

MINUTES

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1 in DC

Date | Time Tuesday, January 29, 2013 at 6:40pm | *Meeting called to order by* Unit President Victoria Pridemore

In Attendance

Victoria Pridemore (President), Debbie Chen (Vice President), Barbara Riegsecker (E-Board Member via Phone), Sharon Riegsecker (Secretary/Treasurer) and Michelle Vaughn

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Minutes: It was moved that the minutes from the regular December 17, 2012 meeting and e-board January 9, 2013 meeting be approved as submitted without reading. The motion was seconded and passed.

Membership: Unit 1 has 16 current members. In addition to the 13 charter members, we welcome Anna Fox, Denyse Gordon and Michelle Vaughn.

Finance Report: The general fund currently has \$140 cash. We are still unable to open a checking account (pending paperwork from National Headquarters). Once we get the account, we have \$240 in checks to deposit and can begin paying expenses. The poppy fund has \$10.

Unfinished Business

Status of Charter Application: Department President Barbara Rich sent word that she forwarded our application to National Headquarters. Fellow unit members that work at National Headquarters in Indiana stated that it is being processed!

Constitution & Bylaws Changes: To provide clarification and ensure the constitution and bylaws reads the way we wish it to, the following changes were recommended.

- Constitution Article V, Section 3: Clarify to read as: All Unit Officers shall be in good standing for the membership year elected at the time of installation.
- Constitution Article V, Section 4: Add section: All Unit Officers shall serve as the members of the Executive Board.
- Constitution Article V, Section 5: Add section: Any vacancies occurring in any elected office may be filled by appointment of the Unit President and confirmation at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.
- Constitution Article VI, Sections 1-3: Delete sections.
- Constitution Article VII: Make Article VI, pending deletion of Article VI.
- Constitution Article VII (proposed VI), Section 1: Clarify to read as: This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present at a regular Unit meeting, provided the proposed amendments shall have been read at the previous meeting or distributed by email to all members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.
- Bylaws Article II, Sections 1, 2 and 4: Add as last sentence: She shall serve as a signatory on the Unit's bank account(s).
- Bylaws Article IV, Section 1: Change regular meetings from the fourth Thursday of each month to the second Tuesday of each month. Change the meeting time from 6pm to 6:30pm.
- Bylaws Article IV, Section 2: Clarify to read: An annual meeting of this Unit shall be held in the month of April each year for the purpose of electing and installing officers and receiving annual reports.
- Bylaws Article IV, Section 2: Change quorum for a regular meeting from five members to three members.

- Bylaws Article IX, Section 1: Clarify to read as: These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present at a regular Unit meeting, provided the proposed amendments shall have been read at the previous meeting or distributed by email to all members at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

Appointment of Officers: Unit President Victoria Pridemore appointed Michelle Vaughn as Unit Historian.

Member Initiation: Units typically hold member initiation ceremonies (be it quarterly, bi-annually, etc.) to charge members with upholding the aims and purposes of the American Legion Auxiliary. As the majority of our members have not been initiated yet, we discussed asking some national chairmen that we know to lead the ceremony when they are here for the Washington DC Conference. If we can make this happen, we will try to have it before the opening session (see announcements) so members do not need to go to the hotel twice.

Service Project Reports: Unit 1 participated in 3 service projects in January. Members and friends (total of 10 people) stuffed 120 care kits for servicemembers at Points of Light's National Day of Service event on Saturday, January 19. Two members then joined Post 1 at the National Day of Service's Service Fair for a couple hours. On Saturday, January 26, members joined Ms. Veteran American and Final Salute, Inc. (approx. 20 people) to clean-up Wreaths Across America's wreaths at Arlington Cemetery.

New Business

Upcoming Service Project: In February, we will try some independent service projects. (1) Michelle Vaughn will bring Operation Honor Corps letters and pledge cards to the February meeting. Members will take cards with them to review for appropriateness and return them at the next meeting. (2) Members will also bring donated items for care packages to the February meeting. A list of suggestions will go out in the newsletter. For March, members will (1) look into greeting an Honor Flights and (2) bring a second project idea to the February meeting.

eBay Auction: Post and Unit 1 will hold an auction through eBay to raise money to provide more programming for veterans and their families in the metro DC area. It is tentatively scheduled for mid-March. Members are encouraged to donate items or get items donated. Contact the planning committee at Post1Auction@gmail.com regarding donations.

Nominations for National Awards: There are several awards, such as the Servicewoman of the Year Award, which we are able to make nominations for. The Servicewoman of the Year Award recognizes one woman in service for each of the 5 military branches. We can nominate 5 women (1 per branch) to department for consideration and submission to the national Past Presidents Parley committee. Additional awards will be discussed at a future meeting.

Announcements

National's Washington DC Conference: At the Auxiliary's annual Washington DC Conference, the opening session is open to all members of the Legion Family. Registration is not required, free and all members are encouraged to attend. It is Sunday, February 24 from 7:30pm - 9:30pm at the Washington Hilton Hotel (near Dupont Circle).

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 2013 at Location TBA

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.