

American Legion Ocean Beaches Post 129

June 06, 2024 General Meeting Minutes

Opening:

Commander Mike Flanagan called the meeting to order at 1900 hours and conducted the opening ceremonies:

- **Opening Prayer:** Ray Shires provided the opening prayer.
- **Roll Call:** Adjutant David Tarnowski completed the roll call: a quorum was established. The meeting sign-in sheet is attached (Attachment 1).
- **Guests:** The Commander asked if there were any guests. Two guests were present and they addressed the General Meeting.
 - **Guest 1:** Ms. Joanne Parrot/American Legion riders (ALR): Joanne presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Post 129 for supporting Casino Night. The ALR raised \$20,000 towards Project Vet Relief and Suicide Prevention.
 - **Guest 2:** Ms. Sherile Altman: Sherile presented Post 129 with a Plaque for for the Post's support of the Challenge 22 event in the spring.
- **Reading of Last Month's General Meeting Minutes:** Commander Flanagan reported that the May 2024 General meeting Minutes were posted to the Post 129 website and distributed to all Officers and eBoard members for review.

Motion No. 1: A motion was made to accept the minutes as posted to the Post 129 website. The motion was seconded and passed.

Commander's Opening Remarks:

- **Post 129 Membership:** Post 129 ended the year with membership at 101.52 %. Commander Flanagan thanked 3rd Vice Commander Kelly Rice for working so hard on membership over the last several months.
- **Acting Commander June 13-24, 2024 - Terry Stickles/2nd Vice Commander :** Commander Flanagan announced that he will be out of the country June 13th through June 24th. As such, and with the 1st Vice Commander position being vacant, Terry Stickles as the 2nd Vice Commander will be the Acting Commander. Please contact him with Post 129 business that requires the Commander's attention. Commander Flanagan said an e-mail will be sent informing the Post 129 Officers and e-Board.
- **Post 129 July 2024 e-Board and General Meetings:** The Commander reminded the membership that the normally scheduled meetings for July 2024 are cancelled. Commander Flanagan asked the House Committee Chair if they would meet and he was informed that the Planning and House Committee meetings would not be held as well. The next business meetings will be held in August.
- **Installation of Post Officers - July 13, 2024:** The Installation of Post Officer's for Post 129 is scheduled for Saturday, July 13, 2024 at 4:00 P.M. All current and new Officers and e-Board members should attend.
- **Open Slots for the FL Convention:** Currently Jeff Durden, David Tarnowski, Dale Fish, Jim Wineland, Danny Rodriguez, and Jerry Brandt will be attending the Florida Department Convention in June. There are still two open slots for delegates if anyone is interested. The Department of Florida Convention is

June 13th through June 16th in Orlando, FL. If anyone is interested in attending please see the Dave Tarnowski/Adjutant to Jeff Durden/Judge Advocate and incoming Post 129 Commander.

• **Post 129 Legion Family Organization Raffles - Drawings will be the Last Saturday of the Month:**

Commander Flanagan reported that the Post lost about \$50.00 on the raffle last month. He thanked Terry Stickles and Brandi for getting the Legion raffle together and purchasing the three grills. Commander Flanagan reported that the House Committee and Post 129 e-Board both made and passed motions to move all Post raffle drawings to the last Saturday of the month. The drawing will happen during the Queen of Diamonds Facebook live broadcast. This change is made to hopefully improve the promotion of Post 129's raffles and to provide more recognition of the raffle winners to the Post membership. Hopefully this change will get the information about the raffle and the winners to more members and lead to more participation.

Motion No. 2: A motion was made to have the monthly Post organization raffle drawings conducted on the last Saturday of each month during the Queen of Diamonds Facebook broadcast. The motion was seconded and passed.

Officer and Committee Reports:

- **Finance Officer Report:** Post 129's May's Financial Report was read by Jim Wineland. The report is posted in the Post 129 hallway and is attached (Attachment 2).

Motion No. 3: A motion was made to accept the Finance Report read and as posted. The motion was seconded and passed subject to audit.

- **House Committee Report:** The House Committee Meet 6/4/24. All members were present, Guest Brandy, Commander Flanagan, Judge Advocate Jeff Durden, J. Brandt, and Mike Smith. The House Committee meeting was called to order at 1830 hrs.

- Brandy reported the following the bar report profits: Pull Tabs - \$1,698.00; Lotto - \$198.60; Bingo: Liberty Hall – \$3,016.33, Freedom Hall - \$12,263.58; and Fish Machine - \$19,105.20.

- The maintenance performed by Tery Reglin (House Committee). Installed six auto light switches, repaired dumpster gate, and pressure washed area. Installed keypad locks on various doors throughout the post.

- Computerization of all membership has been upgraded by 3rd Vice Kelly Rice who has spent numerous hours doing so. We have received a subpoena for documents for the SAL. A member who belongs the Post 316. Without her work, it would have appeared we were refusing to comply with the subpoena.

- **Disciplinary Action:**

On May 6, 2024, Commander Mike Flanagan, Judge Advocate Jeff Durden, and myself confronted an employee (J.D.) with information Tom developed because of an internal investigation involving ongoing thefts.

He was dismissed after it was discovered he had stolen \$3,500. In addition to manipulating bingo machines. He admitted to theft, showed remorse, and accepted responsibility for his actions. As a result of this revelation, a security committee has been formed, will be monitoring all cash, and making changes as needed. He was offered both alcohol and gambling rehab. In addition, his canteen privileges were suspended for 1 year. The investigation is still ongoing. A letter of termination is included.

- **Post Canteen Incidents:** Please do not interfere with actions taken by the bartender and an unruly guest unless it is asked for! There was an incident where an officer stepped in and made the matter worse. Standby, observe, and wait. This goes for Police Offices unless you're involved.

Motion No. 4: A motion was made to to accept the House Committee Report as read. The motion was seconded and passed.

- **1st Vice Commander - Membership Report:** Commander Flanagan the First Vice Commander's report on members up for membership. He read the name of six (6) new members and seven (7) members transferring form other Posts. See the attached membership transaction report (Attachment 3).

Motion No. 5: A motion was made to accept all the new and transferring members. The motion was seconded and passed.

- **2nd Vice:** No Report.

- **3rd Vice:** No report.

- **4th Vice:** Rick Miller/4th Vice Commander reported on the Legion dinner: \$175.00 in expenses for food and chips and the Legion a receipts or \$144.00 dollars in tips and donations.

- **Chaplain:** No report.

- **SAL Report:** Brad Fisher provided an update on preliminary pricing for the large monument: the cost is about \$13,000; \$3,500 for War on Terror; the large monument Granite will take 12 to 13 months to complete and be delivered. The 'Night at the Races' is this Saturday: ticket sales start at 1830, \$2.00 bets. Motion for \$1000.00 for

- **Service Officer's Report:**

- The Service Officer made five (5) contacts, made two (2) referrals to the county veteran's office downtown.

- For Memorial Day 19 people helped placing American Flags before and after the holiday weekend.

- Presented medals at the Jax Beach, San Pedro, and Seabreeze Elementary Schools.

- He has asked to research WW2 veterans. A gentleman's son is doing a documentary about their life story, not war stories.

- **American Legion Riders:** No report.

- **Baseball Chair:** No report.

- **Boys State Chair:** Brad Fisher will be handling the Fifth District transportation duties at Post 129 for Commander Flanagan in his absence. The boys will be picked up on Father's Day and will return to Post 129 the following Saturday.

- **Beaches Honor Guard:** The Honor Guard Captain was present and reported that they went to 10 events last month. The Captain, John Poe, reported that at one event he was the only one. The

commander asked if the Beaches Honor Guard had reached out or gone to any other Posts to recruit new members. The Commander noted that this is an ongoing challenge for the Beaches Honor Guard and that it should be supported by many Posts within the Fifth District as it support Veterans events across the District.

- **Old Business:** The monuments are not ready. Landscaping of the post. Brad Fisher has two quotes. He feels best about the Grounds Guys because they made the first appointment, and he has worked with them before. There are two prices, \$3,000 for landscaping, \$5,000 for both landscaping and planters.

Motion No. 6: A motion was made to accept the Grounds Guys for up to \$3,000 landscaping and up to \$5,000 plus plants. The motion was seconded and passed.

- **New Business:** Jeff Durden - A group from Post 316 (Friends of Chili) have been holding a fund raiser at "Sneakers" at the beach since 2010. This group is waiting to hear from "The Brix", there are about 15 to 20 teams, the Sneakers event brought in \$34,000, they bring in their own band, and are reaching out to Post 129. \$25.00 per cup and \$10.00 for tasting. They would like to use the dirt lot to hold a chili tasting competition. In addition, they would need \$2,500 seed money that would be paid back to us, they get all permits, and there could be up to 1,500 people throughout the day. The money raised will come to us. It would be held the end of October.

Motion No. 7: A motion was made to fund \$2,500.00 towards 'seed money' for the Friends of Chili event if hosted by and at Post 129. The motion was seconded and passed.

- **Post 1290 Installation - Post Food:** Rick Miller/4th Vice Commander suggested that the Post provide some food for the members and guests after the Post Installation on July 13, 2024. He suggested a buffet style dinner option but the exact menu would still need to be planned and finalized.

Motion No. 8: A motion was made to fund up to for \$500.00 for food and supplies for members and guest for the Post 129 Installation on July 13, 2024. The motion was seconded and passed.

- **Florida Convention Candidates:** Jerry Brandt raised that the Post should decide who the Post will be supporting in positions that have multiple candidates running for various positions. Jerry presented the positions in play and the various Legionaries that were running for those positions. A verbal vote was taken for each position and the results were that the Post will support:

FL Dept. 2 nd Vice Commander – Bob Madison.	Chaplin - Mary Roberts
Nat'l Executive Comm. – Jerry Brandt	Northern Area Commander - Bruce Howal
FL Dept. Sargent at Arms – Troy Horsely	

- **Backpacks for Children for the 2024-2025 School Year:** Mike Smith discussed the need and then suggested that the Post provide funding for school children backpacks.

Motion No. 9: A motion was made to provide \$1000.00 for backpacks for school children. The motion was seconded and passed.

- **Sterling Golf Tournament:** Post 129's Auxiliary's annual Sterling Golf Tournament is planned for October 05, 2024. Commander Flanagan stated that funds raised pay for all the Girls State and Boys

State Candidates sponsored by Post 129. To sponsor a hole is \$150.00 and a Logo Sponsorship level of \$1800.00 gets Post 129's logo on the Tournament's flyer and other advertisements for the event. Additionally, the Post get's a foursome of golfers that can participate.

Motion No. 10: A motion was made to provide up to \$2,000.00 for Post 129 to sponsor a hole and a Logo Level Sponsorship. The motion was seconded and passed.

- **Post Correspondence:** None.
- **For the Good of the Legion:** Jeff Durden, the incoming Commander, would like Post 129 to provide a cell phone just for the Commander official duties and use. Additionally, he proposed the Post Service Officer be provided a cell phone as well. The phone would provide a number that could be used for organizations that work with the Post the same number to use, vice a personal telephone number, and the phone would be passed on the future Commanders. The Post Service Officer stated he did not want to change his phone or telephone number as too many Posts and other Veteran Organizations have been using his current number for many years and a change would be too disruptive. Jeff then suggested that the Post fund \$50.00 per month to provide assistance to Service Officer Danny Rodriguez's telephone bill. Commander Flanagan recommended that the same be done with organization email for the Commander and other key positions that members and outside organizations should use for communications with the Post's Officer's and Committee chairs for example.

Motion No. 11: A motion was made to (1) provide funding for a cell phone and monthly service for the Post Commander's use up to \$800.00; and (2) that \$50.00 per month be provided to the Post Service Officer. The motion was seconded and passed.

- Commander Flanagan inquired if there was any additional items for the Good of the Legion. There were no more business brought before the General Membership.

Motion No. 11: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Closing:

Commander Mike Flanagan proceeded with the meeting's Post Everlasting ceremonies, closing prayer, and adjourned Post 129's General Meeting for June 04, 2024 at 1950 hours.

Submitted by: David Tarnowski/Adjutant

Reviewed and Recommended for Approval: Michael Flanagan/Commander

Attachments:

- (1) June 04, 2024 General Meeting Sign-In Sheet
- (2) Financial Officer's Report for May 2024
- (3) Membership Ballot for New and Transferring Members - June 2024 General Meeting