

Marshall S. Sayner American Legion Post 341

Membership Meeting, December 1, 2011

OPENING CEREMONIES:

At 18:30 hours Commander Jake Greeling called the members to order. Opening Ceremonies were conducted with the Salute to the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. Opening prayer was given by Chaplin, Ray Brust. The POW/MIA Flag Ceremony was conducted by 1st Vice Commander Shelaine Coleman.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Commander - Jake Greeling, Present - 1st Vice Commander – Shelaine Coleman, Present, - 2nd Vice Commander Doug Grant, Absent, - Adjutant - Dan LaPointe, Present, - Finance Officer - John Chelstrom, Present - Judge Advocate - Gene Rogers, Present - Service Officer – Frank Lindsey, Present – Chaplin – Ray Brust, Present – Sgt-At-Arms – Andy Anderson, Present – Historian – Jim Heath, Present -- Past Commander - Norvil Lantz, Absent.

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING:

The minutes from our August, 2011 meeting are posted on the bulletin board and have been posted on the website for some time. A motion to accept the minutes was made and the minutes were approved.

Introductions of Guests: New member present is Ben Baxter, Arkansas Army National Guard. He has served a tour in Iraq and just returned home after a tour in Afghanistan.

Guest Speaker: Carol Altom, a graduate of Annapolis. She is a member of our post and also the step daughter of post member, Jim Fowler. She is the **Director of the Upward Bound Program** at the University of Arkansas. This is a program that was started in 1993 to assist veterans in preparing to become students at the University and to help them as they work towards a college degree. This includes assistance in academic training in both in- house and on-line courses. They have lounges and computers labs available to help the veterans. They also have student organizations available to let the veterans meet with other veterans to assist them in the everyday dealing with the requirements of college life. Because the upward bound program is federally funded it works with any veteran to help them get into any college in the United States. Not just in Arkansas.

Fundraising Committee Report: Fund Raising Chairman Doug Grant was not present so there was not a report on Fund Raising.

Finance Report: John Chelstrom, the Post Finance Officer reported that the post has total Cash on Hand of \$91,568. \$68,862 of which is in the Building Fund.

Membership Report: Commander Greeling reported that the Post currently has 478 members or 81% of Goal who have paid up their 2012 Dues.

Service Officers Report: Post Service Officer, Frank Lindsey reported that he had assisted a member in the last month that had come to him with some questions and requests. Frank said he went away happy. Commander Greeling reported that he had been contacted by the program director at Highland Nursing Home and asked if we could get a number of veterans to stop over to visit with some veterans who live at the facility. There are a number of veterans who live there who would like to visit with other veterans. Commander Greeling said that he

will try to schedule a trip to visit with them in the near future and hoped that many of the members would volunteer to go along for the visit.

Silver Star Gift tree at Pinnacle Mall: A program to assist National Guard members who are deployed and their families by helping with sponsorships for gifts to the families. A motion was passed to sponsor three families at \$100.00 a family to help them better their Christmas. Commander Greeling also asked for members to volunteer to work at the tree to assist with the program. A member could work in shifts of only 1 hour at a time.

Gun Safe has been purchased: Commander Greeling will be looking for help to get it and the rifles moved to the Post.

Building Committee: Finance Officer Chelstrom has met with the Architect and members of the committee to have them detail the drawing to represent the different requirements such as plumbing, electrical and sewer detail. As soon as the detail drawings are complete he will work up a Performa and go to local banks to try and secure financing to build the new building. At present we have approximately 25% of what he thinks we will need to complete the project. Adjutant LaPointe has sent Jim Walton, the son of Sam Walton, a letter asking if the family had any interest in donating to the building and possibly naming the building after the family. It was also mentioned that if any member wanted to make a donation from their 401K that it would be able to be given without tax consequences as long as the donation was giving directly to the post.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Monthly Breakfast: Shelaine reported that there will not be a breakfast this month because there is too much going on.

Christmas Party: Shelaine Coleman reported that cocktails will start at 5:30 PM on December 10th. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass, finger food or a desert. It will be B.Y.O.B.

New Business:

Wreaths across America: December 10th at the National Cemetery in Fayetteville. Unloading of the wreaths from the trucks starts at 8:30 AM and the ceremony to lay the wreaths on the graves starts at 11:00 AM. Members are encouraged to attend if possible.

Cub Scout Pack 341: Has requested members of the post to put on a flag etiquette class for their meeting on Monday December 5th at Cooper Elementary school at 6:30 PM. Members are asked to help if available. It should require about 30 minutes to complete.

Post Scrapbook: Jim Heath, the Post Historian has started a post scrapbook and would appreciate help from the membership by letting him know when any event takes place so he can be present with his camera to document the event for the scrapbook. There is an annual completion at the convention and an award is given out to the Post that presents the best scrapbook.

Pearl Harbor Ceremony at Riordon Hall: On December 6th. It will be free to the public.

Legion Riders: Now have received their new 3' X 5" Legion riders Flag.

MOMENT FOR DEPARTED MEMBER:

Chaplin Brust reported that the Post had lost 2 members in the last month. David W. Andrea 79, US Army during Korean War and Harley E. Shotliff who served in the US Army Air Corps as a pilot from 1940 to 1945. Chaplin Brust delivered a memorial prayer in their honor.

CLOSING CEREMONIES:

Commander Greeling conducted appropriate Closing Ceremonies. The meeting was adjourned at 19:40 hours. There were 35 members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan LaPointe, Adjutant