



1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman, Jr. Post 12135
P.O. Box 153
Loudon, TN 37774-0153

Meeting Minutes for 16 August 2023
Amended 13 September 2023

The meeting was held at the Tellico Village Yacht Club.

Guest Speaker: None

Special Awards / Presentations: Post members Ed Frandle, John Lacko, and Kathy Dukauskas were presented the Quilt of Valor by the village quilters. Ruth Frandle, Sharron Lacko, Gerald Dukauskas, and Barbara Cosimo were presented the Golden Heart Award by the Post.

Opening Ceremonies: The Acting Sergeant at Arms, Barnett Alpert, closed the doors and the meeting was called to order at 1930 hours by Post CDR Creange with Chaplain Clyde Griffin giving the opening prayer. Post CDR Creange led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Draping of the Charter Ceremony - Before commencing with the regular business meeting – per the National VFW Bylaws and Manual of Procedure – CDR Creange requested the Post meeting opened with a special ceremony – “the Draping of the Post Charter” in honor of our recently departed Post Member, Robert Jenkins who passed away on July 14th at the Neighborhood. At this time Acting Sargent of Arms Barnett Alpert draped the Post 12135 Charter.

- Chaplin Griffin led Members in a prayer for the departed.
- Commander Creange explained that the Charter will be Draped for 30 days.

Roll Call of Officers: In the Post Adjutant’s absence, the Post Commander moved that the Roll Call be waived as all officers were present or accounted for. Larry Schaefer seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion was approved unanimously.**

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

| | Present | Excused | Absent | Total |
|----------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Officers | 9 | 4 | 0 | 13 |
| Members | 27 | 5 | 90 | 122 |
| Total | 36 | 9 | 90 | 135 |

Overall member attendance rate was 27%.

Attendees from District, Department and other guests

There was one guest at the Post meeting:

- Eric Schmidt, a US Army Veteran attending meeting to get a sense of the Post

Membership Applications:

The following qualified Veterans were presented as new applicants or transferees to VFW Post 12135:

1. William (Bill) Markle – US Army/Vietnam Veteran - new VFW Life member
2. John Commack – US Army/Vietnam Vereran – New VFW Life Member

Report of the Investigating Committee

Membership Cair Tallant reported that an investigation/ad hoc meeting was convened and the above-mentioned Veteran wsd found eligible to be a member of the VFW and Post 12135.

Ballot On Applications

Membership Chair Tallant made a motion to accept the veterans as new members of the VFW and Post 12135. Dan Hall seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously without discussion and the applicants were inducted into VFW Post 12135.

Commander's Report - Comments

- Commander Creange presented the Commander's Report
- **Post Commander attended the State Flying Squadron Training July 29th: Following topics were addressed: !!**

March 2024 Vets on the Hill day. – A day for all Veterans to show their presence to lawmakers in Washington. More info to be put out by District and State.

- Action Corps – Ensure all new members are aware of action corps and sign up for emails..

- Community Service –

- Quarterly report required but can enter every day/week/month as desired.

- Discussed what counts and National would like individual entries. (Examples: Scholarships, care packages, register to vote, buddy poppies, job fair, community clean-up, clothing drive, donate to outside organization, adopt-a-highway, etc.) Must Benefit Community not Post.

- Question large entries unless it's explained in comments. Our Post collates all inputs monthly and documents hours in the comments.

- The community continues not to know what the VFW does.

- Membership:

- Can sign members up on the app.

- Contact after sign-up is important.

- Keep on the lookout for fake DD-214s

- DoD is looking to do away with DD-214s.

- VMS Payment/donation. \$100.00 donation must be entered online through National Headquarters Dashboard link at vfw.org before April 30, 2024. Checks will be returned. Requirement for All State.

- Buddy Poppies – New vendor with better quality. There will be a metal option. There will also be a price increase to \$280/1000. Must buy 3 for each member in the Post.

- Voice of Democracy / Patriots Pen – Scholars App is up and running.

- Freedom Foundation – Posts can now send their winners to the retreat in Valley Forge as long as they are willing to pay for it.

- National Convention – Louisville Kentucky July 27 – August 1, 2024.

- Adopt-a-Unit – Set up with a contract between Post and Unit. There is also an MoU between DoD and the VFW that codifies the program.

- Can ask for a grant to conduct events for unit. The grant is \$5/head.

- **District 2's annual Post inspection went extremely well.** Special thanks and a BZ to Shawn, Jay, and Jeff for leading the charge once again.
- **The annual golf tournament was another resounding success.** Thank you to all to planned and executed our Posts keystone fundraiser. Great event with over 110 attendees! Cost was within budget

Adjutant's Report - Reading of the Minutes

Post Commander as Ating Adjutant moved that the reading of the meetings be waived as the minutes were distributed to all members and that the minutes be approved as written. Larry Schaefer seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Adjutant's Report – Correspondence

- None

Quartermaster's Report: Jeff Corthell

Post Quartermaster, Jeff Corthell, provided the report for the period ending 31 JULY 2023. 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 Jim Seidel as he continues his brave battle with ALS!

Report Of All Committees

Relief Committee – Tony Newton, Chairman

- See PPR for Emergency Funding actions this past month, and a new motion for support under new business.

Post Community Service Effort & Report

- The July 2023 report was completed and uploaded to VFW HQ
- Thanks to everyone that continues to provide input and highlight the incredible support our post members provide to the local community. For the second year in a row, our VFW Post received the District 2 Community Service Award!
- **The post is looking for a volunteer to assume collecting and submitting this montly report.**

Membership Committee -- Shawn Tallant, Committee Chairman

- The detailed report is available via the committee's monthly PPR status report
- **Post membership stands at 115.89%, # 1 in our District and #28 in Division 8**

Core Projects – Mike Thornton, Chairman

- See PPPR for details
- Ramping up for the 2023-24 season
- Training for the new PP/VoD electronic submission was conducted at the Flying Squadron on 29 July. Chairman Thornton and Post Commander Creange attended

Publicity – Post Promotion – Mike Timmer, Chairman

- Working flyers and promotions for:
 - o 19 September – Multi County Veterans Resource Fair

Buddy Poppy – Wayne Schroeder, Chairman

- See PPPR
- Next Buddy Poppy event will be in conjunction with Veteran's Day weekend
- Please contact Wayne if you'd like to volunteer

Fundraising – Rich Vinnece

- Next Chick-fil-A event is scheduled for 23 June - Al Porell
- 5 Aug Golf Tourney - Rich Vinnece
- 22 September – Next Chick-Fil-A fundraiser. Al Porell in the lead.

Adopt A Military Unit -- Jim Halligan, Project Leader

- NTR

Scout BSA Program – Otto Stutz Project Leader

- Troop 770 is requesting Post members to assist on the Eagle Scout Board of Reviews. They are looking for some adults, especially those who have been scouts or Eagle Scouts to assist in the reviews.
- Awarded Eagle Scout Plaque at the Court of Honor

Sea Cadet Program

- See PPPR

Post's Vets in Classroom Program – Vacant

- NTR

Ongoing /Unfinished Business

Post Calendar Completed Events

- 15 July – Boat Rides for Vets – **Mutt Manafold**
- 6 August – Tellici Village VFW Golf Tournamnet – **Rick Creange & Rich Vinnece**

Post Calendar On-Going Events

- 1-30 Sep – Nat'l Suicide Awareness Month – **Ed Frandle**
- 19 Sep – MCVRF – John Lacko
- 22 Sep – Chick-fil-A Fundraiser – Al Porell
- Oct – Fall Vets Clothing Drive – John Lacko
- Nov - Buddy Poppy Campaign – Wayne Schroeder
- Nov – Veterans Day Commemoration – Rick Creange/Shawn Tallant/ Rich Vinnece
- 19 Nov – Bonnyman Graveside Ceremony – Rick Creange

New Business

Relief Committee - Veteran Support Motions (Tony Newton)

- Emergency Action Funding Request
 - **Discussion:** Relief Committee Received a call from VA case manager John Boggs regarding an honorably discharged veteran who has been approved to move into subsidized housing on August 21, 2023. This 69 y/o Marine has been living in various motels for an extended period waiting to find an apartment and now to have it refurbished, inspected and approved. He has stage 3 lung cancer. He is 50% VA disabled, earns \$1900/mo from VA and SS. His motel bills have been paid by friends but they are no longer able to continue. He must move out Aug10 and find another place to live. He asks for 10 motel days which cost (\$675.54). The EXCOM approved this request, and the bill has been paid.
 - EXCOM approved an additional \$675.54 for this veteran.
 - **Motion; A motion was brought forward by Ton Newton that the post membership support the EXCOM Emergency Action Decision to pay the Marine veteran's rent to the end of August in the amount of \$675.54 and that this emergency action does not preclude further action based on the need to act quickly.**
 - The motion was seconded by Larry Dill. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**
- Relief support to Veterans in VFW Post 12135
 - **Discussion:** Members of Tellico Village Post 12135 on occasion find themselves in a situation that requires some assistance for tasks or support due to a condition or situation beyond their control. In that light, members of this post should be treated and viewed the same as any veteran in the community this post helps according to post by-laws. Each situation requiring funding from the post will be brought before

the post membership as per the by-laws. The EXCOM may take emergency action as required as has been authorized by the membership.

- **Motion: The members of Tellico Village Post 12135 be considered vererans of the community with regard to receiving assistance from the post, to include funding for tasks or services, that may be required due to unforeseen conditions that require assistance.**
- The motion was seconded by Larry Schaefer. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent**

VFW Post 12135 Youth Outreach – BSA Support Program Motion (Otto Stutz)

- BSA Eagle Scout Plaque Funding
 - Discussion: VFW Post 12135 has established a Youth Outreach program where we sponsor three local BSA troops within Lenoir City. One aspect of this outreach program is where our VFW Post provides “recognition” to individual youths who achieve their highest honor - Eagle Scout. Per previous VFW Post 12135 Membership approval, our Post has provided an engraved VFW Eagle Scout recognition plaque to each Eagle Scout from our Post. (Previous approval was cost NTE \$500 annually). Post has purchased past VFW recognition plaques from the same vendor we purchase our Post Golden Heart Awards. Our Youth Outreach – BSA program lead requests to obtain funds to purchase the next block of 5 VFW Eagle Scout recognition plaques at a cost NTE \$300. The price for the Post will be approx. \$50-\$55 for each award totaling \$250.00 - \$275.00 for 5 plaques.
 - **Motion; A motion was brought forward by Shawn Tallant to support of our VFW Post 12135 2023-2024 BSA Program. The Motion asked to approve the funds NTE \$300 for the next block of VFW Eagle Scout Recognition plaques to be presented to our sponsored BSA Troops new Eagle Scouts**
 - The motion was seconded by Dan Hall. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**

VFW Post 12135 Exception to Post By-Laws Motion

- A Post By-Law exception request to hold December Meeting at Post CDRs residence.
 - Discussion: In order to promote camaradere and fellowship amongst the members of VFW Post 12135, the post commander requested that the membership consider having the December Post meeting at the commanders residence. This will be a holiday social evet for the “good of the order.”
 - **Motion; A motion was brought forward by Shawn Tallant to make an exception to the Post by-laws and conduct the December Post meeting at the commanders esidence for the “Good of the Order.”**

- The motion was seconded by Rich Vimmece. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**

Multi-County Veteran Resource Fair, 19 September (John Lacko)

- John Lack led a brief discussion of the event's history provided an update on the 2023 Multi-County Veteran Resource Fair
- **Motion; That, in support of the 2023 Multi-County Veteran Resource Fair, Tellico Village VFW Post 12135 approves to provide funds NTE \$500 to assist with event administrative requirements.**
- The motion was seconded by Rich Vinnece. The motion was seconded by Dave Crowder. After a general discussion, the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.
- After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**

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 8 July.
- Currently we do not have a fall social organized (last year was a trip to the Medal of Honor Museum in Chattanooga, TN.). Unless a fall social trip is organized - our next Post Social Event will be as part of our annual Veterans Day Commemoration scheduled for 11 Nov, 2023. Flyers and invitations will be promulgated in advance!!
- Rich Vinnece reminded the post about the Vietnam Era Service Pin and Certificate. Please contact Rich if you served during this period and would like to receive yours.
- **New Post 12135 Website:** <https://www.tvvfw.org>

Closing Ceremony

- The Post Chaplain, Clyde Griffin, gave the closing prayer, then Post Commander, Rick Creage led post members in a salute of the American Flag.
- Our next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, 20 September, 2023 at the Tellico Village Yacht Club
- Meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard T. Creage, Commander

REMINDER: THE NEW MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS NUMBER IS

988

FOR ANYONE IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES