

MINUTES

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1 in DC

Date | Time Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 6:38pm | *Meeting called to order by* Unit President Victoria Pridemore

In Attendance

Victoria Pridemore (President), Barbara Riegsecker (E-Board Member via phone), Ruth Riegsecker (via phone), Sharon Riegsecker (Secretary/Treasurer) and Michelle Vaughn (Historian)

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Minutes: It was moved that the minutes from the regular January 29, 2013 meeting and discussion notes from February 12, 2013 be approved as submitted without reading. The motion was seconded and passed.

Membership: Unit 1 has 16 current members.

Finance Report: The general fund currently has \$270 cash. We are still unable to open a checking account (pending paperwork from National Headquarters). Once we get the account, we have \$270 in checks to deposit and can begin paying expenses. The poppy fund has \$10.

Communications: Email from Post 1 First Vice Commander Alec Petkoff was read thanking us for both the birthday wishes and all that we have accomplished so far.

Unfinished Business

Status of Charter: Sharon Riegsecker will meet with the department president and department secretary at the department's March meeting to get our charter signed.

Changes in Officers: Executive Board Member Barbara Riegsecker resigned from her position in support of the constitutional change to remove the executive board members at large.

Constitution & Bylaws Changes: The following were changes proposed. The action taken on each is indicated below.

- **REJECTED:** 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.
- **APPROVED:** Constitution Article V, Section 4: Add section: All Unit Officers shall serve as the members of the Executive Board.
- **APPROVED:** 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.
- **APPROVED:** Constitution Article VI, Sections 1-3: Delete sections.
- **APPROVED:** Constitution Article VII: Make Article VI, pending deletion of Article VI.
- **APPROVED:** 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.
- **APPROVED:** 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).
- **APPROVED:** 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.
- **APPROVED:** 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.

- **APPROVED:** Bylaws Article IV, Section 2: Change quorum for a regular meeting from five members to three members.
- **APPROVED:** 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: The appointment of Michelle Vaughn as Historian was confirmed.

Member Initiation: We will proceed with conducting member initiation at our year-end meeting in April. Victoria Pridemore will contact the department president to assist in facilitating this ceremony; if she is unavailable Sharon Riegsecker will work to identify a national chairman to assist us. Sharon Riegsecker will coordinate members able to assist in facilitating this ceremony about roles they can participate in.

Website Update: Sharon Riegsecker has about 5 pages left to complete. She will contact the web provider as we establish our bank account.

Service Projects Update:

1. We continue to collect items for the care package drive through the end of March. A rough estimate is that we have collected about \$115 worth of items.
2. Vice President Debbie Chen is working on coordinating greeting an Honor Flight on Saturday, March 23.
3. The Wounded Warrior Project Salute the Troops auction event is scheduled for Saturday, April 13. Members would be asked to ensure auction items do not walk off with the wrong owners.

Fundraisers: Victoria Pridemore has followed up further on the Burgers for Benefits evening at Fuddruckers. She learned that while we do need to pass out flyers before hand, we do not need to tell them how many we passed out. We would receive 10% of sales. Dates were discussed, and it was felt we should hold this event on a Thursday in June.

New Business

New Upcoming Service Projects:

1. The VA's CRRC (Community Resource and Referral Center) for homeless and at-risk veterans has shared with us a need for Tide Pods. Throughout March and April, we will be collecting donations of Tide Pods or money to purchase Tide Pods as a Legion Family. We will use all the money collected to purchase Tide Pods at Costco, where \$20 will buy 90 Pods.
2. There will be a military spouse-focused job fair on Thursday, March 15 at the Washington Convention Center. Members are encouraged to assist in tabling at The American Legion's table.
3. Debbie is researching participating in welcoming an Honor Flight in April. Preferably the one scheduled for Saturday, April 20.
4. In the month of May, we will conduct an Honor Flight project with AmeriCorps Alums DC Chapter.
5. Michelle will take the lead on coordinating a washing of the memorials on the National Mall. Final dates are forthcoming, but it will be in either April, May or June.

"Adoption" of the CRRC: Unit 1 voted to "adopt" the CRRC in DC to help them in projects as we are able. We hope this will be a long-term collaboration and is a great way for us to help veterans in our community.

Recording Your Service: All members are asked to submit their annual impact reports by email to ALAUnit1inDC@gmail.com no later than Sunday, March 30 so that we can compile our committee reports and annual impact reports.

"Where Are They Now?" Nominations: The Auxiliary is collecting a list of members who have done something exciting, new or different in America outside of their membership. We will be submitting Denyse Gordon as the first Ms Veteran America, Barbara Riegsecker as the first female cadet to graduate Mercer University's ROTC program and Sharon Riegsecker for her participation in the Auxiliary's first Call to Service Corps class.

Annual Gift Membership to Ms Veteran America: It was voted that each year, Unit 1 would provide a gift membership to the recipient of the Ms Veteran America contest, if she is not already a member of the Auxiliary. Victoria Pridemore will work with Final Salute to see about any print recognition we can get for this.

Year-End Meeting for 2012-2013: Our April meeting will serve as our year-end meeting. We will elect officers for the 2012-2013 year and delegates to the department convention. The department convention is on Saturday, April 27; we get two delegates but all members are encouraged to attend. Additionally at this meeting we will hear our year-end report and conduct the member initiation ceremony (see above). Victoria Pridemore will contact the department president to assist in facilitating this ceremony; if she is unavailable Sharon Riegsecker will work to identify a national chairman to assist us. Victoria Pridemore will look in to the possibility of utilizing a Google+ Hangout so we can incorporate out-of-town members.

Announcements

Post Membership Drive: During the month of March, the post is conducting a membership drive to reward the member who recruits the most Legionnaires a \$250 cash prize. Feel free to put any eligible veteran interested in joining in contact with Victoria Pridemore. If she wins, she will make a donation to Unit 1.

Jubleigion: Post 1 is participating in a Legion department-wide fundraiser. It is a raffle and tickets are \$1 each. The grand prize is \$1500. If interested, see Victoria Pridemore.

National Commander's Luncheon: The American Legion's National Commander's official visit will be for the National Commander's Luncheon. The post has invited us to sit with them. It will be Saturday, March 30 at noon at the Holiday Inn in Rosslyn. Tickets are \$50, and you get a choice of prime rib or salmon.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at the National Veterans Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.