

**American Legion
Jeremy E. Ray Post 324
Jersey Village, TX
November 12, 2023
Regular Meeting – Minutes**

Commander Stefanie Otto called the meeting to order at 1600 hours. There were 8 officers present:

Commander Stefanie Otto
1st Vice Commander David Pyke
2nd Vice Commander Open
Service Officer – Bill Brown
Adjutant Terry Coon
Finance Officer Michael LaRose
Sgt-at-Arms Wayne Huebner
Chaplin Richard Ater
Judge Advocate - Absent
Historian Robert Howard

And 10 other members and 1 visitor for a total of 19 were present. A quorum was met, and the meeting continued.

Minutes:

Adjutant Terry Coon requested a motion to forgo reading the minutes from the last meeting by distribution of minutes via email to all members. David Pyke motioned to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Bill Brown. Motion was then passed by membership.

Finance Report:

Finance Officer: Michael LaRose reported that the available funds of Post 324 were \$8,355.66 as of 11/11/2023 (not including the \$500.00 set aside for Veterans in need and \$57.00 restricted funds for Women's Auxiliary.) Motion to accept finance report pending further audit was made by Robert Howard and seconded by Bob Riley. The motion passed by membership.

Committees

1st Vice: Reported on the Fall Convention where they had 2 speakers. Lacey spoke to us about the training available. Jerome spoke to us about the process for burial at the National Cemetery.

The oratorical candidates for the post are needed by November 23rd with District contest on January 6th.

Chaplin: Pray for our country.

Service Officer:

- There have been many comments from veterans who have reached out for help.
- The man who contacted me for help because he was close to being homeless was able to receive assistance from the resources available at the VA.
- Please broadcast to Veterans that there is a more direct phone number for those needing mental care. The number is 988 extension 1.
- Have not had to use the \$500.00 set aside for Veterans in need. There is also a special unit of the HPD that will respond to requests for help homeless Veterans. They utilize the facilities of Cloud Break and The George.

Sgt of Arms: Nothing to report.

Judge Adjutant: N/A

Historian: Please submit your service stories.

Old Business:

1. The commander submitted for vote that we have 2 options. #1 Taco and Fajita's bar from Natalita's at \$15.00 per person. #2 Adriatic Grill two different entrees for \$15.00 per person. Both options will have sodas and water, and desserts provided by the Executive committee. Bill Brown moved we accept option 1. Seconded by Wayne Huebner. Discussion occurred with questions for clarification. We cannot BYOB because of the VFW license. Motion passed. An email will be sent for a head count so be sure to RSVP.
2. Current membership is at 68%. Try to make 100% by December 31st since there are funds available to achieve.
3. There is a December 2nd bus trip coming up. Let Trey know if you want to attend.

4. 4th quarter charity is Blue Santa for the Jersey Village PD and Fire. Please bring toys, including the teens, by next meeting. We also support the VA hospital with items they need.
5. Sewing service day for blankets for homeless and VA hospital. See Irene Infante for more information.
6. Color guard presented for the Phillips 66 Veterans Celebration. Commander Stefani Otto, Bill Brown, Jimmy Baughman and Terry Coon formed the guard for this presentation. Attendance was a full house with the event broadcast live to all employees.
7. Veterans Parade was called due to rain to our disappointment.

New Business:

1. We are hosting the December D.E.C. meeting on the 5th at VFW hall. Dinner will be pizza at 6pm with a meeting starting at 7pm. The meeting should end between 8 and 8:30pm.
2. Two Eagle Scout projects have been completed with a summary book available for review on the project providing needed items for Cloud Break housing. The second project was the 4 flag retirement boxes. An Eagle Scout ceremony will be held on Monday November 13th at 7pm. Would the Post consider sponsoring a newly created CREW troop for those 14 to 21 years of age? This would establish a leadership opportunity. Rachel Sharp moved to sponsor the charter for CREW with Bill Brown seconding. Discussion occurred with explanations of how it's just like the others we sponsor and would help in finding Oratorical and Boy State participants. Vote Passed.
3. Irene Infante asked us to place our names, branch of service and years served on labels for the Stocking Stuffer bags.

Good of the Legion:

1. Wayne Huebner spoke to nursing and assisted care home availability for disabled veterans. Anyone with 60% or more disability can obtain finance support for the care. Check for those that are contracted by the VA. Just visited on on Grant Road that was very nice. They are income dependent but check with the VA for those locations. We can have a representative talk to us. Richard Ater added to always consult a social worker and be careful with the choice.

Adjourn:

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1651 hours. Our next scheduled meeting will be on Sunday, November 12th at 1600 hours (4pm) at VFW 8905, HWY 290 next to Carl's BBQ.

Respectfully Submitted:
Terry Coon, Adjutant