

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ship 1774 Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, 13 June 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 six 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 May 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 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) – The distribution at Vons on 26 and 27 May went well, but could have been better had more volunteers participated. Could not do it on 28 May at Perry's in Old Town due to lack of volunteers. We will again do Poppies on 3 and 4 July, and Nov 9, 10, 12. Reminders and volunteers will be solicited via email and our website.
- **Youth Development** (Scouting, JROTC, PP, VOD, etc) (Nathaniel Donnelly). JROTC award dinner at Mira Mesa High School went well. Certificate and Medal were awarded.
- **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, held 3 June 2017, was a success as was Flag Day on the USS Midway Museum held 10 June 2017 and attended by four of us. Flags used for placement at the El Cajon Cemetery was cleaned and stored. We need to purchase 288 additional for next year.
- **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. The financial issues of the grant, etc., were discussed.
- **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 being issued upon request.
- 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.

#### NEW BUSINESS.

- Discussion was held with the goal of increasing meeting membership. All present voted to expend not to exceed \$60.00 for food to be served after the meeting, starting 1900 hrs.

#### 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 1840 hours.

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