

MINUTES

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1 in DC

Date / Time Tuesday, October 8, 2013 at 6:45pm | *Meeting called to order by* Unit President Victoria Pridemore

In Attendance

Victoria Pridemore (President), Barbara Riegsecker (by phone), Ruth Riegsecker (by phone) and Sharon Riegsecker (Secretary/Treasurer)

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Minutes: It was moved that the minutes from the regularly scheduled August 13, 2013 meeting and discussion points from September 10, 2013 be approved as submitted without reading. The motion was seconded and passed.

Membership: Unit 1 processed 8 members (6 renewals and 2 new) to department in September. The applications for the two members that Bill Ferguson recruited have not been submitted yet. It was moved, seconded and passed that we return the \$60 for two potential members to Bill Ferguson.

Update on Fuddruckers: No update. Sharon Riegsecker is working with Fuddruckers to get everything figured out. They indicated they have mailed the check, but it has not arrived yet.

Finance Report: The general fund account balance is \$822.21. At our August meeting, the balance was \$711.91. Expenses included \$3.95 for web hosting and \$45.75 for postage stamps for a total of \$49.70. Deposits included dues of \$120 and a \$40 general donation for a total of \$160. The poppy fund balance is \$0.00. We four outstanding checks written to ALA Department of DC totaling \$155 (2 membership checks for \$14 each written on March 30, 2013 and April 27, 2013; 1 convention delegate fees check for \$15 written on April 27, 2013; 1 membership check for \$112).

Service Hour Reporting: Members are strongly encouraged to report their service hours monthly. Since April, Unit 1 averages 4.57 members reporting each month and collectively average 45.57 hours per month.

Unfinished Business

Upcoming Service Projects:

1. Washing Vietnam Memorial Wall—The October wash was cancelled due to the shutdown. VVA Chapter 641's last Wall wash for the year is November 2.
2. Honor Flight—
 - a. 10/12—Post 1 would be going to the World War II Memorial to greet veterans. More details were set out by the post by email today.
 - b. 11/9—West Central Florida—<https://Unit1HonorFlightNov13.eventbrite.com/>
3. Military parent outing/Playseum—Tabled until the next meeting as Lauren Lloyd was not present.

Post 1 Member Deployed: Sharon Riegsecker heard from the Legionnaire. In light of the government shutdown, Sharon Riegsecker will follow up with the Legionnaire's wife to see if they need anything.

Realizing that Post 1 will have more members that may deploy in the future, we decided on the following standard. If the Legionnaire has dependents, our contribution will be \$25 per dependent, not to exceed \$100. If the Legionnaire is single, our contribution will be \$25 to their next of kin.

Unit 1 T-Shirts: Victoria Pridemore and Sharon Riegsecker will work on identifying the shirts we will be using. They will then discuss options for the shirt with Barbara Riegsecker, who has volunteered to embroider the shirts for us.

Department Appointments: Department President Barbara Rich continues to look for members to serve as department chairmen of the various committees. Additionally, Department Constitution & Bylaws Chairman Melinda Tomaino is looking for one member from each unit to service on the committee to revise the department constitution, bylaws and standing rules in accordance with changes to the national documents. Victoria Pridemore volunteered to serve as the Department Community Service Chairman. Sharon Riegsecker was nominated to serve as our member on the constitution and bylaws committees, as she maintains our constitution and bylaws.

New Business

Upcoming Service Projects:

1. Veterans Day Ideas?—As most members have to work on Veterans Day, we will not be working towards coordinating special programs. We will prompt the events at Arlington Cemetery, etc. if our members want to attend.
2. Holiday Mail for Heroes—We will make a big push to prompt this service project. All members are encouraged to write at least one card, as well as prompt it among their family, friends and co-workers! Cards are due by December 6. For the specifics, visit: <http://www.redcross.org/support/get-involved/holiday-mail-for-heroes>
3. Thanksgiving Day Ideas?—Unless comes up last minute, we will not have a service project.
4. Christmas (Holiday) Ideas?—We will look into adopting a local active-duty, National Guard or Reserve family for the holidays. Victoria Pridemore will work to make contact with the DC National Guard.
5. Wreaths Across America wreaths at Arlington Cemetery. Wreath placement has been announced for December 14. We project the clean-up will be January 25.

CRRC for October Drive/Winterhaven Stand Down: Victoria Pridemore has been in contact with the CRRC, however they have not been able to identify anything they currently need. As such, it was moved, seconded and passed that Unit 1 focus this drive on collecting things needed for the Winterhaven Stand Down, not the CRRC. Post 1 will join Unit 1 in the collection efforts.

Poppy Mailing and Fundraiser: Unit 1 will have a mailing of poppies to Post 1 members in an effort to collect poppy funds.

Upcoming Service Projects/Donations for Department Projects: There are several projects forthcoming through the department that requests funds from Unit 1. These are:

1. December 7—VAMC Christmas Gift Shop allows patients in the long-term care to select gifts, free of charge, for their friends/family. In addition to volunteering at the event, Unit 1 will donate \$20.
2. National Child Welfare Fund—Unit 1 voted to contribute no money to this fund.
3. DC Conference's Parade of Checks—Unit 1 voted to contribute no money to this fund.
4. DC VA's residential homeless center—Action on this was tabled until more information could be provided about what the center is requesting.

Budget: A budget for the 2013-2014 budget year was presented. Modifications prior to accepting the budget included (1) adding up to \$40 to other to cover 20% of the Post 1 Family PO Box (the current post commander has indicated we should split the cost of the Post Family PO Box, whereas the original arrangement with the post was that the unit would regularly check the PO Box for free usage of the box; no post minutes exist stating this), (2) adding \$15 for the 2014 convention delegate fees and (3) decreasing the amount for the department president's project to \$20.

Post 1 Family Winter Social: A Post 1 Family social will be planned for early 2014.

Supporting Local Legion Families: We considered attending Unit 180's monthly breakfast fundraiser and/or Post 177's Friday Night Dinner. At present, we will be going to Unit 180's November 17 breakfast. Breakfast is \$8. We will revisit Post 177's Friday Night Dinners in the new year.

Announcements

Sunday, October 13 will be Falls Church's annual Veterans Picnic.

This week and through the weekend, Georgetown University hosted The Wall That Heals, the replica of the Vietnam Wall. In addition to visiting the replica, members can volunteer to staff the exhibit. Shifts are available around the clock; overnight volunteers are especially needed as the exhibit cannot be left unattended.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at the National Veterans Center. This will be a joint Post 1 Family meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.