

MINUTES

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1 in DC

Date | Time Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at 6:38pm | *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

Minutes: Minutes from the July meeting were approved as submitted.

Membership: We are now collecting dues for the 2015 Membership Year! It looks like we'll have 5 renewals to process in our first transmittal.

Finance Report: The general fund account balance is \$1208.81. At our July meeting, the general fund balance was \$1208.21. Expenses included web hosting for \$3.95 and postage costs for \$15.45. Expenses totaled \$19.40. We received a \$20 donation towards our care package drive. The poppy fund balance was \$1118.10. Expenses included purchasing items for a care package at \$53.63. The poppy fund is now \$1,064.47. We have two outstanding checks to the ALA Department of DC totaling \$24.00.

Unfinished Business

Service Recap:

1. Spirit of '45 (8/10)—Thanks to everyone who came out to support Code of Support Foundation's living memorial to current conflict veterans.
2. Care Package Drive for Deployed Post 1 Member—We sent a large box of items to the deployed Post 1 member. She was very grateful for the care package. She wrote to say that "the care package came during a difficult work week and the extra sugar was definitely put to good use to keep me plowing through the 16+ hour days."

Upcoming Service Projects:

1. Bridge the Gap (8/16)—Join Serve DC and Friendship Place to help inform homeless veterans of services that may be available to them.
2. 9/11 Day of Service (9/11)—We are proceeding with the event at the Pentagon Memorial. It doesn't sound like we'll need any special permits for this event. Lauren Lloyd thinks she can get carnations donated. It was felt that we really need to have ALA poppies as well, as they're recognizable as the ALA. Sharon Riegsecker will work on getting 200 poppies. We'll start our program at 6pm and cap the participant size at 35. This way, everyone will be able to place at least 5 carnations and/or poppies. It was authorized to spend up to \$30 for supplies need for this project.
3. Honor Flight (9/20)—There's still time to register!
4. Honor Flight on Make a Difference Day (10/25)—Be sure to tell a friend! Since it's Make a Difference Day, people may be more inclined to join us!
5. Toys for Tots—At the last meeting we discussed volunteering to help sort toys for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. Debbie Chen to do some additional research and report back to the group.
6. Roller Derby—At the last meeting we discussed volunteering to with the Freedom Belles. Debbie Chen to do some additional research and report back to the group.

Social and Celebration for American Legion Day (9/16) at Froggy Bottom: We'll gather to celebrate the 95th anniversary of Congress signing the Legion's congressional charter at Froggy Bottom. Cover is \$5 per person to cover appetizers. Be sure to invite some friends!

Since we have several events scheduled in a two (2) week period, we'll cancel our September meeting.

Deployed Post 1 Member Family Support: Victoria Pridemore is still in dialogue with the deployed Post 1 member about sending her family a care package.

Constitution, Bylaws & Standing Rules Changes: Clarification on the Standing Rule around supporting the family of deployed Post and Unit 1 members were discussed; it was clarified that the deployed servicemember needs to be deployed 90 days or more for us to send a gift to their family.

No additional standing rules were identified, but members were asked to think about it and email Sharon Riegsecker with suggestions. Sharon will look over other Auxiliary Constitutions, Bylaws and Standing Rules to expand on the information we have. The final proposal will be distributed to members in accordance with the current Constitution and Bylaws for a vote at our October meeting.

Members Survey: Sharon Riegsecker is finalizing the survey. There were no other topics discussed for the survey. The survey will go out in the next month, and a summary will be presented at our October meeting.

Collaboration with DC National Guard: Lauren Lloyd reported before the meeting that she had no update to report at this time.

New Business

Volunteer Fair (9/23): Sharon Riegsecker is following information about a Volunteer Fair at Anacostia-Bolling Air Force Base. She's looking for members willing to help man a table, and will follow-up as she knows more.

Asana: This is a task management system, and we look forward to using it to help keep track of all the moving parts in ALA Unit 1 in DC. Officers will be expected to maintain an account.

Birthday/Holiday Care Package for Deployed Post 1 Member: We discussed sending the deployed Post 1 member a birthday (in December)/holiday care package. We'll revisit at our October meeting. Sharon Riegsecker pointed out that we have two (2) bags of Jelly Belly left over to start this care package.

Card for Servicewoman of the Year Nominees: We will pass around a card to sign for our Navy candidate for this award at our 9/11 event, our social on American Legion Day and at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at the National Veterans Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.