District 8 “Fall” meeting

October 8, 2017

Herman Post #274

Joint Meeting

District 8 Commander Michael Sheridan open the “fall” meeting at 1:22 pm. after all in attendance enjoyed a lunch. The normal opening of an American Legion meeting was completed. Past District 8 American Legion Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents were recognized. The annual “Gifts for Yanks” (November 6th) and “Gift Wrapping” (December 4-7) at the VA Hospital and Nebraska Veterans home programs were reported. Commander Sheridan read a report from Department Commander Jim Costello which stated that we should work hard on membership, make donations to Children Welfare, National Emergency Fund, Boys and Girls State, Junior Law Cadet, host a Flag talk at area schools and work on Public Awareness for all the programs the American Legion is involved with in the community. Sue Ellen Hammer made a motion for the Herman Auxiliary Unit to pay half of the expense for the lunch prior to the meeting and the motion c carried. Joint session adjourned at 1:40 pm.

American Legion Session

Opening ceremony was completed and meeting opened at 1:45 pm. Special Guest was introduced: American Legion Department Sgt-of-Arms Gary Wooten. He provided greeting from the Department staff. He asked all post to send in their membership cards to department on a timely basis. He asked post Commanders and Adjutants to use the names on the Post 500 list to increase their post membership with transfers. Make sure you get all your 2018 membership cards in before the price increase on January 1. He asked “What can the department do for you”.

Finance Report: the current checking account balance is $2,350.36

Roll call was taken and there were 9 post represented: Bellevue Post 339, Bennington Post 266, Ft Calhoun Post 348,Herman Post 274, Omaha Post 1, 112, & 331, Papillion Post 32, and Ralston Post 373 Absent post were: Arlington 71, Bellevue 37, Blair 154, Elkhorn 211, Kennard 366 Millard Post 374, Omaha Post 30, Springfield Post 143 & Valley Post 58.

Annual “Stand Down” for homeless veterans will be held on November 17 starts at 9:00 am at the Grace Bible College Auditorium at 10th & Grace. The Auxiliary is collecting clothing and easy to eat food items.

Bruce Husted made a motion for a by-law change to Article 111 Duties of Officers Paragraph 2 currently reads: The District Commander, immediately after taking office each year, shall appoint the following committee chairpersons: Americanism, Ceremonials, Children & Youth, Economic, Finance, Foreign Relations, Grave Registration and Memorials, House and Entertainment, Legislative, Membership, Public Relations, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security of American Legion, visiting VAVS Representative. Such committees shall consist of members and a chairperson from within District 8. Chairpersons shall be designated by the District 8 Commander. Each chairperson will refer to the American Legion Officers Guide for their specific duties.

The change: adds such committees shall consist of the American Legion Family members who include the following: Department of Nebraska District 8 members, Department of Nebraska American Legion District 8 Auxiliary members and Department of Nebraska American Legion District 8 Sons of the American Legion members and the motion carried.

Mid-Year conference will be January 12-14 in North Platte at the Sand Hills Convention Center. Gift for Yanks will be November 6 at both the VA Medical Center and Veterans Home. Gift wrapping presents at the VA Medical Center will be December 4 to the 7. Bruce Husted will be at Offutt AFB on December 5 trying to get members to join area post. December 12 is American Education week and December 7 is Pearl Harbor remembrance.

Commander Sheridan stated that in the past the annual “Whirl Wind” program involved a lot of driving to each post and very few members at each post in attendance. He would like to have all the post in Washington, Douglas and Sarpy counties meet in a local location and then discuss all the items to be presented. This would involve only 3 stops for the officers and hopefully more members in attendance. He would like to do this in January 2018. 3

Bruce Husted, a member of the Department Membership Committee Handed out list of permanent members from each post. He wanted the post adjutants to purge the list of all deceased members and return the completed list to him in 10 days. Past Commander Ron Ingram spoke about the problems the Department is facing with all the Life Members still on the books. We still have 3,006 life members statewide and the Department has a set aside $60.000 to help pay their annual share to National Headquarters. We currently have 30,774 members for 2018 with a goal of 31,000. Bruce also volunteered to come to a post to work the revitalization program to hopefully increase the membership total.

John Winninghoff made a motion to require all post to purge the permanent member list and respond back to Bruce or the District Commander and the motion carried.

Department Sgt-at-Arms informed those in attendance that he will be seeking the high office of Department vice Commander and gave his qualifications. John Henry Pearcy made a motion to give him full support for his candidacy and the motion carried.

A proposed fund raiser for District 8 a chili feed was offered.

John Winninghoff made a motion to nominate and elect Bruce Husted as Douglas County Commander and the motion carried.

We had a closing prayer and adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Tom Robbins

District 8 Adjutant.