

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

232 Union Ave Somerville, NJ Chapter 16

Last Meeting Minutes



October 27, 2018

The regularly scheduled meeting of the DAV, Somerville Chapter 16 was held on Saturday, October 27, 2018. The room was secured, and our colors were posted by our Sergeant at Arms. Our meeting was called to order at 10:04 am by our Commander. The result of a roll call of Officers was: 9 present and 1 excused. The total attendance was 49 people.

Visitors in attendance: Russ Sitren and Officers of other organizations = Joe Kordzikowski, Purple Heart Commander & Tom Cellini, VFW Commander.

Minutes Report:

The September Minutes were read by Dwight Staehler and accepted as read. (1st Robert Roof, 2nd Jim Hixon)

Treasurer's Report:

The September Treasurer's Report was read by Richard Pirrello and accepted. (1st Ernie Stoukas, 2nd Lou Collucci)

MONTH:	START BALANCE:	END BALANCE:	CHANGE:
July	\$17,046.43	\$19,612.17	\$2,565.74
August	\$19,612.26	\$17,522.53	-\$2,089.73
September	\$17,562.53	\$16,674.86	\$-887.67

The Treasurer spoke about our the continued "second class treatment" of Veterans and that we should use our votes on Election Day to be heard

Regular business:

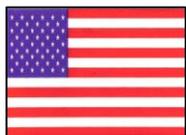
The Commander discussed our donations going forward. We are committing to other donations, for the balance of the year. These are to be discussed and approved. A 50/50 for the Bicycle donated by visiting vet Steve Maris was held along with other electronic items.

The Commander also noted that there would be a 2.8% increase in our disability checks for 2019. He spoke about investigating on how they could get our Chapter on a National Consumer Listing which would help us get donations from Amazon.

The Sunday, October 21 Forget-Me-Not drive at IHOP in South Plainfield netted us \$231. Very few members participated in this 6-hour event. The Commander discussed our forthcoming Forget-Me-Not drive at Wal-Mart in Piscataway. He put it to the Chapter whether or not we should do this one as there were few volunteers. The members voted "no".

The commander discussed chapter protocol and the interface between Men and Women members at our events. All must be respectful of others. Harassment will not be tolerated.

Steven Maris mentioned that some organizations like Wegmans will donate food to Veterans organizations. The Commander will assign someone to look into this. Steven also offered 4 concert tickets to see Keith Urban & Kelsea Ballerini that evening in New York which he acquired from Vettix.com.



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Member Jim Hixon informed us about the Vet Service at the Dunellen United Methodist Church on November 11 at 11:00 AM. Vietnam Veterans Chapter 233 is collecting canned goods for FISH. These items can be brought to the church service or dropped at the church. Jim also advised us that Vietnam Vets Chapter 233 still has 6 seats available for the bus to the Wall on Veterans Day.

Member Jim Lindsay said that he would be collecting toys for the Marines annual "Toys for Tots" at our next meeting. Gifts for children 2 and up are needed

The Commander talked to the Chapter about a donation from DAV State of a Van for the Chapter to use for veteran's medical transportation and the promotion of DAV activities. The Commander had asked the State to totally refurbish the van before we would consider it. The pros and cons were discussed. Although several members volunteered to be drivers, the consensus from the membership was not positive so we elected not to take possession of the vehicle.

The Commander covered the allocation of personnel at the next R&R event on Friday, November 16 at Lyons so each of the duties will be covered. A Duty Roster was prepared and those members participating will sign next to their assigned duties. Members and their families are encouraged to attend as long as they are participating in the duties or assigned stations. A discussion ensued over funding of these Rock and Roll events and whether we should have one or two annually. Tom O'Connell asked to have a cap on spending for the event. Results of the conversation amongst the members yielded a cap of \$4,200. Motions were made and \$4,200 was approved by the membership. (1st Dwayne, 2nd Jim Lindsay) We also discussed the possibility of only funding one Dinner a year instead of two. We will revisit this after the first of the year. Note this Budget amount was for this event only. (Prologue: Fed were 120 Vets at party, 30 vets in domicile, & 30 volunteers = 177 people.)

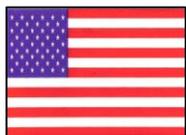
The cost to the chapter to fill each of the 48 backpacks to be distributed by Operation Chillout was \$36.44. The total expense for all items was \$1,749 dollars. Items included: Gloves, Sweat Shirt, Thermals, Hat, Socks, and Toilet Articles. Kevin Murphy discussed how the process works for the acquisition of the back packs and the listing of included items. Kevin was asked about next backpack venture for "Operation Chill Out" in the spring. Kevin said it would take place after Memorial Day and Commander told him that we would review at the appropriate time.

The Chapter voted to give \$500 to Stacia McDonough for "Hope for Veterans" and Vereran Haven North. (1st Jim Hixon, 2nd Jim Lindsay) Joe and Harriette Doll will coordinate with Stacia.

Kevin Murphy spoke about the upcoming Casino Night on November 11. This event will help the families of the 102nd Calvary which is being deployed overseas for 2 years. Tom O'Connell suggested that we donate \$250 to the cause. A motion was made and passed to donate \$250 to the 102nd Airborne Family Support Unit. (1st Ernie 2nd Jim Lindsay)

A decision was made to make our annual donation to the LCVU for their holiday party. A check was written in the amount of \$1,000 and given to Ed Mendoza for delivery to the LCVU at their next meeting.

Steven and Tim will take Chapter calendars and pens for distribution to veterans who come in for help at Lyons.



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Our lady volunteers will take the Lyons WTU lady veterans to New Years Eve luncheon at Houlihans in Bridgewater again this year. The veterans will be given DAV string bags with shawls and toiletry items. A budget cap of \$1,500 was requested. 1st & 2nd motions made and this was approved by the membership.

The Treasurer spoke about Veterans day retailer benefits. The Adjutant spoke about the future of BX/PX privileges for disabled veterans. He also talked about Horses for Forces therapy and the new Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Manville. They sell donated household items to raise funds. George Perry discussed the new medical alert pendant provided by the VA which communicates with an emergency service. He also mentioned experiencing delays in travel pay apparently due to a shortage of financial personnel. Doc talked about Chapter clothing available and their costs. All clothing must be prepaid.

Anne Buckley discussed her attendance at a seminar in Wash DC regarding how the VA's new RAMP appeal process works, the subsequent steps needed, and what information is required to support your claim. Old appeals must be switched to RAMP by February 2019 or they will have an exceedingly long wait to be processed. The new RAMP system will have your lawyer speaking directly to the person handling the claim. (They have to tell you why it is rejected, what is missing, and the favorable points). New appeals will automatically be processed into RAMP.

Member Ray Jarmon stated that our meeting minutes did not record comments made in August regarding the Marine commandant's request that personnel not watch the NFL games occurring on the Marine Corps birthday. However, those comments had been included in the August minutes. The Adjutant read the entry aloud.

Our Chapter Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, Dec 7th from 4:30 to 8:30 pm at Legion Post 12. The cost to members will be \$ 10.00 and must be paid up front. The caterer will be Franchescos. Their total fee is \$26 per person

The Adjutant:

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

Chaplains Report:

Gloria and Gabe Albert

Service Officer Report:

N/A

Sr. or Jr. Vice Commander Report:

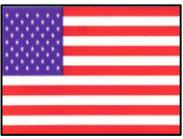
N/A

Chapter Old Business:

N/A

Membership:

N/A



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Chapter New Business:

Closing:

A chapter member made a motion to close the meeting. The motion was seconded. The Commander closed the meeting and Steve Cizmansky said the closing prayer.

The colors were retired at 12:15PM Refreshments and Sub Sandwiches were served. The chapter voted for White Castle as a lunch option next meeting.

Our next Membership Meeting will be Saturday, November 24, 2018

Reminder: Our Holiday party on Dec 7 replaces our usual monthly Member Meeting on Dec 28.

Attachments:

None