for post expenses: \$32,203.

Gaming Report: Bob Bird

Quilts of Valor: \$4,000.00. 18 post 1 members have received a quilt from the quilts of valor.

BSC Scholarship Foundation: \$15,000.00 – should get our total up to \$50,000 to give out two scholarships in the future. History behind this scholarship: Post 1 started this last year with \$20,000 and BSC matched 50% which put us up to \$30,000. Ed Stern had a conversation with the foundation and in order for them to give out scholarships, they need to be in 25,000 increments. BSC is again matching 50%. Post 1 just approved \$15,000, BSC will match \$7500. This will put the Post 1 total up to \$52,500 and we should be able to give out two \$25,000 scholarships. BSC has a good process/program for the scholarships and an agreement has been signed between Post 1 and BSC.

SW Art Gallery and Science Center: \$10,000 – Gaming Committee did not support (outside our community).

Ed made a motion to approve the gaming, second by Wayne. Motion Approved.

Discussion: Can we present these checks in person rather than mailing them out? The checks will come to the Post 1. Russ Kroshus will take the BSC Check and present and Ed will take the Quilts of Valor. Mamie said in the past it has been her and Arnie presenting checks before the online stuff because they were the only ones available. Any legionnaire can present these donation checks.

Newsletter: the newsletter is emailed out and also posted on the website under “about us” tab.

Calendar: activities or events are posted on the calendar on the website

Winter Conference: 26-27-28 January at the Bismarck Hotel, Bismarck. Washburn is the host.

Discounted room rates through 2 January 2024. Banquet Registration cut off is 10Jan2024 for the discounted price.

- Commander Elect (Mamie Havelka) will be part of the hospitality room. Spending up to \$1,000 for catering the food. We are not paying for any alcohol only food.

Summer Convention: The June Summer Convention will be held in Bismarck and Post 1 is the host for that. Post 1 did not put in a bid, once the bid is put in the State Department handles it from there. Post 1 told the State HQ that if nobody wants to host, Post 1 will host.

Veterans Visiting Veterans: There is a visit on 6 December 2023 at Prairie Point Assisted Living

- We have some veterans cards – can you take them and give them to the veterans? Yes
- It would be nice to have a little more “heads up” on these Veterans Visits. It would be nice to get a visitation schedule.
- If the Assisted Living locations ever need an Honor Guard – notify the adjutant by info@americanlegionbismarck.org. The adjutant will push it out to the Veteran Organizations Honor Guard Commander. One of the organizational Honor Guard's will pick it up.

Oratorical- 2Dec2023: One contestant from the district, he was from Wilton (Brady Quinn). Post 1 did not have any contestants and have no money commitments for the oratorical contest this year.

Each post is only authorized one contestant per post. If we have more than one from Bismarck Post 1, we call surrounding posts in District 5 asking them if they can sponsor a student.

ND Legislation passed a law (Mamie has copy)– first three months of school – veteran organizations can talk to students. It isn't that they are not getting in, the Veteran Organization is walking in and expecting to visit with the teacher now rather than setting up an appointment.

John Strand may take the Oratorical Position.

Open Your Heart:

\$23,462.45 – from the Live Broadcast

Next Year – switching Kirkwood mall locations or have a booth at the Pride of Dakota at Event Center

Ads will continue to run with the Bismarck Tribune/Social Media

224 families signed up

169 families showed up

55 no shows

1 family called to have a make up day – Darcie will determine that on Wednesday

OYH was expected to spend \$25,730.00 on clothing, only spent \$19,000.00

OYH Checking account currently has \$68,000

382 food boxes to fill

Next OYH meeting: 14Dec2024

Legion College:

Mamie attended Legion College

Janette:

Do we want to renew the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Times? \$27.95 per branch. These magazines can be taken to the assisted living locations for the veterans to read.

Ed Stern made a motion to approve purchase these magazines, second by Wayne Maruska. Motion carried.

Ed Stern:
Slate of Officers Nominating Committee

Daniel Rustvang is interested in accepting the 1-year Executive Committee vacancy. *Janette Fetch made a motion to accept Daniel Rustvang for the 1-year Executive Committee vacancy, second by Ed Stern - Motion carried.*

We will have a confirmation vote at the post meeting.

March American Legion Birthday: March 11, 2024

Does the post want to pay for the meals?

Wayne will work on the cost for the event and the Post will pay half of the meal. Prime Rib or Shrimp.

We will use the "registration" for events on the website and phone call – use both.

Legionnaires have to be paid up for the current year to get the discounted food price.

do not go over \$15.00

Will there be a program? Not official program. Prayer and pledge

Ed and Janette will work on brochure – and put our Post Everlasting members (deceased legionnaires), and explain some of our American Legion Projects: Open Your Heart, Boys State, Oratorical, Veterans Visit Veterans, etc.

Advertising: Holiday Wish from Loyd Spetz Post 1.

Purpose: to let people know we are still here

Another Option: Facebook-we can record messages from us, we switched to AL YouTube and Posted on our American Legion Facebook.

Daniel Rustvang made a motion for Mamie Havelka to produce the KFYZ PSA with KFYZ not to exceed \$500.00, second by Wayne Maruska. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned.