

MINUTES

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1 in DC

Date | Time Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 6:44pm | *Meeting called to order by* Unit President Victoria Pridemore

In Attendance

Debbie Chen (Vice President), Victoria Pridemore (President) and Sharon Riegsecker (Secretary/Treasurer)

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership: Unit 1 has processed 12 members (9 renewals, 3 new members) so for the 2014 membership year! Our next transmittal will include 2 new members. We welcome Courtney Brooks (transmitted in October), Allaina Guitron and Warlinda Walker!

Update on Fuddruckers: We finally received our donation from Fuddruckers! From our Burger Benefits night we received \$19.33.

Finance Report: The general fund account balance is \$627.00. At our October meeting, the general fund balance was \$710.21. Expenses included a membership transmittal for \$56.00, a donation to the VA Holiday Gift Shop (department president's special project) for \$20.00, web hosting for \$3.95, military family support gifts (including postage) of \$107.70, poppy drive expenses of \$3.75, reimbursement check for membership unable to process at \$60.00 and the remainder of the drive items (envelopes) from general supplies for \$1.14. Expenses totaled \$337.54. General deposits included dues of \$150.00 and the Fuddruckers check of \$19.33 for a total of \$169.33. The poppy fund balances was \$0.00, but following donations from the poppy drive, this fund is \$102.17. The bank has notified us that since it has been more than six months, ALA Department of DC will be unable to cash their outstanding checks totaling \$43 (2 membership checks for \$14 each written on March 30, 2013 and April 27, 2013 and 1 convention delegate fees check for \$15 written on April 27, 2013). We will stop reporting this, but will be prepared to pay department should they produce the old checks.

Service Hour Reporting: Members are strongly encouraged to report their service hours monthly. Since April, Unit 1 averages 4.38 members reporting each month and collectively average 45.06 hours per month.

Unfinished Business

Upcoming Service Projects:

1. Washing Vietnam Memorial Wall—VVA Chapter 641's last Wall wash for the year was November 2.
2. Honor Flight—The last Honor Flight we participated in for 2013 was Novmeber 2.
3. Holiday Mail for Heroes—Having good success with this program! Members signed 40 cards from Unit 1 during the meeting, and this was the *Pass It On* moment in the newsletter. Members will continue to promote this event to their friends, family and co-workers.
4. VAMC Holiday Gift Shop—The Gift Shop will be December 7. Victoria Pridemore and/or Sharon Riegsecker will forward information as soon as we get it from department.
5. Wreaths Across America Wreath Placement—Scheduled for December 14.
6. Wreaths Across America Wreath Clean-Up—We think it will be on January 25.
7. Point-In-Time Count—More details are forthcoming, but we expect this to be on January 29.
8. Christmas Ideas—While we won't be pursuing an adopt-a-military-family option, we will be prompting participation with Toys for Tots.
9. TAPS—Vice President Debbie Chen will follow the guide provided by National Headquarters to make contact with TAPS.

Upcoming Social Events:

1. Unit 180 Breakfast—Unit 1 members will support our friends at Unit 180 (VA) by going to their December 17 breakfast. We'll arrive at 10:45am.
2. Post 1 Family Social—The social will be in early February. No other update at this time.

Post 1 Member Deployed: In lieu of knowing what was best to send, we sent a \$50 gift card to mom's favorite store, Target (suggested by the Post 1 Member), and a \$50 check with a note that said we had thought to get her a spa treatment, but didn't know where to go.

Unit 1 T-Shirts: No update.

Winterhaven Stand Down/Poppy Fundraiser: The poppy fundraiser is off to a GREAT start! We'll use most of the money to purchase items for Winterhaven. At present, all they need is donations.

New Business

Upcoming Service Projects:

1. Dog Tag Bakery in Georgetown and Team RWB—No date available, but believe it will be sometime in December. We are unable to make a commitment to this project without more information.
2. MLK Day Opportunity—We are looking into a joint project with Team RWB. Current project is an education project with Volunteer Fairfax. More information to follow.

Support the USO in DCA: Member Lauren Lloyd identified a need at the USO in Reagan Airport; they are in need of things like Hot Pockets, Power Bars and other snacks, monthly. On average, they see 1,600+ servicemembers and dependents per month. Due to our limited funds, we voted to not participate in this project, but will prompt it to our ALA friends in Virginia and suggest that to cut costs they consider doing it as a multi-unit project.

Wounded Warrior Salute the Troops Happy Hour: There will be another Wounded Warrior Project happy hour in Rockville on November 15. They are looking for volunteers. President Victoria Pridemore will post information on this event on both the post and unit's Facebook accounts.

Announcements

In conjunction with the National Public Awareness Campaign, ALA Department of DC will be holding a volunteer "social" before the November 23 department meeting. All members are encouraged to attend to promote Unit 1 and participate in signing cards for Holiday Mail for Heroes. Sharon Riegsecker will make handout information for this event.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at the National Veterans Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.