

American Legion Hurst Turner Post 65
Executive Meeting Minutes
- *Special Called Meeting* -
Thursday, July 19th, 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: 10 (1 guest present: Ken Marsh).

Opening Prayer: Harold Smith, Chaplain

Call to Order: Mike Morris, Commander

Pledge of Allegiance and Preamble: All Officers participated.

Meeting Convened: 6:00 pm

Current Business:

- Purpose of Meeting – Mike explained the reason he called this Special Meeting of the Executive Committee was to discuss Ken's tabled request from the July Member Meeting. He said that another important decision had come up since then and needed to be discussed first.

- Finance Officer Vacancy – Mike announced that Charles Williams decided to take a break as Finance Officer. Mike said he spoke with Charles about this a few days earlier and called him right before this meeting to make sure this was still what he wanted to do. Charles said this was the right decision for him. He will be giving up the rest of his term as Finance Officer. Mike said Charles will still be a part of 65, and that he knows with Charles' help the transition will go smoothly. Mike said after speaking with Charles he contacted Benny Wilhelm, Finance Committee, and asked for recommendations for a replacement. – Benny said over the past few years Charles has done a huge number of things for the Post, a lot of it he shouldn't have had to do as Finance Officer but Charles being the nice guy that he is he took it all on for us. He said last year though Ken had told us at 1 or 2 of the meetings that Charles was burnt out. Benny was hoping Charles could hold out a little bit longer while we tried to move a lot of those other things off of him. He said that Charles does a great job but he understands, and with everything Charles has done over the past several years he deserves a break.

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• Finance Officer Vacancy (continued) – Benny said that he feels we have an excellent Finance Committee: Luke has been on the committee a little over 2 years now (Benny has also) and recently Chuck and Harold joined the committee. Benny announced Harold Wilson as his recommendation. Benny said he thought of Harold because he knew Harold had a lot of experience. Benny spoke with Harold and told him if he took on the Treasurer's position we would relieve him from all the other extra jobs Charles had been doing. Benny said he thinks Harold would make an outstanding Finance Officer. – Mike added that Harold has a Degree in Accounting and in Business, and that he also had a 4.0 gpa. Mike said that he also believes that we have an outstanding Finance group and he agreed that Harold was an excellent choice for Finance Officer. Mike asked Harold if he would accept the nomination of Finance Officer, and Harold said yes. Mike asked if there was any discussion. Harold Smith asked if Harold Wilson would be doing the Newsletter. Mike said Benny would be doing them as part of the Membership Committee. Benny said that Mike had already planned for it to be switched over starting next month so we could take some of the load off of Charles. He said he really thought things were getting better and that Charles had been working with the Finance Committee teaching them a lot and working with them on several new things and that he hates we couldn't talk him into hanging in a little longer. But Benny said he respects Charles and his decision and now we just have to regroup and start over, but he was sure they will still do a good job. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. All in favor, none opposed, Harold Wilson is our new Finance Officer and will finish out Charles Williams' term which ends in 2020.

• China Post 1 Sign Request – The original reason for calling this special meeting was to discuss the request from Ken Marsh to place a sign out front that signifies that American Legion Post 65 is the official Watering Hole for China Post 1 Jubail Memorial Division. (That request was made at the end of our July Member Meeting on July 9th. It was tabled because permission was never given for us to be a Watering Hole, and the Executive Committee wanted to find out more before making a decision). Mike said upon the results of his investigation he found that no vote can be taken on either issue. According to the American Legion, China Post 1 is assigned to the Dept. of France, and it is Not recognized by the NC Dept. of the American Legion. He said he received responses from the Dept. of NC Adjutant, Dept. of NC Judge Advocate, Div. IV Commander, Div. IV Commander Past Commander, and our District Commander. Therefore, he said, as Commander of American Legion Post 65, based on the ruling of the NC Dept. of the American Legion, he declared these requests denied. Harold Smith asked if you could belong to China Post 1 if you are a member of American Legion Post 65. Mike & Ken replied you cannot. Mike said there are 4 divisions listed in the United States, and Ken said he found out there was a charter out of New York.

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Mike went over the responses he received: He initially approached our District 19 Commander, Bob Price. Bob pointed out that in the American Legion there is no such thing as an Honorary membership and felt it was important to make sure our members are aware of this – Bob then advised Mike to follow the chain of command within the Legion to get answers. Past Div. IV Commander Jack Ward felt that the term Watering Hole has a detrimental characteristic and would not fit the principles of the American Legion – Past Commander Ward referred the matter onto the new Div. IV Commander and the Dept. of NC Judge Advocate. Gaither Keener, Dept of NC Judge Advocate said that there is no such Post as China Post 1 within our Department of NC – his official ruling was that the American Legion Dept. of NC does Not recognize China Post 1. NC Division IV Commander, Joe Reale pointed out that there is no such thing as an Honorary Membership within the American Legion – he agreed with the Dept. of NC Judge Advocate’s ruling. Dept of NC Adjutant, Randy Cash also agreed with the Dept of NC Judge Advocate.

- Post 65’s New Award – Benny made a motion to create a prestigious award in Honor of our namesake, Lieutenant Hurst Turner. Kent Phyfe seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Each time the award is given a plaque (or trophy) will be made for the Honoree and their name will also be placed on a plaque that will remain at the Post indefinitely. This award will be much different than a Legionnaire of the Year award in that it will be awarded only when it has been determined that it has been earned by a qualified recipient rather than being awarded regularly on any specific recurring date. (The vision is that the award is to be given in recognition of Outstanding Service to someone who embodies qualities commensurate with those of Lt. Turner: someone who serves or who has served our country with Honor; who consistently brings Dignity to our Post & to the American Legion; who instills Americanism in our community; and who works endlessly to improve the lives of his/her fellow Veterans and the generations to come). Benny and Chuck will go to Trophy House Treasures and get pricing and check also with Luke’s son, Scott, to see if he can make the plaque itself. Benny & Chuck will also get the head plates fixed on the Memorial & Commander plaques we currently have and will get the name plates made for the Commander plaque for Charles Williams and Ken Marsh.

- China Post 1 Scroll – Ken Marsh said that on behalf of China Post 1 he would like to ask that the CP1 scroll be returned so that he can give it back to China Post 1. Ken said he will reimburse the Post at the August Executive meeting for the \$104 it paid towards framing the scroll. He also asked to continue to be able to participate in Post 65 activities. Mike asked for a vote on returning the scroll since Post finances were involved, however Kent Phyfe said a vote was not needed. On Ken’s request to attend Post functions, Mike said we have always been open to the Public, we have never required membership just to attend meetings or events, so no vote was necessary.

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- Sergeant-at-Arms Vacancy – Frank Robillard announced with deep regret that he is resigning as Sergeant at Arms due to the fact that in 2 to 4 weeks he will no longer be in NC. He will be moving back to Pennsylvania to be closer to his son. Mike thanked Frank on behalf of Post 65 for the Outstanding work he has done for us and the IC Burial Detail. The entire Executive Committee expressed their disappointment in losing Frank and agreed he will be greatly missed by everyone. He plans to leave as soon as his house sells here and once he finds a house there.
- Hurst Turner Photo – Mike asked Kent about the progress on shooting the photo of Hurst Turner. Kent said he was waiting on Don because he wanted to be a part of it. As soon as they can get together he'll get it done & get it to us. This will save us from having to spend hundreds of dollars as was previously proposed last year by Ken Marsh. Thank you Kent Phye ! After the photo is finished we will check on getting a frame for it.
- Air Conditioner – It is running now. The AC company said we have a bad load wire in the ceiling over the Auxiliary room, they said we needed some type of ventilation system because the heat being held in the ceiling is destroying the wire. Benny said we have a ventilation system already, that the ridge cap is vented all the way from one end of the building to the other.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: August 9th @ 6:00pm