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Description automatically generated**AMERICAN VETERANS (AMVETS)**

**Department of Virginia**

**AMVETS-VA Post 18**

**P.O. Box 731**

**851 Green Street**

**Stephens City, VA 22655**

*We are Veterans serving Veterans and their Families!*

*AMVETS Post 18 where every Veterans’ honorable service is respected!*

**Post Home: 851 Green Street, Stephens City, VA**

**Phone: 540-508-2973**

**Email: amvetsva18@gmail.com**

**Website: amvetsva18.com**

**AMVETS Post 18 – Membership Meeting Agenda**

**Time/Date: 1830-1930, Wed., 15 Mar 2023**

**Place: Post Home**

**1. OPENING CEREMONIES:**

* **CALL to ORDER [Opening Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, Preamble]**

**2. PRESENTATIONS/SPECIAL GUESTS:** JLC Presentation to Del. Bill Wiley (w/Jay Marts); Angie Edwards, Bank of Clarke; and CAP Maj Josh Bixler

**3. ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **POSITION** | **2022-2023** |  |  |  |  |
| Commander | **Ralph Hensley** |  | Finance Officer | **Don Ashley** |  |
| 1st Vice Commander | **Mike Cordero** |  | Provost Marshall | **Walter Jagiello** |  |
| 2nd Vice Commander | **Dan Drew** |  | Judge Advocate | **Rey Santos** |  |
| 3rd Vice Commander | **Joe Dewald** |  | 1 Year Trustee (Chair) | **Tyrone Cregar** |  |
| Adjutant | **Paul Savidge** |  | 2 Year Trustee | **Andy Vaughn** |  |
|  |  |  | 3 Year Trustee | **Joe Kelly** |  |
| **APPOINTED:** | **2022-2023** |  |  |  |  |
| Chaplain | **Paul Campbell** |  | Quartermaster | **Doug Burdette** |  |
| Service Officer | **John Roberts** |  | Historian | **Bill House** |  |
| Public Relations Officer | **Barney Stine** |  | Ladies Auxiliary President | **Chris Cregar** |  |
| Sons Squadron Commander | **Steve Renner** |  | Legendary Riders | **Tony Farrel** |  |

**Members Present: \_\_\_\_\_; Quorum Established [**Bylaws Art I, Sec 2; 5 (1)]

**4. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION:**  Reading of the **15 FEB 2023** be dispensed as discussion items have been included in the current agenda/minutes.

**5. REPORT of OFFICERS / STANDING COMMITTEES:**

* **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Commander’s Opening Remarks:

* Introduce new Members present.
* New website up & running: amvetsva18.com
* National Vietnam War Veterans Day Welcome Home Ceremony – 1100, Wed, 29 MAR @ Winchester National Cemetery.
* Mission BBQ hosting lunch with free sandwich for all Veterans.
* Vietnam Veterans Day Dinner – Open to ALL Veterans – 1730-1930, Wed, 29 MAR @ Elks Lodge # 867
* Apple Blossom Veterans Dinner and Show hosted by Navy Federal Credit Union – Tickets online: <https://www.thebloom.com/tickets.html>. $50/person. 1700-2000, Wed, 3 May @ James R. Wilkins, Jr. Athletic and Events Center, Shenandoah University.

**Goals for Quarter:**

* Hold May Elections -- New Commander needed. All Officer positions are open. This is a unique opportunity to remake our Post and take it to the next level.
* ~~NOVDECJANFEBMAR~~**APR:** Charter Legendary Riders. Charter endorsement letter sent 12 MAR 2023
* Setup U.S. Flag Sales. Researching drop-ship options to avoid holding inventory, maintaining minimal inventory for direct sales. Setting up online store on new website page.

**Issues and Trends:**

* We continue to grow!
* Member participation and volunteer help needed for events.

**B. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** (1st Vice Commander – Mike Cordero)**:**

* **Life Membership Issues:** If you have applied and paid for a Life Membership and did not receive your life membership card, please contact Mike Cordero and he will contact National Membership to find out what’s going on.
* **Membership Report**:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Life**  **Members** | **Annual**  **Members** | **Current Paid Members** | **Current Rostered Members** |
| **10 MAR 23** | **01 MAR 23** | **TOTAL** | **TOTAL** |
| **83** | **95** | **178** | **178** |
| **10 MAR 22** | **01 MAR 22** | **TOTAL** | **TOTAL** |
| **61** | **64** | **125** | **125** |

**\*\*PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES\*\***

* **Recruitment is our best means of growth and survival!**
  + Invite friends to Post activities or meetings. Just bring your friends in and see what we have to offer…
  + Handout Windshield Recruitment Flyers.
  + Participate in Post events.
  + Setup a recruiting table at your organization/club.
  + *Attend DAV, VFW, American Legion meetings and ask Veterans if they want to join AMVETS and hand out flyers/applications.*
* *Social Members in Post…exploring option of inviting general members of the public to join Post and use the Canteen; however, these members have no voting rights. Discussions include $50 dues, opening Post for 1 year trial. Issue will be brought to vote after House Rules installed.* Motion to Open up Canteen for Social Members was made. Then after discussion motion was made to have Committee obtain and finalize Rules for Social Member….then it will be voted on by all members.  After much discussion they did not want to vote to allow social members until we had a set of rules in place. *Awaiting completion and approval of Canteen Operations SOP and Club Rules – Presentation and vote at April meeting.*

**C. PROGRAMS & AMERICANISM COMMITTEE** (2nd Vice Commander – Dan Drew):

* **Program Reporting** as of **March 2023:** Volunteers **6;** Hours **156;** Miles **413**; Value **$4,618.80.**
* **Grants:** Elks Freedom Grant. Vote needed on matching Elks grant funds. Request from Elks Club Veteran Committee to join them on a application for Elks Freedom Grant-attempting to obtain $3000.00. 12/27/2022 gave a presentation with PROGRAMS involving LRCC’s 3 different Veteran Programs. Timeline for the grant is around March/April. Elks Club does all the paperwork. We would be included as the Veteran group assisting. **OUTCOME:** The FREEDOM Grant of $3,000 will be applied strictly to the Honor Flight…grant will allow Elks to sponsor 12 veterans. Awaiting announcement of grant approval.
* **Flag Recognition Program:** Local area business/neighbor flag replacement w/recognition. **NOMINATION:** Veterans at Spanish Oaks.
* **Flag Replacement Program:** Who’s Next?
* **Flag Retirement Program**: Working with Boy Scout Troop for Flag retirement ceremony in Spring. Stephens City has agreed to allow us to use old school parking lot for ceremony. Young Marines invited to take part. (LEAD: Mike Cordero).
* **AMVETS ROTC/JROTC Awards**: Email sent to 13 schools, 1 reply to date. Email reminder sent 27 Jan 2023.
* **AMVETS White Clover** **Program:** FY23 -10% of fiscal year gaming profit to White Clover Program.
* **AMVETS National Guard Family Support Program - 3-116th Infantry:** Nothing new to report.
* **Boy Scouts of America (BSA):** Sponsoring Troop 15 Stephens City. U.S. Mailbox ready for Eagle Scout project – new Flag retirement box for Post. Eagle Scout Project: Flag Retirement Box @ Mission BBQ. High visibility with local Veterans and their families. Hensley to discuss with Mission BBQ Manager. Cordero working with Scout on project requirements. Current flag retirement box being refurbished by Maaco Winchester. Mike Cordero working with Scout on other options.
* **Laurel Ridge Community College** (LFCC) - **Veterans Services Center Office (**[LINK](https://lfcc.edu/current-students/services-for-students/counseling-advising-and-career-services/veterans-affairs/)**)** and **Student Veterans Organization** ([SVO](https://lfcc.edu/current-students/student-life/clubs-organizations/middletown-clubs-and-organizations/student-veterans-organization/))**:** Refer to Elks Grant information above.
* **Top of Virginia Regional Chamber** <https://www.regionalchamber.biz/>:
  + Calendar Year 2023 dues paid.
  + Upcoming events:
* **Young Marines:** Meet at Post 2nd and 4th Sunday (1245-1700).Need Volunteers to remain at Post Home when Young Marines are holding their training sessions.

**D. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** (3rd Vice Commander – Joe Dewald)

**NATIONAL:**

* Legislative Advocacy Week, 7-11 Mar 2023. Commander attended and contacted 10 Virginia congressional delegation offices.
* AMVETS Priorities in Washington DC:
  + Equitable IRS Treatment for Veterans Organizations. AMVETS is currently classified as a 501(c)19. Bill will allow all Congressionally Chartered VSOs to receive tax deductible donations.
  + Suicide Prevention in the VA and Armed Forces. AMVETS leads the way in highlighting that mental health resulted in unnecessary loss of life amongst Military and Veterans.
  + Concurrent Receipt Repeal (Major Richard Star Act, HR 1282/S 344). Current rules deny Veterans receiving both military retirement pay and VA disability compensation if they are forced to retire early from military service due to injury or disability.

**STATE:** JLC presentation to Del. Bill Wiley for Veteran program support during this legislative session.

**LOCAL:**

**E. FINANCES** (FO Don Ashley):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Navy Federal Account Balances** | | | | As Of: | 10 MAR 2023 | |
| Account Name | Post 0728 | Savings 7390 | Canteen 7895 | Electronic 0757 | Paper 7803 | Building 8912 |
| Account Balance | 6691.97 | 3911.40 | 27053.42 | 5947.54 | 10482.33 | TBD |

**F. CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE** (JA Rey Santos): Department JA will submit minor change for Department Bylaws to next Department convention for approval. Department under former Bylaws until this is completed.

**G. TRUSTEES** (1st Year Tryone Cregar, 2nd Year Andy Vaughn, 3rd Year Joe Kelly): Canteen SOP presentation, discussion, and vote at April 2023 meeting.

**6. APPOINTED OFFICERS and COMMITTEES**

1. **QUARTERMASTER** (Doug Burdette):

* **AMVETS Covers:** Taking orders for AMVETS covers – Order forms available at Bar. ~~Initial orders sent 18 May 22. Commander resending order based on info from Dept NECman.~~ Cover maker is behind schedule after COVID. National 1st Vice stated that VFW bought large quantities of covers and put production behind schedule.
* **HATS:** ~~PEC approved requested to buy 100 hats – 11 JAN 2023.~~ ACTION completed.
* **Fundraising Activities & Events**:
* Donations:
  + Sponsor window created. New sponsors added as needed.
  + Aluminum Can Drive – Bring in your aluminum cans!
* **Ceiling Tiles – Veteran dedications**. ~~Commander working with local printer on design and samples.~~ ~~Design will be completed with sample provided at March meeting~~ (ON HOLD; awaiting information from Veterans supply group that makes ceiling tiles for American Legion Posts).
* **LIVE AMVETS Post 18 Auction:** 1800, Saturday, 03 June @ Post Home. Items needed for auction.

1. **CHAPLAIN** (Chaplain Paul Campbell): Providing ministry at local nursing home with daughter accompanying visits (playing piano).

**B. SERVICE OFFICER** (VSO John Roberts):

**C. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER** (PRO Barney Stine).

* *ACTION: Grover Gaming sponsoring text messaging capabilities. Setup text messaging and start using it for Post announcements and events.*
* **VOTE:** Purchase fire ring and bowl from Winchester Metals. Fire ring will be a U.S. Flag and AMVETS logo. Motion by Barney to purchase Fire Ring was discussed and then tabled due to not having a place to store this item and also should we be spending money on items like this. Should be noted that Sons of AMVETS has offered to pay for the ring. More discussion is needed. ACTION completed, fire ring on display in Post Home.
* **Recycling A Loved One’s Old Military Uniform:** 2 articles about what to do with old uniforms and keep memories alive.
  + <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/03/07/military-uniform-recycling/>
  + <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/moaa-blog/3-ways-to-rid-your-closet-of-old-military-uniforms/>

1. **HISTORIAN** (Bill House):
2. **HOUSING COMMITTEE**:

* Handicap Bathroom Remodel (Lead Ralph Hensley). Bathroom remodel April timeframe. Anyone want to help?
* Search for larger facility underway.

**7.** **LADIES AUXILIARY** (Chris Cregar)

* Working with Sons and Riders on events.
* Donated $500 to Chapter 7 Ladies Auxiliary President.
* Creating $500 scholarships for local HS students.
* Working Red Cross Blood Drive @ Stephens City fire hall.
* Vaccination Clinic – more details/TBD
* “Egg a Yard” Easter Fundraiser

**8. SONS SQUADRON** (Steve Renner)

* NEXT SONS’ MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 1830, Wed, 22 Mar @ Post.
* Coney Island Ripoff being planned for 4th of July timeframe…
* Cornhole Tournament in planning; date/place TBD.

**9.** **LEGENDARY RIDERS** (Tony Farrell)

* NEXT RIDERS MEETING: 1900, Thu, 16 Mar 2023 @ Post.
* Riders Chapter Charter – Awaiting charter from National.
* **Ride to Remember – Memorial Day!** Post host kickoff event. Chapter sponsor ride to DC for parade.

**10. UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS**:

* 2023 Membership Dues: If received bill in mail, come to Post to pay.
* 14 Jun: Elks Flag Day Event @ Old Courthouse – Post participating in event.

**11. NEW BUSINESS:**

* 22-27 Aug 2023: AMVETS National Convention, Pittsburgh PA
* Bounced Check Policy going into effect immediately – $50 return fee, no privileges.

**12. GOOD of the ORDER:**

* Service pics for wall – Bring your pics!
* 17 MAR: St. Patty’s Day dinner & gaming @ Canteen.
* Slab of bacon pull @ St. Patty’s Day dinner.
* Hat prices increase to $15 at events. Will remain $10 for Post Members.

**CLOSING COMMENTS**:

* Thanks for spending your evening at your Post!

**MEETING ADJOURNED** @ **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Ralph Hensley

Commander

AMVETS Post 18

**EVENT CALENDAR**

**March 2023**

Women’s History Month

1 – Happy Birthday Andrew Drexler!

1 – Happy Birthday Ken Gamache!

3 – Navy Reserve Birthday

4 – Happy Birthday Doug Burdette!

4 – Hug a GI Day

5 – Seabee Birthday

6 – Happy Birthday Russell Kendall!

8 – Happy Birthday Mark Oliver!

8 – Happy Birthday Tom Rodrigues!

***8 – AMVETS Post 18 PEC Meeting***

11 – Happy Birthday Danny Hambrick!

12 – Daylight Savings Time Begins

13 – Happy Birthday Phil Hunter!

13 – K-9 Veterans Day

14 – Happy Birthday Jonathan Germain!

14 – Happy Birthday Ray Steele!

***15 – AMVETS Post 18 Membership Meeting***  
15 – Happy Birthday Rich Rouleau!

15 – American Legion Birthday

17 – Saint Patrick’s Day

**17 – St Patty’s Dat Dinner & Gaming Competition @ Canteen**

19 – Happy Birthday Don Ashley!

20 – Happy Birthday Joe Dewald!

21 – Rosie the Riveter Day

22 – Ramadan Begins

23 – Happy Birthday Mike Diaz!

25 – Medal of Honor Day

28 – Happy Birthday Shari Fletcher!

28 – Happy Birthday Allan Trawinski!

29 – National Vietnam War Veterans Day – 1100 Welcome Home event @ Winchester National Cemetery // 1730 Dinner @ Elks.

30 – Happy Birthday Gene Shumaker!

**April 2023**

Month of the Military Child

Military Saves Month

1 – April Fool’s Day

1 – Happy Birthday AMVET Philip Thomas!

5 – Passover Begins

5 – Gold Star Spouses Day

7 – Good Friday

8 – Happy Birthday AMVET Pasquale Monacelli!

8 – Happy Birthday AMVET Demetrios Sioris!

9 – Easter

9 – National Former POW Recognition Day

12 – Happy Birthday AMVET Owen Johnston!

12 – Happy Birthday AMVET Ashley Moslak!

***12 – AMVETS Post 18 PEC Meeting***

13 – Passover Ends

14 – Air Force Reserve Birthday

15 – Purple Up! For Military Kids Day (Wear purple to show support and thank military children

for their strength and sacrifices)

18 – Happy Birthday AMVET Ron Paul!

***19 – AMVETS Post 18 Membership Meeting***

20 – Happy Birthday AMVET John Arpin!

*21-22 – DEC Meeting @ Staunton*

21 – Ramadan Ends

22 – Happy Birthday AMVET Shannon Saville!

22 – Earth Day

23 – Army Reserve Birthday

26 – Happy Birthday AMVET William Hayden!

29 – National Vietnam War Veterans Day

30 – National Military Brats Day

**May 2023**

Month of the Military Caregiver

National Military Appreciation Month

1 – Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW)

1 – National Correctional Officers Week

1 – Silver Star Service Banner Day

1 – Loyalty Day (Day set aside to reaffirm loyalty to the U.S.A.)

1 – Happy Birthday AMVET Eric Ritter!

1 – Happy Birthday AMVET Tom Sessions!

3 – Happy Birthday AMVET Jim Reeder!

4 – Happy Birthday AMVET Stan Erwin!

4 – National Day of Prayer

6 – Happy Birthday AMVET Paul Campbell!

6 – National Nurses Week Begins

8 – VE Day

***10 – AMVETS Post 18 PEC Meeting***

12 – Happy Birthday AMVET Gary Mitchell!

12 – National Nurses Week Ends

13 – Armed Forces Week Begins

13 – Children of Fallen Patriots Day

15 – Peace Officers Memorial Day

17 – Happy Birthday AMVET Kevin Smith!

***17 – AMVETS Post 18 Membership Meeting – Post Elections!***

19 – Happy Birthday AMVET Warren Arthur!

20 – Armed Forces Week Ends

20 – Armed Forces Day

20 – Veterans Golden Age Games Begin

21 – Happy Birthday AMVET Preston Coxe!

22 – Maritime Day

25 – Happy Birthday AMVET Tiffany Fletcher!

25 – Veteran Golden Age Games End

26 – Flag Placement at Winchester National Cemetery (starts at 4:30 pm)

27 – Happy Birthday AMVET Bob Ryan!

29 – Memorial Day (Post Officers lay wreath at Winchester National Cemetery at 11:00 am)

30 – Happy Birthday AMVET Jim Stephens!

**June 2023**

PTSD Awareness Month

Homeownership Month

1 – Happy Birthday AMVET Bill Copp!

***3 – LIVE Auction @ Post 18***

6 – Happy Birthday AMVET Larry Davis!

6 – D-Day

7 – Happy Birthday AMVET Ruthie Redmond!

8 – Happy Birthday AMVET Ralph Hensley!

10 – 10th Annual Museum Open House and Living History Event @ American Military Museum, Stephens City – 0900-1700

11 – National Flag Week Begins

12 – Women Veterans Day

13 – Happy Birthday AMVET Charles Zaun!

14 – Army Birthday

14 – U.S. Flag Day

15 – Happy Birthday AMVET Christian Nelson!

17 – National Flag Week Ends

19 – Juneteenth

20 – Happy Birthday AMVET Richard Pimentel!

22 – Happy Birthday AMVET Lawrence Stoddard!

22 – Happy Birthday AMVET Beth Waterman!

23 – Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

25 – Happy Birthday AMVET Patrick Brinkmeier!

25 – Happy Birthday AMVET Walter Jagiello!

26 – Happy Birthday AMVET James Bakos!

27 – PTSD Awareness Day

28 – Happy Birthday AMVET Jennifer Hoyt!



