

## Suffolk County American Legion Meeting Minutes October 1, 2021

Meeting was called to order by Commander Roby Johnson at 2000.

Membership rendered a hand salute to the colors.

Chaplain Tom Bergin offered an opening prayer.

Commander Johnson observed our POW/MIA's.

Membership recited the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Membership recited the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion.

Roll Call of Posts. The following Posts were present: Babylon, Wayne Middleton, Greenlawn, Sgt. John Sardiello, Rusy Bohm, Smith-Weaver, James Ely Miller, Donald C. Munro, Joseph Leoffler, Patchogue, Wilson Ritch, Arthur Clune, Selden, John R. Cacioppo, Riverhead, Raymond Cleaves and Chelburg & Battle. 16 Posts Total, a quorum for conducting business.

Roll Call of Officers:

Commander R. Johnson - present

Adjutant J. Beecher - excused

Finance Officer R. Robesch - present

Chaplain T. Bergin - present

Historian J. Doran - present

Sgt. at Arms W. Farley - present

Service Officer K Dolan - present

1st Division Commander R. Romano - present

2nd Division Commander K. Eaton - present

3rd Division Commander F. Miller - present

4th Division Commander R. DeVito - present

5th Division Commander M. Knab - present

Minutes of Sept. Meeting - Motion Made to Accept Minutes, seconded and Approved by Membership

Past County Commanders in Attendance were recognized by Commander Johnson

Patchogue Post Commander Jon Ralph made welcoming remarks.

#### Officer Reports:

Commander Johnson made a report of his activities for the month (enclosed).

Finance Officer Robesch made a report. Motion made, seconded and approved by Membership to accept his report.

Chaplain Bergin stated that Four Chaplain Ceremony details still being worked on.

1st Division Commander stated next meeting at Fuestal Kurdt Post on Oct. 6 at 1900

2nd Division Commander stated next meeting at Smith-Weaver Post on Oct. 15 at 2000

3rd Division Commander stated next meeting at Medford Post on Oct 15 at 1900

4th Division Commander stated that he was just appointed and is driving around and contacting posts in the 4th Division and introducing himself.

5th Division Commander stated next meeting on Oct. 26 at 1900 via zoom.

#### Committee Reports

Americanism - Joe Regina made mention of the Essay Contests. More support is needed from the schools and all American Legion Posts should be involved.

Budget and Finance - Tom Wagner spoke for the committee and stated that the Budget would be the same as last year. A motion will be made under old business to accept the budget.

Boys State - per Jim Beecher's written report.

Directory - Joe Regina working on completion, being held up by posts not sending in Officer Certification forms or submitting ads.

Law and Order - Commander Johnson wants all Post Commanders aware of this program and should be participating.

Legionnaire of the Year - Phil Barzack stated that all posts should be thinking of this now and need to be submitted by March 4th American Legion Meeting.  
Legion Riders - per David Isaacs written report.

Liason to the Auxiliary - Tom Bergin reported that Auxiliary is looking for donations for gift cards to be deliver to the State Veterans Nursing Home at Stony Brook.

Legislative - Ken Dolan noted the low reply rate from our Elected Officials. No one from Congress or NYS Assembly and only one state senator. Legislative Breakfast will be held on Saturday Oct. 16 at 9AM at Rusy Bohm Post in Islip.

POW/MIA - per Bob Buggerman's written report.

National Cemetery Long Island National - Bob Smith requested a larger American Legion Presence for the Veterans Day Ceremony on Sunday Nov. 7 starting at 1400.

National Cemetery Calverton - Mike Pankowski stated Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11, details to follow. Wreaths across America on Saturday Dec. 18, details to follow.

Nominations - Bill Farley announced one nomination to date, for Suffolk County Commander submitted by Smith-Weaver Post in Sayville nominating Steve Antonacci.

SAL Advisor - Bill Farley, representing Sons of the American Legion from the Dept of NY, presented a Plaque to Dennis Madden from the Greenlawn Post for a 1st Place Award for Veteran's Rehabilitation awarded to Greenlawn Squadrom #1244.

Oratorical - Bob Smith noted that County Oratorical Contest will take place on Saturday Dec. 4 at 930AM at the West Islip Post. All American Legion Family and Guests are encouraged to attend.

Post Charters - Gene Ordmandy noted that the following post are in the process of turning in there charters 1991 Kerry P Hein, 580 Nathaniel Howell Topping and 2016 Farmingdale State College. Members of these posts have transferred out to other posts.

PTS - per Rev. Fred Miller's written report.

Unfinished Business - A Motion was made, Seconded and Approved by Membership to Accept the Budget for the year.

New Business - None

Good of the American Legion

1. Mike Pankowski noted that Applications for American Legion College scheduled for June 2022 are available now and should be sent in immediately. Talk to Mike for details ASAP.

2. Mike Pankowski noted that the Grand Marshall for the New York City's Veterans Day Parade is a Legionnaire from Riverhead Kevin Carrick. Kevin is retired from the Air Force and a former member of the 106th Rescue.

3. Dennis Madden gave a written report detailing services dogs for Veterans, CANINE.org

4. Gene Ordmandy noted that Suffolk County American Legion needed to promote the Legion at the Post/County/District Levels with its many programs and committees. Bob Shadler took exception at some of Gene's comments and a short discussion followed.

A Motion was Made, Seconded and Approved to Close the Meeting.

Chaplain Bergin offered a closing prayer.

Next Meeting for Suffolk County American Legion will be held on Friday Nov. 5 at 2000 at Northport Post.

Meeting was closed by Commander Johnson at 2138

Respectfully submitted

Michael Pankowski

10th District Oratorical Chairman