



American Legion

Department of Wisconsin

8th District 2012 Fall Conference

2012 Fall Conference Meeting Minutes October 27 @ 0900 hrs Post 63, Clintonville, WI

1. District Commander Dan Rindt called the meeting to order at 0900hrs. The colors were advanced by the District Sergeant-at-Arms. Acting Chaplain Frank Wozniak gave an opening prayer. Commander Rindt led the POW/MIA ceremony. The POW/MIA flag was placed on the empty chair by 2nd Vice Commander Sam Solberg. 1st Vice Commander Jerry Krofta led the Pledge of Allegiance. Third Vice Commander Jim Young led the recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion.
2. Carter King, Post 63 Commander, welcomed the Legionnaires along with Waupaca County Commander Jim Jaeger. Judy Magee, Mayor of Clintonville, and Lisa Kuss, Clintonville City Administrator, also welcomed the Legionnaires.
3. Commander Rindt declared the meeting open and introduced the distinguished guests in attendance, including Past Department Vice-Commanders Gorst, Southworth, Jensen, Polaske and Wozniak, past Department Sgt-at-Arms Czarnecki. He also recognized Department Membership Chairman Mark Lesko and Department Vice-Commander Rynes.
4. Eighth District Auxiliary President Laurie Barber was leading a separate meeting of the 8th District Auxiliary ladies and did not attend the opening ceremony.
5. Roll call and determination of a quorum was completed by Adjutant Arien Herminath with the following results:
 - Members present: Commander Rindt, 1st Vice Commander Krofta, 2nd Vice Commander Solberg, 3rd Vice Commander Young, Finance Officer Jensen, Historian Southworth, Parliamentarian Van Ryzin, Sgts-at-Arms Winter and Baierl, Portage County Commander Le Croix, Waupaca County Commander Jaeger, Waushara County Commander Czarnecki, Marathon County Commander Borchardt, and Wood County Commander Fregien.
 - Members excused: Chaplain Knauf
 - Members absent: Shawano/Menominee County Commander Olsen.
6. The roll call of 8th District posts was taken with 53 delegates from 21 posts in attendance.
7. Minutes: Minutes of the 2012 Spring Executive Board meeting, 2012 Spring Conference, and two 8th District Caucuses at the 2012 Department Convention were handed out at the opening of the conference for perusal. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed.
8. 8th District Treasurer Jensen gave a finance report. A copy of the report is available for review, but will not be included as part of the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed. A collection was made for the Shell Fund which raised \$80.

9. District Officer Reports:

- a. Commander Rindt – Spoke about his travels since the Spring Conference. He also spoke about My Health Vet, a new program to help veterans enrolled in the VA health system. Commander Rindt encouraged all legionnaires to submit their post memberships in a timely manner.
- b. 1st Vice Commander Krofta – Spoke about a form that might be useful to log telephone calls related to membership.
- c. 2nd Vice Commander Solberg – Spoke about his attendance of meetings and functions in his area of responsibility.
- d. 3rd Vice Commander Young – He is new at his position and Commander Rindt gave a short report on his activities and accomplishments to date.
- e. Adjutant Herminath – Reported on the second year of the 8th District website and recommended that we authorize \$240 to renew the website for a third year. A motion was made and seconded to authorize renewal of the 8th District website for \$240, the motion carried. He then thanked the Posts and Counties that sent in their officer and mailing address updates in a timely manner.
- f. Parliamentarian Van Ryzin – He spoke about his activities during the reporting period. He has a copy of the Camp American Legion wish list that he turned in for 8th District perusal. He also spoke about recent Honor Flights that he was involved with and encouraged people to sign up.
- g. Chaplain Knauf – Commander Rindt gave a short report on his behalf on the cards and announcements that he sent during the reporting period.
- h. Historian Southworth – He spoke about his activities as 8th District Historian. He has the Spring Conference history book here for perusal.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the above reports. All in favor, the motion passed.

10. County Commander Reports:

- a. Marathon County Commander Pat Borchardt – Spoke about Post activity in Marathon County
- b. Portage County Commander Louis LeCroix – Spoke about Post activity in Portage County
- c. Shawano-Menomonie County Commander Larry Olson - Absent – Frank Wozniak stood in for the Commander and spoke about Post activity in Shawano-Menominee County
- d. Waupaca County Commander Jim Jaeger – Spoke about Post activity in Waupaca County
- e. Waushara County Commander Marty Czarnecki – Spoke about Post activity in Waushara County
- f. Wood County Commander Ronald Fregien – Spoke about Post activity in Wood County

A motion was made and seconded to accept the reports. All in favor, the motion passed.

11. The meeting adjourned for lunch at 11:30 and resumed activities at 13:00.

12. District Committee Chairman Reports:

- a. Americanism Jerome Krofta – Spoke about a new resolution calling for background checks for all persons involved in American Legion Baseball.
- b. Badger Boys State Jim Jaeger – Our program is the 6th largest program in the nation with 882 boys in attendance. The program may be limited to 850 boys next year due to limited space at Ripon college at a cost of \$250 a boy
- c. Camp American Legion Jim Jaeger – Spoke on current and future projects and repair initiatives at camp. This year saw an all-time high in attendance of 894, of that 526 were veterans and the rest care givers. Of the veterans in attendance this year, 108 were women.

14. Department Vice-Commander Ken Reynes was introduced by Commander Rindt. He gave a short review of his military service. He also spoke of a video he brought with him that demonstrates the hardships of veterans with physical disabilities coming out of war and how they dealt with extreme physical and mental challenges. Mr. Reynes said his attitude toward membership is based on three things: be passionate, be positive, and be persistent. He encouraged legionnaires to set goals and work toward them with a positive attitude. He encouraged the posts to make specific plans and do something. The reward of what we do is in the journey, there is no joy in sitting back and doing nothing. Ask each legionnaire at your post for the name of a potential new legionnaire, then contact these veterans and ask them to join. They are the future of our organization, and our replacements.

15. District Program Director Reports:

- a. Americanism and Government Testing Arien Herminath – Reported on the ongoing plan to make this program available on line in 2013.
- b. Baseball Jim Young – Gave an extensive report on updates to American Legion baseball, to include a proposed requirement for all program volunteers to have a background check carried out by national. There will be a link on the Department website for this.
- c. Scouts Lyle Freiberg – Gave a short report.
- d. County Youth Government Arien Herminath - Reported that Frank Wozniak and Arien Herminath are contact persons for information on this program.
- e. Homeless Veterans David Jensen – Gave a report on this program, including updated contact information and a list of the needs of homeless veterans at King.
- f. Oratorical Wayne Winter – Reported that the Regional and Final competitions will be held at Ripon College on Saturday, 16 February 2013. The 8th District competition will be held on 2 February 2013 starting at 09:30 am. Wayne said this will be his last year as 8th District Oratorical Chairman as he may move next year. He also discussed the possibility of holding the 8th District competition in other locations than Wautoma in the future.
- g. SAL Liaison Dan Rindt – Reported on SAL activities this past year.
- h. Shooting Sports Don Southworth - Gave a short report on the program. He encouraged posts to promote shooting sports and work toward sponsoring a team.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Committee and Program Director reports. All in favor, the motion passed.

16. Old Business:

- a. Commander Rindt read a list of posts that had money coming from Department for on-line membership renewals.
- b. Commander Rindt also read a list of posts that had not submitted updated officer lists to Department.
- c. Commander Rindt reminded all attendees to submit candidates for American Legion awards. The forms for these awards are available in the Administrative Manual and the 8th District website.
- d. Commander Ken Reynes spoke about the new on-line American Legion Extension Institute course. He encouraged all legionnaires to take the new on-line course, even if they have completed the previous course. He also encouraged posts to look into the requirements for receipt of the Post Excellence Award.

17. New Business:

- a. Commander Rindt mentioned that Post 54 is interested in hosting the 2013 8th District Spring Conference. He encouraged Post 54 to get a formal bid in ASAP. He also mentioned that Post 263 is interested in hosting the 2013 8th District Fall Conference. He also encouraged Post 263 to get a formal bid in ASAP.
- b. Commander Rindt asked for a motion to renew the 8th District website for a third year at a cost of \$240. A motion to renew the website for \$240 was made and seconded. The motion passed.
- c. Commander Rindt then spoke about the need to complete and turn in the LIC insurance forms sent out to all posts.
- d. Commander Rindt also spoke about the upcoming Department Mid-Winter Conference scheduled for 18-20 January 2013. He encouraged everyone to attend, especially on Friday when a large number of valuable training courses will be offered.
- e. Don Southworth suggested that the 8th District donate \$250 each to the Appleton and Wausau Honor Flights and Camp American Legion. Motions to donate \$250 to each of these programs were defeated.
- f. Commander Rindt thanked Post 63 for hosting the 2012 8th District Fall Conference. He also called out the serving staff of Mathew's Supper Club for a round of applause.
- g. Commander Rindt stated that he would not call an 8th District Executive Board Meeting prior to the Mid-Winter Conference in January.
- h. Cathy Gorst reported that Post 54 would have a dedication to add a soldier killed in Afghanistan to the post name. The dedication ceremony will be held on Thursday evening, 8 November starting at 5:30 pm. Post 54 is accepting donations for a scholarship to be established in this soldier's name.
- i. Finally, Commander Rindt encouraged legionnaires to run for office this coming spring.
- j. There being no further business to come before the meeting, Acting Chaplain Wozniak gave a closing prayer. Sergeant at Arms Winter retired the POW/MIA flag. The colors being in place, legionnaires rendered a hand salute. Commander Rindt declared the meeting adjourned at 1430 hours.

Submitted by: Arien Herminath, 8th District Adjutant