

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ship 1774 Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, 11 July 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 11 shipmates.
- The new and transfer applications were read and the Paymaster was instructed to process them for membership.
- Motion was made to approve and seconded, and all voted to approve the June meeting minutes without change.
- Paymaster reports were provided as audited and issues discussed.
- There was no Service Officer Report (Adobin Schroth).

Committee Reports:

- **Membership.** Our stats for the year ending 2017 were absolutely outstanding but the same, if not more, more needs to be done for the year ending 2018. 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.
- **Buddy Poppy** (Captain) – The distribution at Vons on 3 July went well. Our next Buddy Poppy distribution will be Nov 9, 10, 12. Reminders and volunteers will be solicited via email and our website.
- **Youth Development** (Scouting, JROTC, PP, VOD, etc) (Nathaniel Donnelly). PP and VOD mottos are current 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. We purchased 288 additional flags for next year's burial sites at the El Cajon Cemetery.
- **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 certificate and pins are still available. See Jack, Lenny, or the bartenders.
- 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. Another email will be sent.
- In the April business meeting, 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. Issue is still pending.
- Food was available in the Canteen for all who attended the meeting, an issue that will continue.

NEW BUSINESS.

- None

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).
- A welcome was given to annual members and first time meeting attendees Vern Strey and Vic Martin.

CLOSING ceremony was held and the meeting adjourned at 1839 hours.

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