American Legion Post 129 General Meeting Dec 7, 2023

Commander Joe Maichle called the meeting to order at 1900 and conducted the opening ceremony.

**Draping of the Charter**:

**Chaplain** Brian Hancher

Adjutant David Tarnowski conducted roll call of officers and certified a quorum was established. Roll call sheet attached.

Commander Maichle recognized Post 129 past and present commanders and department officers.

**Guest** 1: Pastor Chris Atkins presented a plaque thanking the post for use of the post.

**Guest 2**: Louis Lavaro, Member of 129 SAL. Asking for financial support for a high end (Imod) wheelchair. They already have a wheelchair system that weighs 495 pounds, causing problems with the car. The new one would allow more mobility and more opportunities. Suffers from depression. He is taking online courses now. The total is $43,000, they owe $26,000. Asking for $1,000 to $5,000.

**Guest 3:** Shellie Long, asking for a donation for 19th Street Charity. Go into two places with a police escort. The first place has 75 -100 kids, the second place about 30 kids. Needed $9,500, raised $7,800 so far. It would go to shoes, socks, bikes, and trikes. She is hoping Walmart can get them shoes for about $15 per pair. 130 pairs for a ballpark number. Amount not Asked.

**Guest 4:** Jo Ann Parrot, asking for $5,000 for the Casino Night. Proceeds go to PVR (Project Vet Relief). Last year $400,000 total was raised, we raised $20,000. Tickets are $40.

**Guest 5:** Ron Whittington gave a rundown on who he has contacted for advertising the post and events the past month.

**Guest 6:** Rick May informed us about the VA’s program for home care.

**Reading of the minutes**: Motion from Jerry Brandt to wave the reading of the minutes from November 2nd E Board and General Meeting. Mintes are on the wed site 2nd and passed.

**Commander’s Note:** As of December 6th,2023, the post stands at 73.93% for membership renewal which is 5th in the district. We have renewed 536 members as of this date with 16 awaiting to be processed which will give us 552 or 76.13% which was the goal on December 6th. Don’t forget, starting January 1st, cards will be checked so get renewed. When come back from Convention we will not bring the cards. If you are not paid up for life. Dues will be $50, and the card will be sent to you. National went up $5 Department is taking $3.

If you have not noticed, the locks on the exit doors have been changed per the Fire Marshal. They are a push type locking bar which has been approved. The termite company has completed their treatment for the termites. The next step is to get the front landscaped with some nice plants and flowers.

This weekend the Department Commander will visit the 5th District. He will be doing his visit to Post 129 on Friday morning at 10 am. Please come out and meet him and make a good showing for the post. The Department Commander and the Auxillary President will again be at the post on Saturday night for a Low Country Boil. The meal will be $15. Cocktails from 5 till 6 and dinner to follow. There will be Karaoke for music and entertainment. The Department Commander will also attend the 5th district meeting at 2 pm.

**Finance Report**: Was read by Jim Wineland and is posted in the hallway.

Second and passed subject to Audit.

**House Committee Report**: The House Committee report will be read at the General Membership Meeting. The committee called to order at 1830 hours on 12/6/23. All members present. Guests, Bar Manager Brandy, Joe Maichle, and Brandy presented the club report as follows.

Machines:

Pull Tabs Profits: No pull Tab report.

Lotto: $440.86

Bingo: Liberty $1,428.38, Freedom $11,602.65, Fish $20,081.40

The Fire Inspection was performed and instructed us to remove the bolt locks from the exit doors. They will be replaced on 12/6/23 at a cost of $1100.

All white doors will be repainted at a cost of $1100. The paint will be free. The locks on the doors in the Ladies room will be replaced.

Dave Brankinstein from S.A.L. presented the following S.A.L. purchased monuments which are the same as those in Veterans Park. They were originally supposed to be installed in VET Park, but the Jax Beach Art and Planning refused to let them be installed. The S.A.L. would like to install them around the flagpole at no cost to the post. He will present the proposal. The plan was approved by the House Committee pending Executive Board approval.

We need approval to purchase two air curtains to be installed between Freedom and Liberty Hall. These will ensure that smoke does not enter the hallway or Liberty Hall. Requesting $5,000 for purchase and installation. I am contacting HVAC company who will install the ventilation system. He will check if there is a better way to control the smoke in Freedom Hall when there is a large crowd next door.

One Disciplinary matter was adjudicated.

2nd and passed.

**1st Vice Membership**: New 8 and 3 Transfer. Second and Passed

**2nd Vice Kitchen Report**: The Hood fan is down.

**3rd Vice**: No report

**4th Vice:**  No report

**Chaplain**: No report

**SAL:** No quorum, informational meeting. Did approve support Riders $500 with the Commanders discretionary limit. Discussed $2500 to support the wheelchair. It will be voted on later.

**Service Officer:** He served 9 veterans and were directed to the VSO. There are sheets in the hallway for what documents are needed by the VA. Another sheet has all the numbers too.

**ALR:**  The ALR delivered bikes to Parkwood Heights Elementary School. The kids earn the bike by doing good deeds. They sang patriotic songs.

**Baseball:**  No report

**Boys State:**  We will need interviewer for the Boys State candidates.

**Honor Guard**: No report

**Old Business**: The committee to determine how we donate money to non-charity requests met on Nov 14th. They discussed the questions but did not create a form so these requesters can fill it out. The requirements need to include:

Are they active members in good standing?

Be interviewed by their residents.

Report to the E-Board with a recommendation.

One grant per year and up to $3,000.

**New Business:** Matt Altman - Motion for 3 minutes spoking time per guest. 2nd and passed.

The Monument plans are tabled till a design is submitted. What are we going to do with the bell?

Chuck Nist – Motion for $10,000 for smoke curtains. 2nd and passed.

Motion for $2500 towards the wheelchair. 2nd and passed. All requests after this will be vetted by the committee.

Motion for 19th Street Charity for $2500. 2nd and passed.

Motion for $7,000 to the Riders for PVR. 2nd and passed.

**Correspondence**: No

**Good of the Legion**: Jerry Brandt – If you have not renewed your membership, you can pay for three years at the present rate. If not, the dues will increase next year for you.

Danny – The Sandalwood JROTC will be doing a flag folding demonstration and Colors demonstration.

**Meeting adjourned** 2056 hours

David Tarnowski Adjutant Joe Maichles