

Veterans of Foreign Wars Ship 1774 Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 10 December 2020

The meeting was called to order by Ship's 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.
- There was no past Commander present nor District 1 representative at the meeting.
- Any 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.
- There was no report from the Service Officer.

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) – Our next distribution date is unknown due to COVID-19. The locations will be determined based on participation.
 - **Youth Development** (Scouting, JROTC, PP, VOD, etc.). We have one entrant for the Patriot's Pen Program that has been provided to the District for judging.
 - **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. We have one entrant for the Teacher's Program that has been provided to the District for judging.
 - **House** (Captain). The details of events presented at the House meetings are separately published and posted on the bulletin-board and web site 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?
 - **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 for the meeting minutes and other information. Chuck Syktich normally attends the 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: It was announced that the donation of \$250 to the American Legion Post 282 for financial help to purchase a new refrigerator is not needed; thus, the funds will be returned.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

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

CLOSING ceremony was held and the meeting adjourned at 1817 hours.

/s/ Signed 11 Dec 2020
J. R. PORATH
Captain and Recorder