

**M. R. SARGE WAREHIME**  
**Chapter #33 – Odenton**

**Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2024**

**Opening Ceremony** – The meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. by Cdr Robert Henry.  
Opening Ceremony conducted.

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

**Roll Call of Officers:**

Commander – Robert Henry - Present

Sr. Vice Commander – Ben Green - Present

Jr. Vice Commander – Eliot Wilson – Present (late arrival)

Adjutant – Deborah Rider - Present

Treasurer – Catrina Redfield - Present

Chaplain – Mitchell Ross – Present

Sergeant of Arms – Lottie Miller - Present

Officer of the Day – George Franklin - Present (late arrival)

Webmaster – V. Eric Smith – Present

- Quorum of Officers met.

**Member Attendance Total: 14**

1 visitor – Comrade Steven Hudson

**Reading of Last Meeting Minutes:** Reported by Adj D. Rider

- “At this time, I dispense with the reading of the minutes for April 9, 2024, March 12, 224, February 13, 2024, November 14, 20224. The final minutes are subject to audit. Our Webmaster has posted the minutes to our website for members to review.

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

- 5/1/2024 – 5/31/2024

Beginning balance: \$12,816.15 (Income: \$0.00, Disbursements: \$95.00). Ending balance: \$12,781.15

- 4/1/2024 – 4/30/2024 –

Beginning balance: \$12,585.15 (Income: \$456.00, Disbursements: \$175.00) Ending balance: \$12,876.15

- 3/1/2024 – 3/30/2024 –  
Beginning balance: \$17,470.77 (Income: \$100.00, Disbursements: \$4,975.62) Ending balance: \$12,595.15
- 2/1/2024 – 2/29/2024 –  
Beginning balance: \$17,565.77 (Income: \$0.00, Disbursements: \$95.00) Ending balance: \$17,470.77

**Bills Against the Chapter:** None

**Sickness and Distress:** Chaplain M. Ross reported none. Comrade M. Whitfield reported Tracy Neal is in the Hospital.

**Application of New Membership:** None

**Introduction of New Members:** None

**Reading of Communications:** None

**Unfinished Business:** Reported by Adjutant D. Rider.

**National Convention Delegates** – Phoenix AZ, Aug 3 – 6. Chapter must elect our delegates per National (one delegate/one alternate) but may have additional per 50 members.

Election for 6 Delegates: Cdr R. Henry, Sr. Vice B. Green, PDC L. Couser, PDC M. Whitfield, Chaplain M. Ross (alternate), Adj D. Rider (alternate)

Chapter voted for Delegates and Alternates to be reimbursed for Registration fee, Per Deim, Meals/Incidentals and Transportation.

Motion moved and seconded by M. Whitfield/M. Ross.

**Cdr R. Henry - All in favor of the motion. Results- Ayes unanimous. Nays – None. Cdr R. Henry - Hearing none. Motion is approved.** *(PDC Couser approved for as Delegate only – No Chapter reimbursement)*

**Update Chapter Constitution and ByLaws:** PDC M. Whitefield.

Copies not provided today. However, corrections will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> (location) and 3<sup>rd</sup> page (and last page (Chapter Cdr/Adj signatures) prior sending to the Department Judge Advocate and National approval. Copies will be provided to members to review at home.

**Cdr R. Henry – We will postpone the discussion to schedule an executive meeting to update and finalize the ByLaws at another date and time.**

**Full Life Membership Incentive Program: Adj D. Rider**

Per memorandum from NSO C. Barnes. 3 options provided.

- 1) Effective 1/1/2024 @ \$325 = Online applications. \$70 reimbursement to Veteran (\$35 Chap/\$35 Dept).
- 2) Effective 10/7/2023 @ \$300 = Online applications. \$60 reimbursement to Veteran (\$30 Chap/\$30 Dept)
- 3) Effective 1/1/2024 @ \$255 = In person/On location. (\$35 Charter/\$35 Dept) Membership paid in full. No Reimbursement.

Adj D. Rider – National is the only who can confirm who has applied online because the Chapter has no knowledge until the membership list is updated.

PDC M. Whitfield – NSO C. Barnes also checks the online applications. You can check with him before you call National.

Sr. Vice B. Green – I will check with NSO Barnes so we can have an accurate count of members that we need to reimburse.

**Cdr R. Henry – We will postpone the discussion to our next meeting to obtain an updated membership list showing members who joined online.**

**Close Fort Meade PO Box – Adj D. Rider**

Our history is our mail currently uses the PO Box on Fort Meade. The Adjutant and the Commander have keys to check the mail. Our Charter now reads Odenton and for location accessibility it is proposed to change our PO Box mailing address to Odenton Post Office.

Motion moved and seconded by Adj D. Rider/G. Franklin

**Cdr R. Henry - All in favor of the motion. Results- Ayes unanimous. Nays – None. Hearing none. Motion is approved.**

**Close Banking with Bank of Glen Burnie – Open account and services with NFCU – Odenton.**

PDC M. Whitfield – 10 years ago President of NFCU stated they could not accommodate us because we are Non-Profit. We can't get a credit card or bank card per Constitution and By-Laws.

Sr. Vice B. Green – NFCU services military members and it's also in Odenton. We can have up to 4 authorized signatures. I will recheck with the Treasurer to verify the facts and services for Non-Profit organizations.

**Cdr R. Henry – Chapter should we postpone the discussion to our next meeting to allow Sr. Vice to present the facts from NFCU.**

Motion moved and seconded by Adj D. Rider/M. Ross.

**Cdr R. Henry - All in favor of the motion. Results- Ayes unanimous. Nays None. Hearing none. Motion is approved.**

### **Chapter Committees – Appoint and Elect Chairpersons. Adj D. Rider**

**Cdr R. Henry announced the 7 committees in need of a Chairperson and open for volunteers. Results are:**

Golden Corral Committee – PDC Mattie Whitfield

Service Officer Committee – Jr. Vice Eliot Wilson

Forget Me Not Committee – Adj Deborah Rider

LVAP Committee – PDC Mattie Whitfield

Entertainment Committee – PDC Mattie Whitfield

BPFT Team – Webmaster Eric Smith

Membership Committee – Sr. Vice Ben Green

Motion moved and seconded by PDC M. Whitfield / G. Franklin.

**Cdr R. Henry - All in favor of the motion. Results- Ayes unanimous. Nays – None. Hearing none. Motion is approved.**

### **Community Donations – Adj D. Rider**

**2024 MCVET Annual Event - \$1,000.** Adj D. Rider explained and read last years “Thank you letter” from MCVET for the Chapters donation of \$1,000.

Motion moved and seconded by PDC M. Whitfield / G. Franklin.

**Sarah’s House – None.** PDC M. Whitfield – they are not a “Veteran only” organization. And they must be approved by National.

**Camp Corral - \$500.00.** PDC M. Whitfield explained the matching.

Motion moved and seconded by Adj. D. Rider / PDC M. Whitfield.

**Cdr R. Henry - All in favor of the motions. Results- Ayes unanimous. Nays – None. Cdr R. Henry - Hearing none. Motion is approved.**

## **Chapter Website Update – Webmaster E. Smith**

Waiting on website access. 2024 Election Report and Chapter Minutes are posted. But other areas must be updated by National. We are in the process of updating our meeting location as well. But because of National not listing me as the Webmaster its taking some time. Webmaster displayed the Chapter website and explained the views.

Adj D. Rider – Access My.DAV.org you must register with your membership number. New user information is required to access the website.

PDC M. Whitfield – if a meeting is cancelled, how are our senior members that don't use email notified? We used to send emails also. And have paper copies at the meeting.

**Cdr Henry – we will in addition to posting on our website, send an email notice out to every member we currently have an email address for.**

Adj D. Rider – as update to our meeting location, we are temporarily meeting here because our Odenton Library had mandatory training, divider was broken and the room was booked. Also, our next meeting, July 9th will be at the Russett Public Library in Laurel, across from the Walmart. Please spread the word. It will be posted on our website and sent via email.

## **Golden Corral – Military Appreciation Night – PDC M. Whitfield.**

Date is November 11, 5pm to closing. All Veterans eat free. Dinner Only. Please remember to bring your ID. I will pass out the information sheet with my number, Do's and Don'ts for the Campaign starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. National provides a later date but each restaurant manager can start earlier per the Corporate Office.

We will have 2 shifts. Monday – Friday. 4 hour shifts. 12 – 4p and 4pm to 8pm. Must wear DAV shirt or hat and receive a free meal after your shift.

At the end of each shift, you must count the money with CG Manager. At the end of Military Appreciation Night – all money is sent to CG. 50% of the collection will be sent in a check to the Department.

If someone is interested in claims, please Refer them to a claims service officer or provide a number or complete the contact brief.

Raffles gifts include weekly 4 baskets to raffle off which increases our donations.

Family Game night, Pizza Hut Gift Card, Family Summer Ice cream card, \$25 Men, and \$25 Women Gift Card

Baskets were made by PDC M. Whitfield and friends. Funds will be reimbursed for the merchandise in the baskets. Most items were donated.

Prizes are which worked well are 65" TV, Gas Grill, Laptop and Printer, Michael Kors Duffle bag, Gaming System and 5 - \$10 scratch off tickets from GC, 2 - 3 Bingo games and 4 - Gas cards.

PDC M. Whitfield – I price and pay out of pocket and get reimbursed. Last year the gifts came from Best Buy and spent \$3,500 for everything.

**Cdr R. Henry – what is the budget for the gifts and prizes. The Chapter should vote.**

PDC M. Whitfield – we never had a budget because the prices change.

Comrade B. Pearman – My suggestion is to pre- select the prizes and bring it back to the chapter to discuss and vote on them.

PDC M. Whitfield – We don't have time to do it that way right now.

**Cdr R. Henry – the vote must be done by the next meeting. Members can share 1 – 4 gift ideas at the next meeting. Chapter will vote on it to establish the cost and budget for the GC Committee to purchase.**

Adj D. Rider – If you need DAV shirt or pin, please see me.

**New Business: Upcoming Events** – Adj D. Rider. Discussions for next meeting.

- Chapter Friends and Family Event – TBD
- Forget Me Not Campaign – Committee Chair - Adj D. Rider – Feb/ Mar 2025
- Fort Meade Retiree Appreciation Day – Oct 2024
- Loch Raven Christmas Party – Committee Chair PDC. M. Whitfield – Nov/Dec 2024
- Chapter Christmas Party – Committee Chair PDC M. Whitfield – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues - Dec 2024

**Good of the Order:**

- Comrade L. Miller – Introduced the Dip Jar for donations. Jr. Vice E. Wilson is looking into it. This would allow the Chapter to receive donations by credit cards.
- PDC M. Whitfield –
- Department Cookout – August 17. Volunteers needed. More information will follow.
- Department will need shift volunteers for the State Fair on Aug 22 – Sept 8. Mark Mills is the POC.
- Orioles Baseball Game – June 24 – See PDC M. Whitfield or NSO C. Barnes
- Ford Company Fundraiser – More information to follow.
- Gold Tournament Fundraiser – More information to follow.
- Chapters may request Grant money.
- Comrade Steven Hudson – introduced himself as a 1<sup>st</sup> time visitor
- Comrade L. Miller – I want our members to discuss changing our meeting date and time to the weekend and not during the week or at night

- Sr. Vice B. Green – A lot of our members don't drive at night and changing to the weekend may improve attendance to our meetings
- Jr. Vice E. Wilson – When members pay their lifetime membership upfront, they receive a \$70 reimbursement. I will check with NSO Barnes regarding the information provided in the letter.

**Closing Prayer** – Chaplain M. Ross

**Memorial Ceremony and Adjournment** –Cdr R. Henry.

**Next meeting scheduled for Tues, July 9<sup>th</sup>, Russett Public Library, Laurel MD.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm. Refreshments served.