District 8 “Whirl Wind” Tour

April 7, 2018

Washington County Host Post Ft Calhoun Post #348

 District 8 Commander Michael Sheridan opened the meeting at 9:15 a.m... After all in attendance enjoyed a light breakfast and social time. The normal opening program of an American Legion meeting was completed. At 0930 the Auxiliary members left to conduct their separate meeting. There were nine Auxiliary Unit members present. There were no Sons of the American Legion present.

 Roll call was taken there were a total of 14 members present from Ft Calhoun and Herman. Post absent were: Arlington, Blair, & Kenard. There were no memberships turned in. Guest speaker, Dennis Cordle, Washington County Service Officer talked about the benefits offered to veterans the ways to get a claim started with the VA. Many questions were asked and answered. Steve Roberts, CEO of New Visions Homeless Veterans Shelter spoke about his organization and how a homeless veteran is treated and helped. He asked members of the American Legion to join them for dinner any day of the week at 5; 00 to see how they are helping the homeless. By joining them for dinner and interacting with their clients you be able to give them another point of view and thus helping them out. Chris Casey, from the Eastern Nebraska Office on Ageing spoke about how a veteran over 55 could get a ride to any appointment and back. He also is a Sons of the American Legion member and talked about his willingness to assist any post putting a squadron together. It takes 10 members to form a charter. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Douglas County Meeting Host Post Benson Post #112

The opening ceremony was completed and meeting opened at 12:30 pm. by Douglas County Commander Bruce Husted, after everyone had been served a sandwich & bowl of soup. At 1245 the Auxiliary left the meeting to conduct their session. There were 13 Auxiliary unit members present. There were no Sons of the American Legion present, except for dual members. There were 12 members present from the following Post: Bennington, Omaha Post #1, Omaha#30, Benson, South Omaha, and Ralston & Valley. Absent were: Elkhorn and Millard. District 8 Finance Officer Ken Stinson reported the bridge fund balance was $1,948.89. This fund helps maintain the 5 flags and poles at the South Omaha Veterans Bridge. The General Fund balance was $2,333.23. There is also a brick fund that people can pay $100 to have the name, rank and branch of service of a family member engraved and placed in a special patio at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home in Bellevue.

 Bruce Husted, also the Nebraska Chairman for “Run for the Fallen”, talked about veterans and others running from California to Arlington, Cemetery, which started today, April 7. When the runners meet at the Kansas/Nebraska border they will stop every mile to honor one or more fallen veterans. A total of 383 names of fallen Nebraska veterans will be read from the start to the end at 24th & Vinton. They will be Nebraska from June 5 to June 8. This run will last 5 months, run through 19 states, log a total of 6,000 miles and honor 20,000 heroes.

 District 8 Commander spoke about getting legislation put together to have a new veterans Home built in Douglas County. Past Department Commander Ron Ingraham is steering this project.

 Children & Youth Chairmen John Wenninghoff talked about the Junior Law Cadet Selection program scheduled for April 14 at Ralston Post 373. They have 4 boys and 4 girls applying to append. However, because this will be a joint session they only have room for 60 students and we are restricted to 3 boys and 3 girls. The State Patrol will be interviewing the students to qualify for this program. John also spoke about this year’s Boys’ & Girls State orientation program to be held on May 5 at 11:00 a.m. at Omaha Post #1. We have 48 boys and 36 girls from our district signed up to attend.

 Steve Roberts, CEO of New Visions Homeless Veterans Shelter spoke about his organization and how a homeless veteran is treated and helped. He asked members of the American Legion to join them for dinner any day of the week at 5; 00 to see how they are helping the homeless. By joining them for dinner and interacting with their clients you be able to give them another point of view and thus helping them out. Bruce Husted made a motion to donate $100 to the New Vision Homeless program and the motion carried.

 Commander Mike spoke about the willingness of Sons of the American Legion members to help a post start a squadron or help with getting their squadron more active.

 Douglas County Commander Bruce Husted made a motion to donate $100 to assist the new Sons of the American Legion National Commander Danny Smith with his upcoming open house and welcome dinner and the motion carried.

 Sarpy County Service Officer Thomas Minarik spoke about the benefits offered to veterans and passed out lapel pins to veterans who served during the Vietnam era.

 Commander Mike spoke about a possible District 8 fundraiser this coming September at Casco’s. More information will be sent out at is coming finalized.

 A discussion was also held about Post filing the annual Federal Form 990.

 There was one membership turned in. As of March 29 these were the post membership total and their goal: Post 1, Membership 912 – goal 1,047; Post 30 79 with a goal of 95; Valley 71 – goal 79; Benson 118 – goal 129; Elkhorn 63 – goal 65; Bennington 105 – goal 114; South Omaha 519- goal 602; Ralston 263 – goal 293; Millard 1228 – goal 1352 and Douglas County 3358 – goal 3775.

The meeting was adjourned at 1350.

Sarpy County Meeting host Post Papillion Post #32

 After a dinner of pizza and salad the meeting was opened at 1525 by District 8 Commander Mike Sheridan. The American Legion opening ceremony was conducted. There were 14 American Legion members from Sarpy County present, 12 Auxiliary Unit members and No Sons of the American Legion in attendance except for dual members.. Post represented: Bellevue post, Gretna, & Papillion. Absent was a member from Springfield.

 Commander Sheridan presented a Department Citizenship Award to John Henry Percy for his efforts in the community. The Auxiliary then left the meeting at 1230 to conduct their meeting.

 Children & Youth Chairmen John Wenninghoff talked about the Junior Law Cadet Selection program scheduled for April 14 at Ralston Post 373. They have 4 boys and 4 girls applying to append. However, because this will be a joint session they only have room for 60 students and we are restricted to 3 boys and 3 girls. The State Patrol will be interviewing the students to qualify for this program. John also spoke about this year’s Boys’ & Girls State orientation program to be held on May 5 at 11:00 a.m. at Omaha Post #1. We have 48 boys and 36 girls from our district signed up to attend.

 Past Department Commander Ron Ingraham reported that currently there are 257 eligible veterans on a waiting list to enter the Veterans Home. Douglas County has the largest population of veterans and needs to have a new Veterans Home considered for Douglas County. He is working on getting legislation started for that project.

 Sarpy County Service Officer Thomas Minarik spoke about the benefits offered to veterans and passed out lapel pins to veterans who served during the Vietnam era. He also stated that 100% disabled veterans were eligible for the Homestead exemption. Veterans over the age of 65 were able eligible but the rate is dependent on their annual income.

 Commander Mike spoke about the willingness of Sons of the American Legion members to help a post start a squadron or help with getting their squadron more active.

 Steve Roberts, CEO of New Visions Homeless Veterans Shelter spoke about his organization and how a homeless veteran is treated and helped. He asked members of the American Legion to join them for dinner any day of the week at 5; 00 to see how they are helping the homeless. By joining them for dinner and interacting with their clients you be able to give them another point of view and thus helping them out.

 Commander Mike spoke about a possible District 8 fundraiser this coming September at Casco’s. More information will be sent out at is coming finalized.

 There were No memberships turned in.

 Meeting adjourned at 1645.