

American Legion Hurst Turner Post 65  
**Executive Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, July 5th, 2018

Officers in Attendance:

Michael Morris, Commander ✓, Robert Osborne, 1st Vice Commander ✓, Bob Waters, 2nd Vice Commander ✓, Mark Armstrong, Adjutant ✗, Charles Williams, Finance Officer ✓, Kent Phyfe, Service Officer ✗, Harold Smith, Chaplain ✓, Frank Robillard, Sergeant at Arms ✓, Randy Hill, Historian ✓, Ric Shroyer, Judge Advocate ✓, Chuck Harris, Committeeman ✗, Luke Rinehardt, Committeeman ✓, and Benny Wilhelm, Committeeman ✓.

Total Members in Attendance: 14

Opening Prayer: Harold Smith, Chaplain

Call to Order: Mike Morris, Commander

Presentation of Colors: None.

POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony: None.

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: All Legion & Auxiliary members participated.

Meeting Convened: 6:15 pm

Current Business:

• Finance Report – Charles Williams, Finance Officer reported that he and Commander Morris met with the Finance Committee: Luke Rinehardt, Benny Wilhelm, & Harold Wilson on Monday for their first meeting, (Chuck Harris was on vacation). They discussed how the bills are paid, how the books are setup, etc. They went over the bank statement and the Finance Committee approved it. The meeting went well.

- Checking Account balance for end of May: \$6,417.
- Closing Checking Account balance as of June 29<sup>th</sup>: \$8,922.
- General Fund Balance: \$38 (this fund is always low this time of year due to only money coming in to that fund is from memberships and expenses are for operation of the Post itself).
- Building Fund Balance: \$4,264.
- Veterans & Community Fund Balance: \$2,369.
- Capital Improvement & Insurance Fund Balance: \$2,250.

- Finance Report (continued) - Charles went over the last monthly meeting expenses. The meal came up \$7 short on donations. He asked that we remind members to donate at least \$5 at each of the dinners to help cover the costs. We rented the building 5 times this past month in addition to the church rentals. We also paid our dues last month to the Iredell County Veterans Council for the new year. Charles also encouraged the Executive Committee to review the Consolidated Post Report he filed online to get an idea of some of the programs we should be looking at doing in the future as these programs coincide with the Preamble.

Benny Wilhelm, Finance Committee, added that Charles does a good thing and that when you add up all the expenses for one year it costs a little over \$10,000 just to run the Post, so we should all keep that in mind especially when it comes to donations for the monthly meals. Charles concluded the Finance Report by saying that we are in pretty good shape as far as we are putting money in the bank working towards things that need to be done to the building.

- Lawn Mowing – Commander Morris thanked Benny for coming and helping him mow this week. Volunteers are still needed to help mow, signup is on the bulletin board in the old meeting room.

- Parade & Hot Dog Lunch – Mike said that the parade went well, we had a great group but we did have room for more. The netting Benny got to go over the float really helped cut down on the sun and heat. The lunch afterwards at the Post was good and we had a blast hanging out together.

- Post Exchange – If anyone owes the Post Exchange any money, Please see Charles and make arrangements to get it taken care of as soon as possible.

- Legion College – Coming up the end of this month, and the deadline for advance registration is July 20<sup>th</sup>. The Post needs to send in the registration checks, see Mark Armstrong, Adjutant if you are interested.

- Contact list – Commander Morris asked for volunteers to be on a contact list for members in case they need to get ahold of someone. Robert Osborne, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, agreed to be a contact person. His number is 704-402-3768.

- Wayside Fire Department – Mike has asked an officer of Wayside to come Monday night, so that we can introduce ourselves since we are part of the same community. Wayside has also graciously agreed to bring a tanker over to help Mike & Benny and other volunteers to pressure wash our helicopter in anticipation of its restoration. Ric Shroyer, Judge Advocate made a motion to donate \$50 (our standard) to Wayside Fire Department, and Bob Waters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, seconded the motion, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried. Charles Williams, Finance Officer, made a recommendation that we make this an annual donation to Wayside, Mike agreed it was a good idea.

- Helicopter – Robert Osborne said that his guys are ready to design a wrap so that we can get an idea of what it might cost - we just need to decide what all we want put on there. He said that the wraps they use on their trucks have lasted for 12 years now. Robert can take them a picture of the helicopter and an idea of our design and come back next month with an estimate. Robert will try to research our helicopter's history. Charles suggested that on one side we have it designed with the original markings and on the other side we have all the military branch insignia's put on there. Harold Smith suggested we ask Doug Price for help. Benny said the ones in Vietnam had all kinds of things on them. Randy Hill knows a Historian he can and will contact for more info.
- Eagle Scout project – Benny Wilhelm brought up the recent brick addition that was done near the benches by the Eagle Scout. The scout brought back a bigger brick with his name on it and placed it higher than the others and it is set out away from the others bricks. He said Richard Cimbricz has offered to move the brick and place it into the rest of the project so that we can mow in that area, and also prevent someone from tripping over it. Benny made a motion to give Richard permission to move the brick, Bob Waters seconded, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried. Benny will let Richard know he can proceed. Thank you Richard.
- Marine Corps League Raffle – Charles said that Detachment 1097 has kicked off their Reverse Raffle fundraiser. It will be held in October this year. Benny made a motion that we buy a \$100 ticket and raffle it off at Post 65 as we have before, Frank Robillard, Sergeant at Arms, seconded, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.
- Meeting Reminders – Harold Smith said that Terry Oglethorpe and some others would like to get on the email reminding them about the Executive Meeting dates and other event dates. Charles asked if those dates should be included in the newsletter. Benny mentioned there was a calendar on Facebook each month of events. He suggested we use Kent's technology services program more to help out our members who are not using some of the internet related resources. Mike said maybe we could email out that calendar in the meantime.
- Members Dropping Off – Bob Waters asked if we know how many members we are losing because their dues have not been paid. Benny said there are 30-40 members on the list. Luke said that would be at least \$825 in National's dues. Benny said the Membership Committee: Mark Armstrong, Robert Osborne & himself, will be going through the list and trying to find out why they have not paid. Charles said he heard from Jane Harmon-she called and said she has moved to Mount Airy and was at a Post there. Discussion continued on finding ways to keep in touch with members who lapse and finding out why. Denise from NCWorks suggested having fundraisers to raise money to help pay those members dues that are sick or in nursing homes. Charles asked the Executive committee to let him send that suggestion to the Finance Committee and ask them to find a solution to this issue.

- Auxiliary Requests – Amy Wilhelm-Cook, Auxiliary President asked for a volunteer with a truck to help Ken & Laura Marsh transport the Christmas in July items, from Dollar Tree on East Broad St to the Post, on Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. If interested contact Laura or Ken. Amy also asked permission for the Auxiliary to take over financial responsibility for the monthly Member Meeting meals, beginning in July, since all Auxiliary members are now preparing, purchasing, etc. everything for the meals, it makes sense to eliminate Charles having to reimburse the Auxiliary for expenditures. It would also give the Auxiliary more chances to interact with members and guests, possibly helping to grow their membership. Harold Wilson made a motion to allow the Auxiliary to take control of the Meeting meals, Harold Smith seconded, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.
- Memorial Archives – Randy Hill, Historian, announced that he had gotten one of Amy's photos admitted into the memorial archives at mylegion.org. He is looking for more member photos, especially some nighttime photos.
- McDonald's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Veterans Celebration – Benny said lots of Post 65 members were at the grand opening of the Neaders' new McDonalds. He commended the Neaders on their heart for our community, their willingness to help so many, and their dedication to Veterans. Melissa Neader spoke with Benny about them needing a venue for their Elmwood Strong meetings and asked about possibly using our building. Charles stated that the Finance Committee discussed this already and allowing the community to use our building when available was a positive thing and fits well with our mission, helping Veterans and Non-Veterans alike. Benny will see if Mike & Melissa can come and talk with the officers about possibly renting.
- NCWorks – Denise Santana is “the new Shirley Butler”. She works with Veterans with employment barriers, such as: substance abuse, mental health issues, homelessness, disconnected & displaced Veterans. She is very interested in active outreach to locate these Veterans. She gave info on Rockie's concert on July 7<sup>th</sup>. She is announced that she is joining Post 65 as a member.
- Rockie Lynne – Mike announced that Rockie has agreed to do a fundraiser for us here at the Post. Mike would like to have Rockie and also Frank n Stan to play in the lower parking lot and a car/bike show in the upper parking lot. Members liked the idea. He would like to shoot for March or April. Charles is going to email members to see if anyone has any expertise with running a car show.
- Renter Security – Benny said he was told recently that renters trashed part of the VFW. Concern was expressed that it could happen easily here at the Post. Benny suggested that we purchase security cameras like the Harmony community center has, to help protect our Post. Johnny Clark and Don Carr volunteered to find an appropriate system, and to get Kent Phyfe involved also. They will bring back a proposal at our next executive meeting.

- Website – Don Carr, Post 65 Webmaster, reported that he has looked at our website that Frank Robillard started, the one that Kent Phyfe started, and also American Legion Post 68 in Leland’s website that Benny suggested. He feels that the one 68 has is very user friendly and is full of helpful information. It is very easy to find whatever you are looking for. Their page is an American Legion approved site (Legion Site), and almost anyone has the ability to run it. It is \$299 for the first year, and \$240 for each year after. They have Version 5 (more mobile oriented) coming out in a month or so and if we get version 4 now we would get 5 for free when released. Don said we could also have links to other veteran services and sponsors. Don proposed we switch to this site. Benny Wilhelm made a motion that we go with the Legion site Don suggested, Ken Marsh seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, no opposed, motion carried.

- Projectors – Randy Hill asked about getting a projector to help with members being able to see our website, mylegion.org, and facebook on a big screen. It could also be used for technology training. Don said Staples has one now for \$399 with a 2 week trial. Charles Williams will check with Bunch Johnson about their old one. Ken suggested a smart TV instead. More research will need to be done before a decision is made.

- Coffee – Mike Morris went on the radio with Billy Buck to advertise our Coffee that we are starting on Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. He said Outback is not having a coffee in July so we are going to have one at our Post on Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> so that everyone has somewhere to go this month. Then we will go back to our regular date of the first Tuesday of every month. Ric Shroyer will begin advertising for us on his station.

- Water – Denise at NCWorks suggested we go out into the community and hand out water to the homeless, to people at the park, to people at big events. This would bring attention to our Post throughout the community. Benny will try to find out more.

- China Post 1 – Ken Marsh addressed the Committee. He apologized for losing his patience at the last executive meeting. He said that as of July 1, he transferred his membership to China Post 1, only due to persistent requests from Ernie Spetter that Ken take over as Commander of the Jubail Division -and also as Vice Commander of China Post 1 Worldwide which he’s not sure is going to be possible. Ernie passed away on June 19<sup>th</sup> (a service for him has not yet been scheduled). Ken agreed to take over Ernie’s role, however he would like to be granted an honorary membership status, so that he could still participate with us. Ric Shroyer made a motion to grant Ken an honorary membership at Post 65, Harold Smith seconded, no discussion, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Closing Prayer: Harold Smith

Adjourned at: 8:17pm

Next Meeting: August 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm