



**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Alexander Bonnyman, Jr. Post 12135**  
**P.O. Box 153**  
**Loudon, TN 37774-0153**

**Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2024**

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The meeting was held at the Tellico Village Yacht Club.

**Guest Speaker:** None

**Special Awards / Presentation:** None

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**Opening Ceremonies:** The Sergeant at Arms, Jimmy Johnson, closed the doors and the meeting was called to order at 1930 hours by Post CDR Creange with Dave Crowden giving the opening prayer. Post CDR Creange led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call of Officers:** The Post Adjutant, moved that the Roll Call be waived as all officers were present or accounted for. Jeff Corthell seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **The Motion was approved unanimously.**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Status</b>
Commander	Richard Creange	P
Senior Vice Commander	Richard Vinnece	A
Junior Vice Commander	Shawn Tallant	P
Quartermaster	Jeff Corthell	P
Chaplin	Clyde Griffin	E
Judge Advocate (Appointed)	Coleman Lee	E
Surgeon (Appointed)	Bruce Blodget	E
1-Year Trustee	Ed Frandle	E
2-Year Trustee	Larry Schaefer	P
3-Year Trustee	Larry Dill	P
Service Officer (Appointed)	Dan Hall	E
Adjutant (Appointed)	Daniel Campbell	E
Sergeant at Arms (Appointed)	Jimmy Johnson	P

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Total</b>
Officers	6	6	1	13
Members	25		106	131
Total	31	6	107	144

Overall member attendance rate was 22%.

**Attendees from District, Department and other guests**

There was one guest at the Post meeting:

**Membership Applications:**

The following qualified Veterans were presented as new applicants or transferees to VFW Post 12135: None

**Report of the Investigating Committee**

N/A

**Ballot On Applications**

N/A

**Commander's Report - Comments**

- We are coming out of the winter slowdown and ramping up for the Spring and Summer events.
- Looks like we have met all the requirements for All-State and All-American VFW Post this year. I'd like to thank everyone who dedicated their time and effort to put us in a position for these awards.
- Can't say enough about the job that the membership team has done this year under the leadership of our Immediate at Post Commander Shawn Tallant. The post is at 112.15% number one in district 2 by a wide margin.
- Elections for 2024/2025 Officers – We will have the elections under the New Business section later in the meeting

**Adjutant's Report - Reading of the Minutes:** Dan Campbell

Adjutant Campbell moved that the reading of the meetings be waived as the minutes were posted to the Post's website, an email with a link to them was sent to the membership and that the minutes be approved as written. Larry Schaefer seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

**Adjutant's Report – Correspondence:** Dan Campbell

None

**Quartermaster's Report:** Jeff Corthell

Post Quartermaster, Jeff Corthell, provided the report for the period ending February 29, 2024. The VFW Post remains in a strong financial position. Members in good standing wishing additional information are encouraged to contact the Post Quartermaster.

**Service Officers Report**

- NTR

**Report on Comrades or Families of Comrades in Distress**

- Let's keep our prayers going strong for Bob Provart who has been in and out of the hospital the past few months and for Jim Seidel as well.
- There were no other reports of families or members in distress.

**Report Of All Committees**

**Relief Committee** – Tony Newton, Chairman

A. **Emergency Actions Since Last Post Meeting**

The following emergency actions have been approved by the EXCOM. A motion for the post membership to concur with the action taken by the EXCOM will be brought forward.

1. Received a request for back rent from a honorably discharged veteran living at Helen Ross McNabb, In November 2023, there was a small fire in his apartment that activated the fire extinguishers. The fire was quickly put out but there was difficulty finding the shut off switch to the overhead extinguishers, so the water kept coming. His apartment as well as others suffered significant water damage. This veteran, as well as others, were moved to a motel as repairs were made. Vet lost clothes, paperwork and HRM furniture. Apartments were repaired and all furniture was replaced by HRM. Vet used his social security payment of \$958 to pay for clothes and other consumables but was unable to pay January and February rent of \$271 each. He owes HRM \$520. I have spoken to the HRM manager to confirm all the details. Back rent must be paid by April 3, 2024.

**MOTION: That the Post concur with the EXCOM's emergency action decision to pay \$520 for this veteran's back rent.**

SECOND: Pete Kraslansky

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Received a request from HUD VASH counselor John Boggs. He has a former Marine who is about to be homeless this Saturday (April 13). Marine was recently evicted from a home he and his son lived in for the last 5 years, For the last 3 weeks

they are living in a motel paid for by a church at \$400/week. Following his service in the 80's he joined the Knoxville Police Department where for 19 years he served mostly undercover working the drug market. He is insulin dependent getting his drug from the VA. The drug needs to be refrigerated making being homeless life threatening. He draws \$177/month from the VA (10%) and \$475 from police retirement, his only income. Boggs is working on a new disability evaluation. HUD VASH is trying to get him into Steps House. Veteran is pushing back from Steps House and Karm as he is concerned that he will run into past druggies he arrested. HUD VASH is working on other options but it will take time. One of those options is a 90-day Transitional Housing Bridge Program.

**MOTION: That the Post concur with the EXCOM's emergency action decision for the expenditure of up to \$1300 for 2-3 weeks in the hotel and some money for food for this veteran and his son.**

SECOND: Pete Kraslansky

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote

3. An about to be homeless Navy veteran with an honorable discharged called Ed Frandle. He was released this week from Steps House and he and his wife came to Lenoir City to rent a home. Wife took all his money (about \$5500) and left him. He is 57 years old and 100% VA disabled drawing \$4000/month. He also gets \$1700/month from SSDI. No money issues however all his money is gone with wife. He was given 2 nights in the Kings Inn in Lenoir City from a friend where he now lives. He is asking for assistance for the motel room until May 4 when he will get another \$5500. Kings' Inn charges \$470/week. I loaned him \$100 for food which I am confident I'll get back.

**MOTION: Request the post concur with the EXCOM's emergency action decision to approve up to \$1400 so this veteran is not homeless until he gets paid In early May.**

SECOND: Ian Smith

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote

4. HUD VASH called regarding an honorably discharged female veteran who has been abused and life threatened and placed in a women's shelter. The shelter provides housing, protection, food, clothing, transportation, and counselling. Cost of living in the shelter is \$20/day. She will get her disability (70% service disabled) on April 26 and needs help with \$20 a day from Monday April 15 until Apr 2 which is less than \$200. Shelter will take a check by mail.

**MOTION: That the post concur with the EXCOM's emergency action decision to pay the shelter up to \$220 to keep this veteran in the shelter until April 26. She will pay any further charges.**

SECOND: Chet Winchell

DISCUSSION: None  
RESULT: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote

B. New Relief Actions to be Presented to the Post Membership

1. Received a call from HUD VASH case manager regarding a 67 year old honorably discharged female Navy veteran who is being evicted from her apartment by April 30, 2024. The reason is that she has complained to the complex manager about her safety and security numerous times and the manager will not do anything about it. She is fearful, in tears, and nervous wreck. HUD VASH has found her temporary housing at Steps House until they are able to get a permanent apartment. She is asking for the Post to pay to have her belongings moved to storage until the apartment is located. The cost is \$570.00. She lives on \$1400.00 per month social security and will pay the monthly costs and the return move when the apartment is found. NOTE: The Post moved her furniture in 2022 when her apartment was sold and she, and others, were evicted.

**MOTION: That the Post agree to pay \$570.00 for moving costs for this veteran.**

SECOND: Jim Hallihan  
DISCUSSION: None  
RESULT: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote

**Post Community Service Effort & Report:** Jay Carroll

- The March 2024 report was completed and uploaded to VFW HQ.
- . Please send all reports to him beginning going forward.

**Membership Committee** -- Shawn Tallant, Acting Committee Chairman

- The detailed report is available via the committee's monthly PPR status report.
- Recruiting is going strong. Inducted 17 new members since July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Membership for this year is 112.15%
- Retention is at 100%

**Core Projects:** Project leader, Rick Creange

- The 2023-2024 Competition year is complete.
- The new Competition year is beginning, the 2024-2025 themes have been released.
- **We need someone to step up and run this important committee. The Commander will personally help and provide back-up.**

**Publicity – Post Promotion** – Mike Timmer, Chairman

- NTR

**Buddy Poppy** – Wayne Schroeder, Chairman

- The Buddy Poppy event for Memorial Day is May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. **11 time slots still need to be filled.**

**Fundraising** – Al Porell

- The Chick-fil-A event on 22 March netted the Post \$505.16.
- Future dates: 21 June and 20 September.

**Adopt A Military Unit** -- Jim Hallihan, Project Leader

- Jim Hallihan brought a motion to the floor to support or adopted units summer picnic.

**MOTION: That the Post agree to support the 253 Military Police Unit with the sum of \$400.00 for their summer picnic.**

SECOND: Pete Kraslansky

DISCUSSION: None

RESULT: Motion passed by unanimous voice vote

**Scout BSA Program** – Otto Stutz, Project Leader

- NSTR.

**Sea Cadet Program**

- Post CDR & JVC attended the 14 April Sea Cadets Annual Awards Ceremony and Banquet. Chet Winchell will also attend. The Post presented \$500.00 to the unit to support operating costs.

**Civil Air Patrol Program**

- The newest Tennessee Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol has had several organization meetings. The JVC arranged for honor guard material, that the Sea Cadet unit had in excess, to be passed to the Civil Air Patrol Squadron
- Dave Crowden, the post coordinator, attended the last CAP meeting.

**Golf Committee**

- We are off and running for the 2024 tournament on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Report of Projects**

### **Spring Clothing Drive**

- On track and receiving many bags of clothes. A final report of the total clothing collected will be presented at the May meeting.

### **MCVRF**

- Work in Progress

### **Armed Forces Day Picnic**

- Invitation is out to the membership. RSVPs are incoming.

### **Other Reports**

- None

## **Ongoing /Unfinished Business**

### **Post Calendar On-Going Events**

#### **External**

- 8-20 April Clothing Drive
- 1 May (Loyalty Day)
- 3 May (Day of Service)
- 18 May (Armed Forces Day)
- 24-25 May (Memorial Day/Buddy Poppy).

#### **Internal**

- April 2024 – Vote on Officer Slate
- April 2024 – Vote on Annual Donations
- June 2024 – Installation of Officers

### **Long Range Planning**

- June 14 – Flag Day Ceremony and Flag Retirement
- July 13 – Boat rides for Vets
- Aug 3 – Tellico Village VFW Annual Golf Tournament

## New Business/Discussion Items

### Post Annual Donations to Local Organizations Serving Veterans

Discussion: Various Agencies were discussed and a list of organizations that the Post will support was presented to the membership. The list is as follows:

Good Samaritan Food Bank Lenoir City  
Lost Vets Rescue  
Ben Ashley (Christmas gifts and bird seed program)  
Loudon County Honor Guard  
Hugs for our Soldiers  
Greenback Public School (supplies/equipment)  
Lenoir City Elementary School (supplies/equipment)

**MOTION: That the Post support these various organizations with a total of \$7100.00.**

SECOND: John Lacko  
DISCUSSION: None  
RESULT: Motion was unanimously passed by voice vote.

### Post 2024-2025 Officer Elections

Before the election of post officers, two motions were presented. The first; On how the vote will be taken, voice vote or secret vote by balloting. Second: On how the positions will be elected; as a slate of all nominations or individually.

There was a motion from the floor made by Tony Newton for an open voice vote to be taken for the election of officers.

**MOTION: That the election of Post 12135 officers will be taken by an open voice vote.**

SECOND: Larry Dill  
DISCUSSION: None  
RESULT: Motion passed unanimously by open voice vote.

There was a motion from the floor made by Ian Smith that the nominated officers be elected by membership as a complete slate.

**MOTION: That the nominated officers be elected by membership as a complete slate.**

SECOND: Jeff Corthell  
DISCUSSION: None  
RESULT: Motion passed unanimously by open voice vote.



The following slate was presented to membership for election as Post officers for the 2024-2025 business year.

- 3rd Year Trustee (Larry Schaefer)
- 2nd Year Trustee (Ed Frandle)
- 1st Year Trustee (Larry Dill)
- Quartermaster (Jeff Corthell)
- Junior Vice Commander (Shawn Tallant)
- Senior Vice Commander (John Lacko)
- Commander (Rick Creange)

A motion was made by Shawn Tallant to accept and elect this slate of offices for VFW Post 12135 for the 2024-2025 business year.

**MOTION: That the post accept and elect the presented slate of officers for the 2024-2025 business year.**

- SECOND: Pete Kraslansky
- DISCUSSION: None
- RESULT: Motion passed unanimously by open voice vote

#### **Good Of The Order**

- **Breakfast with Veterans** is the second Saturday of each month, 0830-1000 at Little Italy. No agenda – just comradery with other Veterans and telling stories over eggs!! The next Breakfast with Vets is on [Saturday May 11, 2024](#).

#### **Closing Ceremony**

- Dave Crowden gave the closing prayer then Post Commander Creange led post members in a salute of the American Flag.
- Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at the Tellico Village Yacht Club
- The meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard T. Creange, Commander

**REMINDER: THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NUMBER IS**

**988**

**FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**