

**WI Department, American Legion Post 234
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
October 28, 2009**

Opening:

The meeting was opened by Commander, Rick Deiss at approximately 7:30 PM, a recitation of the Pledge to Allegiance, Post 234 Mission Statement, POW/MIA Ceremony and a prayer by the Chaplain Steve Goller

Roll Call:

***Not in attendance # Excused**

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|--------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Commander | Rick Deiss | 1st Vice | Ken Flock |
| 2nd Vice | Pete Hennes | | |
| Adjutant | Bob Wipf | Sgt.-at-Arms | Tom Weber |
| Finance Officer | Toni Viegut# | Parliamentarian | Ray Hoeft |
| Chaplain | Steve Goller | Historian | Darryl Schmidt |
| Service Officer | Ken Ochalla | Past Cdr | John Hoeft |
| Members-At-Large: | John Vonderloh, Dean Larsen, Ken Jungwirth | | |

Sergeant-at-Arms Report: Sgt-at-Arms reported 35 members and several guests present. Guests included Dennis Faust, Jay Kargus, Tim Meyer, Beryl Barker, Blaine Sparhawk. Blaine and Jay introduced themselves as prospective members.

Guest Speaker: Tim Meyer made a presentation on behalf of "Artists for the Humanities." He displayed some of the portraits he has done of fallen veterans, such as Bret Vroman. He also discussed his work with veterans with PTSD.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the Post Meeting on 9/23/09 and the PEC meeting of 10/21/09 were distributed and approved as printed.

Breakfast With The Veterans: Dean Larsen reported on the breakfast activities for Veterans Day. He circulated a sign up sheet. Breakfast will be at 7:30 AM. Dean discussed what we could provide each Veteran as a gift.

Veterans Day At The Schools: Ed Goss discussed the plans for the ceremonies at each school. HB Patch and Elementary school will be on November 11, 2009. The High School and Middle school will be November 12, 2009. Honor Guard should see Dean after the meeting.

Thank You: Charles Albasion thanked the post for the flowers for the funeral of his wife.

Christmas Party: Ken Flock reported the Christmas Party will be December 12th. Social at 5:00PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM. The membership was asked if it should be sit down or family style. A show of hands indicated family style was the choice.

Membership Brochure: Commander Deiss presented the new Post brochure. The initial printing was 500 copies. It was well received by the membership. Bob Wipf will put together new membership kits. It was suggested we put them out into the community. It was also suggested we have Julie run an ad for the Legion.

Fall Conference: Delegates to the fall conference where Rick Deiss, Laurie Koepke, Darryl Schmidt. Also attending, as members at large were Pete Hennes and Bob Wipf. Pete Hennes was appointed the Vice Commander representing the central region. Bob Wipf reported on some of the points that VC Batty made at the meeting.

Membership Awards: Commander Deiss presented membership awards to John Vonderloh. The post again reached all-time high for the sixth year. Post 234 is the fastest growing post in the state.

Correspondence:

- Blaine Sparhawk commented on his experiences returning home, and thanked today's Veterans for making his reception a great experience.
- A thank you note was received from the Omro Food Pantry
- Members that recruit 5 or more members are eligible for a National Commanders pin.
- The Badger Legionnaire is currently looking for ad sponsors. See Bob Wipf.

County Commander: Pete Hennes reported on county government day. Eight out of nine schools participated. There was approximately 90 students attending. November 12, 2009 at Bella Vista there will be a honoring our troops event. There is a free supper after the event. The Post is asked to provide the color guard. District oratorical contest is scheduled for January 24, 2009. The County contest will be January 17, 2009 at the Omro High School library. Mid-Winter Conference will be January 29-31 at the Wilderness resort in Wisconsin Dells. Room rate is \$70 per night. Next County meeting is on November 19, 2009 in Neenah at 7:30 PM. There are refreshments left over from county government day for after the meeting.

Sickness & Distress: Ray Janiak is currently in the hospital with congestive heart problems.

Labor Day Event Committee: The PEC discussed possible events for this fundraiser. Commander Deiss has met with city officials and has reserved the Scott Park pavilion. One of the ideas being looking into is jet ski racing. The committee will continue to investigate ideas.

Donation Request: Commander Deiss reported on a request for personal items for the troops. The membership decided to collect items on Saturday October 31, 2009 from 1-2 PM and the Post will pay the shipping charges. There was discussion about how to purchase phone cards. The list of items will be put on the website an e-mail will be sent out. A motion was made by Ken Ochalla and seconded by Wayne Schmick to pay the shipping costs. The motion carried unanimously.

1st Vice-Commander Report: Anyone interested in help with the Christmas Party see Ken after the meeting.

2nd Vice-Commander Report: No report

Financial Officer Report: Bob Wipf presented the post account balances. A copy of the full reports was available on the back table. Toni is still on excused absence. A motion was made by Ed Goss and seconded by Laurie Koepke to accept the financial report. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjutant: No report

Chaplain Report: Steve Goller reported he sent cards to Chares Albasion and Toni Viegut. Steve requested that the membership contact him if they are aware of an Veteran in distress.

Historian: Darryl Schmidt photographed the county government day and the pictures are on the website.

Service Officer: Ken Ochalla commented on how well behaved the students were at county government day. Please contact Ken if you are aware of Veteran in need.

Membership Report: Membership is on track for another 100% year. Current membership is 138 members

Honor Guard: Dean Larsen reported the Color Guard will be leading the Christmas Parade again this year on December 5, 2009 at 4 PM. Ed Mason has hats and shirts available, see him after the meeting.

A&G Testing: Laurie Koepke requested volunteers to grade tests on November 4, 2009 at 3:30 PM at the High School.

For The Good Of The Legion:

- John Hoeft thanked the Post for helping at the High Ground ceremonies.
- Dean Larsen reported his daughter, Bev Britt, is being deployed to Iraq about November 1st.

Closing:

The meeting closed at approximately 8:59 PM with retiring of the POW chair and a prayer by the Chaplain, Steve Goller.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Wipf

Adjutant Post 234