

POST 1 MEETING: 12 February 2024

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Officers in Attendance: Russ Kroshus, Janette Fetch, Wayne Maruska, Mark Landis, John Griffin, Bob Wefald

Guest: District 5 Commander Ron Dykema

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

Minutes were reviewed by Commander Kroshus. Motion to approve the minutes made by Janette Fetch, second by Bob Wefald. Minutes approved.

Financial Report:

We have Edward Jones CD's coming due soon. Bob Wefald will keep checking Edward Jones CD rates as time gets closer. Gaming Foundation \$606,064.00. Post 1 Admin \$51,190.00. Post 1 checkbook balance: \$62,840.00.

Motion was made to approve the finance report by Janette Fetch, second by Ed Stern. Motion Carried.

Veteran Service Officer:

The VA Whole Health Program is gaining popularity. Services include acupuncture, massage, chiropractic, yoga, etc.

Since the passage of the PACT Act in August 2022, North Dakota veterans have filed more than 3,000 toxic exposure claims and have received \$11 million. The average processing time is about five months.

Open Your Heart:

Donations: \$62,235.54

Applications: 224 for clothing. 176 attended equated to 364 children who received clothing. 48 families were no shows, that is waiting for them to call. Seven families had a second shopping day because they contact the Open Your Heart Chairman.

Food baskets: 387 baskets equating to helping 1,278 individuals and of that number 473 were children.

Food vouchers were purchased rather than purchasing perishables.

All the undeliverable baskets were taken to the church and families picked up there. 4 baskets were unable to be delivered.

Next year we may attend the Pride of Dakota at the Civic Center and move our mall location outside Scheels. Radio broadcast will start at 0800 rather than 0600.

Darcie would like to clean Arnie Havelka's trailer.

Mid-Winter Conference:

Oratorical: contest had four entries. All contestants did a good job. Were any homeschoolers? One contestant was home schooled.

Baseball breakout: attended by about 20 people. They will restart some of their programs across the state.

Boys State breakout: still trying to figure out how to increase the number of boys to attend boys state. Last year 58 signed up and 50 attended. Not sure if the young people are getting the information on boys state.

DSO (Department Service Officer): people are not aware of what the DSO is.

Convention:

State Department Convention will be in Bismarck, ND hosted by AL Post 1, Bismarck.

District 5 Meeting:

Saturday, 23 March 2024, hosted by Hazelton Post 126. Location: AMVETS (downstairs)
Registration 12:30-1:00 p.m. Joint session starting at 1:00 p.m.

Newsletter:

E-newsletters were emailed and those without email addresses will be mailed the newsletter on Tuesday, 13Feb24. Over 250 have to be mailed out.

Honor Guard:

27 Feb 2024 is the next training session at 6:30 p.m. When will we be participating in ceremonies? Not sure when the group will be ready.

The training calendar has been completed and SOP is being worked on by Janette Fetch.

Activities and Public Relations:

Visiting Veterans: Missouri Slope on 26Feb24 at 2:00

SAL:

Andrew Feist (Bismarck Youth Baseball) may be joining the SAL.

Gaming Report:

International Music Camp: \$1260.00

Dakota Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC): \$500

Supportive Services for Veterans Families: \$1,000

Bismarck Youth Baseball (BYB): 25,000

ND American Legion State Band: \$2,000

Total Approved: \$29,760

Bob Wefald made a motion to approve the gaming, second by Ed Stern. Motion Approved.

ND Gaming Alliance annual fee has not been paid; do we want to pay that bill of \$250.00. *Bob Wefald made a motion to approve the ND Gaming Alliance annual dues, second by Janette Fetch. Motion Carried.*

For the Good of the American Legion:

Birthday Meal: 11 March 2024. Social starting at 5:30 p.m., supper served at 6:00. All post 1 members that have paid their dues will eat for free and can bring 1 guest.

Texas Roadhouse will sponsor the ND Western Honor Flight on 26Feb24.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.