

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ship 1774 Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 14 February 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 eight shipmates.
- Membership applications that were read and accepted for membership: New: Clarissa Warner, Harry Boodram; Transfer: John Monague
- Motion was made and all approved the meeting minutes of Jan 2017 without change.
- Paymaster reports were provided as audited.
- Service Officer Report (Juan Becerril). Moving out of the area; now searching for a replacement.

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) – Next distribution to be scheduled in May at Vons and Perry's in Old Town.
- **Iraq/Afghanistan and Student Veterans.** (Nathaniel Donnelly). No report.
- **Youth Development** (Scouting, JROTC, PP, VOD, etc) (Nathaniel Donnelly). No update.
- **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. No program update.
- **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. Juan Becerril has been given a Life Membership for his work in our Ship. This is a budgeted item.
- **United Veterans Council** (Nathan Donnelly/Chuck Syktich). Meetings are held in the Veterans Museum (Balboa Park) on the last Saturday of each month, starting 0900.
- **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. None.

NEW BUSINESS.

- Nomination for officer positions, elected and appointed, begin at next month's meeting with elections in April. This is an important function for our Ship since it defines our organization and ensures our existence.

- Vietnam Pins. Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive a lapel pin. This pin is at no cost to you. If you would like a pin, and are so eligible, please email me so I can obtain one for you. Once received, you will be notified and you can then pick it up at the Post.
- 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.
- We have been advised that our Service Officer, Juan Becerril, will be moving to Ohio early March. We need an immediate replacement for this position. Any interest?

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 1830 hours.

/s/ Signed 15 Feb 2017
J. R. PORATH
Captain and Recorder