

# MINUTES

## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1 in DC

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*Date | Time* Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 6:38pm | *Meeting called to order by* Unit President Victoria Pridemore

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### In Attendance

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

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### Secretary/Treasurer's Report

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**Minutes:** Minutes from the October, November and December meetings were approved as submitted.

**Membership:** We are still at 17 members, and several of these members still need to be processed. We need one more member to renew or join to hit our numerical objective.

**Finance Report:** The general fund account balance is \$1610.42. At our December meeting, the general fund balance was \$623.05. Expenses (two months combined) included postage at \$60.21 (this includes an additional 100 stamps before the cost went up 3¢ per stamp), welcome home card for Post 1 member for \$3.69 and web hosting for \$7.90. Expenses totaled \$71.80. Income included a general donation of \$1000 and dues of \$59.17. Income totaled \$1059.17. The poppy fund balance was \$1247.17, but following donations totaling \$65.00 and items purchased for Winterhaven (homeless veterans) totaling \$966.62, the fund is now \$345.55. The \$60.00 outstanding check for the reimbursement of membership we're unable to process has been considered a donation.

**Service Hour Reporting:** Members are strongly encouraged to report their service hours monthly. Since April, Unit 1 averages 4.40 members reporting each month and collectively average 42.65 hours per month.

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### Unfinished Business

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#### **Service Recap:**

1. Winterhaven—We purchased 16 winter coats for mostly female veterans (approximately \$670), approximately \$100 worth of wool coats and approximately \$200 worth of tampons and pads. DC VA Medical Center staff has informed us that they are no longer in need of these items. In an effort to not end up with 16 winter coats, it was voted to return the winter coats and return the money to poppy funds. Returning the socks, tampons and pads are not an option based on return by dates. We will find other in-need veterans to donate these too.
2. MLK Day of Service—The Points of Light Service Fair went well overall. Victoria Pridemore and Sharon Riegsecker made some promising connections while tabling at this event.
3. Wreaths Across America Clean-Up—Members and friends (8 volunteers) came out to clean-up the Wreaths Across America wreaths. It was another great year. Victoria Pridemore wrote a guest blog for the Department of VA and it was published on February 4, 2014!
4. Point-In-Time Count—Two ALA members and one Post 1 member joined in the efforts to count the homeless population in Washington DC.

#### **Upcoming Social Events:**

1. Post 1 Family Social—This is TOMORROW, February 12 at Froggy Bottom. It will have a Valentine's Day theme. There is a \$5 cover fee for this event.

**Unit 1 T-Shirts:** Our design has been approved by National Secretary Dubbie Buckler! Each polo shirt will be \$10.

#### **Nominations:**

1. Operation Homefront's Military Child of the Year—Debbie Chen has nominated a child.
2. ALA's Servicewoman of the Year—Victoria Pridemore and Sharon Riegsecker will focus on recruiting 5 nominees to submit to department.
3. ALA's Children of Warriors National President—From our Points of Light Service Fair event at Dunbar High School, we hope to be able to identify someone to submit for this award.

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## New Business

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### *Upcoming Service Projects:*

1. Lunch at the Fisher House for Presidents' Day—We have had a great interest; we are currently at 10 participants! The menu will be a taco bar. A budget of up to \$150.00 was approved for this luncheon.
2. TAPS Survivor Resource Kits—On March 8, we will be assembling survivor resource kits with Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. This event will be capped at 8 people.
3. Honor Flights—The first Honor Flight of the year will be April 5.
4. Women Veterans Stand Down with Final Salute—More information to follow on this event, but it will be Saturday, May 10.
5. TAPS Good Grief Camp—This is over Memorial Day Weekend. Volunteers can serve as mentors. Anyone interested should follow up with Victoria Pridemore for more information.

*Calendar of Events for the Rest of the Programming Year:* This was tabled until the next meeting.

*Post Office Box:* Due to recent interactions with Post 1, we discussed how to proceed with the PO Box, which is due by February 28. Given that we were unsure who would have the post's copy of the PO Box key, we felt uncomfortable sharing the box. We voted to pay for the entire box for a total of \$148.00 per year.

*Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules:* This was tabled until the May meeting.

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## Announcements

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The Auxiliary's annual Washington DC Conference is quickly approaching. Portions members would be interested in attending will be Monday, March 24-Wednesday, March 26. All members are welcome to attend; there is a registration fee for this event. Anyone interested in attending should contact Sharon Riegsecker.

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## Next Meeting

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Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at the National Veterans Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.