



THE AMERICAN LEGION
JEFFERY S. HOLMES POST 84

December 7, 2023
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, Chaplain Luther Johnson and past commander, Charlie Patch. Visiting guests were Department of Vermont Service Officer Larry Thompson and Patti Holmes.

After the opening ceremonies the official meeting was suspended so that Service Officer Larry Thompson could address attending members. He stated that his duties include but are not limited to aiding veterans with claims for disabilities, grave markers, health care, death indemnity compensation for spouses, pension claims, homelessness and housing. He will also assist with appeals for VA Benefits. His office is located at the VA Hospital in White River Junction in the Patriots Building. He is on campus Tuesday through Thursday, 9 AM to 5 PM. On

other days he may be reached by phone (802-296-5166) or e-mail (Lawrence.thompson@va.gov).

Meeting Minutes: Minutes of the November 2nd meeting was read by Sergeant-at-Arms Sam Zucker. Motion to accept by Scott Holmes and seconded by Penny Johnson. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

Finance Report:

1. Finance Officer Scott Holmes reported that we have \$11,520.68 in the bank. All bills have been paid.
2. The report was accepted and filed for audit.
3. The budget committee will meet on January 4th at 2:30 PM to discuss and ratify the budget for 2024.

Service Report: None

Membership:

1. We have 36 paid up members for fiscal year 2023-24. Our goal is 40 members.
2. There is ongoing membership recruitment.
3. Adjutant Scott Holmes has contacted the 4 outstanding members who are not current with their payments and is awaiting a response.

Americanism:

1. Scott Holmes and Arthur Holmes removed the Flags along route 5.
2. Commander Brown and Lannie Collins removed the flags located in the Town's cemeteries.

3. Commander Brown will contact Denis Backus and Post 26 and ask them if they will be taking down the Flag in the Maple Street Cemetery.

Children and Youth:

1. The Haven Christmas party update: December 21st, from 3-5 PM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in White River Junction. We need to provide 2 gifts each for 8 children. Entertainment provided by Will. Ice cream provided by Luther and Penny Johnson. Paper goods and water provided by Patti and Scott Holmes. Howard Bixby will provide cake. Pizza Chef of Quechee will provide the pizzas.
2. A BIG THANK YOU to Patti Holmes for organizing this year's Christmas Party.

Old Business:

1. Next Vet Council meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024.
2. A conflict of veteran ceremonies in Hartford was discussed again. The VA Hospital has ceremonies starting at 10 AM. The Vet Council schedules its ceremonies to start at 10:30 AM. Our Post decided to ask the Vet Council, via Commander Brown, to start at 11 AM so that members could attend both the VA and Hartford ceremonies.
3. Commander Brown reminded us that we still need to plan for the American Legion Family Day in 2024. Discussion followed wherein the decision was made to have a BBQ at one of our baseball home games in July. Time and date to

be announced when the baseball schedule is finalized in June.

4. WWI/WWII Monument News

- a. Commander Brown reported that as of this meeting site prep work will be suspended until the spring.
- b. Commander Brown also reported that donations for memorial bricks has been successful and the monument committee will organize a placement plan during the winter.

5. Blue Star Memorial

- a. Clean-up on going thanks to Commander Brown, Luther Johnson, Howard Bixby and Scott Holmes.
- b. Scott has trimmed the evergreens on either side of the monument so that it is more visible to the passers-by.

6. Hometown Heroes Banners – The committee has voted Commander Brown as the Committee Chair Person. At the next meeting he will present samples to Scott Hausler (Parks and Recreation Director) and the other committee members and also discuss the issues pertaining to mounting to the Town's light poles and any other concerns.

7. Sam Zucker reported that the Post's web site is now up and running. Members may access the site at:

<https://www.post84vtlegion.org/index.cfm>

8. Members are requested to send comments about the site to Adjutant Scott Holmes at: thordog.holmes@gmail.com

9. Adjutant Scott Holmes stated that there is still time to register for the winter conference in January. See Appendix A for details. Contact Scott no later than January 8th if you plan on attending as Post 84 has budgeted some monies for attendees.

New Business:

1. There will be no meetings during the months of January, February and March. Next meeting will be April 4, 2024.
2. Commander Brown noted that the Vet Council's ceremonies for Memorial Day and Veterans Day are the same. He then defined Memorial Day as remembering our fallen comrades and Veterans Day as being for all veterans, past and present. He proposed to speak at the next Vet Council meeting in April to discuss a different procedure for these ceremonies.
3. Patti Holmes suggested we determine which veterans are shut-ins or in nursing homes and let them know they are not forgotten. Maybe we could provide them with sundries such as toiletries or just sit and talk.
Commander Brown told her that Linda Miller, who was able to get names for the Monument Project, might be able to help.
4. Special thanks from Commander Brown went to:
 - a. Sam Zucker for recording our meeting minutes and for getting our web site on line.
 - b. Patti Holmes for organizing the Haven Christmas Party.
 - c. Scott and Arthur Holmes for dismantling the Flags along Route 5.
 - d. Scott for his continuing efforts as our finance officer.
5. Scott announced that he will solicit some of our golf sponsors over the winter. Because of their corporate structure they need more planning time to budget their contributions.

Comrades in distress

Russell Collins

The meeting adjourned at 1931 hours.

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

Next meeting, Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM, at WRJ VA, Freedom Building (formally Building 44), Room 103a.

Appendix A

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT

2024 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET

HAMPTON BY HILTON, 42 Lower Mtn View Dr., Colchester, VT

Friday, January 19, 2024

COCKTAILS – 6:00 P.M

DINNER – 6:30 P.M.

Chicken Marsala & Cider Glazed Pork will be served with Herb Roasted Red Potatoes, Pasta Primavera, Sauteed Vegetable Medley, Chef's Choice Dessert Table – Coffee, Tea and Lemonade

\$35.00 per person – All Inclusive

Make Checks Payable to American Legion Department of Vermont

SEND CHECKS TO:

Dept. HQ, P.O. Box 396, Montpelier, VT 05601-0396

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS: January 8, 2024

 PLEASE RESERVE: # _____ Banquet Tickets

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ NAME: _____

Post/Squadron/Unit: _____ (Circle Legion Sons of
the American Legion Auxiliary)