

MINUTES

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1 in DC

Date / Time Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 6:44pm | *Meeting called to order by* Unit Vice President Debbie Chen

In Attendance

Debbie Chen (Vice President), Barbara Riegsecker (via phone) and Sharon Riegsecker (Secretary/Treasurer).

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

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

Membership: The first renewal notice for the 2015 Membership Year has gone out. We transmitted five (5) renewals in our transmittal, and we have another renewal to transmit. This puts us at nearly 30% of our numeric goal.

Finance Report: The general fund account balance is \$1,259.39. At our August meeting, the general fund balance was \$1208.81. Expenses included web hosting for \$7.90, postage costs for \$3.30, dues transmittal of \$84.00, Froggy Bottom social of \$30.00 and a pack of card for servicemembers for \$4.22. Expenses totaled \$129.42. We received six renewals for a total of \$180.00. (\$30.00 to cover the Froggy Bottom social costs are pending from Eventbrite.) The poppy fund balance was \$1,064.47. Expenses included making a donation for the poppies needed for our 9/11 Day Service project at \$10.00. The poppy fund is now \$1,054.47. We have an outstanding check to the ALA Department of DC totaling \$70.00.

ALA Unit 1 in DC's IRS Form 990 for tax year 2013 has been filed and accepted by the IRS.

Unfinished Business

Service Recap:

1. Bridge the Gap (8/16)—Members joined Friendship Place to help inform homeless veterans of services that may be available to them. We exchanged contact information with the veteran outreach coordinator.
2. 9/11 Day of Service (9/11)—We had a good turnout (eight people), as we mobilized our AmeriCorps connections.
3. Honor Flight (9/20)—It was another successful getting of an Honor Flight.
4. Volunteer Fair (9/23)—The fair was cancelled.
5. American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial Dedication (10/5)—Members helped to direct veterans in need of assistance to shuttle buses before attending the dedication.

Upcoming Service Projects:

1. 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!
2. Volunteering with Toys for Tots—No update. Debbie Chen to do some additional outreach and report back to the group.
3. Volunteering with the Freedom Belles Roller Derby—No update. At the last meeting we discussed volunteering to with the Freedom Belles. Debbie Chen to do some additional outreach and report back to the group.
4. Volunteering with the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs Holiday Event—Debbie Chen to do some additional outreach to the office to see where they may need assistance.

Social and Celebration for American Legion Day (9/16) at Froggy Bottom: Our celebration of the 95th anniversary of Congress signing the Legion's congressional charter and our recent national awards was attended by several familiar faces.

Birthday/Holiday Care Package for Deployed Post 1 Member: We discussed sending the deployed Post 1 member a birthday (in December)/holiday care package. General consensus was not to spend additional poppy funds for this care package. The care package will include the two leftover bags of Jelly Belly and any additional items members bring to the October Honor Flight.

Deployed Post 1 Member Family Support: No update. Victoria Pridemore is still in dialogue with the deployed Post 1 member about sending her family a care package.

Constitution, Bylaws & Standing Rules Changes: Proposed changes were sent to each member of ALA Unit 1 in DC by email 14 days before the meeting, in accordance with the current constitution and bylaws. Each section was reviewed independently, and then adopted unanimously as a complete document. The Constitution was adopted as presented. The Bylaws was adopted with the following typographical error corrected with unanimous consent: The name of Article I was changed from “Election of Officers and Delegates” to “Election of Officers” as the election of delegates had been previously moved to the proposed Standing Rules. The Standing Rules were updated with the following two clarifications made with unanimous consent:

- Under the Finances section, the following sub-bullet was made to #2, based on current unit practice, as follows: “Dues dollars for new members will be considered collected when accompanied by a completed application.”
- Under the Duties of the Treasurer section, the month listed in #11 was changed from September to October, based on when IRS Form 990 needs to be filed, and now reads: “Submit an IRS Form 990 in October each year.”

Members Survey: The summary of the member survey was presented to members present. A link will appear in the next newsletter.

Collaboration with DC National Guard: No update from Lauren Lloyd at this time.

New Business

Upcoming Service Projects:

1. Holiday Mail for Heroes—Sharon Riegsecker reached out to the American Red Cross National Capitol Region, but has not received a response yet.
2. Holiday Projects?—No plans were made to host any kind of Thanksgiving or winter holiday event.

Co-Hosting an Event with ALA Call to Service Corps AmeriCorps Alumni: We discussed pursuing an idea to hold a social for the Auxiliary’s current AmeriCorps members and alumni in the metro DC area. Sharon Riegsecker will reach out to the ALA’s DC office for permission to contact the AmeriCorps members/alumni, and she will report back at our next meeting. The current thought is that the social will be similar to one we hold for our own members, however we will charge more (likely double) for ALA members, our supporters and the AmeriCorps alumni. This allows for currently serving AmeriCorps members, who are on a limited living allowance, to participate more easily.

Collecting Boots for the Winterhaven Stand Down: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Veterans Affinity Group, the DC VA Medical Center and their partners are coordinating another boot/shoe drive for the Winterhaven Stand Down. We voted to authorize \$500 of poppy funds for this project. We’ll poll our connections to see if we can get the boots/shoes at a discount. Donations of new shoes or money will also be accepted.

DC Service Members, Veterans, and their Family Workgroup Update: Sharon Riegsecker attending the DC SMVF Workgroup public hearing meeting on Wednesday, October 1. The city is drafting a plan for the mayor’s approval around five (5) priority areas: 1) criminal justice, 2) economic security and employment, 3) housing and homelessness, 4) education and 5) healthcare.

Participation in the Give an Hour DC Collaborative: On October 24, Sharon Riegsecker will be attending the first meeting of the collaborative. Sharon will report back next month for a decision if we want to take an active role in the collaborative.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at the National Veterans Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.