

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ship 1774 Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 14 March 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 nine shipmates.
- The new and transfer applications were read and the Paymaster was instructed to process them for membership.
- Motion was made and all approved the meeting minutes of Feb 2017 without change.
- Paymaster reports were provided subject to audit.
- Service Officer Report (Adobin Schroth). Will attend Service Officer training 25 March 2017.

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. The Captain sent emails to those members whose membership expired.
- **Buddy Poppy** (Captain) – Next distribution to be scheduled in May at Vons and Perry's in Old Town.
- **Youth Development** (Scouting, JROTC, PP, VOD, etc) (Nathaniel Donnelly). ROTC award dinner at Mera Mesa High School is tentatively scheduled for 13 May. Captain and Nathan Donnelly will attend.
- **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.
- **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. Life Membership for Juan Becerril has been processed.
- **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.

- 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, only four have responded. Eight are needed.
- We are still exploring historical designation for our facility. Information has been sent to the Captain.

NEW BUSINESS.

- Nomination of elected officers for the 2017-2018 began. Those nominated for elected officer positions were Captain Jack Porath, Executive Officer Roger Rotter, Navigator Nathaniel Donnelly, Paymaster Lenny Guccione, Chaplain NONE, Trustee 3 Year Bob Marlow. For appointed positions, we are searching for a Judge Advocate (ideally, a Past Commander but someone who is familiar with Roberts Rules of Order), and an Adjutant. Check the website for a full description of the duties of the officers. Website is: www.vfwlamesa.org Nomination with election to follow will occur at the next meeting on 25 April 2017.
- The installation of the new floor for the small meeting room will begin 16 March.

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 1835 hours.

/s/ Signed 15 March 2017

J. R. PORATH

Captain and Recorder