**District 8 “Fall Roundup” Meeting**

**October 13, 2018**

**Gretna Post #216**

**Joint American Family Meeting**

 District 8 Commander Michael Sheridan open the “fall”” meeting at 1:02 pm. Following the opening ceremony Commander Sheridan then introduced the following guest; Nebraska Department, District Eight, Auxiliary President were recognized.

 At this time the Auxiliary members left the hall to conduct their own program. A donation jar was passed around for all members in attendance to donate funds. The total collected would be split in half with both the American Legion and auxiliary supporting their emergency funds. NOTE: at the end of the meeting a total of $174.43 was collected.

 Roll call of post was completed with 12 post represented and 37 in attendance. Commander All post was in attendance except Post 58, 211, 266, 37, 71,154, and 366. Mike then encouraged members to attend numerous upcoming events such as Conventions, Oratorical, mid-year and Boys and Girls State Orientation.

 Commander Mike then discussed the Nebraska Department “Strategic Plan for Sustained Membership Growth”. Which is broken down to 5 separate areas (1) Brand Awareness, which can be as simple as wearing your post hat or shirt when in view of the public (2) Communication – which could be an outdoor sign listing current events your post is hosting, an American Legion logo on a billboard at the entrance to your city limits, along with other civic organizations (3) Training/Education/ Leadership Development – attending a American Legion online courses is one way (4) Post Development and Revitalization – both National and Department have groups that will come to your post and help make calls to potential members to help increase your total membership (5) Membership Recruiting and Retention – work with your current membership keeping them involved and a proud member of your post and the American Legion. Contact local colleges and National Guard units to help with signing up new members. Maintain a Facebook presence helps to show that your post is active in post and community events.

 Eight posts in the district conduct programs at their area schools, such as flag folding and talking about what each fold represents.

 Department Membership committee member Bruce Husted spoke about contacting the members of Post 500 and to try to have them transfer into your post. Each post representative at the meeting was given a complete list of all post 500 members in District Eight to accomplish that task. Commander Sheridan will provide this list to all the post not represented at the meeting.

 A finance report was given showing $2,115.15 in the American Legion fund and $1,470.84 in the Veterans Memorial Bridge fund, which is used to purchase new flags and other maintenance cost at the bridge.

 Area “B” Vice Commander Doug Fraham spoke about the American Legion sponsored air rifle teams. There are 18 clubs in Nebraska; however none qualified to advance to the tournament in Colorado Springs recently.

 Department is sponsoring a program that will award cash to the post who increases their membership with new members as well as to individuals to sign up new members. This is in part of the “Stoldore Trust Fund” program.

John Winninghoff reported that there are 30 schools in District 8 and only five students applied for the Junior Law Cadet and only one for the Oratorical Contest. John wanted to make sure each post knows which schools they are responsible for our Children and Youth programs.

 Sons of the American Legion East Area vice Commander Chris Casey spoke about having their squadron members involved in post activities in any way needed to make it a success.

 All post were reminded to furnish a current list of post officers to Department Headquarters so that they can provide the updated information to area, and district officers to help keep them updated as well.

 Bruce Husted stated that the district would be sponsoring a fund raiser in 2019 with theme, date and time announced later.

We had a closing prayer and adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Tom Robbins

District 8 Adjutant.