

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ship 1774 Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, 8 April 2021

The meeting was called to order at 1800 hrs by Ship's Captain Jack Porath to conduct any and all business to come before the Ship. Following were conducted:

- Opening Ceremonies that included the reading of Special Dates of Remembrance for this month.
- Roll call of officers was held; total attendance of officers and shipmates was seven.
- There was not a past Commander nor District 1 representative present at the meeting.
- All new and transfer applications were read and approved for processing.
- There were no changes to the minutes of the last meeting; thus, they are approved as written.
- Paymaster report was provided as audited and questions were answered.
- The Service Officer reported that he routinely assists veterans, whether it be on the phone or in person.

Committee Reports:

- **Membership.** The Captain has continually provided that our youth are slow to recognize the benefits of joining and that they are busy managing or starting their family and career. It was reiterated also 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 Membership is strongly encouraged as it is very cost effective and ensures continuous membership.** The first payment for the 12 month pay option is \$45.00 (with 11 additional payments; the cost is age based). The Captain again reiterated 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. The renewal date of annual pay members is the initial date of the dues' payment. There is a continual fight in Congress concerning benefits, and belonging to a veterans' organization such as the VFW helps when Congress checks the membership stats. High membership = strong voice!
- **Buddy Poppy** (Captain) – We will attempt our next distribution date to be in the month of November. We were going to do it in May, but all are unsure of the Covid-19 conditions. The locations will be determined based on participation.
- **Youth Development** (Scouting, JROTC, PP, VOD, etc.). No update.
- **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 your prayers. All of the award nomination forms are on the website.
- **House** (Captain). The details of events presented at the House meetings are separately published and posted on the bulletin-board and website for all to see.
- **National Home for Children** (Captain). Life Membership (\$50.00) 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. Know anyone who is worthy? Notify the Captain.
- **United Veterans Council.** Monthly meeting of the United Veterans Council, to which anyone can attend, are held at 0930 for the dates as announced. See website: [www.sduvc.org](http://www.sduvc.org) for the meeting minutes and other information. Though not mandatory, do we have someone who would like to do this and provide a report at our normally scheduled business meetings?
- All prayed to remember the National Home for Children.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

- In the June 2020 meeting, Life Member Vern Strey offered to pay for a locking mechanism at both of our flag poles. The locks will prevent unauthorized personnel to lower the flags. Vern is researching the vendors.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Navigator Sam Aleto discussed the fundraiser Poker tournament that will be scheduled in September.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION FOR OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022. This meeting was the second for the nominations which was followed by the election for all elective offices for Year 2021-2022. Those nominated and elected for each office are:

- **Elected:** Jack Porath, Captain; Frank Belville, Executive Officer; Sam Aleto, Navigator; Mike Martin, Paymaster and Adjutant; Chaplain Roger Rotter; Trustee 1 Year, Lenny Guccione; Trustee 2 Year, Bob Marlow; Trustee 3 Year, Andrew Duenas.
- **Appointed:** Adjutant, Mike Martin; Service Officer, Lenny Guccione. The appointed positions of Judge Advocate, Surgeon, and Guard/Officer of the Day will not be filled for the foreseeable future per the decision of the membership.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- When you change your address or email account, let us know.

CLOSING ceremony was held and the meeting adjourned at 1819 hours.

/s/ Signed 9 Apr 2021  
J. R. PORATH  
Captain and Recorder