

- I. 1900 hours: Pre-meeting presentation by Steven Massey, Director, Illinois Fallen Soldier Tree Memorial at Illini State Park, Marseilles, RE project updates, with a display board. The committee seeks additional support for the expanded plan, to memorialize soldiers from Illinois who have died in the Middle East Wars. The 2.5 acre site contains 250 Oak trees, a 7-ton granite memorial stone with a plaque; a 33-foot flag pole with solar lighting; handicap-accessible concrete walk and surround, with a concrete parking area. Donations are needed for placement of pre-cast concrete forms, to display individual bricks which will have the name, hometown, and branch of service of each fallen soldier (262 as of May 24, 2017). \$7,700 has been collected so far; \$16,000-20,000 is needed. A plaque will acknowledge significant donors. Mr. Massey acknowledged our original support of \$100, and asked us to consider expanded support for the revised plan. Ended with applause.
- II. Call to Order at 1917 Hours by Commander (CMDR) Ray Gerkitz; standard opening.
- III. Roll Call: All present except: Finance Officer (F.O.) Ron Slafer and Chaplain Fred Ruggeri-excused, health. Judge Advocate Joe Navarro. 26 present = quorum.
- IV. Typed Minutes presented; typo noted to be corrected, by Chuck Beckett. Motion to Accept by Phil Sterba; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dave Kennedy. Passed, Unanimously (= U)\
- V. Committee Reports
  - A. CMDR, for F.O. Slafer: Bingo: Motion to accept report by Bob Olson; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jerry Wold. Pass (U) Motion to accept by Bob Cokley; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jerry Sexton. Pass (U) Motion to accept by Bill Veith; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jeff Roche. Pass (U) Motion/accept Sterba; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bob Cokley. Pass (U). Motion/accept Veith; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Al Rowe. Pass (U) Bar Report Motioned to accept by Ken Donnelly; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Bob Cupples. Pass (U)
  - B. Service Officer: No activity.
- VI. Correspondence
  - A. Thank You (T.Y.) & \$200 received from Mayor Bob Eschbach, for Honor Guard services for his Dad, Virgil.
  - B. T.Y. & \$200 received from Brent Billings' family, for Honor Guard services.
  - C. T.Y. from Department of Illinois for \$50 donation; placed in "Toby Tire" account.
  - D. T.Y. & \$350 from the Kolotka family, for Honor Guard services for James. Stipulated for the Building Account.
  - E. T.Y. & \$500 from Merle Norwick family, for Honor Guard services. (Adjutant's note: Merle loved the Legion. His son Dana has transferred in to Post 33, as well.)
  - F. CMDR & SrVice Schueler: 22 watches were presented to Ottawa High School and Marquette Academy graduates who have enlisted. Thank you to Van Duzer Jewelry and

[continued: ] to the manufacturer: the \$500 watches only cost us \$143 each, because they provided us with very generous discounts.

- G. Donation Request (D.R.) by Voluntary Action Commission for their "Meals on Wheels" program, which provide over 51,000 meals/year to area citizens. F.O. Slafer provided a note, that we gave \$100 last year. So moved, by Ken Donnelly; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Phil Sterba. Pass (U)
- H. D.R., to area high school Sports Boosters booklets. Motion to provide \$150 each to Ottawa High School and Marquette Academy by Cokley; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Hanley. Pass (U)
- I. Auxiliary "Poppy Days" report: We collected \$5,921.97; the Post's share is \$2,960.98. The increase is due to more participation and hours worked. Top five workers were: #1 Jerry Sexton with \$563.83 brought in; #2 Vic Hackler Sr (only \$5 less!); #3 Jean Firlik; #4 John Duback; #5 Jim Nanouski. Legion Hats will be provided to all who worked 4 hours, plus. With applause.
- J. SrVice: We will have our installation for all Post Officers at the July 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting; however, they will not assume duties until the gavel falls at the end of the Department of Illinois Convention on July 16<sup>th</sup>. [Includes Post, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders. Riders to cook.] Also, take time to see the upstairs Bingo Hall: great improvements! To applause.

VII. New Business

- A. New monitor is up in bar area. Scrolling messages to promote post activities. Trying to have only one member to be the "Hall Rental" master coordinator, to prevent conflicts. Dugout is free to rent for a member, with \$100 deposit toward cleaning (could be returned). Non-members: \$150 rental per event, with \$100 deposit toward cleaning (again, could be returned, depending on condition of the Dugout.) Schueler presented updated contract form at last meeting. Upstairs can be rented, but usually not on Saturday's "Bingo" night.
- B. Military statues will be installed outside, pending placement approved by the City of Ottawa and Mayor Eschbach, who will stop by this week to confirm the location.
- C. Duback: A. Membership Report: We are at 96.41% now, and still need 20 more new members or renewals in the next 2 weeks to make our 100%; Please help! B. Three new members to approve: 1. Dana Norwick, Army, Panama; transfer in from Dept (2910). 2. Roy Drake, Jr., Army, Grenada/Lebanon. 3. Dan Richard, Navy, Grenada/Lebanon. Motion to approve by Vic Hackler, Sr.; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jerry Sexton. Pass (U) C. Request your support to allow the membership committee to approve any new members we find, before the June 23<sup>rd</sup> cut-off date. So moved by Ed Stash; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Donnelly. Pass (U). D. Report of election results: For Commander: Ray Gerkitz, 34; Bob Olson, 18. Junior Vice Commander: Ron Staple, Jr.: 44. 3-year Trustee: Tom Przybyla, 29; Jeff Delagarza, 23. Congratulations to our top vote-getters [with thanks to the other gentlemen for providing us with a choice.] E. We will be coordinating with the Auxiliary, to see if we can secure a grant, under the new proposal from their National.
- D. CMDR: 1. Special Olympics is this coming weekend; please try to help work. Commander is taking down some peanut butter, donated by Con-Agra Foods. 2. The Classic Car Show Page three, Minutes, Regular Meeting Ottawa A.L. Post 33, June 5, 2017

[continued] sponsored by the LaSalle County Cruisers will be on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. We plan to sell pork chops and bratwurst burgers again. Bill Veith/Jerry Sexton: Rider's to cook. 3. Please attend the Convention in July.

- E. Ed Stash: 12<sup>th</sup> District meeting in Plano yesterday. There is updated health information available, regarding the contaminated water at Camp Le Juene. There are eight diseases specifically outlined; please check the poster on the Commander's Board, and online.
- F. CMDR: 1. We will go to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery on Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, to support their quarterly Memorial Service for deceased veterans who had no known family to bury them. We will leave from Post 33 at 7:30 AM and stop for breakfast after. 2. The City of Ottawa's Patriotic Night will be on July 1<sup>st</sup> in Washington Square. Our friends the Bagpipers will be the featured entertainment; they will transition over here afterward and play some songs for us, as well.
- G. Discussion on support for the Illinois Fallen Soldiers Tree Memorial, as presented by Steve Massey before the meeting tonight. Motion that \$400 more be donated by Michael Hanley; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jerry Sexton. Passed, 24-1.
- VIII. Departed Members/Veterans, by Bob Cupples: Robert E. Kosnick and Verner W. Corrigan. Prayers by Assistant Chaplain Bob Cupples.
- IX. Standard Closing Ceremonies.
- X. Adjournment at 2013 Hours.

[Adjutant's Addendum: Added Legion Family Members who supported the Poppy Days (in approximate order of monies turned in-not ranking): Ed Stash; Jim George; Al Rowe; Bill Veith; Bob Olson; Barb Olson; Tom Przybyla; Bob Cupples; Terry and Ronna Willet; Bill Elzer; Dave Kennedy; Jeff Roche; Jim Eich; Linda Hackler; Curt Dilley; Ron Slafer; Wilma Derix; Dan Roeling; Donna Nelson; Bob Cokley; Beth Gregory; Yacko; Ed Yanek; Mark Stevenson; Kathy Valdez; Geline Marshall; Katie Troccoli, and in Washington Park: Dawn Ferguson and her daughter Katrina Wallace. You all are the reason for our success!]

Drawings: #818, Jim Nanouski  
#387, Jeffrey Mulvany, Absent