

POST 1 MEETING: 8 April 2024

The 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, Al Walker

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

Financial Report:

CD at Edward Jones maturing on 9May2024 (a six-month CD), we will have an extra \$57,000. We will renew it for a decent rate.

American Legion Birthday:

The post paid for a meal for paid up members plus one. We had 62 register and 56 attended. The total meal cost was \$1800.00. It was tight in the back bar room, and we will request a larger area next year.

Veteran Service Officer:

30April2024 – PACT Act Clinic at the AMVETS (downstairs) sponsored by the VA (9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.). The changes pertain to healthcare. Veterans who had any kind of toxic exposure at any location, they can go ahead and make a claim. Refer to the newsletter for a VA update.

Gaming Report:

Northern Lights Council - \$1000.00

Department Veteran Service Officer - \$3,000.00

Total Gaming Spent: \$4,000.00

SAL:

National Guard Military Safety Night at the RJB Armory on 16 April 2024 from 6:00-8:00. April is the month of the Military Child. It would be a terrific opportunity for the Post 1 family to be at this event.

At the convention, the SAL is coordinating a pool party for the legion family to get the younger veterans and their family to the meeting.

First Sunday of the month between November and April, Fairmont, ND (south of Wahpeton) put on a breakfast from 0830-1230 sponsored by the American Legion post and SAL. Pancakes, French toast, sausage, ham, coffee, water all for \$13.00.

District 5 Meeting:

Saturday, 20 April 2024, hosted by Hazelton Post 126. Location: 320 Main Street (Coffee Shop). Lunch starts at 12:00 (\$10.00), Meeting starts at 1:00 p.m.

Registration 12:30-1:00 p.m. Joint session starting at 1:00 p.m.

Who Attending: Russ Kroshus, Ed Stern, Mamie Havelka, Arnie Havelka, Bob Bird, Vern Fetch, Janette Fetch. Has there been any coordination of travel for the District Meeting? Ed Stern, Russ Kroshus, and Mamie Havelka driving.

Western ND Honor Flight:

Over 100 veterans will be traveling to Washington D.C. on 14-15 April 2024. The homecoming celebration will be on 15 April 2024 at 7:15, Bismarck Airport.

If you would like to fill out an application to go on an Honor Flight, see Janette Fetch – she is on the board. If you want to volunteer for the honor flight, see Janette Fetch.

Veterans fly for free; Travel Companions pay a fee (around \$1200.00). The Honor Flight volunteers that go on the flight, do not have to pay a fee, the volunteers are there to assist veterans that do not have a travel companion.

Poppy Day:

25 May 2024. If you would like to assist with the poppy's, contact the ladies auxiliary president, Latoya Carpenter at 701-833-8224.

Memorial Day Program:

27 May 2024 at the ND Veterans Cemetery starting at noon. If you need a ride, buses will depart from the Bank of ND and the Mandan Family Fare locations and drop off passengers off at the Veterans Cemetery. The speaker for Memorial Day is Admiral Stuart Munsch.

Resolution: (Mamie handed out a draft copy to members)

Working on a Resolution to integrate the North Dakota Sons of the American Legion into the ND state convention committees and programs as members, not as a chair. Americanism, Children and Youth, Athletic, Boys State, Legionnaire Insurance Trust, Membership and Post Activities as well as Veterans Affairs and Administration. Whereas; to integrate Sons of the American Legion members into state convention committees as stated above, and to foster further collaboration within the legion family, and to broaden perspective to the committees and expand participation which enhances commitment, and vote as members at 18 years or older, and the Sons of the American Legion are selected by the committee program chair or DEC approval as the Department of ND American Legion constitution and by laws require. Now therefore resolved by the American Legion in the state convention assembled in Bismarck in June 2024, the American Legion integrate the SAL members into the state convention committee.

Russ Kroshus: Russ is the American Legion Baseball Chair, and we have 13 people on the American Legion Baseball Committee. We could not find enough legionnaires to serve on the legion baseball committee, so he went to the DEC and asked if SAL members could serve on the committee. DEC granted permission and since then the board has been full.

A motion was made by Bob Wefald to approve the resolution to send to the state, second by Alan Walker. Motion Carried.

For the Good of the Legion:

The Amvets are having a little bit of a cashflow problem right now. To help them with that, can the American Legion Post 1 pay the balance of the rent that we owe for the rest of the calendar year.

Motion was made by Mark Landis to pay the Amvets a lump sum for the remainder of the year, second by Mamie Havelka. Motion Carried.

Membership:

Current membership is 522. Goal is 593 and we are currently at 88.03%. There is a three-year option out there to pay your dues for the next three years – only available online. The three-year option will avoid paying dues increases.

Oratorical Report:

1st Place - McKinnlee Haberman, Wyndmere, ND - Post 153 Wyndmere Sponsor

Boys State:

Four boys and one girl signed up for Boys and Girls State.

Russ has reached out to the ND Homeschoolers Association to put the word out on Boys and Girls State.

Their home office is in Wing, ND.

Slate of Officers:

Commander: Russ Kroshus

1st Vice: Wayne Maruska

2nd Vice: Vacant - Bob Bird (Temporary)

Historian: Bob Bird

Sergeant at Arms: Alan Walker

Adjutant: Janette Fetch

Chaplain: John Griffin

Finance: Bob Wefald

Three Year Term on Executive Committee: Bob Wefald

The motion was made by Bob Wefald that the mentioned slate of officers be elected, second by Alan Walker. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Bob Wefald to move Bob Bird as temporary 2nd Vice, second by Alan Walker. Motion Carried.

Installation of Office: Who will installation of officers next month? District 5 Commander will be contacted.

District Meeting – coordination of travel for the District 5 meeting. Ed Stern, Russ Kroshus, and Mamie Havelka are driving.

Historical:

Bob Bird researched for the 2nd Post Commander from 1919. George Russ Jr. (Post 1 needs to change the name from RUSH to RUSS).

Born in Brooklyn in 1880 and died in Fargo in 1966 and buried at Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C. He is a veteran of the Spanish American War and WWI. He received the silver star in WWI when he moved the people out of trenches, away from the artillery fire. He is the founder of the Paris meeting when they organized the American Legion. Worked at First National Bank, New York Life Insurance, US War Department in Washington, became head of the Social Security Office in Fargo, Civilian Aid to the Secretary of War in 1940, a personal friend of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Past Department Commander of Spanish American War Veterans of ND. Joined post 1 in August of 1919. George was very involved in getting the State Convention in Bismarck, ND.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.