

**American Legion
Jeremy E. Ray Post 324
Jersey Village, TX
January 14, 2024
Regular Meeting – Minutes**

Commander Stefanie Otto called the meeting to order at 1601 hours. There were 8 officers present:

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

And 12 other members and no visitors for a total of 20 were present. A quorum was met, and the meeting continued.

New Members:

Doug Peters, transferring from “ghost” post is a 26-year Navy submarine veteran.
Joe Pennington is a Coast Guard Reserve veteran and is new to the American Legion.
Paul Haines is an Army veteran transferring from Tomball Post.

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. Wayne Huebner motioned to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Jimmy Baughman. Motion was then passed by membership.

Finance Report:

Finance Officer: Michael LaRose reported that the available funds of Post 324 were \$7,933.18 as of 01/14/2024 (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 Jimmy Baughman and seconded by Jerry Roberts. The motion passed by membership.

Committees

1st Vice: The District Oratorical contest was hosted by Post 324 in Jersey Village Community Center on 1/6/2024. It was won by a young lady who is an officer in her JROTC at Sam Houston High School.

Sgt of Arms: Nothing to report.

Service Officer: Absent

Judge Adjutant: Nothing to report.

Historian: Please submit your military stories.

Chaplin: Remember I am always available to talk and help out where I can.

Finance Officer: Mike LaRose made a tabletop podium for the Commander and Post to use. Stefani Otto, commander, thanked Mike for the beautiful woodwork.

Old Business:

1. Question to the members; Was the Christmas family dinner good to have as we did with \$15 each catering and officers providing desserts and drinks here at the hall? The members surveyed responded yes in agreement. The Commander stated to try to keep the price withing \$15 range for catering in future twice a year dinner and hold it at the hall.
2. There is a January 27th bus trip to Huntsville, and you must let Trey Pryor know by this coming Friday to be included. Trey added that we must have 15 people signed up for the bus and that the trip includes a visit to the Hearts Veterans Museum of Texas for \$8/\$5 veterans' admission. They have a three-quarter replica of the Veteran's Memorial in DC. Lunch will be at City Hall Café.

New Business:

1. Stefani Otto, commander announced that each quarter the Post supports a charity and that 1st quarter is Camp Hope which is a PTSD program. You can go to their website for the list of things they need.
<https://ptsdusa.org/give-help/#donations>
Second quarter is Grace After Fire (Walmart Cards always welcomed)
Third quarter is fluid.
Fourth quarter is the VA Hospital and Blue Santa.
ALL donations can be brought to the Post.
2. Adjutant Terry Coon gave an update on the 2024 Membership which is at 86.45% or 211 members with a goal of 244. This exceeds the 80% target for 01/10/2024 and the 02/14/2024 target of 85%. Please do speak with your fellow members about renewing soon.
3. Please think about a way to raise funds to help defer the increase from National. Jimmy Baughman stated that we could do a raffle for a weapon, as we did last year, but add two more prizes. If you wish to join the fund-raising committee, see Jimmy Baughman.

Good of the Legion:

1. Irene Infante announced that the VA through T-Mobile can provide a tablet if you have 10% or more disability. The tablet includes a phone/internet line for use when wifi is not available.
2. Mike LaRose asked if the representative could come with 10 to 15 tablets to a meeting with our Post. Members could bring their letter for validation.
3. Irene Infante spoke of a VA Volunteers meeting for all volunteer groups on Wednesday upcoming to share knowledge.
4. Irene Infante mentioned that she had helped a 100% veteran by calling the 988 #1 phone number. This was very productive for the veteran in crisis.
5. Ted Newman spoke on how Tomball VA hospital was able to print out your records so that you can pass them on to clinics for faster proof and background or your condition. Remember if you register that established your intent to file for a year.
6. Stefani Otto, commander, stated that on Monday January 22nd there is a Jersey Village Council meeting to present Officer of the 4th quarter of 2023 and Office of the year for 2023. Meeting starts at 1900 hours (7pm).

Adjourn:

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1625 hours. Our next scheduled meeting will be on Sunday, February 11th at 1600 hours (4pm) at VFW 8905, HWY 290 next to Carl's BBQ.

Respectfully Submitted:
Terry Coon, Adjutant