



Department of New York
American Legion Riders
Mid-Winter Conference 2014 Minutes

Date: January 24, 2014

Meeting Called to Order: 1910 hours

Director, Joe Clement, called the meeting to order.

Prayer

Salute National Colors

POW/MIA recognition ceremony (conducted by Director Joe Clement)

POW/MIA Flag placed on empty chair by Sergeant at Arms

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance/Roll call of Officers:

Officers present:

Director (Joe Clement)

Vice Director Districts 1, 2, 9 & 10 (Joe Mondello)

Vice Director Districts 3 & 4 (Gary Schacher)

Vice Director Districts 5 & 6 (Don Logan)

Vice Director Districts 7 & 8 (Jim Parks)

Road Captain/Information Officer (Leonard Mischuk)

Secretary (Frances Holderman)

Chaplain (Mark Wyman)

Sergeant at Arms (Dan Nolin)

Officer(s) absent:

Historian (Gary Dubach)

Members:

75

Guests:

2

Sick call/Relief:

5 members (specifics not submitted)

Back to God:

Post 702 (Morrison Hayes) : 1

Post 942 (Cottreall-Warner) : 1

Post 567 (Orchard Park) : 1

Post 442 (Bentley-Trumble) : 1

Post 162 (Lowville Memorial) : 1

Post 435 (Warner-VanRiper) : 1

Post 259 (Oneonta) : 2

Reading of the minutes from the 2013 Department Convention:

Read by Director Clement and displayed on monitor. Minutes are posted on the Department's website (nylegion.net) and a hard copy is available for review

Motion made by John (?) from Post #1683 (Gerald O'Neal) to accept minutes as read

Seconded by Phil Seybert from Post #673 (William C. Dexter)

There was no discussion; ALL were in favor of accepting minutes

Committee and Vice Directors' report:

Vice Director for Districts 1, 2, 9 & 10 (Joe Mondello)

Activities: difficult with recruiting members, motorcycle clubs who "trick ride" make life difficult for all riders due to police interaction; helped put on free concert, handed out literature about joining ALR

Vice Director for Districts 3 & 4 (Gary Schacher)

Activities:

Post #1644 (Henry F. Lefko) - Wreaths across America (placed 1200 wreaths at cemeteries);

Post #1231 (Melvin Roads) - Ride for ill child, adopted 1 Military family at Thanksgiving, adopted 1 Military family (lady with cancer) at Christmas (comedy show as fund raiser), Hero fund (held concert and sold ads as fund raiser, 50/50 tickets to be drawn on Memorial Day);

Post #323 (Granville) - Wreaths across America – Saratoga Cemetery, food pantry, corned beef & cabbage dinner fund raiser

Post #446 (Warrensburg) – NEW chapter, just starting up; 31 May offering breakfast for Americade at Lake George attendees and Prospect Mountain on 1 Jun at 1300 hrs.

Post #574 (Hudson Falls) – benefit ride for food pantry and fire victim; support Toys for Tots; held fundraiser for member who lost a leg; have fundraising for the Honor Flight; have breakfast on Veteran's Day

Post #701 (John J. Wyszomiski) – 8th annual Legacy in May

Post #337 (Robert Lee Walsh) – 17 Jan held spaghetti dinner fundraiser for Honor Flight; adopted a veteran Family for Thanksgiving and one for Christmas; going to hold a Polish night

Post #248 (Timothy Murphy) - Legacy

Vice Director for Districts 5 & 6 (Don Logan)

Activities:

Post #442 (Bentley-Trumble) – presented a report to Director Clement; gave donation to USO (Ft. Drum); sponsored 2 boy scouts for boy scout camp; Legacy; donated \$4290 to a Dual Military family who lost everything in house fire; donated to Wellsboro fire dept.

Post #259 (Oneonta) – holding a raffle for Oxford Vet's Home; Jason's Run (motorcycle safety) in June; Legacy in July

Post #162 (Lowville Memorial) – 2nd year going, been fundraising getting closer to the community; put together care packages

Post #1552 (Hannibal) – thanked everyone who attended the Watch Fire ROMP; donated to 2 families who had house fires; inviting riders to Vet Fest (9th annual) this year; donated \$2000 to Feed our Vets

Vice Director Logan reaffirmed the Legion Family is a Brotherhood/Sisterhood and everyone should talk about problems instead of back stabbing. Respect each other and care for each other.

Vice Director for Districts 7 & 8 (Jim Parks)

Activities:

Post #567 (Orchard Park) – visit Nursing homes and disabled Veterans
Post #942 (Cottreall-Warner) – Support Emergency Relief, Legacy and are working on increasing membership
Post #394 (Williamson) – Food Boxes 20+ donated during the Holidays
Post #702 (Morrison Hayes) – Supports VA in Bath, VA in Octavia, Comfort House, Nursing Homes and Camp for Disabled Children
Post #1830 (Chili) – this Chapter supports four Posts; supports fundraising for spina bifida, the Legacy, Honor Flights, and Honor guard; Rode to funeral homes in Buffalo and Rochester to return 11 unclaimed veteran remains and gave them a proper burial
Post #942 (Cottreall-Warner) – has 17 members and is working on increasing the membership
Post #1430 (Marion Memorial) – Put together Food Boxes for Veterans in need around the Holidays; planning Bike night to fundraise for Legacy, Contribute to Legacy
Post #435 (Warner-VanRiper) – started last year with 50 members; donate canned goods to disadvantaged children; support local food pantry; work with color guard during funerals

Vice Director Parks thanked everyone for attending meeting; commented on the desire for more information/reports from 8th District; only two persons from 8th District were in attendance, both from Post #567 (Orchard Park)

Director's Report (Joe Clement): Thanked everyone for attending meeting;

Received reports from three Chapters, thank you, reports should go to Vice Directors, then up the chain

Spoke with Department Commander (Ken Governor), he is a great supporter along with the Department Adjutant (Jim Casey) and Detachment Commander (John Chang)

Chapters need to submit Consolidated Reports (different from Post's Report) found on the website (nylegion.net) – Reports (submitted yearly) should be sent up the chain and submitted to Post Adjutant also (for their report)

Mark Wyman (Chaplain) – reassured accountability and using the Chain of Command for reporting (Chapter to District Vice Director to Director). This lets the Department know what the Riders are doing.

Thank you to Vicky from Post #1231 (Melvin Roads) for setting up the Hospitality Room (Room 365/7)

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Information Officer (Lenny Misczuk) stated that the Department now has 79 Chapters but he needs to have points of contacts for 9 Chapters (Post #103, Post #184, Post #329, Post #376, Post #404, Post #535, Post #958, Post #1153, Post #1306)

Post #401 (Tioga) working on starting a Chapter, Vice Director Logan has been in communication with them. Information for starting up is found on the Department website (nylegion.net)

NYS Legacy Run to consolidate donations, each Chapter will be recognized while one check is submitted – looks like it'll take place next year, working on Logistics, (next year's convention in Buffalo), and suggestion of modeling the State Legacy after the National Ride (small donations contributed at each stop)

Going to coordinate a ride to the Convention (Albany) this year, will rally to a location TBD and ride in to the Parade rally point

Talk of Regional Legacy Ride will be proposed to Regional Director Bob Sussan

Talk of attending Thunder in the Mountains by the Handley Brothers – set up a booth?

Announcements: Past Department Commander Bob Neville introduced the leading candidate for the National Commander; from the Department of Nebraska, **Mike Helm** : spoke of his project (VA&R), thanked the riders for welcoming home troops, escorting funerals and treating our Heroes with honor and respect.

Closing:

Is there any further business to come before the meeting? If not, the chaplain will lead us in the closing prayer, please uncover.

Prayer conducted by Mark Wyman (Chaplain)

Cover

National Colors Saluted and Retired

Meeting Adjourned: 2052 hours