

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ship 1774 Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 13 Dec 2016

The meeting was called to order by Captain Jack Porath to conduct any and all business to come before the Ship. Following were conducted:

- Opening Ceremonies were held beginning 1800 hours which included the reading of Special Dates of Remembrance for this month.
- Roll call of officers was held and total attendance was nine shipmates.
- Membership applications that were read and accepted for membership: New: Jerry Baird, Ramiro Luera, Otis Miller, Jake Howard, Jordon Quinones, and Montoya Gunn. Transfer, None.
- Motion was made and all approved the meeting minutes of Nov 2016 without change.
- Paymaster reports were provided as audited and questions were answered.
- Service Officer Report (Juan Becerril). No report.

Committee Reports:

- **Membership.** The Captain again reiterated that membership has a lot to do with keeping what we have fought for, all wars and generations. Membership is important as it retains our voice with our Nation's leaders, helps protect our earned benefits, and propels us to the future. Membership dues is \$45.00 per year. **Life Member is very cost effective and ensures continuous membership.** The first payment for the 12 month pay option is \$45.00 (with 11 additional payments with the cost depending on your age). The Captain reiterated (again) that Life Membership is a much better option than maintaining Annual Membership status. If you are currently a yearly paid member, you can change to Life status and pay a monthly installment over a 12 month period or make other arrangements with our Ship's Paymaster. The renewal date of annual pay members is the date of the dues payment. There is a loss of benefits that are beginning to occur via Congressional actions, and your belonging to a veterans' organization such as the VFW helps to fight the cuts. We need to protect that which we have earned.
- **Buddy Poppy** (Captain) – Distribution on 11 and 12 November at Vons was successful. My thanks to Matt Marlow, Ronnie and Sherrie Padilla, Joe and Mike Mountain for assisting. If more volunteered, we could have also done the distribution on Sunday, 13 Nov.
- **Iraq/Afghanistan and Student Veterans.** (Nathaniel Donnelly). We may have ten or more students attend our next Monday Night Football. Roger Rotter said he will increase the chili and dogs to accommodate the extra persons.
- **Youth Development** (Scouting, JROTC, PP, VOD, etc) (Nathaniel Donnelly). We have a submittal for the Patriot's Pen and the Voice of Democracy programs. Both have been submitted to District 1 for judging.
- **Citizenship/Community Service** (Law Enforcement, Firefighter, EMT, Lifeguards, Teacher, Community Events) (Captain). For the sacrifices and always high alert of our police officers, keep them in our prayers.
- **National Home for Children** (Captain). Life Membership (\$40.00) helps the children. Current members and those who are wanting or selected to join need not be members of the VFW.
- **United Veterans Council** (Nathan Donnelly/Chuck Syktich). Meetings are held in the Veterans Museum (Balboa Park). Next meeting will be on the 4th Saturday, 0900. Any person so interested may attend.
- **House** (Captain). The details of events presented at the meeting are separately published and posted on the bulletin board and web site.
- All prayed to remember the National Home for Children.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS. A question was asked of the status of the Wheelchair Lift and the Captain provided that it will soon be operational. Further, the Captain asked all in attendance to NOT make phone calls, complaints, etc., outside the organization.

NEW BUSINESS.

- Nathaniel Donnelly volunteered for our Youth Chairman position that will include the Boy Scouts and was so appointed by the Captain.
- All were advised the Standing Rules will be updated to include the Wheelchair Lift's operations.
- After some discussion, all concurred that eventually a Wheelchair Ramp could very well replace the Wheelchair Lift since the Lift is mechanical and will at some time break which will be a big cost. The Ramp will not require the maintenance and inspection outlays as does the Lift.

GOOD OF THE ORDER.

- When you change your address or email account, let us know.
- Legal help is available, third Saturday of each month 0900-1130 at VFW Post 3787 (Mission Valley).

CLOSING ceremony was held and the meeting adjourned at 1837 hours.

/s/ Signed 14 Dec 2016
J. R. PORATH
Captain and Recorder