

# MINUTES

## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1 in DC

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*Date / Time* Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 6:41pm | *Meeting called to order by* Unit President Victoria Pridemore

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### In Attendance

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Lauren Lloyd, Victoria Pridemore (President) and Sharon Riegsecker (Secretary/Treasurer).

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### Secretary/Treasurer's Report

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**Membership:** With one more renewal, we are at 48% of our numerical goal.

**Finance Report:** The general fund account balance is \$1,308.72. At our November meeting, the general fund balance was \$1,365.50. Expenses included a dues remittance for \$42.00, a donation to the Department President's Special Project for \$20.00, web hosting for \$3.95, a donation to both the national Auxiliary Emergency Fund and National President's Scholarship Fund for \$10.00 per fund (total of \$20.00). Expenses totaled \$85.95. We received one renewal for \$29.17. The poppy fund balance was \$1,151.72. Expenses include reimbursements for the boot drive at \$634.26. With two donations totaling \$37.75, the poppy fund is now \$555.21.

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### Unfinished Business

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#### **Service Recap:**

1. Toys for Tots—Due to difficulty with making contact with the local Marine Reserves, this event was cancelled.
2. Christmas Gift Shop (12/6)—To our knowledge, no members from Unit 1 participated in the department's Christmas Gift Shop.
3. Jingle All The Way 5k (12/7)—Members attend the race to support GW's Office of Military and Veteran Student Services by volunteering with them to help check-in bags of the runners.

#### **Upcoming Service Projects:**

1. Volunteering with the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs Holiday Event—Debbie Chen did not provide information on this event.

**Deployed Post 1 Member Family Support:** It was discussed to get the step-mother of the deployed Post 1 member a gift card to Starbucks or her favorite restaurant. Victoria Pridemore will follow-up to see where it will be best to get a gift card from.

**Co-Hosting an Event with ALA Call to Service Corps AmeriCorps Alumni:** Sharon Riegsecker contacted the 25 local alumni, and she only heard back from two (not including herself). As such, we decided to not pursue this idea further at this time.

**#GivingTuesday:** Between members and supporters, we received four "unselfies" for the #GivingTuesday campaign. Our social media reach increased greatly for the week.

**Participation in the Give an Hour DC Collaborative:** Sharon Riegsecker said there wasn't a meeting scheduled for this month. Lauren Lloyd indicated that she would be interested in representing Unit 1 at these meetings. Sharon will follow-up with her about this further.

**Collaboration with DC National Guard:** Lauren Lloyd indicated she's having trouble with getting the unit to return her phone calls.

**Collecting Boots for the Winterhaven Stand Down:** Sharon Riegsecker used the authorized poppy funds (\$500.00) and funds donated for this purpose (an additional \$134.26) to purchase boots on Black Friday. We were able to purchase 24

pairs of men's boots. The boots had a retail value of \$75.00, but we paid \$25.00 per pair. Sharon will coordinate with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Veterans Affinity Group to drop off the boots in the first week in January.

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## New Business

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**Vice President Resignation:** Effective Wednesday, December 3, Debbie Chen resigned from the office of Vice President.

**Upcoming Service Projects:**

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (1/19)—We'll be joining with the GW Veterans to volunteer on MLK Day. (*Note:* The event might not be veteran focused, but we'll be volunteering with veterans.)
2. Wreaths Across America (1/24)—We'll participate in the Wreaths Across America wreath clean-up again at Arlington.
3. Point In Time Count—Members present didn't think they'd be able to participate, but we'll still promote this as an opportunity for people to volunteer.
4. Valentine's Day Project?—We discussed hosting a Valentine's Day meal for spouses of servicemembers who were KIA. Lauren Lloyd will look into the possibility of restaurants. Victoria Pridemore mentioned she might be able to put us in contact with local Gold Star spouses.

**Strategic Planning Meeting:** In January, we'll plan to have a meeting of local members and supporters to determine where we want Unit 1 to go and what we want it to look like. Since we want to make sure as many people can attend as possible, Victoria Pridemore will email members and supporters to see when the best time to meet is.

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## Announcements

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Department Meetings to finish out the programming year will be on February 28 and April 25. The department convention will be June 13.

The opening of the ALA's Washington DC Conference (a National meeting) is free and open to all ALA members. Sharon Riegsecker recommended members block off 7pm-9:30pm for the event. Additional details to follow.

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## Next Meeting

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Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at GW's Marvin Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.