



The American Legion Monmouth County Executive Committee



WILLIAM "WIL" FETHERMAN, County Commander
JOSEPH M. GUGLIUZZA, Department Executive Committeeman

MAILING ADDRESS;
232 Brighton Ave.
Neptune, New Jersey 07753
Email: jerseyjoc232@optimum.net

MINUTES OF MEETING AUGUST 6, 2020

The second meeting of the 2020-2021 year of the Monmouth County Executive Committee was held on August 5, 2020 at Union Beach Post 321. The meeting was called to order by County Commander William 'Wil' Fetherman. The colors were saluted and a prayer was offered by County Chaplain Bob Terrell. The Commander read Resolution 288, "The Empty Chair Ceremony" and lead the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion. The Commander thanked Post Commander Bill Schultz and the members of Post 321 for their hospitality.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICER/POSTS: All county officers were present with the exception of the DEC who was delayed due to traffic and the Junior Vice and Sgt.-at-Arms, who were excused. The following posts had representation at this meeting: Post 23, 54, 141, 266, 273, 321, 346, 529, totaling 8. We had a quorum.

MINUTES: A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the July meeting be approved as printed and electronically distributed. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF PAST COUNTY COMMANDERS AND OTHER VIPs: PCCs Gonzalez, Connors and Hancock.

CORRESPONDENCE: A communication from NEC Robbins was read. In short, the NEC met last week to vote immediately on Resolution #5, titled: "**Vision, Mission, Values and Motto of The American Legion.**" A copy of Resolution #5 has been emailed to each post in the county prior to the meeting. If you require an additional copy, contact the Adjutant.

Letter #1 from National Commander: National Commander Bill Oxford has taken the first steps on a 100-mile journey in support of our nation's veterans and children. This unique challenge – 100 Miles for Hope – was created to help drive resources toward our Veterans & Children Foundation. For a \$30 registration fee, 100 Miles of Hope participants receive a slick tech shirt (available in men's, women's and children's sizes), a sign to display and a certificate of accomplishment when they finish. Roughly 50 percent of the \$30 fee will go toward V&CF after figuring in costs for the shirts, shipping, etc. Post can also participate by creating their own events for members while keeping local social distancing rules in mind. This a great opportunity to safely celebrate Patriot Day, American Legion Day and Veterans Day. This endeavor can be an individual effort, a family effort, as well as a Post, County or Department effort. It is up to us. Learn more about this initiative on the Legion website, www.legion.org/100miles and get started by registering at Emblem Sales. More on this next month.

Letter #2 from National Commander: The National Commander writes with regard to the submission of **Consolidated Post Reports**, (CPR). The deadline for submission has passed, but that does not mean you should to submit your report. Primary results for submission is just over 68 percent of our 12,637 posts nationally. As you have been told for years, the information contained on these reports is consolidated and is the source for The National Commander's Testimony before Congress annually.

"Veterans Strengthening America"

Email us at: legionmccc@gmail.com

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This report to Congress, is required by our federal charter, although the deadline for submission has passed, we are encouraging all posts to complete these forms and submit them. You can complete the form online at mylegion.org or you can complete the hard copy sent to your post and mail it to department. Either way, do it! They will then consolidate the information for next years testimony.

We have received two letters of endorsement for the position of DEC. One from Post 54, for Thomas Hancock and one from Post 346 for Joseph M. Gugliuzza. Both letters were read in their entirety.

A letter was sent to Morgan State University along with a check for \$500 for one of our scholarship recipients, E’Niah Preston from Asbury Park HS. I have not received a letter for the other scholarship winner. These two scholarship awards are the American Legion Post 24/James Coleman Memorial Scholarships, which is administered by the MCEC from funds left to the County, in trust, when their post was disbanded. The amount of each scholarship is \$500.

We have also received updated applications for the National Emergency Fund (NEF) due to the storm. These applications are for individuals and posts (two separate apps). Due to the governor’s emergency declaration, due to the storm, you may be eligible for financial assistance from National. Contact Commander Wil for a copy of the app.

The Department meeting scheduled for Saturday, August 8, has been cancelled. The meeting has been re-scheduled for Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 9 am, at Ewing Post 314, 29 Lanning St., Ewing. If you are on a Department Committee, contact your Chairman as to when and where your meeting will be held. There will be no individual committee meetings on this day. As the capacity of the venue is limited, those required to attend are as follows: Dept. Officers, DECs, CCs, PDCs and Committee chairpersons. Social distancing protocols as well as face coverings must be adhered to.

Chaplain Terrell has been and continues to run a food bank. They distribute food baskets to those in need. If you would like to help out with this effort, contact Bob at: 732-779-3282. They also do a drive through pick-up, so if you know someone who needs this type of assistance also give Bob a call. This is in the Freehold area.

LEGISLATIVE: Joe Gugliuzza – As usual, at this time of year, I take a moment to refresh your minds with regard to political activity of The American Legion. We do not participate in politics. We are a 501(c)(19) IRS veteran’s non-profit organization. Any political activity can jeopardize your posts non-profit status. You can rent your hall to a political candidate but you must remove or cover any Legion identification symbols. If you wish to have a candidate’s night, all candidates must be invited and given equal time. No Legion caps at these events. If you have any questions on this, please contact Joe G, at 908-433-0858.

The Legislative Committee has prepared a resolution, asking the Governor and Legislative Leaders to not use mail in balloting for the general election. Due to what occurred in Paterson, we strongly oppose mail in voting. We have no problem with absentee ballots. This resolution will be taken up at the August 22, DEC meeting.

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BOYS STATE: Victor Wnorowski – Victor reported, as you all know by now, that the Boys State Session for 2020 was cancelled. Now listen carefully, if you have paid the tuition for this year, 2020, the Boys State people will hold your money 'til next year, unless you post wants a refund. If you decided not to

pay for this year, the deadline October 1, is going to be extended, but to when we don't know at this time. If you sent in money for 2020, and elect to have the Boys State hold the money, your post will receive a credit for that amount going forward to next year (2021) and any delegate who did not attend this year's session (2020), can attend at no charge next year. There will be more on this I am sure.

MEMBERSHIP – Mary Jo Burkhard – MJ reported that at this time we are in 16th place at 3.77%. These numbers are for the new year, 2021. Now is the time to get out and chase our members for the new membership year. In addition, we should be shaking the bushes and get in touch with those who have not paid their dues for 2020.

MJ also presented certificates from National to all who participated in the last Post Re-Vitalization effort. Congratulations to all participants for a job well done and thank you for your dedication to this effort.

REJHAB/GENERAL SERVICES: Ken Connors – Ken reported that things are quiet due to COVID-19. Telehealth that was started by the VA is up and running. If you have an issue, and in are the system, they can get you telehealth. Don't put your health on hold due to the pandemic. Contact the VA and make an appointment to see a doctor or a virtual appointment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: The commander announced that we would proceed with the election of our Department Executive Committeeman.

The Commander announced the delegate strength of each post, as prescribed in the MCEC Constitution, as follows:

Post 23, 4; Post 54, 5; Post 141, 1; Post 143, 2; Post 16, 2; Post 176, 1; Post 178, 2; Post 266, 3; Post 273, 1; Post 321, 6; Post 338, 3; Post 346, 8; Post 432, 2; Post 434, 2; Post 515 3, Post 529, 2.

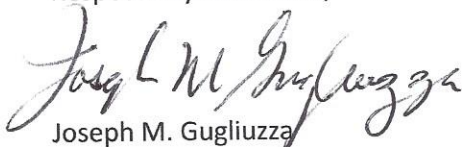
The Commander appointed Ed Poplaski , Post 23 and Ramon Gonzalez, Post 266 as tellers.

A roll call of posts was called for: Joe Gugliuzza was elected by those members present. Joe will begin his term as DEC immediately, and will be certified to Department Headquarters.

The Commander announced that the next meeting location will be determined at a later date.

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned with the usual service by the Commander and Chaplain.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Gugliuzza
Monmouth County Adjutant

The American Legion
National Executive Committee

Held on
Mail 2020
Resolution

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No.: 5

Title: Vision, Mission, Values and Motto of The American Legion

Origin: Finance Commission

RESOLVED, That The American Legion adopt the following mission statement:

“The American Legion strengthens our communities, states and nation with programs and services for our veterans, the military and their families.”; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion adopt the following value principles:

- *A VETERAN IS A VETERAN* – which means The American Legion embraces all current and former members of the military and endeavors to help them transition into their communities.
- *SELFLESS SERVICE* – which means The American Legion celebrates all who contribute to something larger than themselves and inspires others to serve and strengthen America.
- *AMERICAN VALUES AND PATRIOTISM* – which means The American Legion advocates for upholding and defending the United States Constitution, equal justice and opportunity for everyone and discrimination against no one, youth education, responsible citizenship and honoring military service by observing and participating in patriotic and memorial events.
- *FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT* – which means The American Legion meets the unique needs of local communities.
- *ADVANCING THE VISION* – which means The American Legion educates, mentors and leads new generations of Americans.
- *HONORING THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US* – which means The American Legion pays perpetual respect for all past military sacrifices to ensure they are never forgotten by new generations.; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion adopt the following motto:

“Veterans Strengthening America.”

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

William W. Kite

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Gaither M. Keener, Jr.

GAITHER M. KEENER, JR., Chairman
Finance Commission