

MINUTES FOR DAV MEETING; February 7th 2020 6:30PM

Before the Meeting was called to order Congressman Dan Lipinski spoke to the chapter before our meeting about supporting the disabled veterans and veteran issues. He is running for re-election. He answered a few questions before he left the meeting. He was accompanied by his aids and spoke for approximately 15 minutes.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chaplin Dan Reinhard led us in prayer.

Opening ceremony:-Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Byer

Chaplin, Seat of the POW & MIA and unknown soldier recognized.

John Fanning preceded over the meeting in the absence of the Commander

Roll Call of Officers

Terry Vorderer, Commander	EXCUSED
John J. Fanning, Treasurer	PRESENT
Mike Butler, Senior Vice Commander	EXCUSED
Dan Reinhard, Chaplin	PRESENT
Mary Paul, Adjutant,	PRESENT
Joseph Bertucci, 1st. Vice Commander	EXCUSED
Ken Boor; 2 ND Vice Commander	PRESENT
Gilbert Shepard, 3rd Vice Commander	PRESENT
Frank Wayne 4 th Vice Commander	EXCUSED
Al Precher, Former Commander	ABSENT
Ben Fugate, National Service Officer	PRESENT
John Stevo, Chapter Service Officer	PRESENT

Reading of the January 2020 minutes was tabled until the March meeting

Introduction of new members & guests:

- 1) Girl Scouts distributed valentines and candy to the chapter members. Troop number 65134 Oak Lawn
- 2) Guests, from Fannie May Candies thanked the chapter for allowing them to sell candy at the Christmas Party and at the current meeting for Valentine's Day.
- 3) Neuro Luman; pain management system was present and stated their system uses lasers and is alternative to medication and is available at Hines through your primary care doctor. They stay after the meeting to hand out pamphlets and demonstrate the operation of the equipment.

Treasure Report read by John Fanning: Beginning balance as of 1-1-2020: \$44,129.55,

Deposits \$1,100.00; Checks paid \$2,239.10; ENDING BALANCE \$42,990.45

Balance Statement; Total Assets: \$42,870.46; Profit & Loss as of 2-7-2020; Total income \$16,589.99

Donations \$600.00 (\$500.00 & \$100.00)

Total expenses \$ 26,029.54

NET-**\$9,439.55** Year to date

Motion to accept the Treasure Report

****MOTION** to accept the reading of the treasury report, 1ST Ben Fugate 2nd by Herbert Bishop, **PASSED**

Sickness & Distress: Frank Wayne is ill with difficulty breathing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None reported

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Ken Boor reported about the Quit of Tears Organization in Illinois who puts out information concerning Agent Orange exposure they are having a three day event in Orland Park Civic Center.

POW, MIA Flag Act signed by President Trump. The flag is to fly below American Flag at all government buildings. Congress is still working on getting Blue Water Bill passed.

Ben Fugate will be traveling to Washington DC representing the DAV to discuss with Illinois US Senators and other law-makers issues pertaining to disabled veterans.

Service Officers Report: Ben Fugate will be going to Washington D.C. to represent the DAV to support bill DIC for 100% disabled veterans or unemployability. The bill if passes it will allow a disabled veterans spouse to receive the same benefits as the veteran. Currently upon death the spouse doesn't receive full benefits. Ben will meet with both Illinois U.S. Senators to discuss this and several other bills.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: Five first timers stood and introduced themselves to the chapter.

Two new Life Time Members reported. They will be sworn in at a later date.

Three members have received Chapter 84 membership cards in the last month.

Reading of Communication: None to report

OLD BUSINESS: None reported

NEW BUSINESS: None reported

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Mary Paul donated \$500.00 to the chapter. Bob (Roberto) Lopes donated \$200.00. Local 13 Carpenter Union donated \$100.00. Alumni reunion from St. Denis donated \$346.00.

Fannie Mae was present at the meeting selling Valentine Day candy. They donated \$435.00 from the candy sales made from the Christmas Party in December.

John Fanning explained to the chapter the reason why the officers obtained an additional IRS tax number becoming a 501C3, a tax exempt organization so corporations who donate to us may use their donations as a deduction and a tax write-off. (Chapter DAV 84 is still 501C4 as well.) The new non-profit's name is The Disabled Illinois Veterans (DIV) which is separate from the DAV. The organization has been formed at both the federal and state level. DIV will have its own Board of Directors. We continue to fall under the DAV's umbrella but the new 501C3 gives us the legal rights to ask for large donations from corporations, and these corporations are able to write them off on their tax returns. Additionally, the newly formed DIV will be able to file for state and federal grants and may give or transfer money to Chapter 84 DAV (501C4) as long as the DAV Chapter 84 does not use the money for politics.

John Fanning explained we may have a few large donors who are billionaires who may donate \$500,000.00 to the newly formed DIV in order to purchase land and build an office building in Crestwood, Illinois. Our goal is to have a four story building with an elevator and large parking lot in order to facilitate our disabled veterans. Additionally, the proposed new building will have a large meeting hall for our meetings and private offices for the service officers who work on our claims. The cost to build the facility is estimated at 8-10 million dollars for construction. Currently the space we rent from the VFW is small, cramped, limited parking, and there isn't any privacy to work on individual medical claims. The Officers are proposing programs to assist the chapter members to 1) find jobs 2) occupational training 3) entrepreneurship 4) women's veterans program, 4) and a physical therapy section, among other programs that may be created. The proposed building is planned to facilitate a restaurant, coffee shop, and bar open to the public with all profits going to veterans.

The officers are anticipating we move in April of 2020 to the Elk Club in Crestwood Illinois prior to the new facility being approved and built due to the current space at the Oak Lawn VFW due to limited parking, cramped meeting space and lack of privacy. **Motion made by Ben Fugate.**

****MOTION** 1st by Richard Jaworowski 2nd by Herbert Bishop **PASSED**

Colonel Jones asked the chapter for \$500.00 donation for the National Women Veteran United (NWWU.org) 501C to help homeless women veterans with children so they don't have to go to a shelter. They do not make the homeless female veterans go through a lengthy vetting process in order to obtain benefits from the organization. They will be attending a gala event to raise money for their organization on Saturday 2-15-2020. . Colonel Jones also has a SMILE organization to help veterans with dental care. **Motion made by Colonel Jones.**

****MOTION** 1st Ben Fugate, 2nd John Stevo **PASSED.**

The chapter gave \$1,200.00 to a veteran chapter member who was in distress. **Motion made by Ben Fugate**

****MOTION 1ST** by Bob Lopez, 2nd Bill Byer **PASSED**

Ending ceremony: Led by Bill Byer played TAPS. Ending prayer by the chaplain.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Ben Fugate

****MOTION 1st:** Richard Jaworowski, 2nd by Ben Byer, Motion **PASSED.**

50/50 Raffle: 50% goes to the winner and 50% goes to Chapter 84.

Total collected was \$266.00 \$133.00 went to the winner, DONATED back to the chapter.

Pizza and beer was made available at the end of the meeting. The Service Officers continued to process claims.