

M. R. SARGE WAREHIME
Chapter #33 – Odenton

Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2024

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) - Absent

Jr. Vice Commander – Lorraine Fraser - Present

Adjutant – Deborah Rider - Present

Treasurer – Catrina Redfield - Absent

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: 12

Note: *Thomas Newby (Transfer), George Franklin (Transfer), Victoria Gaundez (New mbr)–
Check Natl Membership Roster*

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

- Adj D. Rider – Technical difficulty with posting the minutes. Minutes will be posted once issue is resolved and by the next meeting. Please ensure our Webmaster has your current email address.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer C. Redfield – read by Adj D. Rider. Monthly Chapter Financial Report. All members were welcome to see the report and bank statement.

11/1/2024 – 10/30/2024. Beginning balance: \$15,097.58 (Disbursements: \$3,403.70). Ending balance: \$11,694.11

12/1/2023 – 12/31/2023. Beginning balance: \$11,694.11 (Disbursements: \$95.00). Ending balance: \$ 11,599.11

1/1/2024 – 1/31/2024. Beginning balance: \$11,599.11 (Income: \$8,275; Disbursements: \$2,308.34). Ending balance: \$17,564.77

Sickness and Distress: Chap M. Ross: None to report

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: None present at this time. However, I will report the following:

- 1) We had new members join during the Fort Meade Retiree Appreciation. DFAC Manager – Tom Allen (Partial Membership) and Michael Wayne Bright (renewal), and Kensie Newby (joined and then transferred to Chapter 13). The Chapter has a total membership total of 876 (active and inactive). Members need to be contacted to update the National list)
- 2) The Chapter received our Membership streamer for meeting our membership goal for 2022 – 2023. The letter was sent by Nancy G. Espinosa, National Commander. Letter read to Chapter.
- 3) Full Life Membership is now \$325. (In person/on location is \$255)
 - NSO Craig Barnes announced a Department Membership Incentive Program (DMIP). Read memorandum dated 10/7/2023. Revised 1/1/2024.
 - Online Membership: \$325 = Chapter pays \$35 / Department matches with \$35. Rebate to the Veteran is \$70.
 - In person/on location membership: \$255. Chapter pays \$35 / Department pays remaining \$35 (Membership paid in full)
 - Comrade M. Whitfield – Per the Bylaws our Chapter paid \$40 to the Veteran prior to the policy change. Also, before the revised memorandum, membership was \$300, the veteran incentive was \$60 - \$30 from the Chapter and \$30 match from the Department.

Cdr B. Green – we will review our applications and membership roster to identify those entitled to the incentive /reimbursements.

Communications: None

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

•**Membership Committee**: Sr. Vice T. Neal (absent) Updates provided by Adj. D. Rider

•**Service Officer Committee** (CSO): Cdr Ben Green: CSO training will be on 3/12/2024 – Day 1 of the Department Convention in OC, MD. Members must be nominated / voted to attend the training. Service Officers must stay active in the community and be recertified annually. The Chapter pays for your training and transportation. Current CSOs in our Chapter are me, D. Rider, B. Pearman, and L. Miller. Are there any other members who would like to attend the CSO training?

Jr. Vice L. Fraser – I would like to attend.

Comrade V. E. Smith – I would like to attend.

Adj D. Rider – Approved nominations are due to the Department on 3/25/2025.

•**Forget-Me-Not Campaign**: Adj D. Rider Approved FMN Dates at the Fort Meade Exchange are Sat/Sun 3/2, 3/3, 3/9, 3/10, 3/16, 3/17 and 3/23. (Back up day: 3/24).

Comrade M. Whitfield – We should really try to set up the commissary again. Commissary brings more donations. The weather was always an issue for us because we were set up outside.

Chap M. Ross – Can it be at both the PX and Commissary?

Cdr B. Green – How can we support two locations?

Adj D. Rider – Cdr and I were told by the Commissary Manager they did not have the space for us to set up.

Comrade R. Henry – Why don't we go with the PX and continue to work approval for the commissary?

Adj D. Rider – On 12/5/2023, Cdr and I visited the AAFES Fort Meade, Service Business Manager, Scott Brintnall and received approval for our FMN campaign at the PX lobby from 10am – 4pm. You manage your time. Again our 1st weekend is Sat, 3/2 and Sun, 3/3. Please email me if you can volunteer. Shifts are 10a – 1pm or 1pm to 4pm. There will be a sign in sheet to record your LVAP hours.

Cdr B. Green: The money raised goes to the veterans. Especially, those experiencing financial hardships. We can help. We need to complete our FMN campaign. It was a lot of running around. I support the commissary as a location but we have approval for the PX.

Adj D. Rider- Comrade Whitfield, when can you let us know about the commissary?

Comrade M. Whitfield – MWR requires 4 – 6 months advance notification to book a space and receive approval.

Comrade R. Henry – We are too late. Its decided. We can revisit approval for the commissary for next year.

Adj. D. Rider – As the Chapter Chairperson, I suggest we keep the PX as our prime location and maintain their support. We will revisit the commissary and discuss supporting 2 locations for the next FMN.

Golden Corral Committee: Comrade M. Whitfield: All GC prizes were given out except one. I plan to hold on to it for the next GC. Military Appreciation raised over \$10,000 – the Chapter received \$8,000. Camp Corral starts in the Spring. Ken Newman has approved us coming back and supports the event. We raised over \$10,000 last year. The Chapter can also donate and National will double it. The Camp Corral mission and purpose was explained to members.

Cdr B. Green – I encourage more members to volunteer to support the cause and efforts!

Adj D. Rider: Comrade M. Whitfield, who is on the GC committee?

Comrade M. Whitfield: Comrades F. Harmon as the Chapter Chairperson, G. Franklin, L. Fraser and myself.

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

Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP): Comrade D. Jones: As a reminder. Don't forget to provide your LVAP hours and include travel time. LVAP hours are reported monthly to the Department. The total in Dec 2023 was 5,889 hrs for the year.

Cdr B. Green – Every contact helps a veteran. Your time must be recorded. Membership hours = more per capital = money for the Chapter. Please provide your LVAP hours to Comrade Jones.

Unfinished Business:

1) Chapter Nominations and Elections.

Cdr B. Green: If you want to be nominated or nominate another member, please let us know.

Adj D. Rider: I provided a smart sheet to help you. Its lists our current officers and provides a space for your nomination. The members must be in good standing and be present at our next meeting on 3/12/2023.

Comrade M. Whitfield: We need to have the nomination and election on the same day and complete the installation in April. The report is due to the Department by 4/30/2024.

Jr. Vice L. Fraser – What about members who cannot be present or go on the website?

Comrade M. Whitfield: There are exceptions. Only absentee ballots are approved for medical, family emergencies or those out of town. Other reasons are not acceptable. If you are not present, the vote will not be considered.

New Business –

JVC Banquet. Comrade M. Whitfield. JVC is on Sat, March 23, 2024. Location: Riva Road in Annapolis. Honoree Lee Chambers, Loch Raven volunteer. Cost is \$45. Half Page Ad is \$75, whole page Ad is \$100. I have 10 tickets available. 4 tickets are sold. 6 more left. I also have 10 extra tickets if needed. The total cost to the Chapter is \$450 plus the Ad. Deadline is March 13th.

Cdr B. Green: Are there any members who want to attend?

Comrade D. Jones – I will attend, plus 1 (2 tickets)

Cdr B. Green – I will attend, plus 1 (2 tickets)

Comrade G. Franklin – I will attend plus 1 (2 tickets)

Comrade T. Newby – I will attend (1 ticket)

Comrade V. Eric Smith – I will attend (1 ticket)

Cdr B. Green: Chapter, do we want a half page ad or full page ad?

Chapter voted unanimously for half page ad at \$75 (motioned by G. Franklin/L. Fraser). All in favor. Aye/ Nay. Hearing none. Approved.

Adj D. Rider – The chapter owes \$540 for 12 tickets and \$75 for the Ad.

Our webmaster, D. Jones, will submit the Ad by the deadline.

Comrade M. Whitfield – Also the Department Program Book Ad is due by 3/25. Cost is \$150 – Full page, \$100 – Half page and \$75 – quarter page.

Cdr. B. Green: Chapter, do we want a half page or full page ad?

Chapter voted unanimously for half page ad at \$100. (motioned by M. Ross/ D. Rider) All in favor. Aye/Nah. Hearing none. Approved.

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

Annual events completed. Adj D. Rider

Christmas Party – Yard House on 12/12/ 2023. 35 attendees (20 members/15 plus 1. Menu was pleasing. Everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Comrade M. Whitfield: We should have a Spring or Summer event as well as the Winter Christmas party. The Chapter needs to bring comradery back as a 1st priority. We should think about this for our 2024 agenda to include family and friends.

Fort Meade Retiree Appreciation Day. 10/27/2024. Great turn out and support.

Calendar Review – Adj D. Rider

Mid-Winter on March 7 – 9th, Arlington, VA. Registration fee, hotel and transportation will be reimbursed for Cdr and Adj.

3rd DEC on April 6th, American Legion, Severn

Department 80th Annual Convention – May 12 – 17th, Grand Hotel, OC, MD Chapter fee \$80. Member \$15 registration fee, hotel reservations and transportation will be reimbursed with Cdr approval. Note: Other costs are Convention shirt, FMN luncheon, Convention Dinner. Tentative agenda was emailed by Michelle/Department.

Cdr B. Green: The Chapter will reimburse travel/transportation for members attending CSO training on Mon, May 13th. CSO training is an annual certification. Nominations are due by March 25th. Current attendees are B. Green, D. Rider, B. Pearman, L. Miller and L. Fraser.

DAV National Convention, 3 – 6 August, Phoenix, AZ, Hotels are listed on DAV. Org with DAV discount code. Attendees will be reimbursed with commander approval. Please confirm your attendance asap.

Comrade R. Henry – I'm really excited about being part of the Chapter. We can make the community part of our mission. During the meeting we need to stick with the facts to minimize time. Let's be in it together. Hooah!

Webmaster/LVAP – D. Jones – I need your LVAP hours for all Claims events.

Comrade V. Gaundez- This was my 1st meeting. I really enjoyed it. I look forward to coming back.

Comrade T. Newby - I've been a member for several years. I appreciate the comradery.

Adj D. Rider – Have a Happy Valentines Day! Refreshments are in the back.

Memorial Ceremony. Conducted by Cdr B. Green.

Closing Prayer – Led by Chap M. Ross

Closing Ceremonies – **Cdr. B. Green**

Meeting adjourned: Cdr. B. Green at 8:40pm. Refreshments provided. Next Meeting is Officer nominations and elections on 3/12/2024.