

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ship 1774 Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 9 January 2018

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.
- Any new and transfer applications were read and approved for processing by the Paymaster.
- The Minutes of the last meeting will remain as published since there were no changes provided.
- Paymaster report was provided as audited and questions were answered.
- Service Officer Report (Alan Rein). No report members.

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) – Next distribution will be scheduled sometime in May 2018.
 - **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. Discussed was the discussed issue concerning the Legion Riders. All approved of the decision of the House Committee.
 - **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.

- 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? So far, seven have

responded. Members must be, or become, a member of the American Legion for which all VFW members are eligible.

- 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.

- Election was held and Alan Rein was unanimously elected as our new Navigator. Congratulations!
- We now have a vacancy for Chaplain due to the continued unexplained absence of our current Chaplain, Veronica Bonilla. There were no nominations for a replacement. Any interest?
- Our current Paymaster, Lenny Guccione, has expressed interest in vacating his elected position due to work and time constraints. There were no nominations for a replacement 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 1835 hours.

/s/ Signed 10 Jan 2018
J. R. PORATH
Captain and Recorder