January 30, 2024

Meeting opened at: 1900

A quorum was present

Invocation

Guests: Department of Nebraska Commander John-Henry Pearcy

Membership Update: Currently at 92% of our 2024 membership goal

Previous minutes read and approved

Finance Report read and approved

Post Service Officer report:

* Larry Cushing provided an update on Nebraska Legislative Bill 853 which proposes property tax decrease proportional to VA disability rating. The Bill has failed to make it out of the Finance Committee for the last few years and is expected to meet the same fate this year
* Larry provided an update on MIA recoveries

Sick Call: None

Old Business:

* The heavier winter jackets for the honor guard have been purchased
	+ A $2000 donation was received to cover the cost (Closed)
* The Post received a quote for an new electronic lock system for the outer doors
	+ Installation is ongoing (Open)
* 30 x 40 foot garage in the far south west corner of the back yard
	+ Work remains delayed by weather (Open)
* The Legion, Sons, and Auxiliary are forming a committee to look at landscaping options.
	+ Post 216 needs a volunteer to be on the committee (open)
* The two Gretna High Schools have declined the request to paint patriotic murals on the exterior walls of the post (Closed)
* The updated Post By-laws and Constitution will be emailed to the membership for review and comments
	+ Comments due to Joel Rossman by 13 Feb 24
	+ Looking to vote for approval at the February meeting (Open)
* The 10 new flag stand bases, 2 sets of service flags, and one set of organization flags have been purchased and received (Closed)
* Nebraska Welding has agreed to build and donate a metal fire pit for the back yard
	+ Awaiting receipt of the fire pit
	+ Researching options for a concrete pad to house the pit (Open)

New Business:

* Department Commander John-Henry Pearcy briefed the membership on the recent Department Mid-Year Convention
	+ National has notified everyone that they intend to increase annual dues by $5 for 2025
		- Department intends to add an additional $5 increase
		- National is offering a new 3-year membership option if paying on-line
		- Members are strongly encouraging to go on-line and purchase a 3-year membership before the price increases do into effect
	+ Be The One suicide prevention campaign
		- Ask – If you suspect someone is in trouble, ask them
		- Listen – be open to hear what they might want to tell you
		- Refer – get them to someone who can help (text 988\*1 or call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255)
		- Follow-up
	+ Department Convention will be at the Holiday Inn in Kearney in June (Closed-info only)
* Flag Education Day: Auxiliary Unit 216 is proposing a joint effort to host a flag education event
	+ More information is needed at this time (Open)
* An E-board vacancy was announced
	+ Harold Urban volunteered to fill the open spot
	+ A motion was made and passed to approve Harold as an E-board member (Closed)
* Boys State interviews will be held at Post 216 on Monday, March 4th at 7 p.m.
	+ Contact Adjutant Johnson if you are interested in being on the interview board (Open)
* The Sarpy County Veterans Service Office is looking to hire a full-time counselor (Closed – info only)
* The Sarpy County Veterans Service Committee also has a vacancy
	+ Contact Adjutant Johnson if you would like more information or if you would like to be nominated by the Post to sit on the committee (Open)

Good of the Order:

* Dave Dietz provided an update on Buddy Check 22 (suicide prevention meet up)
	+ Held on the 22nd day of every month at 6 p.m. at Post 216
	+ Informal gathering just to talk and provide support
	+ Open to all who want to attend
* Post 216 fish fry season kicks off on Friday, 16 February 24
	+ Volunteers are needed to help with:
		- Setup
		- Kitchen work (frying and serving)
		- Cleanup
	+ Contact Cindy Mefford, Dave Harrig or Jeff Johnson for more information

Benediction:

Meeting Adjourned: 2005