

M. R. SARGE WAREHIME, CHAPTER #33**Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2023**

Opening Ceremony – The meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. by the Cdr, Ben Green. Opening Ceremony conducted.

- The meeting was opened with prayer by Chap Mitchell Ross and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was rendered.

Roll Call of Officers:

Commander – Ben Green - Present

Sr. Vice Commander – Lisa Robinson - Present

Jr. Vice Commander – Lorraine Fraser - Present

Adjutant – Deborah Rider - Present

Treasurer – Catrina Redfield - Present

Chaplain – Mitchell Ross – Present

Sergeant of Arms – Lottie Miller - Present

Officer of the Day – Burt Pearman - Absent

Benefits Protection Team Leader – Demetrious Jones – Present

Attendance - Membership Total: 20

- Visitor: Dept, 4th JVC, Nigel Forney
- Visitor: NSO, Baltimore Regional Office, Eliot Wilson
- Comrade Lamart Smith – New Member
- Comrade Bobbie McKoy – Life Member

Treasurers Report: Treasurer C. Redfield – reported Monthly Chapter Financial Report. Members were welcome to see the report and bank statements.

- 7/1/2023 – 7/31/2023 –
Beginning balance: \$21,049.42 (Income: \$1,556.00, Disbursements: \$519.09)
Ending balance: \$22,086.33
- 8/1/2023 – 8/31/2023 –
Beginning balance: \$22,086.33 (Income: \$0.00, Disbursements: \$95.00)
Ending balance: \$21,991.33

Cdr B. Green motioned to postpone the scheduled Chapter meeting to proceed with National Charter business due the 1st Department DEC on Oct 7, 2023. Letter Department was posted for the Chapter member to view.

Cdr B. Green – summarized the August 1, 2023, letter from Department Commander. “We must identify who we are and our location. There is a conflict in our Severn meeting location. The Chapter Executive Committee met to discuss how to resolve this. Commander asked Adjutant D. Rider to proceed.

Adj D. Rider stated, “We spoke to the National IG, yesterday (September 12, 2023), and were emailed our entire Charter file (12 pages) for Chapter 33”. Our Charter reads “Chapter Name: M.R. Sarge Warehime, Chapter Location: City Fort Meade, Odenton, MD. Charter Date: May 2, 1978

- Charter was amended in Apr 25, 2002, and changed to M.R. Sarge Warehime, Chapter 33, Fort George G. Meade. Then again, on January 18, 2022, the Charter was amended to Chapter 33, Jessup, Maryland.
- This documents our Charter being amended 3 times, we must update our Charter location, By-Laws location, Election Report/Meeting location and our PO Box to move from Fort Meade to Odenton.

Cdr B. Green: The proposal is to relocate our Chartered location to M.R Sarge Warehime, Chapter 33, Odenton, MD. Therefore, our meeting location would relocate to Odenton Public Library; change our PO Box to USPS Odenton MD 21113; update our Officer Election Report and By-Laws to also read Odenton, MD. Further stated, this proposal requires the members of the Chapter for consideration and discussion.

- **Pdc L. Couser**: reinstated the proposed motion, “I motion to correct the By Laws to satisfy the National requirements and Commander requirement to change it.”
- **Comrade F. Harmon**: “Why do we need to update the Charter every 2-3 years? Why can’t we conform to the Charter as written?”

Cdr B. Green: “The location issue results in the many changes to our Charter since 1978 Fort Meade, Odenton to now Community Center, Jessup, MD

(when we moved from the Police station). This vote needs to be done so we don't have to move anymore.

- **Pdc L. Couser**: To add to the justification for the proposal 1) Covid restricted our access to Fort Meade, 2) Then problems and pressure began at the police station and led to meetings at the Community Center, 3) Then Center timelines raised meeting concerns. This led to locations being changed without it being done officially. To answer your question, Our Chapter must satisfy and agree upon everything before National figures it out.
- **Adj D. Rider**: Additionally, the letter from the Department states we are out of justification.
- **Comrade F. Harmon**: "Is there a guarantee that this isn't going to happen again?"
- **Chap M. Ross**: "It's based on jurisdiction. Severn is under another Chapter. Odenton Library or Odenton Fire Department – as long as its Odenton zip code and location".

Cdr B. Green: "Comrades, I've already reserved the Odenton Library for 60 days out, to accommodate up to 83 people, and the library is no cost to the Chapter".

- **Pdc Couser**: The motion is still on the floor.
- **Comrade D. Jones**: "I motion we move our meeting location as discussed".
- **Sr Vice, L. Robinson**: "I second the motion"

Cdr B. Green: "I now ask those in favor of the motion to say "aye", *Members responded unanimously* and those opposed say "nay". *Hearing none - the motion by Comrade Jones and seconded by Sr. Vice L. Robinson is approved to change the location of M. R. Sarge Wareheim, Chapter 33 to Odenton, MD* (per National Constitution and ByLaws, Section 6.2, Para 3).

- **Adj D. Rider**: Restated, "For clarification, this vote is approved to complete the letter to our Department Commander for approval and then to forward to National for approval. The goal is to have the letter to the Department by the 1st DEC meeting on October 7, 2023.

- **Pdc L. Couser**: “The approval process is Department Commander, Mattie Whitfield, who will have her Department IG review the letter and determine approval for the letter to forward to National IG for final approval.
- **Comrade R. Henry**: I would like to understand, the motion was made to change the meeting place? Is there a motion to change the Chapter?
- **Pdc L. Couser** – “The motion covered all 4 bullets of the same motion, and that language will be drafted in a letter to the Department.
- **Comrade D. Jones**: “So we are still Chapter 33?”
- **Pdc Couser**: “Yes, no one has to buy a new hat!” (*Chapter laughter*)

Cdr B. Green: Thank you. Now there are several other areas that the Chapter needs to discuss quickly to move to the end for special recognition.

Unfinished Business

Cdr B. Green: Golden Corral Fundraiser needs volunteers. Golden Corral is our Bread and Butter. We make a difference. We know not everybody has time but if you can find the time - to make the time to go. We need more people to cover the shifts – 4 hours – 2 or 3 hours would be appreciated. Please just let Comrade F. Harmon or M. Whitfield know.

- **Comrade D. Jones**: “What I believe would really help if we had an electronic calendar that members could see.
- **Dept Cdr, M. Whitfield**: “I don’t want an electronic calendar, I prefer a paper one. I attended a briefing with Golden Corral Corporate Management – they want us to for 4 hours.
- **Pdc L. Couser**: “They are corporate, they can’t dictate volunteer hours.”
- **Dept Cdr, M. Whitfield**: “Yes, they can. We almost lost Golden Corral in Hanover, MD. Three organizations want the Golden Corral – VFW, Foreign Legions, and the DAV. We talked to them to keep it. Chapter 33 has been there since it opened. 2 – 3 shifts are too man hours and causes too much commotion.
- **Pdc L. Couser** – It’s a partnership with a corporation.

- **Comrade F. Harmon** – I met Ms. Bernice and was asked if I was the only one. I told her I closed the shift. She wondered why I'm there every night when there should be more than one person.
- **Comrade D. Jones**: "An email should go out and ask members when they can show up."
- **Comrade F. Harmon**: "If it's in your heart – you do it! Its automatic!"
- **Adj D. Rider**: "I believe what Comrades Jones and PDC Couser are saying is everybody may not have 4 hours. If the calendar is posted electronically, it may make it easier for those to plug in what hours they can volunteer which may be easier for "yall" to monitor the shifts."
- **Comrade T. Neal**: "I would like to interrupt you, you said "yall" can monitor. This should be a group effort. I haven't seen that, its been the same 4 plus members every time. My point is everyone has things going on if we are going to do it, we need to do it. I've been out there. We are going to lose Golden Corral if folks don't listen to Mattie and Deacon. It's not coming from the heart! We need to understand that everything we do is about veterans. When I hear "Yall can monitor..."
- **Adj D. Rider**: "I stand corrected – It's the committee and members that fulfill the duties of the Chapter. I'm not pointing out anyone specifically – We all can give volunteer time. 4 hours may be harder for members to commit to.
- **Comrade L. Smith**: "I saw you guys sitting out there and I wanted to be a part of the Golden Corral effort. It's important and that's what got me here tonight." (applause)

Cdr B. Green: "Thats why we need to talk, speak up and Do it! Golden Corral is important."

- **Comrade R. Henry**: "Golden is set up to recruit people? Do you give out memberships?"
- **Comrade F. Harmon**: Explained the Golden Corral table display, setup, and duties of the volunteers".

Cdr B. Green: "Comrade Harmon, may you give out your number so members can contact you about the hours they may have to volunteer?"

- **Comrade F. Harmon**: “Yes, my number is (240)417-3758.”
- **Comrade D. Jones**: “Comrade Mattie has the calendar so anyone may sign up today. Please don’t forget to provide me your LVAP hours.”

Cdr B. Green: “I would like to move on with the review and discussion of our Chapter Committee assignments. This is my proposal for committees and chairs for our Chapter. I wanted to match and support the Department committees. These are the members I want to chair those committees. You may accept or decline. I would like to see each committee share ideas, updates and learn from the Department and bring it back to our Chapter.

- **Jr Vice Cdr L. Fraser**: “What is the Americanism Committee?”
- **Dept Cdr M. Whitfield**: “Let me say this, if there is a vacancy in the Department committees, each committee has a chair and its run by the Department not the Chapter. There are committee listed good for the Chapter.... Forget Me Not, Golden Corral, Benefit Protection Team and LVAP.
- **Adj D. Rider**: “For clarification, the listed committee are not etched in stone, this is a proposal for discussion to be voted on. The Department Commander has provided clarity. As an example – Last year, Comrades D. Jones, C. Redfield and I volunteered for the Loch Raven Christmas. We also didn’t have a committee for our Chapter Christmas party, leaving the Commander, Comrade Redfield, and myself with the logistics.
- **Pdc L. Couser**: “I think it how the information is presented. It looks confusing on paper. Committees must be voted on. These are recommendations. The confusion is the Department Commander appoints her committee as the executive leader. If someone in the Chapter is interested in a department committee, contact the Chair and the chairperson will discuss it with the commander. The Chapter must formally agree to motion. Golden Corral is our Chapters Superstar. We don’t need to do anything right now until we can formally agree to motion the need for these committees for the Chapter.

Cdr B. Green: “Thank you.”

- **Adj D. Rider**: “The listed committees are part of minutes. We only report two of them. Please make note of all of them. We also already have five

- active committees – Forget Me Not, Benefit Protection Team, Golden Corral, LVAP and Entertainment.”
- **Dept Cdr, M. Whitfield**: The Women’s Auxiliary Committee still has their Charter and its not abandoned. Also, regarding the Entertainment Committee, I was officially appointed as the Chairperson for Loch Raven and was abruptly removed, then given to Demetrious, after doing it for 10 years. Loch Raven Christmas Party would fall under the Entertainment committee.

Cdr B. Green: Comrade Whitfield are you asking a question?

- Dept Cdr, M. Whitfield – My question is, I would like to return as the Chairperson of the Loch Raven Christmas Party.

Cdr B. Green: Comrade Whitfield, I will bring your request to Chair the Chapter Entertainment Committee to the members. I don’t want any ill will. I don’t know why you were removed. I apologize for that.

- **Pdc Couser**: “All that needs to happen is for Comrade D. Jones to resign to allow Comrade M. Whitfield to return as the chair and he will work under Mattie.”
- **Adj D. Rider**: “Can we table all the committee business until the next meeting?”
- **Comrade D. Jones**: “I would like to resign to allow Comrade M. Whitfield to chair the Entertainment Committee. I was not aware of the circumstances mentioned.

Cdr B. Green: “Having heard the discussion regarding the Entertainment Committee, I propose a Chapter vote on Comrade M. Whitfield as the Chair of the Entertainment Committee.”

- **Pdc L. Couser**: “I motion that Comrade M. Whitfield Chair the Chapter Entertainment Committee.”
- **Chap M. Ross**: “I second the motion.”

Cdr B. Green: I ask those in favor of the motion to say “aye”, *Members responded unanimously* and those opposed say “nay”. *Hearing none - the motion is approved.*

Cdr B. Green: Next, we must submit our delegates (3 primary, 3 alternates) to the Department for the 1st DEC on October 7th. Are there any members interested?

- Delegates volunteers: Comrades E. Wilson, L. Fraser, and B. Green
- Alternates members: Comrades D. Rider, R. Corbin, and L. Robinson

Cdr B. Green: For the Good of the Order, Are there any more announcements?

- **Adj D. Rider** – Fort Meade Retiree Appreciation Day, on Friday, October 27, 2023, 0900 hrs to 1400 hrs, McGill Training Facility. Chapter Volunteers requested. Last year, PDC Couser represented the NSO Office with me, and Comrades D. Jones, M. Whitfield. There will be a guest speaker, numerous vendors, hiring event and lunch at the Dining Facility.

Cdr B. Green: The last order of business is to recognize our own, PDC Lamar Couser. May you please come to the podium.

- **Sr. Vice Cdr, L. Robinson**: Read and presented Pdc L. Couser with an award from the Chapter. (applause)
- **Pdc L. Couser**: Addressed the Chapter with his personal thank you. “At the National Convention, the National Adjutant appointed me as the Assistant Director of Employment. My job is to hir military people. I will travel to every military recruitment job fair.” I’ve served 17 years solely in the Baltimore and DC area. I look forward to my next chapter. I’m out of the claims business and leave you in good hands with Eliot. Its been nice. My last day is Oct 7th to drive to Kentucky and report after Columbus Day. I also want the Chapter to know that I will always carry Chapter 33 as my assigned Chapter, this is important to me. (applause).

- **Dept 4th JVC, Visitor, N. Forney:** “I greet you with 3 messages from Department. I’ve spoken with Comrade D. Jones on recording all LVAP hours, I also discussed the goals of membership and lastly Golden Corral. My Chapter 22 lost our Golden Corral. If your Chapter has Golden Corral – Keep it because our chapter lost \$10,000 annually. If you need anything from the Department, let me know. Thank you for your time.

Cdr Ben Green: are there any more announcements for the Chapter before we move to close?

- **Comrade C. Henry:** “How do I get the word out to veterans who want to employment with the Fort Meade Access Control – as a US Army Security Guard. I’m the Chief, Access Control. I can bring them on – All I need is their DD214 and resume, they must be able to do 19 pushups and run 1.5 miles.
- **Pdc L. Couser:** “We can post the announcement”

Cdr Ben Green: Our Webmaster, D. Jones, can also post the job announcement on Chapter website.

Memorial Ceremony. Conducted by Commander B. Green.

Closing Prayer – Led by Chaplin M. Ross

Meeting motioned to adjourn at 8:40pm. Refreshments provided.

Next meeting scheduled at our new meeting location.

Tuesday, **October 10, 2023, at 7pm. Odenton Public Library, 1325 Annapolis Rd, Odenton, MD 21113 (410)222-6277.**