

AMVETS Post 1776

Meeting Minutes from July 7, 2022

Meeting held at American Legion Hall, Lake Ella

Meeting called to order by Commander Lightfoot at 1835 hours.
Colors posted and pledge of allegiance by Judge Advocate Henry Lowery.
Invocation by Chaplain Eric Smith.
Preamble of AMVETS by all attending

Roll Call:

Commander Lightfoot - Present
Provost Taylor - Absent
Judge Advocate Lowery - Present
Chaplain Smith - Present
1st Vice Carney - Present
2nd Vice House - Present on zoom
Finance Officer Rogerson - Present
Adjutant Bogan - Present

Motion to approve minutes from June Meeting approved.

Finance Report:

Paul Rogerson reported that we have \$21,184.00 total in the Bank: \$15,145.81 in savings and \$6,038.29 in checking. All accounts are balanced and reconciled. Paul also read thank you certificate from the Marine Corps League for the \$50.00 donation our Post made towards the Marine Corps monument.

Commander's Report:

Commander Lightfoot discussed Post projects:

- 1) Commander discussed ongoing project for our Military Heritage Trail Program. Program concept approved several years ago but we have not yet implemented it yet due to delay in finalizing the program brochure and securing "docents" to speak at the various monuments in the Big Bend area. Commander Lightfoot and Tony have finalized the program brochure to include new additions to local monuments, e.g., Bell Tower at the Tallahassee National Cemetery and the stainless-steel bracelet added to the Vietnam Memorial. And from a presentation from John Folsom, we will be adding the Bourne monument that came from France and located on the grounds of the American Legion Hall. John will be providing Commander Lightfoot with a paragraph description of the Bourne monument along with a photo. Further, a roster was distributed for members to sign up to become "docents" for when we start up the student

tours for this program. A follow up roster will be sent out to all members giving them an opportunity to become involved in this important community outreach program.

- 2) Commander Lightfoot further discussed a companion brochure that we call the "Tourist Brochure", a brochure that is distributed to the Public through tourist outlets like the City and County offices and other venues so that the public, especially tourists looking for some of Big Bends history to include military/veteran history to be able to be directed to these monuments throughout the Big Bend.
- 3) Commander Lightfoot entertained a motion to expend funds for printing of both the Military Heritage Trail Program brochure and the Tourist Brochure.

A motion was made by John Folsom and seconded by Rob Aguilar to send the brochure to the printer. Motion passed. After some discussion, a second motion was made by John Folsom and seconded by Rob to cap printing expenditure to \$1,000.00. Motion passed.

- 4) Commander Lightfoot discussed ongoing efforts to obtain space at the Tallahassee Airport for a Veteran Welcoming Center, noting brief conversations have been held with Mayor Dailey but commitments from the Airport Director will have to be secured before any further planning for exhibits and involvement of other veteran service organizations.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Good and Welfare:

1st Vice Commander Carney extended his thanks to our Post for our donation to his Air Force Association's monument program. Tom said progress is moving along with hope for a September installation that would coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the Air Force.

Chaplain Smith, congratulated Paul Rogerson for his outstanding shooting at their gun club trap shooting this past weekend. Paul shot a perfect "100 shot" score, a feat not done very often by their membership.

John Folsom was recognized and congratulated on his new position with VFW Post 3308 as their new Chaplain.

Henry Lowery and John reminded members of the Honor flight that will be conducted next April 29th. You can go online and submit applications: tallahasseehonorflight.com. There are some restrictions. Gaurdians must pay own way. There will be a fund raiser at the Moose Lodge on July 23rd.

Tony Minichiello spoke to our need to have other fund-raising events and suggested we discuss a dinner dance, with a silent auction here at the American Legion Hall. More to follow.

John Folsom reminded everyone of American Legion member Edmund Stearman's passing at 102 years old. Edmund was a long term and active member of American Legion Post #13 and will be missed. Funeral will be held Sunday from 12-2 pm at Culley's' with honors to be held at Memory Gardens cemetery.

Commander Lightfoot brought up that he was in discussions with Joe West from VVA Post 96 on sharing the facility known as the "Hootch" next door for future meetings of AMVETS Post 1776. Some discussions remain as they meet at the same time as we do. Commander will have more information at next months meeting.

Retire Colors and Benediction:

Judge Advocate Lowery retired the colors and Chaplain Smith gave a closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1915 hours.

Attendance:

Gordon Lightfoot, John Folsom, Ray Bogan, Ray House via zoom, Eric Smith, Tom Carney, Rob Aguilera, Paul Rogerson, Henry Lowery, Tony Minichiello, Fred Ingley