



THE AMERICAN LEGION
JEFFERY S. HOLMES POST 84

December 12, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

The meeting convened at 1800 hours by Commander Dennis Brown.

Roll call by Sergeant-at-Arms Sam Zucker. Present were: Commander and Judge Advocate Dennis Brown, First Vice Commander and Historian Howard Bixby, Second Vice Commander Penny Johnson, Adjutant and Finance Officer Scott Holmes and Chaplain Luther Johnson. Also present were member Arthur Holmes and guest Patti Holmes.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the November 7, 2024 meeting was read by Sam Zucker. Motion to accept by Scott Holmes and seconded by Howard Bixby. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

Finance Report:

1. Finance Officer Scott Holmes reported that all budgeted items have been paid.

2. The proposed budget for 2025 has been accepted with the following changes:
 - a. Item listed as Haven Christmas Party (Toys for Tots) will now be just Toys for Tots at \$200.
 - b. The Vermont Veterans Home will be reduced to \$400.
 - c. The Hartford Banner Project will be added with a donation of \$200.
3. The report was accepted and filed for audit.

Service Report: None

Membership:

1. The Post has 28 paid members and 11 pending. The 11 have been notified that their dues are due by the end of the year.
2. There is ongoing membership recruitment.

Americanism:

1. When the Flags along Route 5 were removed in November, another Flag was found to be damaged and will be retired. Thank you to Scott Holmes and Arthur Holmes for the removal of the Flags.
2. Commander Brown reminded us of the WWI Hello Girls Signal Corps Unit that is receiving recognition for their support of troops during WWI.
3. Commander Brown received a communique from Donna Ayers, relative of Sarah Fecteau (one of the Hello Girls operators), to let us know that her gravestone did not get a Flag this past year. Commander Brown has marked her

grave at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery so that a Flag will be placed there next year.

4. Commander Brown read an article from the December Legion magazine concerning the USS Arizona Memorial recounting how the funds were raised. The Memorial required private funding which was not publicized adequately. In 1958, Elvis Presley heard about this dilemma and with other performers held a concert in Hawaii that made the rest of the country aware of the Memorial and the funds that were needed to make it happen. President Kennedy acknowledged Elvis' support of this endeavor. The Memorial was officially dedicated in 1962.

Children and Youth:

1. Patti Holmes has contacted the Haven to inquire about our annual Christmas Party for the children residents. See Appendix A for e-mail messages discussing our intent. As of tonight's meeting, we have had no reply to our request for a children's only party. Therefore, we have decided that Post 84 will not sponsor a Christmas party this year. Instead, as previously noted, the monies for the party will be donated to Toys for Tots.

Old Business:

1. Blue Star Memorial work permit application has been submitted. Still no response as of this meeting.

2. Commander Brown led a discussion concerning Veterans' Day and Memorial Day ceremonies. The following proposals were put forth to present to the Vet Council:
 - a. Consider omitting the Maple Street Cemetery observance due to competition from traffic noise that even the PA System cannot overcome. This omission may lead to having all ceremonies in one location (maybe at the Town Hall or Veterans' Park).
 - b. Have a joint meeting with all those who wish to participate so that our efforts will be more organized and executed with proficiency. At the meeting, elect one person to be in charge.
 - c. Have joint training sessions for all participants before Memorial Day and Veterans' Day.
 - d. Designate white shirts with the proper patches and black pants as the common uniform for the Color Guard members. Assist in obtaining same as necessary.
 - e. Involve the media and other means of advertising these events to notify the public.
 - f. Discuss having separate ceremonies for Memorial Day and Veterans' Day (Memorial Day honors the sacrifice and loss of those who served and died in the military. Veterans Day honors all who have served in the U.S. military).
 - g. Consider celebrating Memorial Day on the Monday designated nationally.
 - h. Are new rifles required so that all Rifle Squad members are using the same type rifle? Did Post 26 acquire 9 new rifles, or will they? Verification needed.

3. The Post's web site is up and running. Members may access the site at: <https://www.post84vtlegion.org/index.cfm>
4. Members are requested to send comments about the site to Adjutant Scott Holmes at: thordog.holmes@gmail.com
5. Commander Brown, as usual, has continued thanking all who contribute to Post 84.
 - a. Sam Zucker for transcribing our November meeting minutes and for reviewing our website to bring the Commander's Message up to date.
 - b. Scott Holmes for maintaining and providing our finance report, keeping our web site current and acting as our baseball liaison.
 - c. To Howard, Scott, Patti, Luther, Penny, David and Sam for their participation in the Veterans Day ceremonies.
 - d. To Scott and Patti for their participation in Toys for Tots.
 - e. To Patti for her efforts in trying to make the Haven Christmas party a reality.
 - f. To all who helped remove the Flags in the cemeteries.
6. The Family Day picnic is still on hold until 2025.

Discussion of the picnic at this meeting concluded with the premise that "family" means Post 84 members and their wives, partners and children. Other veteran organizations should not be included. Please send comments to Commander Dennis Brown at: dlbm35vt@gmail.com or Adjutant Scott Holmes at: thordog.holmes@gmail.com
7. We are still in need of volunteers for a Color Guard.

Contact Adjutant Scott Holmes for details:
thordog.holmes@gmail.com

New Business:

- 1. Attention women veterans.** Nichole Jordan has started a non-profit retreat for women veterans. Refer to Appendix B for more info.
2. Sam Zucker has been tasked with gathering information on the possibility of having a Zoom account to be used by our members in case of poor weather conditions and remote attendance.
3. The mid-winter conference will take place January 17 and 18 at the Hampton Inn in Colchester, VT. Contact HQ for Hotel and Banquet Info at 802-223-7131.
4. Post 84 goals for the 2025 are:
 - a. Golf – September 20
 - b. Family Day in August?
 - c. Haven Christmas Party in December?
 - d. Flag display along Route 5
 - e. Blue Star Memorial maintenance ongoing
 - f. Support the Hartford Heroes Banner project which will be displayed from Memorial Day through July.

Comrades in distress – Joyce Perkins

The meeting adjourned at 1944 hours.

Sam Zucker, Sergeant-at-Arms for Scott Holmes, Adjutant

Next meeting, Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM, at WRJ VA, Freedom Building (formally Building 44), Room 103a.

Appendix A

On Oct 30, 2024, at 12:32 PM, Patti Holmes
<hbird.holmes@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi McKenna,

Jeffery S Holmes American Legion Post 84 is hoping we can do a party for the children again this year. It would be the same as last year. We are hoping Will is still there to bring out the games!

Is it possible to do it on a day when there is not the puppy parade? It always seems a little rushed.

Can you provide the venue? Things have changed up there so I don't know what would work.

We would like to start at 3:45pm and end at 5:00pm. The dates we CANNOT do are: any Mondays, December 5th, December 13th, or December 17th.

If you can figure out these details, we can then get the lists of gifts and work out the itinerary.

Hope to hear from you,

Best,

Patti Holmes

From: Patti Holmes <hbird.holmes@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 11:31 AM

To: McKenna Wilkinson <mwilkinson@uppervalleyhaven.org>

Cc: Holmes Patti <hbird.holmes@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Christmas party by Post 84

Hi,

Any update that I can present at the Legion meeting tonight?

Patti

On Nov 7, 2024, at 12:37 PM, McKenna Wilkinson
<mwilkinson@uppervalleyhaven.org> wrote:

Hi Patti,

Thank you for following up. The Children's Program and Family Shelter teams have decided to do a joint celebration this year with additional community members. I understand this is a change from the past but there was feedback from parents that they wanted to be included in the celebrations for the holidays. Since this would significantly increase the number of attendees, with children and adults, I think it would be best to find another way for us to engage with Post 84, if you are open to it. I would be happy to have a call with you to discuss more.

Thank you,

McKenna Wilkinson (she/her)

Children's Program Supervisor

Upper Valley Haven

713 Hartford Avenue
White River Junction, VT 05001
(802) 478-1860 (direct)
(802) 299-7797 (program cell)

From: Patti Holmes <hbird.holmes@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2024 6:22 AM
To: McKenna Wilkinson <mwilkinson@uppervalleyhaven.org>
Subject: Re: Christmas party by Post 84

Hi McKenna,

We talked about this at the meeting last night.

1. Is there absolutely no way to have a children's only party at all?
2. As of right now, Toys for Tots does not have a venue to hold our annual program (which is where we get the gifts from). If a venue is found, Post 84 would still like to see if we could get toys for the children. If we can, how many children are living at the shelter and how many children are in the afterschool program?

Please let me know what you think.

Best,

Patti

On Nov 12, 2024, at 1:21 PM, McKenna Wilkinson
<mwilkinson@uppervalleyhaven.org> wrote:

Hi Patti, please see my responses below:

1. Is there absolutely no way to have a children's only party at all? **Answer:** If we were to do a children's only party, we would need to make it different from the larger party that is already being put on.

2. As of right now, Toys for Tots does not have a venue to hold our annual program (which is where we get the gifts from). If a venue is found, Post 84 would still like to see if we could get toys for the children. If we can, how many children are living at the shelter and how many children are in the afterschool program? **Answer:** Gift giving is also an area that we have thought more intentionally about this year to make sure it is equitable. Because of that, we have streamlined this process for Haven guests and clients where they fill in a simple form we distribute to them through their case managers. Therefore, we are asking individuals and groups who are looking to provide gifts to reach out to our donation team. I am happy to connect you with them if you would like.

Let me know if you have any questions!

Thank you,

McKenna

From: Patti Holmes <hbird.holmes@gmail.com>
Date: November 12, 2024 at 7:08:29 PM EST
To: McKenna Wilkinson <mwilkinson@uppervalleyhaven.org>
Cc: Holmes Patti <hbird.holmes@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Christmas party by Post 84

Hi McKenna,

1. We will skip the party.
2. We really want to do two gifts per child for those living at The Haven so their families can give them to the kids on Christmas Day. Yes, please get me in touch with the donation team.

Thank you,

Patti

Appendix B

Women Veteran's Glamping

126 Western Ave. #197, Augusta, Maine 04330

Info@WomenVeteransGlamping.org

EIN: #87-2520494

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Women Veteran's Glamping (WVG). We are a 501c3 non-profit based in Maine and serve to improve the lives of Women Veteran's that served our great nation. We bring groups of Women Veterans from all eras and branches of service, together for a retreat, that helps heal the soul and provides new bonds that run strong. These Women Veterans come from all over the US.

We offer 20-24 women Veterans retreats/events scheduled throughout the year. We cover the cost of the lodging, food and activities. We have several retreats & events scheduled this coming year and we would greatly appreciate your support in covering this cost. We stay in off and on grid yurts; kayak, swim, hike, arts and crafts as well as s'mores around a campfire with the beautiful night sky twinkling above. We see women on Active Duty as they are in uniform, yet invisible out of uniform. They are often forgotten and not thanked for their service. Many women Veterans do not know of other women Veterans in their area therefore, feel alone and unappreciated as many people do not recognize the women that have served our Great Nation.

The women Veterans get a chance to come relax, meet other women Veterans, network, make new friends and share their experiences without judgment. Their service is recognized, valued and honored. "She served her country, now let's Honor her!" One woman veteran told us after her retreat,

"We made a difference in her life and she no longer thought she was alone and worthless. She had met 20 new sisters of service, a connection and family she had lost when she left service. She no longer felt like giving up and becoming just another "22" in the books. She has made new friends and can now talk with others like her. Thank you Women Veteran's Glamping for coming into my life at the right time." -Kat P.- US Army Veteran

Women Veteran's Glamping is changing the way we celebrate and honor Women Veterans. No longer do we only honor them once a year - we honor and celebrate them all year long. We work closely with our local "Quilt of Valor" program in Maine. We honor women Veterans at each of our WVG Events with a Quilt of Valor.

August 2023 Women Veteran's Glamping purchased 14 acres of land to build our own facility. Now the fundraising for the building begins. We are in need of raising \$1million for the building fund. All donations are tax deductible. We are building a lasting legacy for our Women Veterans nationally to relax and remain strong themselves and families.

*****Our finances are transparent to show our truth and to honor our veterans, donors and sponsors. Ninety percent of our funding goes to covering the Women Veterans Glamping events and ten percent goes to office supplies and cleaning of equipment. Our board is 100% volunteer and Proud Veterans themselves.*****

"PLEASE JOIN ME IN SUPPORTING AND HONORING WOMEN VETERANS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR."

Please make donations to: Women Veteran's Glamping by mailing your donation or visiting our website:

www.WomenVeteransGlamping.org

Mail to: Women Veteran's Glamping, 126 Western Ave #197, Augusta, Maine 04330

Thank you for supporting Women Veteran's Glamping as we work to improve the lives of our Women Veterans across our communities and our country. If you have any questions or are interested in sponsoring an event, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Nichole Jordan

Nichole Jordan, U.S. Army Veteran

Women Veteran's Glamping President

Nichole@WomenVeteransGlamping.org

Mobile: (207) 456-6114

Our Mission is to "Offer Women Veterans opportunity to recreate and comradery of shared experiences in a safe, judgment free supportive environment."

Attention News Release

Chesterville, Maine - Women Veteran's Glamping, a dedicated non-profit organization focused on honoring and supporting women veterans, is excited to announce a significant milestone in its mission. The organization has successfully secured land for its very own retreat facility in the beautiful state of Maine.

Women veterans have made immense sacrifices and contributions to our country, and this new retreat facility will serve as a sanctuary for them, providing a space to heal, bond, and thrive. Women Veteran's Glamping believes that this retreat will be a source of empowerment and rejuvenation for women who have served our nation. We have been successful for the last 4 years in working toward this goal.

The land acquisition marks the beginning of an exciting journey, and the organization is committed to making this facility a reality in the near future. The retreat facility will be tailored to meet the unique needs of women veterans, offering a wide range of programs and resources to support their physical and emotional well-being.

The facility's features will include:

- Accommodations and meeting spaces designed for comfort and tranquility.
- Specialized programs to address the unique challenges faced by women veterans.
- Outdoor recreational spaces to foster a sense of community and camaraderie.
- Information referrals to mental health services, counseling, and therapeutic activities.

Women Veteran's Glamping would like to extend its gratitude to all the supporters, donors, and volunteers who have made this exciting endeavor possible. The organization believes that the retreat facility in Chesterville, Maine will serve as a beacon of hope and healing for women veterans from all walks of life.

The Women Veteran's Glamping team is actively working on the architectural design and planning phase, and is committed to making this facility a reality as soon as possible. The organization encourages the community to join in this mission to support and uplift the women who have served our nation with honor and courage.

For more information about Women Veteran's Glamping, its mission, or how you can get involved, please visit www.WomenVeteransGlamping.org or contact Nichole Jordan at Nichole@womenveteransglamping.org

About Women Veteran's Glamping: is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring and supporting women veterans. The organization's mission is to provide a safe and empowering space for women who have served in the military, fostering their well-being, personal growth, and community connections.

Thank you for supporting Women Veteran's Glamping as we work to improve the lives of our Women Veterans across our communities and our country. If you have any questions or are interested in sponsoring an event, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our Mission is to "Offer Women Veterans opportunity to recreate and comradery of shared experiences in a safe, judgment free supportive environment."