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**DANIEL R. OLSEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 594**  
**POST MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 21, 2021**

The regular post meeting was held in the conference room at Cedarvale Lanes in Eagan.

### **Kids ‘n Kinship**

#### **Old Business:**

- Jerod Peterson, Program Coordinator for Kids ‘n Kinship, provided an overview of their program to better inform the Post regarding their request for a \$1,000 donation as discussed at the July meeting. After discussion and vote of those present, it was decided the Post was not in a position financially to support the request. Primary reasons for the denial were the current financial health of the organization due to Covid, lack of projected revenue, and the lack of direct correlation to the pillars of the American Legion. The request for donation will be reconsidered in the next fiscal year, once fundraising and other revenue generating activities are clearer. John Rayman will contact Jerod Peterson to inform him of our decision.
- Commander Beierman participated in the annual Legacy Run. Donations in the amount of \$1,090 were received. In addition, \$500 in matching funds were donated as approved at the July meeting. A total amount of \$1,590 was donated to this worth cause. Colleen Vaubel presented some information regarding Kids n’ Kinship and a request from that organization for a donation to support their efforts. After discussion, it was decided more information was needed. It is uncertain as to whether the goals of the organization fit with the Legion pillars/goals. Colleen will make arrangements for a representative of the organization to present at a future meeting.
- Commander Beierman served as the Sergeant at Arms for the National Convention. Membership was a major theme of the convention. The newly elected National Commander, Paul Dillard, was introduced. His theme is “no veteran left behind.”
- Dan Senoa, John Rayman, and Frank Caldwell raised the flag at the Eagan High School (EHS) home opener. Commander Beierman presented a U.S. flag to EHS principal, Dr. Polly Riekowski.
- A 9/11 remembrance ceremony was held at the Eagan Community Center Memorial Plaza in collaboration with the Eagan Lions club. The event was well attended. Two EHS students sang the National Anthem. The Post color guard participated. Post member Paul Kovach was the keynote speaker. Additional comments were provided by the Chief of Police, Fire Chief, and an EMT.

#### **New Business:**

- John Rayman provided a treasurer’s report. The Post currently has \$3,200 in the account. Lack of fundraising due to Covid has limited incoming money.
- Commander Beierman and Dan Senoa presented Post 594 commendation certificates to William York-Critchley, Post 594’s oldest member, on his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mr. York-Critchley served in the Army Air Corp during WWII.
- On September 15, 2021, Wayne Beierman, John Rayman, Rob Callahan, and David Hammer met to discuss Post communications. Specifically, how to better manage the website and social media to promote Post activities and accomplishments. David Hammer agreed to continue as Post Historian and Webmaster.
- The Sam’s Club flag box continues to be popular. We have many flags to retire, and Wayne will contact the city to arrange a fall flag retirement ceremony.
- Mike Pieffer will organize another blood drive. Proposed date is the Friday before Veteran’s Day, 11/5/2021.

- Discussion of Veteran's Day activities. An event is tentatively scheduled for November 10, 2021, at 0900. Details will be forthcoming. Thompson Reuters has also requested a color guard presentation for the morning of November 11.
- Dan Senoa expressed the need for Color Guard membership. We have many upcoming events and participation has been a little hit and miss as far as fielding a full contingent. Cost of uniforms will be an issue under current revenue constraints.
- Vice Commander Kirchenwitz discussed membership. We are currently at 41% renewal and behind membership renewal goals. The issue of Post 594 paying for membership renewals for those residing at the Hastings Veterans Home was raised. Those memberships total \$2,200. It was agreed this was not sustainable going forward. VC Kirchenwitz will draft two letters – one to urge general membership renewals, and a second to advise Post 594 members at the home that will no longer be paying their membership dues.
- Rob Callahan was asked to contact Dakota County Veteran Services to see if someone from that office would be willing to attend our November meeting.
- Colleen Vaubel encourage more collaboration with the Auxiliary going forward. Commander Beierman agreed this should be a point of emphasis.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- John Rayman received the nomination forms for Law Enforcement and Firefighter of the year forms from State. The applications are due in April 2022. John will be contacting the Eagan Police and Fire Chiefs to discuss the application process and provide the necessary paperwork. This will be ongoing until application submission.
- Discussion had regarding post vision and goals. Focus going forward will be on membership engagement – how do we get more people involved in post activities, as well as reinventing how we interact with the community, publicize our efforts, and reimagine fundraising. There will be many opportunities in the near future which will be presented to the Post for consideration. More clarity on this issue will be sought going into the new calendar year.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Fisher House monthly breakfast is still on hold.
- Color Guard at EHS October 1, 15, and 20, 2021
- Adopt a Street garbage pickup, Saturday, October 2, 2021
- Core Group Leadership Meeting October 19, 2021
- Blood Drive, November 5, 2021, Details TBD
- Fall flag retirement ceremony. Details TBD
- Probable Veterans Day ceremonies November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Details TBD.

**Next Meeting:** November 16, 2021, 1900, Cedarvale Lanes