



DANIEL R. OLSEN AMERICAN LEGION POST 594
POST MEETING MINUTES
January 18, 2022

The regular post meeting was held in the conference room at Cedarvale Lanes in Eagan. A social hour was held from 1815-1900.

Before discussing Post business, members present heard from two guests:

- Post 594 American Legion Oratorical Contest contestant Sam Schowalter shared the speech he will be presenting at the Third District Oratorical contest to be held in New Prague, MN on February 12, 2022.
- Joel Hendricken from Dakota County Veteran Services provided an overview of services available to Dakota County Veterans. Joel expressed a need for mentors to support participants in the Carver-Dakota Treatment Court. Detailed information regarding the mentor program was provided and will be disseminated to Post members. Dakota County Veteran Services can be a front-line contact for any Dakota County veteran needing information or assistance in the areas of VA health care or other benefits (e.g., education, burial, etc.).

Old Business:

- John Rayman provided a treasurer's report. The Post has \$3,256 in its account. This balance has remained consistent with very little revenue and few expenses outside of membership renewals.
- Vice Commander Kirchenwitz provided a membership update. We are currently at 60% renewal and somewhat behind on our renewal goals. He has sent letters to members as a reminder.
- Colleen Vaubel encouraged more Post collaboration with the Women's Auxiliary. They are currently doing a winter clothing drive. There is a box at the Eagan Community Center where people can donate. The clothing will ultimately be provided to Every Third Saturday, a Minneapolis Veterans organization that provides needed items to local vets.
- Holiday decorating at the Hasting Veteran's was completed on 12/7/21 at 7:00 p.m. A group of Post members including Commander Beierman, Wayne Olsen, Stewart Fobes, and Dan Seanoa, decorated and provided toiletries, sundries, and puzzles to the residents there.
- Adopt-a-Vet was full this year. As approved at the last meeting, a gift was provided to John Clinkenbeard, former Post 594 member. Commander Beierman took John to dinner and presented a gift of two flannel shirts. John sends a big thank you to the Post.
- Dan Seanoa discussed Color Guard activities. We will be adding one additional member to the Color Guard which should help cover needed activities. Much discussion about what the Color Guard can offer and how that should be communicated. There is a need to better communicate with local funeral homes to receive death notifications re: post members. Contact information for the Color Guard could be provided on the Post website.

New Business:

- Adjutant Rayman provided a membership update. The Post currently has \$5,249 in its account. There were over \$7,500 in donations in 2021, which helped stabilize our financial situation. Year-end donation acknowledgement letters should be in the mail by next week.
- Vice Commander Kirchenwitz provided a membership update. The Post is currently at 92% renewal and on track for annual membership goals. National will be sending out membership renewal reminders again on February 1.

- The Open Door Super Bagging Event will take place at Eagan Cub Foods locations on February 12-13, 2022. Commander Beierman has been in contact with the event organizer and there are a limited number of slots available. Ideally, the Post would come up with a group of 10 people to fill an available slot. Adjutant Rayman will communicate the available spots and solicit interested volunteers.
- Core leadership group will continue to meet every other month between regular Post meetings to discuss topics geared toward guiding future Post logistics and activities. The Women's Auxiliary has been invited to the next meeting to clarify their role and discuss how we might support each other's efforts.
- Commander Beierman, Vice-Commander Kirchenwitz, and Adjutant Rayman will be attending the 3rd District Mid-Winter Conference in Nicollet, Minnesota, on Saturday, January 22, 2022. Anyone interested in attending should let Commander Beierman know right away so we can get them registered.
- Stewart Fobes advised members who possess retired ID cards that they will need to upgrade to the new Facility Access Card (FAC). Members will need to make an appointment at a local Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) office to get the new ID. DEERS offices are located at the 934th Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve, and 133rd Air Wing, Minnesota Air National Guard bases near the airport.
- Vice Commander Barrett Kirchenwitz has expressed an interest in serving a 5-year term on the 3rd District Finance Committee. He is currently serving a 1-year term and Chair of the committee. A motion was made and seconded to nominate Vice Commander Kirchenwitz to a 5-year term on the 3rd District Finance Committee. There was no discussion and no objections. The motion to nominate was approved and will be forwarded to the Third District Commander.

Unfinished Business:

- Law enforcement and Firefighter of the year nomination forms have been provided to each of the respective Chiefs, and receipt has been acknowledged. Adjutant John Rayman has requested a response date of March 1, 2022, to allow for timely processing prior to the April 1, 2022, deadline.
- Beyond the Yellow Ribbon continues to advocate for Eagan Fund Fest this year, and hopefully allow the Post to resume its fundraiser. More details will be forthcoming.
- Post Vision and Goals: The 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. The Post survey has been emailed to seek member input. Future goals and a mission statement will be informed by the survey results.
- The Wall That Heals, the ¾ scale Vietnam Memorial Wall, will be coming to Rahn Park in Eagan July 14-19, 2022. An informational meeting is scheduled at the Eagan Community Center on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 1900. Post volunteer opportunities should be clearer at that point. There is a YouTube video regarding the wall. That video will be made available to Post members to view.

Upcoming Events:

- Fisher House monthly breakfast is still on hold.
- Super Bagging Event, February 12-13, 2022, Cub Foods
- Core Group Leadership Meeting, February 15, 2022, Cedarvale
- Spring street clean up late April or early May

Next Meeting: March 15, 2022, 1900, Cedarvale Lanes