



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

**Meeting Minutes for 20 September 2023**

---

The meeting was held at the Tellico Village Yacht Club.

**Guest Speaker:** Brandon Jolly, Loudon County Habitat for Humanity.

**Special Awards / Presentations:** None

**Opening Ceremonies:** The Sergeant at Arms, 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.

**Un-Draping and Re-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 Un-Draping of the Post Charter” in honor of our recently departed Post Member, Robert Jenkins who passed away on July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Neighborhood. At this time Sargent of Arms un-draped the Post 12135 Charter. Following the Undraping for Robert Jenkins, the Charter was re-draped in honor of Bill Minks, a WW II Veteran who passed away on July 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year.

- 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.**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Status</b>
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	E
Adjutant (Appointed)	Jay Carroll	E
Sergeant at Arms (Appointed)	Jimmy Johnson	P

	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Total</b>
Officers	9	4	0	13
Members	26	5	91	122
Total	35	9	91	135

Overall member attendance rate was 27%.

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

There was one guest at the Post meeting:

- Brandon Jolly, a US Army Veteran presented the Loudon County Habitat for Humanity program to the post before the meeting and stayed for the post meeting.

### **Membership Applications:**

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

1. Larry Hardesy – US Air Force/Korea & Vietnam Veteran - new VFW Annual member
2. Leroy Gregory – US Navy/Vietnam Vereran – New VFW Annual Member
3. Bernie Horton – US Navy/Vietnam Vetreran – New Life Member

### **Report of the Investigating Committee**

Membership Cair Tallant reported that an investigation/ad hoc meeting was convened and the above-mentioned Veterans were 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**
  - It's been a busy and successful summer for the Post. As a short recap:
  - We funded and dedicated in partnership with OUR Place, the Veterans part in front of the building.
  - The Annual Boat Rides for Vets was a great success. Thanks to Mut and the team.
  - The golf tournament was an incredible success elevating our fundraising to new levels thanks to the incredible work of the golf team Rich, Larry, Ed and Mike.
  - Our suicide awareness display in front of the Yacht Club looks spectacular ones again. Ed and his team have done another incredible job.
  - John Lacko and the committee for the MCVRF worked tirelessly to bring together a top tier event that served veterans needs with an amazing array of support and job opportunities. ***A new television star.***
  - Now we are ramping up for the fall events. Al and Wayne, as always is leading the way with the Chick-Fil-A and Buddy Poppy campaigns.
  - And we will round out the season with our Veterans Day Celebration. Which is coming together well as our JVC, Shawn, Mike Timmer, and myself put the final pieces together. Sing-ups this year will be on the Website.
  - Finally, I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our Post Holiday Party at my residence. The date is set for December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1800.
  - I have an appeal to the members. Mike Thornton is stepping down as the Core Projects lead. Patriots Pen/VoD/ Teacher of the Year. I'll step up as the lead for the program and Mike has agreed to support. We need everyone's help here in getting word out to youth. Grandkids??
  - We are still looking for someone to step up as Post Adjutant. Jay is hanging on until we find someone.
  - Does anyone want to add a shout-out for anything or anyone for any efforts.

- Finally: Our Post leads the way in the District and State. For a post our size we set the standard in many categories including volunteer hours, membership, fundraising and our main mission **Helping Veterans**. It's because of all the members of this great Post that enables us to accomplish all this.

### **Adjutant's Report - Reading of the Minutes**

JVC 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. Rich Vinnece 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

- Following events were addressed by the relief committee.
  - At the August post meeting, I reported VASH asked us to help an honorably discharged Marine with hotel costs while his approved subsidized apartment was being refurbished. This Marine, as I reported, has income from SS and 50% VA disability of \$1900/month. He has stage 3 lung cancer, The post agreed to pay this homeless veteran 10 motel days at a cost of \$675.54. At the end of 10 days, the apartment was still not completed nor inspected. The EXCOM approved an urgent request for an additional 11 days costing \$706.62. At the end of the 11 days the apartment was ready but VA and landlord in-house issues pushed the signing of the lease out another 7 days at a cost of \$651.35 which the EXCOM approved for a total of \$1357.87. I have notified all concerned that we have reached the end of our assistance to this veteran. Propose a motion for the membership to support ExCom Decision. (See Motion Summary in New Business)

- Zach Newton, Program Director of Steps House, emailed me regarding a homeless and honorably discharged veteran. He is looking to pursue an upcoming Recovery Coach course sponsored by the Metro Drug Coalition. The veteran is asking for us to pay the \$450 fee for the 40-hour course which would certify him as a Recovery Coach. Steps House is not allowed to have an AA or 12 Step program due to VA contract. This veteran wants to fill that need. The VA will not pay for this course as it is not conducted by a DOE-approved institution. I met with the veteran and found him to be well spoken, driven to this calling and, I believe, very capable to succeeding. I told him that we would consider his request if he provided me proof that some business would hire him as a Recovery Coach and pay him a salary. Without that I saw no role for us helping him move out of his homeless situation. I am still waiting for that document. No money spent.
- At August's Post meeting the relief committee was authorized up to \$1,000 to assist 2 post members, who have significant family health emergencies, with assistance at their home that they, if their situation were different, would do themselves. The two members, Rich Norman and Jim Seidel, met the criteria. The owner of a licensed and well-respected company met with the post members, heard what they wanted done and did the work. Both members are exceedingly pleased with the results. One has even hired the company to return on a scheduled basis (at the homeowner's expense).

**RESULT:** The payment of \$900 was paid to the contractor for the work done at the residences of two post members.

- Received a call from an honorably discharged 67-year-old disabled Army veteran who needs help with an overdue \$227.49 water bill. Watts Bar Utility shut his water off yesterday. Spoke with the Utility to find out this is not his first time. He reports his total monthly income to be \$1549 from social security and \$165 from VA disability. He says that his wife is very ill, had another recent heart issue and her meds cost him all the money he had. EXCOM approved an urgent request, and his water bill was paid by debit card. (See Motion summary in New Business).
- Received a call from a VA case manager at the Knoxville VA Homeless Outreach Program. They are working with a 54 y/o Desert Storm Armt Vet (88-92) who, with his fiancée/caregiver of 10 years, recently moved to Knoxville from Indiana to be close to a daughter. The veteran, a VFW Life Member, receives \$1336/mo from the VA, his only income. The veteran had an auto accident 10 years ago that left him with permanent brain damage therefor the need for a caregiver. They are in an apartment until this Friday. By then they must pay \$600 deposit and \$600 first monts rent and \$380 to get their utilities turned on or they will be living in their car. Total needed is \$1580 by Friday (22 September 2023) (See motion in New Business).

### **Post Community Service Effort & Report**

- The August 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.

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

- The Membership Committee met in Sept and continues to proactively work Recruitment and Retention strategies, tactics and actions and are obtaining strong results!
- Post Membership is off to a strong start with 4 new members, and 100% retention since 1 July.
- See PPPR

**Core Projects** – Vacant

- Mike Thornton has stepped down. The Post Commander is taking the lead. Plan to contact Guidance Counselors at Greenback and Lenoir City Schools.
- The program is not geography limited so if you have grandkids or friends with kids/grandkids who are eligible have them complete an application.
- The new PP/VoD electronic flyer for submission is posted on the website. See the Commander if you know of any groups that we could get to.

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

- Working flyers and promotions for: 11 November Veterans Day Celebration.

**Buddy Poppy** – Wayne Schroeder, Chairman

- Next Buddy Poppy will be in conjunction with the Veterans Day weekend November 9 & 10. Also handing out at Veterans Day Celebration.
- See PPPR

**Fundraising** – Rich Vinnece

- Next actions.
- Chick-Fil-A: Next event planned for Friday 22 September.
- 2024 planned dates are: 22 March, 21 June, and 20 Sept.

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

- NTR

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

- NTR

### **Sea Cadet Program**

- As part of VFW Post 12135's Community Outreach/Youth Programs, the Post has stood up a youth program in support a local TN Sea Cadet Unit, the Smokey MT Anchor Division located in Farragut. This past month the Post's Program Lead has established communications to support the Sea Cadets 2023-2024 LRTP focused on the USN Seabees. Two VFW Members, Barnett Alpert and Chet Winchell have volunteered to support.

- **Sea Cadet Program Lead continues to communicate with the Sea Cadet Unit CO** and have received the unit's LRTP for this year and working 2023 mentorship coordination.

- **Sea Cadets have received the VFW Youth Scholarship Program info (PP, VoD)**

- **Sea Cadet to provide a Color Guard for our 11 Nov Veterans Day Commemoration**

- See PPPR

### **Post's Vets in Classroom Program** – Vacant

- We would like to ask if someone is willing to step up to the plate and provide leadership for this rewarding program.

## **REPORT OF PROJECTS**

### **1. MCVRF (John Lacko)**

- Please Give a Recap of the event.

### **2. Clothing Drive**

- Oct 9 – Oct 21.

- Collection boxes to be placed at Tellico Village Welcome Center.

### **3. Veterans Day Celebration**

- Tellico Village VFW Post will again sponsor a Veteran's Day commemoration event, Saturday 11/11, 4-6pm in the Yacht Club lower level.

- See PPPR for Details

## **Ongoing /Unfinished Business**

### **Post Calendar Completed Events**

- 19 Sept MCVRF – John Lacko

- September (ongoing all month) – Suicide Awareness Display at Yacht Club

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

- 22 Sept Chick-Fil-A Fundraiser – Al Porell
- October – Fall Vets Clothing Drive – John Lacko
- 9-10 Nov Buddy Poppy Campaign – Wayne Schroder
- 11 Nov – Veterans Day Commemoration – Rick Creange/Shawn Tallant
- 19 Nov – Bonnyman Graveside Ceremony
- 7 Dec - Post Holiday Party – Post Commander

### **Internal Events**

- Sep thru Oct- Core Project Info Dissemination (Due 31 October)
- 10 Oct - Calendar Year Admin Request for Budgets
- 15 Nov - Core Projects Entries Due at District
- 15 Nov – Scout of the year nominations
- 30 Nov – Calendar year budget inputs due

### **New Business**

#### **Relief Committee - Veteran Support Motion (Tony Newton)**

- **EXCOM Emergency Action Funding in the amount of \$1357.87.**
  - **Discussion:** See discussion in report of relief committee.
  - **Motion; A motion was brought forward by Tony Newton that the post membership support the EXCOM Emergency Action Decision to pay the veteran's rent to the end of August in the amount of \$1357.87.**
  - The motion was seconded by Rich Vinnece. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**
- **EXCOM Emergency Action Funding in the amount of \$227.49.**
  - Discussion : See discussion in report of relief committee.
  - **Motion: A motion was brought by Tony Newton that the post support the EXCOM'S decision to pay Watts Bar Utility \$227.49 to have veteran's water turned on.**



- The motion was seconded by Larry Dill Vinnece. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**
- **Funding for Disabled Veteran in the amount of \$1580.00**
  - Discussion: See discussion in report of relief committee.
  - **Motion: A motion was brought by Tony Newton that the post approve paying rent, deposit, and utility costs totaling 1580.00.**
  - The motion was seconded by Rich Vinnece.
  - **Amended Motion: After further discussion, the membership agreed to amend the motion by adding \$1000.00 to allow the relief committee flexibility if needed for this veteran in the second month for trent and utilities. The amended motion brought the total request to \$2580.00. The amended motion was brought by Shawn Tallant.**
  - The amended motion was seconded by Larry Dill. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**

### **Post General Business**

- **Funding in Support of Veterans Day Celebration (Shawn Tallant)**
  - Discussion: Tellico Village VFW Post 12135 conducts a Veterans Day celebration at the Tellico Village Yacht Club evert year on November 11<sup>th</sup>. It is one of the leading community outreach and engagement events in the village also giving the Post an opportunity to recognize our veterans in the community. A small amount of funding (\$400.00) is required to execute this event.
  - **Motion: Shawn Tallant brough a motion for the Post authorize funds NTE \$400 for the Post's Veterans Day event to offset cost of water, signage, and flyers - and room charge (\$75) if bar minimum is not met.**
  - The motion was seconded by Gary Kimball. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**
- **Funding in Support of the Fall Clothing Drive (John Lacko)**
  - Discussion: The Post conducts a clothing drive twice a year in the spring and fall to support various charitable and veterans' organizations. Collection boxes and a banner are placed at the Tellico Village Welcome Center for the program duration. The fall clothing drive will be from 9 October to 21 October 2023.
  - **Motion: A motion was brought forward by John Lacko for the Post to authorize funding for a new vinal reusable banner NTE \$200 for support of the program.**

- The motion was seconded by Larry Dill. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**
- **Donation to the VMS Foundation.**
  - Discussion: To be eligible for All-American honors the post must donate \$100 to the Military Support VMS.
  - **Motion: A motion was brought forward by Jeff Corthell that the Post authorize \$100 to the VMS to be eligible for All-American honors.**
  - The motion was seconded by Ian Smith. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**
- **Donation to the TN VFW Foundation.**
  - Discussion: To be eligible for All-State honors the post must donate \$100 to the TN VFW Foundation.
  - **Motion: A motion was brought forward by Jeff Corthell that the Post authorize \$100 each to the TN VFW Foundation to be eligible for All-State honors.**
  - The motion was seconded by Rich Laverdure. After a general discussion, **the motion was passed unanimously without further discussion or dissent.**
- **Support for CORE Programs**
  - Discussion: The core programs to include Patriots Pen, Voice of Democracy, Teacher of the year, and others such as First Responder, Scouts, and ROTC are an integral part of the Post's and VFW's community outreach programs. Through these programs the post promotes patriotism, supports the community, and communicates the mission of the VFW. Executing these programs at the post level incurs expenses in the form, of prizes, presentations, and advertising.
  - Motion: A motuion was brought forward by Shawn Tallant that the Post authorize funding NTE \$1000 for the procurement of awards, prizes, and advertising.**
  - The motion was seconded by Larry Dill. 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 14 October 2023.

- 2. Winter Holiday Social at the Commanders Residence December 7th.
- **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, 18 October, 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**