



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

232 Union Ave Somerville, NJ Chapter 16

Last Meeting Minutes



November 28, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of the DAV, Somerville Chapter 16 was held on Saturday, November 28th, 2020. In observance of Covid-19 restrictions this was a virtual one using the Jitsi application. Our meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by our Commander. The result of a roll call of Officers was 7 present and 3 excused. Other Commanders that were present 1 (Bill Duquesnel from Amvets). There was one guest and no visitors. Total attendance was 19.

Minutes Report:

The October Meeting Minutes were read by Dwight Staehler and accepted as read. The motion was made (1st Lou Colucci, 2nd Wayne Kern) and approved by the attending members.

Treasurer's Report:

The October Treasurer's Report was read by Richard Pirrello and accepted as read. The motion was made (1st Wayne Kern, 2nd Dwight Staehler) and approved by the attending members.

Regular business:

The Commander discussed ordering chapter hats for new members, donations and expenditures during the past month. The Chapter purchased items for donation to Lyons VAMC based on the request forms listing veterans needs. They would like winter coats, thermal underwear tops & bottoms, sweats tops & bottoms, jackets, and toiletries. We spent all the money allocated. The amount was based on what the chapter had previously approved. Member Kevin Murphy dropped off 100 pairs socks. These will be donated to the organizations we currently assist. Behind the scenes we are still working hard to help veterans in the hospital and the homeless.

All our VA donations are intended for the veterans with disabilities at Lyons Hospital. We still have two computers available for donation to veterans. The Chapter receives a partial membership allocation from National only for DAV chapter life members. All members must be life members for the chapter to achieve full funding. In January we will try for a physical membership meeting. This will depend on Covid-19 restrictions. There was a discussion among members about procedures for renewing expiring NJ MVC disabled parking placards during the pandemic.. The chapter members had a discussion on updating Disabled Veteran placard expired replacement procedures during this pandemic. A member mentioned if you are veteran you can move in front of the waiting line at MVC facilities..

The Commander discussed the donation of lap blankets by member Henry Van Beuzekom. We received several thank you letters from Menlo Park for lap blankets. The balance of blankets will go to homeless vets though our partnering with other veteran organizations. The VA requested larger blankets in the future, a discussion Henry Van Beuzekom and he will ask his sources to start making the requested larger blankets.

Commander discussed the needs of the homeless and the disabled especially now during this pandemic. In January we will begin the process of selecting new officers for our Chapter. This will include the nomination, election, and installation of Chapter officers. Our Commander has been in this position for 16 years and the treasurer for 8 years. All members in good standing with the Chapter and National may seek a Chapter officers' position. He requested that candidates consider



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their experience and dedication in serving that position. To continue the success of this Chapter you will need to invest time and leadership. The Chapter membership is approximately 700+/-.

We are glad to hear that member Joe and Harriett Doll are doing well and feeling much better now. Veteran Tony Mauntano is in the hospital with Pancreatic Cancer. Tony sent his best to the members. Unfortunately, there will be no holiday party this year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Many families could not be together for the holidays, so some will do virtually. Lots of gifts will arrive by mail this year.

Member, Doc Wilison mentioned to Anne that he has a VA appt and will chat prior.

Member, Dwight Staehler stated has been to Lyons VAMC many times since March. Every entry is checked for Covid. The Text to enter process only works if your cell phone number is on file in the VA system.

Chapter attorney, Anne Buckley Johnson had a family visit but practiced social distancing. Anne's church is having a Christmas Scene Drive-Thru with Live Nativity Evangel Chapel at 505 State Route 28 Bridgewater, NJ.

Member, Jim Velcheck mentioned that the Toys for Tots program is run by the Marine Reserves. Toys will be collected at the Brunswick Square and Menlo Park malls. Donations must be new toys or money. The Commander asked Jim for more information about the program. Member, Lou Colluci put motion on the floor to donate \$100 from the chapter for JV's detachment. (1st Lou Colluci, 2nd Craig Wilson). The motion was passed. All attending members approved the donation. Jim mentioned that fund raising has been difficult for all nonprofits this year. He suggested reaching out to companies to help with fundraising in the local communities. The Commander said we will try this. Jim mentioned his family did a zoom meeting for his extended family.

Member, Herman Ellis mentioned his family uses zoom. Lou mentioned that one of his organizations also looked in to Zoom, but cost was prohibitive. Zoom has tiered pricing. The Chapter will investigate the 4 levels of zoom cost.

The Commander is looking forward to returning to full time meetings. He asked to speak to Walter Richardson, but he was not connected.

Service Officer Report:

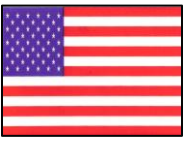
N/A

Sr. or Jr. Vice Commander Report:

N/A

Chapter Old Business:

N/A



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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 11:45 AM.

Our next Membership Meeting will be Saturday December 26, 2020. To be evaluated by the DAV chapter officers and the NJ state COVID-19 Ruling as to what kind of meeting. (virtual or present)

Attachments:

None