



**MINUTES OF THE
QUEENS COUNTY COMMITTEE, Inc.
McKee Post #131 COMMITTEE MEETING
Date: Sept. 24, 2008**

Meeting was opened by Commander Michael Honan @8:15 PM, with the salute of colors, opening prayers by Chaplain Phil Sica, the Pledge of Allegiance and the POW/MIA ceremony.

Roll Call: Was held by the Adjutant Rodriguez and the following were unexcused absences: Joe Biasi; George Korb; Arthur Adams; Jack Domfort; John Biehl & Thomas Williams.

The Chair also recognizes the presence of:

Past Dept Commander James W. Casey; PD/VC Harvey Moder; Dist.10 Adjutant Ray Powers; P/TD/C Joe Thomassen; PTD/C Denis McEneaney; and PCC's Vincent Calimano; Harry Jahnke; John Severa; Daniel O'Sullivan; Richard Pearsall & Thomas Winberry.

Roll call of county post was then held and the following post had no representation: Woodhaven; Auburndale; Wm. Leonard; Far Rockaway; Rosedale/Laurelton; Forest Hills; Maspeth; Oscar Ammann; Hillcrest; Wallace; Blvd. Gardens.; Breezy Pt. and Sgt. Bivens.

Correspondence: Read two letters from the Continental Post nominating both James Osborne & Thomas Winberry for the VA Rep's position at St. Albans, vacated by the demise of PCC Frank Votto.

Notice: The nominations for the VA Rep position at the St. Albans VA Facility are ***not considered*** from other than American Legion posts, of Queens County. We had received three letters from St. Alban's staff concerning our REP vacancy at St. Albans. They have been received and recorded as such.

Motion was made, seconded, that the correspondence be accepted as read, and take the usual course.

Committee Reports:

BOY SCOUTS: Chairman Ben Singer reported that 18 recent Eagle Scouts were recognized by National, American Legion with certificates and from Queens County Medals and Patches, along with Olympic type ribbons in Legion Colors. Great to see that our youth are still active in the Boys Scout Tradition and that or future is in their hands. The Headquarters management is now in process of investigating the Scouting Leaders to ensure the safety and good welfare of all our scouts. Item of note is that many of our Eagle Scouts are accepted at the West Point Military Academy where 100 are turned away before one is accepted there. Ben then showed us copies of the VFW and the Legion Boy Scout Certificates.

Budget & Finance: PTD/C Joe Thomassen, Chairman, then stated that a meeting is being planned for the Budget Committee in the next two weeks...

County Convention: PD/C James W. Casey summarized how successful our last County Convention was and duly hosted by the O'Connell Post #272. In addition, PCC Tom Winberry praised the outstanding dinner.

Dinner for PCC: PD/C James W. Casey reports that it will be held at Antun's on Nov. 15, 2008 at a cost of \$55 P/P...

Directory: PCC Tom Winberry wants us to read through our new County Directory and if you detect any errors, please let him or the Adjutant know. This is the only way that we can be assured of a good and accurate publication in the future.

DMS: PCC Vincent Calimano reports that the few that he had received were mailed out to their respective posts for their action.

Family Support: Chaplain Phil Sica mentioned that he acquired the necessary information to help a veteran in dire need, from the Elm/Jack Post 298 area

Foreign Relations: VC Norbert, retired State Dept. Officer, states that All American veteran organizations should be making positive statements, that Iran is leaning on us...and those nations with nuclear power are frightening and do scare us. And yes, Russia must be challenged as well.

Flags: PCC Tom Winberry stated that the Marine Corps League has a good flag retired ritual, using the Lutheran Cemetery crematory. The Williston Post in Nassau County has a red, white & blue old post office container, in front of their post for disposal of retired flags. They are for anyone's usage.

Forty & Eight: Chaplain & Chef de Gare then mentioned that we recently held a prom at the Queens Village post and it was eventful. We collected some more dues, distributed their new cards and we picked up some new members. Next prom will be on the third Wed. in October and possibly be at the Woodhaven Post.

Legislative: PCC John Severa mentioned that the Legislative Breakfast is close at hand and we should be well represented...at only\$15 P/P. So if you haven't sent in your post check for this great legion event, please do so ASAP. We have also placed on the back table all the latest legislative reports to share with you. The American Legion stresses Voter Education, lobby for vets and resolutions. We do not do politics...

Membership: VC Bob Condole then stated that we have lost some post but have gained us a new one at Breezy Point #1847. The girl at department (Khandi) has been hospitalized and if you need information on membership, pick up the phone

and go to Ext. # 13 and you can speak with Paul. If you have access to a computer, you can also receive the latest membership updates, too.

Oratorical: Chaplain Phil Sica reports that he has recently received the flyer and official rules for this years High School Oratorical Scholarship Program and assigned topics for 2008 – 2009. Last year we had students from just two high schools and this year I'm going try to get three or four more high school to participate.

Protocol: PD/C James W. Casey states that other than one speaking while another has the floor is not proper and I see that we have a legionnaire with a hatpin on the wrong side of his hat.

Public Relations: VC Chwat then mentioned that all the active post should contact him with all their proposed activities, so that we can pass them onto the other post. Let us know what your post is doing in general and keep it on general grounds so that we can pass it onto the local papers as well. We must advertise to the media so that the public can see who we are...

Stamps for Vets: PC John Polidoro states that he has brought in a bag with about 25,000 stamps for PTD/C Arthur Dunkelmann. He is not here. To whom do I hand them over? PD/C Casey then stated that at the end of this meeting, just hand them over to any member of the Continental Post.

VAVS: Dep/Rep James Osborne then stated that the legion held a Bingo Game this afternoon with the patients at the St. Albans Facility. Fri. there will be an MIA/POW event at one PM. In addition, on Nov. 2, 2008 at the Pratt Auditorium there will be having a musical show. Then on Dec. 12, 2008, there will be the annual holiday Christmas & Hanukah party for the patients at St. Albans.

VC Chwat has met a lady that runs a **GOOD DOG FOUNDATION** and entertains the veterans at St. Albans with her dogs.

Veterans Nursing Home: PTD/C Joe Thomassen stated that a meeting is being scheduled there for tomorrow. The construction has been coming along nicely and expects its completion sometime in Nov.

Ways & Means: PCC Richie Pearsall states that he will be going into St. Francis on Fri. morning for Post-Op procedures and expect to be operated on next Tuesday...for a dual by-pass procedure. In the interim, Commander Honan has been going over the tickets and procedures with me, so that while I'm laid up, the program will continue to run. I do have some spare tickets, that are not sold, and they are here now for your disposal at \$2.00 per ticket. He also brought up the fact that Mary Moder cannot readily do our QALPA raffle tickets and we have no idea how she distributed the many medals and certificates to those ROTC and other students. It's something that we must really look into if we

must now manage it along with our regular raffle tickets. Motion was then made by XCM Allison and then it was seconded, and all were in favor that that we continue for those two months, what Mary Moder had previously done, into our Ways & Means monthly continuance program.

W.I.N.A.L Rehab: XCM Corrine Alpert then reports that the VA at St. Albans is not nearly equipped to take care of our woman veterans. We have 6 lady vets there and about 6 homeless at the Dom. All do need proper medical attention and proper clothing and proper education. We are now in the process of asking for ladies clothing to help these unfortunate lady veterans. They recently acquired a new female medical assistant there but that doesn't cut it. They truly need a Gynecologist. **VA REP Osborne** then mentioned that there are four major staff meetings a year (VIN-AC) at St. Albans. The next one is in two months. This is where you must go to stress your request for better female medical attention. **PCC Harry Jahnke** also stated that these women are mostly from Queens and therefore should be treated properly here at St. Albans, not in Brooklyn or Northport.

PCC Tom Winberry then stipulated that there really is no place in the VA medical system in our area that supports the medical needs of women veterans.

Good of the Legion: VC Paul Schottenhamel then reported that he is ready to address the Queens County Web-Site at a cost initially of \$400, annual fee and then to cost only \$240 in later years. This would enable us to communicate with more post in the County and even Department. We would be able to send our minutes and official documentations to all those post that are listed with an E-Mail Address. Especially those posts that just can't make it to our meetings. We will be opening a new window of communications within our county structure.

A motion was then made by PD/C James W. Casey that we subscribe to this website and give a check for \$400 to VC Schottenhamel to make this possible. It was seconded and all were in favor...

Paul then gave us his phone numbers to get those personnel E-Mail addresses to him ASAP for establishing a county link-up.

PTD/C Denis McEneaney Then stated that we should all applaud Commander Tom Winberry and his Adjutant Lou Rodriguez for the great work they did for Queens County this past year. And also for the fantastic job PCC Richie Pearsall has maintained with the Ways & Means program and that our prayers are with him in this his time of need.

DJ Walter Hovi then mentioned the up coming dinner/dance for our PTD/C Denis McEneaney set for Sunday, Oct.05, 2008, from 3 to 7 PM at the Broad Channel Post.

XCM John Allison also thanked PCC Tom Winberry and Adjutant Rodriguez for there successful contributions to the Legion Programs this past year.

Commander Mike Honan reports that the NYPD has an annual naval program at the Main Police Headquarters in NYC, on Oct. 17, 2008 at 11:00 AM. If you attend, please bring your cover.

Vice Commanders Report:

VC Bob Condoleo then stated that that al the new membership cards were mailed out to all his posts; attended a Post #272 B.B.Q. they held for the patients at the St. Albans facility. Attended the membership visitation agenda held at the Williston Post; Was a part of the Queens County Installation at the O'Connell Post in Sept.; And my E-Mail address is now posted with Queens County.

Norbert Chwat stated that he has maintained telephone conversations with his post and will be visiting them shortly.

Paul Schottenhamel had no report at this time due to his Internet Activity for the County.

50/50 was held & the winner received \$28...

Commander Honan then thanked the McKee Post Commander, Bill McDermott for his post hospitality and friendship...

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 commander with the salute to colors...adjourned this meeting at 10:06 PM.

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

“In God We Trust”