

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ship 1774 Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 11 April 2017

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 12 shipmates.
- The new and transfer applications were read and the Paymaster was instructed to process them for membership.
- Motion was made to approve, seconded, and all approved the meeting minutes of March 2017 without change.
- Paymaster reports were provided as audited.
- Service Officer Report (Adobin Schroth). Attended Service Officer training 25 March 2017.

Committee Reports:

- **Membership.** Our stats for the year are absolutely outstanding, but more can be done. 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; however, **Life Membership 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. The Captain sent emails to those members whose membership expired or soon to be expired.
- **Buddy Poppy** (Captain) – Next distribution to be scheduled in May at Vons and Perry's in Old Town. Information will be provided via email and our website.
- **Youth Development** (Scouting, JROTC, PP, VOD, etc) (Nathaniel Donnelly). ROTC award dinner at Mira Mesa High School is tentatively scheduled for 13 May. Captain and Nathan Donnelly will attend. The new motto for Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen Program are on the website.
- **Citizenship/Community Service** (Law Enforcement, Firefighter, EMT, Lifeguards, Teacher, Community Events) (Captain). For the sacrifices and extreme high-alert of our police officers, keep them in our prayers. La Mesa Flag Day Parade being held 3 June 2017. All has been submitted.
- **Student Veterans and Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans.** (Nathaniel Donnelly). An attempt will be made to get them more active and assist with various items around the facility.
- **House** (Captain). The details of events presented at the meeting are separately published and posted on the bulletin-board and web site.
- **National Home for Children** (Captain). Captain emphasized Life Membership (\$40.00) that helps the children. Current members and those who are wanting or selected to join need not be members of the VFW to be awarded a membership.
- **United Veterans Council** (Nathan Donnelly). Meetings are held in the Veterans Museum (Balboa Park) on the last Saturday of each month, starting 0900.
- All prayed to remember the National Home for Children.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS.

- Vietnam pins have been ordered and will be issued when they arrive.
- The Captain is soliciting all La Mesa Veterans Club members, all organizations, for interest in founding and establishing an American Legion Riders Chapter in our Post. Any interest? Please advise the Captain. So far, five have responded. Eight are needed.
- We are still exploring historical designation for our facility. We are waiting for a financial analysis of the impact.

NEW BUSINESS.

- Nomination of elected officers for the 2017-2018 continued with the election of officers. Those elected were: Captain Jack Porath, Executive Officer Roger Rotter, Navigator Nathaniel Donnelly, Paymaster Lenny Guccione, Chaplain Veronica Bonilla; Trustee 3 Year Bob Marlow. For appointed positions, Judge Advocate Nathaniel Donnelly and Adjutant Marty Tuller. Check the website for a full description of the duties of the officers. The election of the Chaplain, Veronica Bonilla, is effective immediately due to the now open office. Website is: www.vfwlamesa.org
- Motion was made, seconded and all approved to allow for the purchase of a web service that would allow the finding of persons who may have moved or passed away. Such information is needed to update the membership database. A no-cost web site was offered that will be fully researched before a paid web site is obtained.

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 1842 hours.

/s/ Signed 12 Apr 2017
J. R. PORATH
Captain and Recorder