

M. R. SARGE WAREHIME
Chapter #33 – Odenton

Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2023

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

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

Roll Call of Officers:

Commander – Ben Green - Present

Sr. Vice Commander – Tracy Neal (Not Installed) - Present

Jr. Vice Commander – Lorraine Fraser - Present

Adjutant – Deborah Rider - Present

Treasurer – Catrina Redfield - Present

Chaplain – Mitchell Ross – Present

Sergeant of Arms – Rick Corbin - Absent

Officer of the Day – Burt Pearman - Absent

Benefits Protection Team Leader – Demetrious Jones – Present

- Quorum of Officers met.

Attendance - Membership Total: 15 (1 FM)

Reading of Last Meeting Minutes: Reported by Adjutant D. Rider

- Adj D. Rider “At this time, for the sake of time, I dispense with the reading of the minutes for September 13 and October 10. The minutes are posted to our website by our Webmaster for members to review before the meeting to address any questions or corrections. (per Department update minutes are no longer required to be approved). If you did not receive the minutes, please ensure our Webmaster has your current email address.

Cdr Ben Green: Are there any omissions or corrections?

- Comrade M. Whitfield: I have not seen them. Can we get a printout copy for the members having computer problems and new members?
- Jr Vice L. Fraser: I did not receive the minutes and can't download them on my phone.

- Webmaster D. Jones: We are too advanced in technology. I didn't receive a not sent alert from anyone.
- Chap M. Ross: If you are having problems, and haven't received them, check with our Webmaster and get a hard copy prior to the meeting.

Cdr B. Green: For the sake of this discussion, we will provide 10 copies for new members for the next 2 meetings, after this time, members must check the website and their email prior to the meeting. Copies are being printed now to provide copies today.

- Adj D. Rider: As a third option, you may print up to 10 copies free at this library prior to our meeting.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer C. Redfield – reported monthly Chapter Financial Report. Members were welcome to see the report and bank statement. 10/1/2023 – 10/31/2023. Beginning balance: \$21,737.83 (Income: \$5,430.98, Disbursements: \$12,071.23). Ending balance: \$15,097.56

Obligation of New Members: Cdr B. Green: Comrade Adjutant, do we have any new members or members who have not received the obligation?

- Adj D. Rider: After reviewing our sign in sheet, there's Sharon Jones Cody – Are you a member of the Chapter and received your card?
- Comrade Jones-Cody: my card says 33, it's my first time here, my card says since 3/23/2022. Thank you, I'm glad to be here after a year. Chapter welcomed Comrade.
- Comrade Thomas Newby: Introduced himself. I've been a member but haven't been to any meetings but met 2 ladies at the Golden Corral. I need a new membership card. I have maybe 4 years active. Just moved to Baltimore. Chapter thanked Comrade.
- Comrade Nawd Singh: Hello, I'm a member. My first meeting was at Jessup Community Center. I get the emails and I'm waiting on my transfer card to Chapter 33 from Chapter 52. My wife collects the mail. Chapter laughter.

Reports of Committees: Cdr B. Green: We will now have the reports of committees.

- **Membership Committee:** Comrade M. Whitfield. I have about 5 members that signed up at Golden Corral but are waiting on their membership cards and thank you letters.

•**Service Officer Committee (CSO)**: Cdr Ben Green reported Comrade Miller will be taking the CSO on Fri, 17th.

Comrade L. Miller: I haven't received the email regarding the training.

Comrade M. Whitfield: This is the follow up training from Ocean City. Is Comrade Miller on the original list and her name needs to be verified by NSO Craig Barnes. I will check and provide the information to you.

Benefits Protection Team Leader (BPTL): Comrade D. Jones: No Report

Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP): Comrade D. Jones: As of Oct 2023, our total LVAP hours is 650, in addition to the Golden Corral volunteers fundraiser and Military Appreciation Night last night. Report provided to Adjutant.

Golden Corral Committee: Comrade M. Whitfield: I want to thank everybody for participating. (Chapter applause) Everyone seemed to enjoy it. We raised approx. \$8,000, and 15% goes to the Department. The wheel was great fun, especially for the kids and families. I will be the Department Chair next year for Golden Corral and Camp Corral. National has not provided those dates yet. Anyone interested in being a Chaperone for Camp Corral, please provide your name and I will forward it.

Cdr B. Green: Do you have a list of the winners? Any pictures?

Comrade M. Whitfield: Yes, I do but I don't have them with me. If anyone asks, tickets are burned. Only pictures of winner present were taken.

Cdr B. Green: Have all the prizes been picked up?

Comrade M Whitfield: No, the grill and printer are in the storage locker, Comrade T. Neal has the TV. I will call the winners tomorrow to pick up their prize.

Entertainment Committee: Comrade M. Whitfield:

Loch Raven Annual Holiday Party (VA Community Living and Rehab Center) I spoke with Mary Jarrod at. I was given 1st Sat, Dec, from 12noon to 4pm. I have to complete the application which states we must bring outside food, and all volunteers must complete a training class prior to the event. I will follow up with her to verify more about the training because this is new and let the chapter know. I will find out how many veteran residents we will serve so I can confirm the caterer.

Chapter Christmas Party: Cheesecake Factory: No longer takes reservations for over 10 people. I would have to come early on the same day at 5pm to give an estimate of \$35 p/p. There is no set menu. In 2019 we set our cost at \$40 p/p. We may need to increase it to \$45 to stay in the limits with tips separate. If you go over, it is the individual cost. Fridays was the 2nd Choice but it was kind of crowded even in the reserved/front part of the restaurant, set price and picked from the menu. Next option was Yard House. Was last year a preselected or individual selected?

Adj D. Rider: The Yard House provided the preselected menu. The Chair/Comrade Redfield and Cdr Ben requested the menu be changed (3x) and include drink, appetizer, entree, and dessert at \$50 p/p with 20% gratuity. Total payment was \$2,790.

Cdr B. Green: I personally liked the Yard House. I would request you to work with the Yard House GM Manager, Wes Patterson. He was very accommodating last year and ask the best time and what you want. He will not charge us the tax.

Comrade M. Whitfield: I will check into the Cheesecake Factory and the Yard house and let the Chapter know.

Cdr B. Green: Are we having a gift exchange?

Comrade M. Whitfield: If you want to be part of the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift and put it on the table. Some don't celebrate Christmas gifts or celebrate Christmas. \$25 limit on cost of gift. Give a gift – Get a gift. The event is a plus one, Our Auxiliary (Adjutant Sarah Whitfield) and children are invited. Reserved date: Dec 12th, 7pm.

Forget-Me-Not Campaign: Adj D. Rider emailed sent to Kelly Paul @ NAF, Fort Meade but no response as of yet. Dates: Sat/Sun 3/2, 3/3, 3/9, 3/10, 3/16, 3/17 and 3/23. (Back up day: 3/24). Adj D. Rider read the purpose of the FMN Campaign. Our Department Chair, Roz Ambose requests that our fundraiser be completed by the 3rd DEC, April 6th. During the DEC the report is read showing total members worked, total hours worked, total funds collected.

Unfinished Business: Cdr B. Green: Provide an update on our Audit committee.

Cdr B. Green: I spoke with the Department and the Chapter will submit our Audit Report by November 30th. I have identified 3 members and prepared the folders. Once completed the report will be submitted to the Department and National.

Comrade M. Whitfield: The report does not need to be submitted to National because our account records are not over \$25,000. Also, the Audit committee was unanimously voted on during our October meeting, why are we changing members? The last year Audit team was Comrades A. Addo, T. Neal and L. Fraser. The Treasurer job is to prepare the financial report, be present for questions. It usually takes 1 – 2 hours.

Cdr B. Green: As the Commander, I decided and set up my Audit committee prior to Sr. Vice Robinson's motion to vote and resignation. I was not advised by Sr. Vice Robinson of the members that were voted for the Audit committee.

Adj D. Rider – Read the October Minutes regarding the Audit Committee discussion and vote. "Sr Vice Robinson stated, "We have 2 Audit team members from last year present, Comrades T. Neal, and L. Fraser, subject to their acceptance, we need a 3rd to complete the Audit team. Is there anyone who would like to volunteer?" Comrade M. Whitfield volunteered. Comrade B. Pearman volunteered as the Alternate. Adjutant requested their acceptance. All accepted to be members of the 2023 Audit Team.

Adj D. Rider – Cdr Green, are you rescinding the vote?

Comrade M. Whitfield – The vote was approved by the body. You have to ask for volunteers in good standing that are comfortable being on the Audit Team.

Cdr. B. Green – Yes, I agree. I called my Jr. Vice to assist in contacting the selected members but I never got a response.

Chap M. Ross – Lets just move forward with the member already voted in

Jr. Vice L. Fraser – I never received a call from you Cdr and you never clarified what you wanted me to do.

Comrade T. Neal – The only thing that has changed was when M. Whitfield volunteered, our Treasurer stated she did not want Mattie on the Audit Team. That's when Sr. Vice Robinson announced to postpone the discussion.

Adj D. Rider – Our Treasurer stated she is uncomfortable with Comrade M. Whitfield being on the Audit team because the report contains data during her previous position as the Treasurer. Our Chapter should not be about we or them...Our Chapter must be in compliant with the Audit process. Let's work together to get this done. Every member should feel comfortable and work as a team. The October minutes will be amended to read the Audit team members as voted. Comrades L. Fraser, T. Neal and M. Whitfield and B. Pearman as the alternate.

Comrade M. Whitfield – Comrade T. Neal can no longer be on the audit team as the Sr. Vice Cdr.

Comrade R. Corbin – Previous vote is broken; can the Chapter proceed with the Cdr's selected team?

Cdr B. Green – I appoint Comrades Burt Pearman, L. Fraser and L. Miller as my Chapter Audit team. Do you accept the appointment?

Comrade L. Miller – Military has always trained to accomplish mission in everything we do, this is no different.

Sr. Vice L. Fraser – I decline the appointment.

Comrade D. Jones – Accepted to be on the Audit Team

Chap M. Ross – Volunteered as alternate on the Audit Team.

Adj D. Rider – The official appointment for the Chapter Audit team is Comrades L. Miller, B. Pearman, D. Jones and alternate M. Ross.

Cdr B. Green – I announced the appointment to the floor.

Adj D. Rider – I move we accept the appointment.

Comrade S. Jones Cody – 2nd the motion

Cdr B. Green – It has been moved and seconded. All in favor...Ayes – All opposed None. The motion is passed for our Chapter Audit Team.

New Business – None

Good of the Order - Cdr. B. Green – the meeting is now open for announcements?

Adj D. Rider – Mid Winter Conference is cancelled, Membership refunds of \$60 (per NSO C. Barnes memorandum) is being reviewed for full life members, Fort Meade Retiree Appreciation Day on 10/27 was a success. The Department walked thru, we received membership applications and Contact briefs for veterans requesting claims assistance. Thanks for your support.

Comrade M. Whitfield – Department Annual Christmas Party is on Sat, 12/9/2024 @ 12 noon @ the War Memorial Building, Baltimore. \$5.00 for parking. RSVP Michelle asap – Headcount due by the end of the week. Chapter 13 Christmas Party invitation is on Thurs, 12/7 in Severn. RSVP by 11/27. Department of Maryland 80th State Convention is May 12th – May 17th at the Grand Hotel, OC. MD. More to follow.

Comrade S. Jones Cody – Where is the Department located?

Comrade M. Whitfield – Gay Street, War Memorial Building, Baltimore (near the Court House)

Memorial Ceremony. Conducted by Cdr B. Green.

Cdr B. Green – As we approach Thanksgiving, there are poinsettias displayed on the tables, my lovely wife assisted with providing the raffle tickets. Please check your ticket. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Adj D. Rider – Tickets pulled and winners selected for the 4 small red poinsettias and 1 large orange poinsettia. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Closing Ceremonies – Cdr. B. Green

Closing Prayer – Led by Chap M. Ross

Next meeting: Cdr B. Green – Our Chapter Christmas Party on 12/12/2024 will replace our December meeting. Further announcements will be provided by Comrade M. Whitfield.

Meeting adjourned: Cdr. B. Green at 8:40pm. Refreshments provided.