

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

MARCH 2013

The meeting was called to order by the Commander at 1930 on March 27, 2013.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS Present were: Commander, Earl Mason; Senior Vice Commander, Henry (Hank) Merckson; Adjutant/Treasurer, Brian Mitchell; Officer of the Day, Campbell Love; Sgt at Arms, Ron Butt; Chaplain, Leisa Todero and Executive Board member, Jessie Owens, Rafael Rodriguez.

MINUTES The minutes of the February meeting were distributed for review and accepted as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT The Treasurer reported income of \$ 639.62 and expenditures of \$ 480.57 during February leaving a balance of \$ 17,497.43. The single largest deposit was the result of recycling the aluminum for which we received \$177.60. Mention was also made regarding the efforts of Comrade Butt with another successful For-Get-Me-Not drive held on March 2nd and 3rd at the Melbourne Beach Publix during which \$1575.00 was collected. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Jessie Owens, seconded by Rafael Rodriguez. A motion to allow the Treasurer to pay all bills against the Chapter was made by Jim Toomey, seconded by Cambell Love. Both motions passed on voice vote.

REPORTS OF ILLNESS OR DISTRESS There were no new reports of illness made. Service officer Jean Gautreaux is recovering from surgery and is expected back to work on Monday. A reminder was voiced that Comrade Bob Whitney is now in hospice care and Paul Adams is still struggling since his heart attack.

NEW MEMBERS One new member signed up but was not present to take the oath. There were 2 requests for transfer: Steve Logan, from chapter 7 in Colorado and...Hearing no objections from the floor, the transfers were accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

The Coke machine is still on Craig's list.

The By-law changes have finally been approved! Comrade Earl Mason will incorporate all the changes and assemble a "clean" set which will be available, thereafter, in the Adjutants office

The Adjutant reported a misunderstanding as to the cost of the Chapter advertising in a publication called the Veteran Voice. What was thought to be an annual fee \$65 turned out to be \$65 per issue. It was decided, at the Executive Board meeting, that the cost would be prohibitive for this and the idea is being abandoned.

The Adjutant reported that we have received the streamer for meeting our 2012/2013 membership goal. The Commander read the letter from the National Commander congratulating the Chapter on, once again, reaching our membership goal. The Commander recognized Henry Merckson, the Sr. Vice Commander and chairman of the membership board, for being greatly responsible for our success in meeting our goal.

A reminder was announced that the moving wall will be at Wickham Park 21-28 April. The DAV mobile service office will be there 26 & 27 April and at our place on 25 April. The Wall committee is looking for "Wall Monitors" to guard the area during the time that it is on display. We will most likely have a wreath to place this year as Comrade Bosquet has created a smaller, less cumbersome unit for us.

NEW BUSINESS

The minutes of the March Executive Board were circulated for review.

The Adjutant reported the completion of the construction of the two new offices at the South end of the building. The entire project was completed by the Adjutant, Brian Mitchell and Service Officer Lou Velez. The window air conditioner was donated so the cost of the project was about \$200 less than the \$600 that had been approved.

The Rockledge VFW is sponsoring the Memorial Day Parade on Sunday, May 26th in Rockledge and has invited us to participate. We haven't participated in the past but the Adjutant volunteered the use of his two convertible vehicles so we will try to participate this year.

The Adjutant announced the State convention to be held May 29th through June 1st. The new Commander announced his intention to attend.

The Commander suspended the New Business in order to receive committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee Chairman Henry Merckson had nothing further to report.

Legislative Committee Chairman Earl Mason reported that the VA has been asked to be more responsive to requests by congressional committees. Documents obtained by the National Association of Uniformed Services show that since 2009, the number of veterans waiting more than a year for a decision on a claim rose from 111,000 to 245,000.

The VA says it has a plan to eliminate that backlog by 2015 but committee members found that goal to be “questionable”. Internal documents show that the agency believes that the number of veterans waiting for benefits – currently about 900,000 – will hit the 1,000,000 this month and continue to rise through the year. 900,000 is the number for disability claims only. If all claims are considered, the total VA backlog is over 2,000,000.

Service Earl reports that we served 75 clients in the month of February and logged over 235 LVAP hours.

The Commander announced the reopening of new business at this time.

Nomination Committee The Commander read the slate of officers which were nominated during the February Business meeting and asked if there were any other nominations. No further nominations being received, the Commander asked for a motion from the floor to approve the new slate of officers. Motion was made by Jessie Owens and seconded by Ron Butt. A voice vote was held, the motion carried and we have new officers. Earl Mason requested that we dispense with all further business except for the installation of the new officers. There were no objections.

Ray Braz, former Commander of Chapter 129 performed the installation of all new officers present. Jean Gautreaux and Jo Ann Jackson were unable to attend and will be installed at a later date by now former Commander Earl Mason.

The new officers are: Commander, Brian Mitchell
Senior Vice Commander, JoAnn Ashton Jackson
Junior Vice Commander, Rafael Rodriguez
Treasurer, James Daniel
Chaplain, Leisa Todero
Judge Advocate, JoAnn Ashton Jackson
Legislative Officer, Earl Mason
Sgt at Arms, Ronald Butt
Officer of the Day, Campbell Love
Executive Committee, Earl Mason, Henry Merckson, Jean Gautreaux and Jessie Owens.

Directly following the installation, Commander Brian Mitchell appointed James Daniel to serve as his Adjutant.

As new Commander Brian Mitchell took the gavel, he mentioned that he would need several motions from the floor.

The first motion requested was to designate the following named individuals as authorized signatories on the checking account maintained at TD Bank for J.L. Golightly Chapter #32, Disabled American Veterans: Commander, Brian L. Mitchell; Senior Vice Commander Jo Ann A. Jackson; Executive Board Members Earl P. Mason and Henry L. Merckson. Remove Paul J. Adams as an authorized signatory. Motion was made by Ray Braz and seconded by Ron Butt. The motion carried by voice vote without objection.

Designate the following as authorized signatories on the two certificates of deposit maintained at TD Bank for J.L. Golightly Chapter #32, Disabled American Veterans: Commander, Brian L. Mitchell; Senior Vice Commander Jo Ann A. Jackson; Executive Board Members Earl P. Mason and Henry L. Merckson. Remove Paul J. Adams as authorized signatory and any others as may be associated with these certificates. Motion was made by Earl Mason and seconded by Ron Butt. The motion carried by voice vote without objection.

Authorize the incumbent duly elected Treasurer (presently James K. Daniel) to access the on-line banking site for informational purposes only. The use of any "bill pay" function is expressly prohibited. Motion to this effect was made by Rafael Rodriguez and seconded by Jim Toomey. The motion carried by voice vote without objection.

ADJOURNMENT The 50/50 was won by Jim Toomey who donated his share back to the Chapter, netting the Chapter \$42.00.

Cambell Love makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rafael Rodriguez. No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned at 2027 hours.

Refreshments were served in celebration of the newly elected officers.

Respectfully submitted,

James K. Daniel
Adjutant/Treasurer