

MINUTES – COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – 09/10/08

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Commander Michael Honan at 8: 35 PM at the H.Q. of the Rosedale/Laurelton Post # 483.

Chaplain Phil Sica offered the opening prayer, the Commander led the opening ceremony and opened the meeting.

Roll Call was then taken and the following were unexcused absences: Historian, Joe Biasi; XCM Mike Barone; Corrine Alpert; John Biehl; and Peter Zaun. The chair also recognized the Presence of: PD/C James W. Casey; PCC's Vincent Calimano; Daniel O'Sullivan; Dave Patterson; Lou Rodriguez; Richie Pearsall and Tom Winberry.

Commander Honan made up a temporary Executive Meeting Format, of 6 issues / topics for discussion / consideration for this first County Meeting...

No. 1 was: Holiday Party. When (day – weekend) where, with or without spouses? ETC.

PCC Vincent Calimano then mentioned that we had us such a great installation party at his Knights of Columbus Hall last Sunday, that if the County is willing to have it at this location...that he would look into it and report the results to the County.

Someone then asked when Memorial Day fell on this 2009 years calendar and was told on Monday, May 25, 2009.

VC Paul Schottenhamel; Then mentioned that he had spoken with the Commander of the Woodhaven Post # 118, Dave Valentin, and that he felt slighted that his post was neglected in respect to not scheduling a county committee meeting at his location...Especially when there are posts that are having both the Executive & County Committee meetings at their posts on the same time? Commander Honan said he would investigate this and get back to him.

PD/C James Casey then made a motion, which was seconded and all were in favor...That Commander Honan go over the schedule and make the necessary changes, as is his right.

#2: The VAVS Legion Rep position at St. Albans: PCC/SO Daniel O'Sullivan then read his last report from the Department and National that stipulated that James Osborne was the named REP at the St. Albans VA facility but that it was rescinded because Queens County was not involved in the process. Queens County makes the recommendations after the proper qualification, experience and necessary documentation is made and so approved by Commander Honan, then forwarded to Department. We must follow the chain of command. James Osborne status is now as a DEP. Anyone seeking this position, must have their post commander write a letter of intent, to the County Commander or his Adjutant, stating the nominees name and his or hers qualifications for consideration for this appointment. The Department Adjutant, Richard M. Pedro will then forward this recommendation to National for their approval and certification.

Motion was made by PD/C Casey that we adhere to these *written procedures* for the next VA REP position at the St. Albans facility. It was seconded and all were in favor.

#3: The Legion input on moving the monument of Medal of Honor winner, Sgt. Wilbur S. Colyer. Adjutant Rodriguez then read the letter in respond to one received earlier, from Sen. Serphin Maltese. Five members of the Ruoff-Norelli-Hargreaves Post # 632 drove out to the site of this memorial on 133rd. St. & Rockaway Blvd. and found that the bronze plaque atop of a large boulder, was in need of a good cleaning. The signage mounted on the right side of the flag pole was WRONG. It read Sgt. William S. Colyer...not Wilbur S. Colyer. It must be corrected. The post involved was not a VFW post as stated in the letter but an American Legion Post #28 which was disbanded in 1999 and their membership transferred to other local posts. Their Adjutant was Cedric Brown and is now the Adjutant of the Ruoff-Norelli Post # 632 and filled in the details.

We then drove to Fuchs Road and Rockaway Blvd, at 127th. St. and found that location, also a triangle, with 2 benches, at a bus stop in front of the local Post Office. The area at 133rd. St. was much larger and held 10 large benches and also a bus stop. The pedestrian traffic at both locations were the same. We honestly believe that its not cost effective to move this great heroes monument from this location, to this smaller triangle only 5 blocks away. Once this monument is cleaned, contact should be made to that one public school and one Catholic school in this immediate area and get those students involved on Memorial or Veterans Day commemoration.

#4 County & Post Websites E-Mail Addresses:

VC Paul Schottenhamel then mentioned that the American Legion has a website and that we can as a post and as the County establish a web-Site as well. This way we can be better informed as to membership, those that have not paid their annual dues, and the various post activities. Communication is the key word here. Those of you that have a screen name and can establish one for the post would be at a greater advantage due to the ability to get updates on all legion legislative matters, Midwinter Conference, and other activities. Get the word out and lets get rolling on this. There is an initiation fee and then an annual fee there after so if your interested, please contact me.. My telephone No. is in the new directory. To date only the Broad Channel Post and the McKenna Post have listed websites. So it's a start. If interested, go on the Legion's National Website at WW.legionsite.com. You will also be able to get addresses, envelopes, dues payments and make other changes as needed. PD/C James Casey then made a motion that the County get a website and pay the required fees. It was seconded by Vincent Calimano and all were in favor.

PD/C James Casey then mentioned that in the 10 District, once you take an officers position in the District, you can not chair any other committee in the County. This is not good because you lose the expertise of a person for a period of seven years. Especially when they only meet 3 times a year, so it doesn't make sense on this restriction. So I'm making two motions:

#1- First one that allows one to serve as an officer but allows him to serve as a chairman on a committee.

#2- A motion to allow the County Commander "Unit Rule"...

Was seconded and all were in favor...

PCC Richie Pearsall then reminded the County that the Way & Means raffle has taken a hit... Tonight I received un-sold tickets from two of my good sellers. One has moved and the other has changed her workplace. We're talking 50 tickets here... We have to think of other ways to obtain funds for the County and soon.

Good of the Legion: PCC Dave Patterson held the 50/50 and it was won by Arthur Adams...

Motion was then made to adjourn...was seconded...All were in favor.

Commander then had the Chaplain, Phil Sica do the closing prayers and with the salute to colors, adjourned this meeting at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Louis A. Rodriguez, PCC, Adjutant

