

VFW Post 10148

Meeting led by the Post Commander

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

6:00 - 7:10 PM

Key Takeaways:

- The meeting attendance was moderate: 15 Post members and 1 District 8 representative. Officers present: Post Commander, QM Pro Tempore, Adjutant, VSO, Surgeon.
- Minutes of March meeting were read. A discussion ensued regarding the discovered fact of a \$4,000 loan in November 2019 from a Post member to the Post. The discussion revealed the error in previous claims of no knowledge of a loan. The loan was for loading the ATM – an action entirely unnecessary given sufficient Post funds in the ATM account in November for loading the machine.
- Membership Chair not present. Two membership applications were presented by James Hathaway and both applicants were voted into the Post. A third application is awaiting a DD 214.
- Quartermaster not present. Report was presented by Don Reott showing the end-of-month balances in each of the three Post accounts for the period of July 2019 through February 2020. The ATM account has some yet to be reconciled significant balance reductions. Research is ongoing. Report was only through February 2020 due to the lack of access by any current Post officer to the Post accounts at Sunrise Bank. This situation developed from the March resignations of the Post Commander and QM. Resolution is pending. The inability to access Post funds is a highly unacceptable condition.
- House Committee Chair present. Meeting held on April 13th but no report provided.
- A motion to repair the floor in the Canteen based on a several month old bid was defeated 9-6. The Facilities Committee was reformed and will develop a plan for the renovation work including a clear scope of work, a budget, a time line, and recent bids for the floor/framing, electrical, plumbing, and equipment. The plan is to commence work in May with renovations completed prior to re-opening the Canteen.
- The matter of charges against a Post member was discussed. One Post member was calling for a continuance to allow time to develop the case. District Senior Vice Ron Chapman informed all that the Post has no option for requesting a continuance and more importantly, since no evidence was ever provided despite numerous requests, the new Post Commander has dropped the charges. The Post member so charged indicated that charges dropped is not the same as being exonerated. Matter is currently at VFW Department of Florida for proper resolution.

- The floor was opened for nominating and voting to fill three vacancies resulting from recent resignations. The vacant positions were filled by the election of the listed Post members. These members will hold the indicated offices for the remainder of the 2019-2020 year:

Two-year Trustee - Chris Gibson

Quartermaster - Colby Stallings

Senior Vice Commander - Don Reott

With these vacancies filled Jeff Bucks, Don Reott, and Colby Stallings are authorized to access and manage the Post accounts at Sunrise Bank.

- The floor was opened for nominating candidates for the six Post officer positions elected each year. The nominations will remain open up to the May meeting at which time voting will occur. Currently nominated are:

Post Commander - Jeff Bucks

Senior Vice Commander - Don Reott

Junior Vice Commander - James Hathaway

Quartermaster - Colby Stallings

Chaplain - Rob Kane

3-Year Trustee - Frank Renner

The Post must have its full slate of elected officers reported to VFW Department of Florida by 06/01/20.

- Work continues to secure a Paycheck Protection Program loan to assist our Canteen employees. Don Reott is working with Sunrise Bank on this initiative. Employees of record as of 03/17/20 will be eligible for support from this loan when approved. In addition, a motion was made and approved to provide a one-time gift of up to \$3000 total properly apportioned to employees of record on 03/17/20. Don Reott, Jeff Bucks, and Colby Stallings were approved to determine the distribution on behalf of the Post.

- A committee headed by James Hathaway and Frank Renner was formed to coordinate a Memorial Day celebration. Social distancing and group size restrictions will be reviewed with the City of Cocoa Beach.

- District 8 Senior Vice Ron Chapman closed the meeting by making clear the need for all members to focus on operating a VFW Post and not just a bar. Post performance of late is not acceptable. Further issues involving proper compliance with VFW regulations will likely result in the loss of our charter.

- The next Post Monthly Meeting is **May 20th** at 6:00 PM.

These notes were compiled by Don Reott.