



**MINUTES OF THE
QUEENS COUNTY COMMITTEE, Inc.
McKenna- Post # 797 (Executive Mtg.)
Date: October 15, 2008**

Meeting was opened by Commander Mike Honan @ 8:00 PM, with the salute of colors, opening prayers by Chaplain Phil Sica, the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Was held by the Adjutant of the Executive Committee members and the following were unexcused absences: XCM's Arthur Adams; Brian McManus; Corrine Alpert; John Biehl & John O'Neill.

Correspondence: Letter from the Hillcrest Post # 1078 reporting that the new County Directory has their telephone number wrong; and their post meeting date & time as well. Their telephone number should be 718-657-2741 and they meet on first Saturday of month at 1:00 PM...

Letter from the Garity Post stating that they sent \$1,000 to the NEF on Oct.06, 2008. Letters from Maspeth & McKenna Posts endorsing Osborne for the VA Reps job at St. Albans.

All read and to take their usual course...

Motion was made by VC Condoleo to accept the last County Minutes of Sept. 24, 2008 as read was seconded and all were in agreement.

Commander Mike Honan then presented the nine Agenda Items that should be discussed at this Executive Committee Meeting to Adjutant Rodriguez for his presentation:

1. Update / status on VAVS Representative opening at the St. Albans Facility, number of candidates, selection process, etc.

PCC Daniel O'Sullivan then read to us the latest VA Representative requirements, duties, etc. All letters of recommendations from American Legion Posts must be sent to the County Adjutant or County Commander. The County Committee will evaluate and vote for this REP and then the Commander will pass this to the Adjutant...who will make up a letter and submit it to the County Service officer. He will then submit it to the Department Adjutant for his approval & signature, before sending it on to National.

Commander Honan then stated that we would hold an election on this VA Rep position at our Dec. Meeting and vote, with a closed ballot.

PTD/C Denis McEaney then stipulated that we should be acting on this VA matter now and not in December. This has been going on since our convention, and it should not be prolonged.

PTD/C Joe Thomassen agreed we have two candidates to date and said that we should be able to have a secret ballot vote at our next Committee Meeting. VC Norbert openly agreed to this as well.

XCM Mike Barone then asked, in the event of a tie, who casts the tie-breaking vote?

Commander Honan has the final vote in the event of a tie vote and all the 12 members on the Executive Committee plus all the County officers, will cast their secret ballot and vote for this VA – Rep position at the next Executive Committee Meeting of Nov. 05, 2008 at the Ruoff-Norelli-Hargreaves Post #63.

Adjutant Rodriguez then read the active list of Executive Committee members in reminding them of their responsibility to be present for this very important vote.

Commander Honan then stated that he would send out a letter to all those involved to notify them of their presence being required at this Executive Meeting for reason of election for this open VA Representatives position.

VC Paul Schottenhamel then reminded us that if anyone else is interested in this Reps job, please get your letters in from your post ASAP.

2. Budget Committee status – Schedule – Preparation of 2008 – 2009

Budget:

PTD/C Joe Thomassen then stated that they have set Oct. 28, 2008, a Tuesday, at the Littleneck/Douglaston Post #103 for a budget meeting. We have not decided on the menu yet.

3. Holiday & Christmas Holiday Party status report:

Commander Honan then mentioned that PCC Vinnie Calimano mentioned (Harbor Light) a good local restaurant with good food and a fair price, that we should look into...But when Vinnie gets back on his feet we can get a status report.

4. Veterans Day Agenda NYC Parade:

The Queens County Honor Guard will parade up 5th Ave in NYC and contingent will depart from Broad Channel Post #1404, at 8 AM. All posts are welcomed to participate if able to march. As for the Middle Village Post having their parade on Nov. 08, 2008, it would not be readily accepted by us. We do not want to change this Nov. 11 time & date for nothing. PTD/C Joe Thomassen then stated that it is a local civic organization requesting this change and we do not endorse this request.

St. John's University will hold their Veterans Day Ceremony at the flag pole in front of the library on campus, at 11 AM.

5. Queens County Website:

VC Paul Schottenhamel reports that we will be sending them our check and should be up & running in 10 to 12 days, to get it set up. This will be great for getting out information to all post of their meeting dates and special calendar of events, and links to other

websites, and including Queens County Minutes, in about a month's time.

6. Law & Order Changes:

PCC Tom Winberry states that we are looking to revise our methods of operation due to the problems we have been having over the years from the various uniform commands. What we want to do now is to go with a local post fire detachment and local police precinct.

VC Norbert Chwat then asked why we don't communicate with our Borough Office for their cooperation. It was then voiced that we should better rely on our own judgments for unit citations than they should. But our uniform heroes should be acknowledged for their exploits and rewarded by us with plaques.

We should be only concerned with units in Queens County only.

Commander Honan then stated that the Committee should be the ones to decide if a unit or an individual should so be recognized.

PTD/C Denis then said that a local post should acknowledge local heroes...

VC Norbert Chwat then mentioned that it would also be good publicity for the legion's involvement.

A motion was then made by Tom, that we now go with our local firehouses and police precincts, instead of their Department heads. It was then seconded and all were in favor of this change...

PCC Tom Winberry then mentioned the "pub" at St. Albans State Nursing Home. It will help the veterans there to feel more at home with this new pub environment feature. They would only sell non-alcoholic beverages, etc. in conformance with the director. Tom would be the chairman and has the support of PQP/Aux. Jean Ross and PTD/C Joe Thomassen said they will be having a meeting on this PUB issue soon.

7. Membership: VC Bobby Condoleo then stated that on the last membership report, we in Queens County are in third place. I just want to thank the V/C's for their great cooperation with such good results. Just keep it up... The Tenth District meeting on March 30, 2009 is to be held at the Continental Post #1424 and not Broad Channel as was listed. And while I have your attention, at this last district meeting, I was offended by the poor representation that was shown by Queens County. Only five of us were there...the other counties had 20 and more representations. So please, let's show our commander a little more respect. Thank you!

8. PCC's Dinner on Nov.14, 2008 at Antun's at 7:30 PM: \$55 P/P
Commander Honan then informs us that for the NC's dinner at Antun's in April, we have put in for 13 tables and want to be seated at the rear. Joe Tipton said he has no problems with that.

Good of the Legion: The NYPD and the U.S. Navy will be holding their annual ceremony at one Police Plaza this Friday at 1:00 PM. They will have their bagpipes, lots of naval brass and retired LTC (US Marines) Kelly, Police Commissioner, will spearhead this event in their auditorium.

50/50 was held & the winner received \$18...

There being no further Legion business, Commander Honan asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was then made, seconded and so moved. Chaplain Sica offered the closing prayer...and the commander with the salute to colors...adjourned this meeting at 9:30 PM

**Respectfully submitted,
*Louis A. Rodriguez, PCC, Adjutant***

“In God We Trust”