

# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

232 Union Ave Somerville, NJ Chapter 16

Last Meeting Minutes



## November 24, 2018

The regularly scheduled meeting of the DAV, Somerville Chapter 16 was held on Saturday, November 24, 2018. The room was secured, and our colors were posted by our Sergeant at Arms. Our meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by our Commander. The result of a roll call of Officers was: 9 present and 2 excused. The total attendance was 55 people.

This total includes the following guests: Joe Kordzikowski, Purple Heart Commander, Tom Cellilli, Commander VFW, Granville Holder VFW Commander and William Duquesnel, Amvets Commander.

### Minutes Report:

The October meeting minutes were read by Dwight and accepted without changes. A motion to accept the minute's report was made and seconded. (1<sup>st</sup> Phil Hochman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kevin Murphy)

### Treasurer's Report:

The October Treasurer's report was read and accepted without changes. A motion to accept the financial report was made and seconded. (1<sup>st</sup> Jim Lindsay, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wayne Kern). The chart below lists our balances for the previous three months. The members were asked if they wanted a detailed report or the highlights. They opted for financial highlights.

MONTH:	START BALANCE:	END BALANCE:	CHANGE:
August	\$19,512.17	\$17,562.53	-\$1,949.64
September	\$17,562.53	\$16,674.86	-\$887.67
October	\$16,674.86	\$16,531.48	-\$143.38

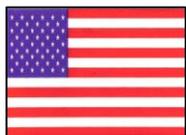
### Regular business:

The Commander requested roll call of Officers. He stated that the White Castle lunch menu was increased for today.

He reported our R&R event on Friday, November 16 at Lyons fed approximately 150 patients plus volunteers. Positive comments were received from patients, including those from the Women's Treatment Unit. Member Jim Velcheck was recognized for arranging dessert for the event. Our food budget for this affair was reduced by \$350.00. The ribs were a hit so the quantity will be increased next year. The patients enjoyed the music, danced, and had a good time. All events going forward will be driven by a duty roster so all stations are covered.

Our Chapter packed 15 draw string bags filled with socks, gloves, hats, Chapter pocket calendars, Chapter pens, and miscellaneous articles. They were delivered to the Vets at Menlo Park Veterans Home by Ernie Stoukas, Jim Cousins, and Tom O'Connell. Dwight noted that 30 pairs of socks from our inventory were also sent over to Menlo Park via a collection hosted by his local Senior Center. Donations of hats, scarves, shawls, Chapter pocket calendars, Chapter pens, and toiletries were packed into 12 bags for the Women's Treatment Unit luncheon at Houlihans scheduled for Monday, December 31. Approximately 7 of our DAV women will be participating in the event. Harriette Doll purchased 42 Thermals for Stacia McDonough's Veteran Groups with the \$500 donation Chapter 16 made. Total cost was \$499.80. Receipts were provided and a thank you note is anticipated.

A banner was given to us by the 102nd Air Cavalry in appreciation of our \$250 donation to them for family support as they prepare for a 2-year deployment. It bears our Chapter Information (Name, Address & Monthly Meeting date).



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It was noted we are still being alerted to bounced email. The rejected members addresses are being worked on.

The Commander stated that the Stage House Restaurant will again be having a Christmas Day dinner event at their location in Somerset. Wendell Stowe will clarify if it is for Veterans or other volunteer groups. An e mail blast will be sent out by the Adjutant when the details become available.

Our Chapter received a thank you letter from Lyons WTU (Women's Treatment Unit) for the shopping event at TJ Max on Friday, August 12 as well as a letter from operation Chillout group for our donation. The Commander requested that Kevin to follow up for the donation for Casino Night from 102<sup>nd</sup> Calvary.

A thank you was received from LCVU (Lyons Combat Veterans United) acknowledging our donation to the group for their 2018 Holiday Party to be held on Thursday, December 6.

A thank you note was also received from former WTU patient Erna Sohn for all the help that our Chapter gave her in time of need. Vic Griguoli spearheaded a major effort to get her compensation many years ago. Because of his efforts and the assistance of Gerard Walsh & Richard Pirrello she continues to prosper. Vic's efforts saved her from losing her children.

The Commander and Treasurer are working on getting the incorporation papers for our Chapter from Trenton.

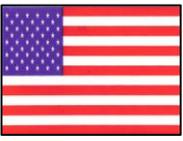
The Commander read a letter regarding his appointment as National Deputy Chief of Staff.

Member Wendall Stowe made a connection with Wells Fargo Bank. They would like to make a donation to us. The Commander prepared a letter explaining what our Chapter does.

Member Joe Kordzikowski spoke of his Purple Heart chapter's annual holiday dinner which was cancelled due to weather. The Commander extended an open invitation to all Purple Heart members of his chapter to attend our DAV Chapter's Holiday party. Joe said thank you, but they are pursuing an alternative date.

A member raised a question about participation in the annual Wreaths across America program. The Commander discussed this and Joe Kordzikowski explained how the placement is done at the cemeteries by volunteers. Member Jim Hixon continued by explaining what his VVA chapter 233 does with their volunteers. The chapter agreed to donate \$500 to WAC (1<sup>st</sup> Jim Lindsay 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jim Hixon). Ed Mendoza suggested we put a wreath on the graves of our donor's family. Those are Carmine J. Vastola (aka Lefty), WWI & Korea and Major Gerald Geiger U.S.M.C. A motion was made to allocate \$500 and capped for two wreaths. The motion was approved (1<sup>st</sup> Harriette Doll, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lenny Jackson). The Chapter will personally deliver the wreathes and Chapter Historian Lenny "too tall" Jackson will photograph both events. Volunteers will be selected to place these.

The Commander asked for approval of a \$500 donation to American Legion Post 12 for the use of their hall for our meetings and Christmas Party. A motion was made and approved (1<sup>st</sup> Ed Mendoza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lenny Brewer).



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The Commander asked Attorney Anne Buckley-Johnson to explain in more detail the new VA RAMP program (Rapid Appeals). She provided documentation which will be sent as an e mail to all Chapter members.

Our visiting veteran, Steve Maris is not here today. He promoted our chapter on WKXW 101.5 FM. Although bumped from the radio show discussions about Veterans due to an unexpected snow fall he was able to get through later in the evening and talk it up about our Chapter and how we helped him. He also promoted our Chapter on several POD casts. Anne noted how Steve Maris is involved heavily in volunteering and giving back. Even though he is facing serious surgery himself on November 11 he volunteered to take a veteran in need to East Orange for his surgery. Steven has become a real asset to our Organization. Our prayers are will him and his family.

The Chapter Christmas party will be held on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at AL Post 12. The cost is \$ 10.00 per person. That is due today. There are about 50 members paid so far. We need a minimum of 75 people. See Doc. We will have music by DJ Singing Bruce, food from Francesco's, and a 50/50. The food menu will be finalized this coming week. A budget of \$300 for wreathes and decorations was proposed. A motion was made and approved (1<sup>st</sup> Ernie Stoukas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Harold Willard). There will not be a regular Saturday meeting in December. Please mark your calendars.

The Commander also spoke about our future meetings during January and February. In case of bad weather please check the website. On hold, for our next meeting are the donated Cemetery Plots and CGW fund which were tabled until January or February.

Tom Connell and Joe Doll mentioned that at the last meeting some of their comments may have been taken out of context. They both made personal apologies.

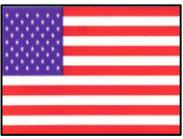
Dwight read a notice from the VFW stating that hypertension may be added soon to the list of presumption diseases from Agent Orange exposure. The DSO will file initial claims for you. Wayne Kern mentioned that filing appeals should be done.

Doc announced that one of our members is requesting to purchase a Chapter 16 winter jacket. Doc needs 5 jacket requests before he can put in an order.

Ernie Stoukas spoke about the problem of fraudulent military representation at events for veterans. He mentioned how some people take advantage of military clothing to obtain discounts.

George Perry brought his Guardian Emergency Alert Pendant, supplied for free by the VA, to the meeting to show the members. Those who have a need should contact their primary care VA doctor for a prescription.

Jim Velcheck spoke about a free breakfast for Vets that he attended at the Stage House in Somerset. He will supply us with a flyer when the next event is announced. He also spoke about volunteers to be interviewed by Rutgers "Oral Military History" project. Jim announced that Blood Pressure may soon be on the VA's Presumptive List. Anne Buckley Johnson told the members that they should file now and CSO Steven Cizmansky invited member to file at our Lyons Office.



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The John Basilone Marine Corp detachment is collecting Toys for tots. They will be in Menlo Mall collecting toys. The Commander commented on the annual Marine Corp. Book. Our Chapter sponsored a page and there were some copies available for distribution. Jim Lindsay mentioned the Marine Corp league sent out 250 anniversary books.

It was noted that Jim Vecheck and Anne Buckley-Johnson attended this year's annual event for the Marines Birthday party held at at Drumwackett, the New Jersey Governor's residence.

New member Kevin Wysocki received his DAV Chapter 16 hat today. Our Commander presented it via the standard DAV ceremony. A photograph was taken by Lenny.

The Commander reminded the Chapter that there would be no December meeting. A short Chapter Meeting will take place at the beginning of our Christmas Party.

## **The Adjutant:**

Read several letters of communications that were received during the month.

## **Chaplains Report:**

Joe Fazio and Gabe Albert and Gloria

## **Service Officer Report:**

N/A

## **Sr. or Jr. Vice Commander Report:**

N/A

## **Chapter Old Business:**

N/A

## **Membership:**

N/A

## **Chapter New Business:**

N/A

## **Closing:**

A chapter member made a motion to close the meeting. The motion was seconded. The Commander closed the meeting and our chaplain said the closing prayer. The colors were retired at 12 PM. Refreshments from White Castle were served.

Our next Membership Meeting will be Saturday, January 26, 2019.

## **Attachments:**

None