

THE AMERICAN LEGION – POST 133
MINUTES OF 12-18-2012 MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Anastasio, Roger Anderson, Kent Carlson, Bruce Daugherty, Bill Dopirak, Bill Eichner, Ron Fournier, Bob Hornish, Brien Lamkins, Art Sladyk, Mel Stead, Linc Streeter, and Al Tedford.

GUEST(S) PRESENT: NONE

Commander Jim Anastasio opened the meeting with proper ceremony. All officers were present or accounted for.

Adjutant Roger Anderson passed out copies of the December correspondence from Department and the minutes of the November meeting. Kent Carlson made a motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting. Bob Hornish seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

New Members: Commander Anastasio asked new members to introduce themselves. Ron Fournier said that he served in the Air Force for four years. Ron thanked the post members for allowing him to carry a flag at the Wreaths Across America ceremony. Bill Dopirak retired in 1977 from the Navy and now lives on Strawberry Lane. Linc Streeter served in the Air Force and flew 133s out of Dover Air Force Base. After getting out, he spent three years flying C124s out of Westover Air Force Base.

Departed Members: Commander Anastasio reported that post life member Charles Robert Nielsen passed away. He served during WWII in the Army Air Corp. Jim and Roger attended his wake and provided the service flag to be flown at his service. Jim called for a moment of silence in his memory.

Finance Officer. Kent Carlson reported that as of November 30th we have \$2,621.00 in our account and everything is up to date. All bills have been paid. Jim thanked Kent for the report.

Sick Call: NONE

Employment: NONE

Service Officer. No report.

Committee Reports:

Baseball. Jim reported that he received an email from Craig Zimmerman asking for donations to help with the upkeep of the indoor batting facility. Jim talked about the history of the baseball program. Kent suggested that we get more specifics about what needs to be repaired before we provide funds. Jim said that our banner is holding up well.

Boy Scouts. Jim reported that he talked to Randy Olson to get Zachery Bellis' name and the date of his eagle-scout court of honor. Kent reported that it would be held January 19th. Jim also reported that Bruce Daugherty sent him an email about his grandson obtaining the eagle-scout level. We will provide

him with a citation also. Jim also reported that Mitch Tillman is working on his eagle-scout project documenting veterans' graves in the Wapping Cemetery.

Girl Scouts. The girl scouts participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony. We expect to hear about their Gold Award ceremony around May.

Boys State and Girls State. Roger reported that after the holidays he would be putting articles in the newspapers looking for applicants for Boys State and Girls State. Roger talked about the programs. There was discussion about how to get more applicants and how to fund them. Art talked about his son's experience. Kent talked about attending a board of education meeting. Roger mentioned talking to the Democratic and Republican town committees.

State Police Youth Week. No report.

Wreaths Across America. Art Sladyk reported that we had the ceremony last Saturday and had the best turnout we have ever had. Art said that someone commented that there were over two hundred people there. He thanked everyone who helped out. We had a ton of people at the cemeteries. We reached seven hundred and sixty wreaths this year. Art talked about getting members involved in the town ceremonies that we are now being invited to. We need to get some volunteers to help out at some of the town events we participate in. Art also reported that we participated in the ceremony at Cabela's in East Hartford on December 9th. They had the Connecticut Foot Guard as a color guard. Ray Dunaway was the MC. There was discussion about the mapping of the Congregational Church cemetery. Art thought that it was a good idea for us to put the stakes out at the graves. We will talk about it in September. We will need to go back in about a month to pick the wreaths up. Roger commented that the drummer doing cadence during the ceremony was a nice touch. He also commented that the children paying honor to their special veterans needs to be in the middle of the ceremony.

Oratorical. Roger reported that post oratorical contests need to be completed by the end of January. The First District contest will be held February 2nd in Rocky Hill. Roger talked about the program.

Old Business. Jim reported that he spoke to the Nutmeg Restaurant about holding our social there. Friday, January 18th was picked as the date. There will be a social hour from 6 to 7 pm. Dinner will be served at 7 pm. The price will be \$25 per person, which includes tax and tip. There will be a cash bar. You get an appetizer, a salad, an entrée, and a dessert.

Correspondence: Roger handed out copies of the December monthly package from Department. The membership report showed we had 85 members for 2013. Kent has another five renewals. Our goal is 100. The post's all time high is 147. In his letter, the Department Commander thanked the people who helped out at the Christmas Shops in Rocky Hill and West Haven. The Adjutant wrote about the upcoming Midwinter Conference in Rocky Hill January 25th, 26th, and 27th. He also mentioned the Legionnaire Insurance Trust program, which provides money back to Connecticut. Roger talked about the free \$1,000 accidental death policy. Roger talked about the Department calendar. There was a special message from Auxiliary Department President Nancy Hansen. There was a flyer about poppies, a flyer about the Department color guard looking for new members, a flyer about the veteran status icon on drivers' licenses, a flyer about the Connecticut Veterans' Hall of Fame (post member Jim Throwe was inducted), a flyer for Operation Elf (Kent said that it was very successful this year), a flyer for Military Appreciation Night at the XL Center December 22nd, a flyer for the First District Christmas Party December 22nd in Bristol, and a flyer for the Hot Stove Baseball Dinner at the Aqua Turf Restaurant

January 11th. There was a sign-up form for Mid-Winter Conference. There was a flyer for a Sound Tigers vs Norfolk Admirals hockey game on February 2nd. Kent announced that there would be another Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans affair at the Hartford Armory next year put on by Central Connecticut State University.

New Business:

Wreaths Across America State Capitol Presentation. Art reported that he was approached by a group in regards to a Wreaths Across America presentation at the state capitol. Connecticut was one of only five states that did not do a presentation this year. They asked if our post would be interested in doing a presentation next year. It would be held on the Monday prior to the regular Wreaths Across America ceremony in town. Art will be getting more information about what we would need to do.

Damaged Equipment. Art reported that we had some damaged equipment this year. It seems that three post members whose names were withheld (Jim, Roger, and Bruce) had damaged our pop-up tent when they were taking it down at one of our events. Art managed to obtain the replacement parts free of charge, but now must install them. Art claimed to have photographic evidence of the three culprits who did the damage. There was a lot of passing the buck between the three accused members.

Golf Tournament Fundraiser. Jim suggested that the post consider sponsoring a golf tournament fundraiser. His sister-in-law has done quite a few. She agreed to give Jim information on how to do it. Someone suggested a car show. Al Tedford reported that he ran a golf tournament for ten years. He discussed what we would need. There is a lot of work involved. There was additional discussion.

Good of the Legion:

Roger reported that there was discussion at that Patriotic Commission meeting about doing something to commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War I, which started in 1914. Roger felt that the post should get involved by holding ceremonies. The American Legion was formed after World War I in 1919.

Roger suggested that we start thinking about what we can do with the money that is coming in from Wreaths Across America, like the Boys State and Girls State programs. Jim suggested that we put aside some money to use as a “helping hand” for needy veterans and their families. Kent suggested that they should first go to the social services people in town who might be better equipped to handle some of those things. Kent also commented that you can adopt a family while their service member is deployed through the family assistance group. Art thought that we should sit down and talk to the social services people in town and let them know that we can provide some assistance. Roger remarked that we probably should set up a budget committee.

The next First District meeting is Wednesday, January 23rd at 7:30 pm at Post 68 in Berlin. The next Post meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15th. Don’t forget items for the food pantry. There being no further business, Commander Anastasio adjourned the meeting with proper ceremony.