District 8 “Spring” Meeting

February 9, 2019

South Omaha Post #331

Joint American Family Meeting

District 8 Commander Michael Sheridan open the “spring” meeting at 9:02 am. Following the opening ceremony Commander Sheridan then introduced the following guest; National, Department, District Eight, Past District 8 American Legion Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents were recognized.

John Winninghoff made a motion to suspend the reading of the Minutes of the February 10, 2018 meeting which passed.

District Eight Finance Officer Joe Sladky reported the District bank balance was $3,715.35 with the Sons of the American Legion balance $482.00.

Commander Sheridan gave his year in review report stating it has been a learning experience. This has been en enjoyable4 position as he has been able to meet new veterans and has been able to attend the post meeting in all 19 District 8 post every three months.

Membership Committee member Bruce Husted asked for membership and reported that 13 of the 19 post were at 100%.

Department Commander Lyle Bartles then presented Special Children & Youth, Annual Children & Youth, and Americanism National Certificates to post who qualified from the Consolidated Post Report.

Past “Get up & Go” recipient Jim Zack announced this year’s recipient Charles Gilmore. Commander Sheridan asks the three past District 8 Commander to select a District 8 Citizenship winner from the three nominations and report their decision.

It was reported that there were 3 new Sons of the American Squadrons started in Nebraska.

Department Dave Salik read the Convention Call and Bt-Laws for the meeting.

John Winninghoff asked that because the District 8 Sons of the American Legion has not been active for the past several years ask if electing new leadership would get the squadron active again. There was some discussion but no action was taken.

Department Commander Bartles thanked all the members for their support and volunteering. Asked those present to work harder to sign up new members Stated that the Legion Riders were the fastest growing section of our organization. He asked about post sponsoring a “Classic Car” or “Antique Tractor” or other new thoughts to gather new members.

National Alternate Executive Committeeman Fred Craigie reported that 24 Nebraska American Members will be traveling to Washington, DC for a meeting on Homeless National Defense Healthcare for Female Veterans, Veterans Suicide, Agent Orange, Retiree’s Pension Reduction on state taxes, U.S. Flag protection, 1,600 military killed and not covered by Title 10, change dates for eligibility to cover all service members.

Past Department Commander Jim Costello asked that all post support and annual Boys’ & Girls’ and Junior Law Cadet Programs.

Area “A” Commander John Henry Pearcy reported that District 8 was in 12th place in the membership standing.

Old Business: None

New Business: It has been decided that District 8 has not sponsored a fund raiser in a number of years. So on July 27, 2019 we will host a “Rib Dinner” with baked beans, coleslaw and corn fritters at Benson VFW Post #2503 and Benson Post #112 post home, 8904 Military Ave from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. The cost will be $10 for adults and $5 for children 12 and under. A total of 400 tickets must be presold so we know how much product to purchase.

Department Adjutant Salik then stated that we could select Time & Place chairman and conduct those sessions. The sessions were conducted and the following was selected: “Fall Roundup” October 12, 2019 at Papillion Post #32 starting at noon; “Oratorical” November 16, 2019, at Creighton Prep, hosted by Post #1 at 1:00 p.m.; District 8 “Convention” February 8, 2020 at Valley Post #58, registration 8-9 a.m.; “Junior Law” selection April 12, 2020 at Ralston Post #373 at 2:00 p.m. and “Boys’ & Girls’ State” orientation. This year’s Boys & Girls’ State will be held June 2-10 at a cost of $375 per student and Junior Law June 10-13 at a cost of $175 per student.

Department Adjutant Salik reported that local National Guard Units can again participate in County Government Day is requested. Legion Collage is November 3-8 with one person from Nebraska selected. That person should have served after Vietnam. The National Commander is asking each post so donate $.50 per member toward the National Emergency Fund. During the recent government shutdown over $700,000 given to Coast Guard members to help with their financial needs. The State convention will be held June 20-23 in Kearney and the National Convention will be held August 23-29 in Indianapolis.

At 1142 we broke for lunch.

At 1:10 p.m. we resumed the meeting with a joint session.

Roll call of post was conducted: Bellevue Post 339-5; Bennington Post 266-1, Blair Post 154-1; Ft Calhoun Post 348 – 1; Gretna Post 216 – 3; Herman Post 274 – 4; Millard Post 374 – 4; Omaha Post 1 – 5; Omaha Post 30 – 2; Omaha Post 112 – 2; Omaha Post 331 – 3; Papillion Post 32 – 5; Ralston Post 373 – 1; Valley Post 58 – 1 for a total of 37 post members and all 4 District 8 officers for a total of 41.

An item carried over from the morning session the District 8 Adjutant cast 1 ballot for David Doolan as the incoming District 8 Commander and one ballet for Fran Shelton as the incoming Vice Commander.

The Post Everlasting program was then conducted.

Commander Sheridan then introduced the guest in attendance.

Leatrice Doolan reported that volunteers are needed at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home for such programs as Bingo, going to rooms and pushing the residents in wheelchairs to the games and then taking them back to their room. To volunteer for this you must take a 10 minute class on wheelchair safety. Volunteers are also needed to assist the residents that want to take the bus and go on shopping trips. They also are trying to purchase radios with am/fm and able to play disk.

Past Department Commander Jim Costello spoke about the Victory Apartments they currently have 90 units and plans are in the works to add another 70. They lost the area they were using as a pantry and now they are using a mobile pantry to get needed items to the residents. They are applying for a grant to help them purchase meat and produce for the veterans. They are always seeking paper products at the Victory apartments.

Steve Roberts from New Visions Homeless Shelter stated that there are 36,800 homeless veterans nationwide. Their program provides shelter to 200 area veterans. They work with staff at the VA Hospital to provide medical aid, drug abuse, financial assistance and job search. They feed the veterans 3 times a day. He thanked the members for providing bus passes so veterans can get to their appointments and gift cards this past Christmas.

There were 41 students taking part in the Sarpy County Government Day. They had a power point presentation, visited county offices and the Nebraska National Guard was in attendance and had a U.S. Flag folding presentation. They also toured the Sheriff’s office and the 911 communications area.

It was reported that they served 450 patients and staff at the summer picnic at the VA Hospital. They conducted the annual dollar days, Gifts for Yanks and wrapped 125 gifts for the patients’ to give to their family members.

The Millard JTOTC made a presentation for their upcoming Gold Star Family memorial to be located in Memorial Park. Their goal is $30,000 and they currently have raised $20,000. Dave Doolan made a motion for the District to donate $300 and the motion carried. Kathy Mazur made a motion for the District 8 Auxiliary to donate $100 and the motion carried. A freewill collection for the monument total was $200.

An earlier freewill collection for the American Legion Emergency fund total was $140.

Candidates for upcoming Department officers were allowed to speak about their qualifications.

Marty Timberlake spoke about the Rider program and what they are involved in, such as Habit for Humanity, helping veterans move household goods and helping with home repairs for veterans in need.

Following a closing program the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Submitted by

Tom Robbins District 8 Adjutant