

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS**  
**J.L. GOLIGHTLY CHAPTER #32**  
**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

**JANUARY 2013**

The meeting was called to order by the Commander at 1933 on January 23, 2013.

**ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS** Present were: Commander, Earl Mason; Senior Vice Commander, Merckson, H. L.; Junior Vice Commander, JoAnn Jackson; Adjutant/Treasurer, Brian Mitchell; Officer of the Day, Campbell Love; Sergeant at Arms, Ron Butt; and Executive Board member Jessie Owens.

The meeting was briefly adjourned for two presentations. Sanlahi, a Philipino/American association presented the Chapter with a check for \$ 200. Catherine Evans, representing Davis-Seawinds Funeral Home and Crematorium, gave a short presentation on the costs of funerals and associated services, leaving written materials for members to keep.

The meeting was recalled to order at 1955 hours.

**MINUTES** The minutes of the December meeting were distributed for review. No errors or omissions were noted.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** The Treasurer reported income of \$ 439.99 and expenditures of \$ 1,756.97 in December. Large expenditures were: \$ 359.96 for batteries for two of our wheelchairs, \$ 286.78 to print the newsletter, \$ 160.00 to replenish our bulk mail account, and \$ 279.64 for light bulbs that we had been led to believe would be free. The company originating the swindle has been informed that we are no longer a customer and a second un-solicited shipment was refused when UPS tried to deliver it. We have a balance of \$ 18,157.54 in all accounts.

A motion to allow the Treasurer to pay all bills against the Chapter was made by Jessie Owens, seconded by Hank Merckson and passed on voice vote.

**REPORTS OF ILLNESS OR DISTRESS** The Chaplain is recovering from a bout with the flu.

**NEW MEMBERS** The oath was administered to Louis Velez and Henry Stallings. A request for transfer for Jose Ramos from Florida Chapter #148 was approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Coke machine is still on Craig's list.

At the Service Officer certification school, Earl checked with the Department Judge Advocate, Jim Sursely, and they came to the conclusion that the By-Laws are once again

lost, this time somewhere between Department and National. A new submission will be created.

The newsletter, in its new format, was sent out just before Christmas and, as usual, the donation response has been good. It was the largest issue ever.

The Auxiliary fundraiser is still in the approval stage (we think).

The Commander has formed a nomination committee, consisting of himself, Hank Merckson and Jessie Owens which will prepare a proposed ballot for the election of officers for review at the February meeting. The election will be in March and the installation in April. This is a correction of the information in the December minutes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The minutes of the January Executive Board meeting were distributed for review.

The Treasurer briefed on "Cleaning-up" our certificates of deposit and checking account signatories in conjunction with the election of officers. The certificates currently are identified only in the name of a past Commander and he thought that having them identified with a person or persons who are actively shown on the "Officer Report" so that our bond will cover them is a better idea. He also said that we should consider keeping four officers authorized to sign checks, since two are required by the bonding company, and suggested that they be the Commander, Senior and Junior Vice Commanders and an Executive Board member to improve availability of signers when checks have to be written. He also wants to make sure that the new Treasurer has proper authorization to access the on-line banking function for audit purposes only, not to use the bill-pay function since this would amount to the ability to sign a check, which is contrary to the conditions of the bond. A formal proposal will be prepared for the March meeting, after elections, when the names of the new officers are known.

Comrade Butt reminded everyone that the next Forget-Me-Not drive will be held on March 2 & 3 at the Publix on A1A in Melbourne Beach. Help is being solicited in addition to the volunteers from the National Order of Trench Rats who will be providing bodies, in exchange for 25% of the collection as approved at the October 2012 General Membership meeting.

Comrade Butt also mentioned that the VA is potentially suing the contractor building the new hospital in Orlando because of poor performance. The out-patient clinic is now in operation but the rest of the facilities are far behind and not expected to be completed any time soon.

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**Membership** We are doing well and probably are within 5 or 6 of our quota for the year.

Comrade Jessie Owens was presented with his 5-year service pin.

**Legislative** Most of the recent legislation was noted in the newsletter.

Earl mentioned that the VA is no longer requiring the Income Verification Reports for those persons drawing a VA pension.

He also mentioned that the VA had suspended the PTSD service dog program/test due to concerns over animal aggression and care for the dogs themselves.

There was a letter mistakenly sent by the VA to caregivers of severely disabled veterans stating that their stipend were in jeopardy due to the "fiscal cliff". The letter has been retracted.

There is a new clinical trial on-going which is using injections into a bundle of nerves which is apparently showing some success in the treatment of PTSD where traditional methods have not been successful. It is still in the trial stage and has not been blessed by the VA at this time.

Earl mentioned that a Veterans' cemetery is going to be built in northern Brevard County.

**Service** We had seven service officers trained this year and even found another one of our members there who had paid his own way and may become a part of our cadre here.

In December we had 42 service clients and reported 162.5 volunteer hours in LVAP.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE** The following comrades have passed away since our last meeting: Raymond Alfred, Clarence Ashton, John Carlson, Carmen Huffman, Renna Stull and Newman Watson. May they rest in peace.

**ADJOURNMENT** The 50/50 was won by the Adjutant who donated his share back, netting the Chapter \$ 23.00.

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned at 2035.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian L. Mitchell  
Adjutant/Treasurer