

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ship 1774 Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, 12 September 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 seven 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 minutes of the last meeting.
- Paymaster report was provided as audited and questions were answered.
- Service Officer Report (Adobin Schroth) was not provided.

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; 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. We need to promote the organization to our younger veterans.
  - **Buddy Poppy** (Captain) – The next distribution is to be scheduled for the month of 9, 10 and 11 Nov 2017. Reminders and volunteers will be solicited via email and our website.
  - **Youth Development** (Scouting, JROTC, PP, VOD, etc) (Nathaniel Donnelly). No report.
  - **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.
  - **Student Veterans and Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans.** (Nathaniel Donnelly). An attempt will be made to get them more active and assist with various issues 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 AND OLD BUSINESS.

- Vietnam certificate and pins are being issued upon request. There are some extras available.
- 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, seven have responded and a meeting of those interested will be held 12 Sep, 1900 hrs which is a meeting with Riders Chapter 303 who is helping our establishment. Members must be a member of the American Legion. If a VFW member, you are eligible for American Legion membership.

- 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.
- A reminder was given by a member regarding a plaque to be installed in the main hall honoring Al Weaver whose donation greatly assisted with the refurbishment.

#### NEW BUSINESS.

- In-depth discussion was held regarding the State Commander requirement that the Commander, Quartermaster, and at least one Trustee attend the yearly School of Instruction in order to be eligible for an All State Post. The Captain strenuously argued against this requirement, saying that the past history of the Post and tenure of the officers should be taken into consideration especially when (in our case), the QM and Trustees have paid employment on the day of the instruction and they would have to either take a vacation day or miss a day of work. This policy will turn the VFW into an organization of officers who are either not employed or who are in a position to attend this yearly course regardless of the motivation of others who may want to serve in these Posts and could well be a detriment to fully engage our younger veterans into leadership positions. The District Commander informed the Captain that he would not waive any of the provisions of the Commander, and the Commander told the Captain that this policy will make all posts equal. Motion was made and seconded to voice our opinion against this policy and that the Captain should prepare a letter to this effect. It was strenuously voiced that those in charge are losing their way in the leadership of this great organization and that this will provide a negative atmosphere within the VFW. It was further discussed the events of the last District 1 meeting at our Post and the actions of the District 1 Commander that will be mentioned in a letter.

#### 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 13 Sep 2017  
J. R. PORATH  
Captain and Recorder