Minutes March 21, 2024 Board Meeting

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Commander Bob Bechill at 3:00pm in the Majorca Room. In attendance were Mike Welch, Pat Battles, Jack Shabel, Larry Soukup, Bob Bechill, Greg Coffey, Jimm McDonough, Tom Brennan, Bob St.Laurent, and Dave Heffler. Not in attendance Robert Smitty Smith.

The minutes from the January 18th Board Meeting were approved with a motion by Greg Coffey and seconded by Dave Heffler. The minutes for the February 15th Board Meeting were approved with a motion from Bob St.Laurent and seconded by Pat Battles. It was announced that Jack Shabel would be stepping down as Secretary as soon as a replacement was found. It was decided to bring up the need for a new Secretary at the General Meeting on the 28th.

Treasurer’s Report: Larry Soukup gave the Secretary’s report in place of Robert Smith. Opening Balance was $2,204.21, Total Deposits $483, Total Expenses $297.46, and the Ending Balance was $2,389.75. It was reported that 3 WWII Vets had their dues waived although it was unclear if the actual number was 2 or 3. Paid membership stood at 207.

There was no update on shirts.

Bob Bechill and Bob ST.Laurent gave a recap on the table setup at the Newbies Meeting and said that there really was not much action and probably, it was not worth the effort.

A letter from member Frank Ritter was read in which he wrote that he felt that he had been disrespected at our meetings because he was not a veteran. Bob Bechill said he would try to meet with him and apologize for him feeling that way and reiterate that the Village Vets Club is open to all, not just veterans.

It was reported that everything was in order for the March 28th General Meeting.

The May 23rd meeting will be our annual hot dog extravaganza. We are planning for 150 attendees. The speaker will be a representative from the Foundation for Women Warriors and a Presentation by Robert Smith about his Challenge Coin.

At the July 25th Meeting, we are planning on County VSO representatives to assist veterans with one-on-one VA claim creation and submission. In a parallel presentation, Robert Genat is preparing a panel discussion with former B52 pilots. We may also add Vickie Benson, another pilot, to that presentation Abravanel Hall and the Majorca Room have been reserved for July 25th.

In September on the 27th, Pat Battles and Greg Coffey are working on an off-site visit to the Army Navy Academy in Carlsbad. Mike Welch was added to the committee.

On Veterans Day we have the lead for the presentation and Donna Russell will be assisting. The speaker, CW04 Kathyrn Warren, USMC-R has been confirmed. The Air Force Junior ROTC is confirmed The band from Buena Vista HS is confirmed.

For the Holiday Party on December 7th, we will try to coordinate with another club. Emphasis for the party will definitely be on the Navy as the party will be held on Pearl Harbor Day.

Bob St.Laurent reported that he always tries to get the best prices on flags and brackets to support this program.

Jim McDonough reported that he was glad to get Martin Adams in the last issue of the Bugle. Martin was a past co-commander of the club. A backup is still needed for Bugle editor.

New business:

A new position on the board is being created to take care of membership.

There is the potential of a joint meeting with the Golf Club with speaker Dean Knuth

Pat Battles will be attending the Vista High School Junior Air Force ROTC Pass-In-Review as one of the reviewing officers.

Mike Welch will be coordinating a Colors and Coffee visit to the Army Navy Academy also on April 26th starting at 7:30am (car pooling from here starting at 6:45).

The next Board Meeting will be on April 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jack Shabel, Secretary