

M. R. SARGE WAREHIME, CHAPTER #33**Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2023**

Opening Ceremony – The meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. by the Sr Vice Lisa Robinson. Opening Ceremony conducted.

- The meeting was opened with prayer by Comrade Mattie Whitfield and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was rendered.

Roll Call of Officers by Adjutant D. Rider

Commander – Ben Green - Absent

Sr. Vice Commander – Lisa Robinson - Present

Jr. Vice Commander – Lorraine Fraser - Present

Adjutant – Deborah Rider - Present

Treasurer – Catrina Redfield - Present

Chaplain – Mitchell Ross – Absent

Sergeant of Arms – Lottie Miller - Present

Officer of the Day – Burt Pearman - Present

Benefits Protection Team Leader – Demetrious Jones – Present

- Chapter had a quorum.

Attendance - Membership Total: 14

Introduction of Visitors: Sr. Vice Cdr L. Robinson requested visitors to stand and introduce themselves.

- Comrade Reuben Bowman – Introduced himself to the Chapter as a New Member of Chap 33 Member since 7/13/2023 (Note: Invited by Cdr B. Green)
- Sr Vice Cdr L. Robinson: Welcomed Comrade R. Bowman on behalf of the Chapter

Reading of Last Meeting Minutes: September 13, 2023, Reported by Adjutant D. Rider

- Adj D. Rider reported, “At this time, I dispense with the reading of the minutes. The minutes were posted to our website by our Webmaster for members to review before the meeting. For the sake of time, Meeting minutes will be posted in advance so you may come to the Chapter

meetings with any questions or corrections. Draft of the September minutes were sent to members email addresses. If you did not get the minutes, please ensure D. Jones has your email address”.

- Sr. Vice Cdr L. Robinson: Asked, “Did any members receive the email copy of the September minutes?” several members responded with “No”.
- Sr Vice Cdr L. Robinson, stated, “The September minutes will be postponed for approval / acceptance to allow members to review or note corrections for approval as distributed or as corrected at the next scheduled Chapter meeting in November.

Treasurer’s Report: Reported by Treasurer C. Redfield

- No Monthly Chapter Financial Report

Sickness and Distress – Sr. Vice Cdr L. Robinson – Asked on behalf of the Chaplin, “Are there any updates of comrades in sickness or distress?” None reported.

Introduction of New Members: Reported by Adj D. Rider

- None present.

Reports of Committees

- Benefits and Protection Team – Reported by Chair D. Jones
No Report

Comrade (Dept Cdr) M. Whitfield reported, “The National Constitution and By-Laws will indoctrinate that voting is no longer required for the Treasurer Report and Adjutant Report. It was addressed by John Patterson at the 1st DEC on Saturday.”

Adjutant D. Rider asked, “when is this effective and how is it stated during the meeting?” How do we ensure everyone has read it?”

Comrade (Dept Cdr) M. Whitfield stated, “The Commander asks, are there are any corrections, hearing none, the minutes are approved, the Treasurer report would state the same, but add - pending audit.

- Forget-Me- Not Campaign – Reported by Chair D. Rider

"I received the Qtr 1 report from Department FMN Chair, Roz Robinson-Ambrose. Every quarter a report is due or must state No Report. The FMN Campaign dates are between November 2023 and May 2024. Our Chapter will provide our (7) FMN dates after the Golden Corral Event, to not have two events going on at the same time.

- Comrade M. Whitfield, asked, "Are we going to try to get back on Fort Meade at the Commissary and PX? If we put it in now, we will have it completed by April and it needs to request 6 months in advance.
- FMN Chair, D. Rider, responded, "Yes, that's the plan. After our GC event and Christmas party. We took your guidance the last time this was discussed, to send the email early so it can go through their approval process."
- Golden Corral Committee – Reported by Chair F. Harmon
Golden Corral Hanover has been remodeled. We will not all be able to congregate in the lobby. We need a team of 4 – in shifts to work the lines to sell raffle tickets and rotate in and out. Comrade D. Jackson, W. Pritchett and D. Jones will be counting the money from selling tickets due to mobility issues. Everyone else should prepare for the weather and form teams to work the lines. Monday, November 13 is actual Military Appreciation Day. We still need help.
 - Comrade D. Jones added, "Comrade Whitfield has the calendar, we ask you to pick a day – volunteer for a GC shift to have more than the 5.
 - Adjutant D. Rider asked, "Comrade Harmon may you explain what you mean or what's happening when you mentioned "to rotate in and out with shifts?" for the new members or visitors.
 - GC Chair F. Harmon explained the tickets are being sold, money is being collected by the shifts, brought inside, lines are wrapped outside the building, and we need the shifts to keep up with the donations, it may be cold and it's a really tight area around the cars.
- LVAP Committee – Reported by Chair D. Jones
LVAP hours as of September is 620 hours. If any comrades that have hours to submit, please send them to me so I can add it for the report to the Department. I have all the hours from GC.

- Entertainment Committee – Reported by Chair M. Whitfield
We need to pick a date for the Chapter Christmas Party to allow time for reservations and possibly vote on the location tonight. We also need the new POC for Loch Raven and see if we can go back to our traditional hot lunch. I plan to report that at our next meeting next month. I propose the Cheesecake Factory for the Chapter Christmas party. Are there any other locations?
 - Adj D. Rider stated, 2022 was at the Cheesecake Factory, 2023 was at the Yard House, 2021 wasn't held due to Covid. The challenge was space.
 - Ent Chair, M. Whitfield, added, yes it was the space, but the Cheesecake Factory has a larger area, depending on the location and the food was better.
 - Sr. Vice Cdr, L. Robinson, recognized the restaurant open discussion and moved to members to take a vote. Sr. Vice Cdr asks, "All those in favor of the Cheesecake Factory for the Chapter Christmas Party, say "Aye". Those opposed, say, "Nay", hearing none, Ayes were unanimous. The vote has been passed for the Cheesecake Factory.
 - Ent Chair, M. Whitfield, advised, "we need to block the date in December."
 - Sr, Vice Cdr, L. Robinson, stated, per Cdr Green, our next meeting for November is 14 Nov, and next meeting for December is 12 Dec.
 - Adjutant D. Rider, shared, "We usually forego our December Meeting to have our Christmas Party...so on Tues, 12 Dec.
 - Ent Chair, M. Whitfield, stated, once I get everything approved, I will send out an email to everybody.
 - Sr. Vice Cdr, L. Robinson, asked Ent Chair, "Do you need any volunteer to assist you?"
 - Ent Chair, M. Whitfield, responded "all I need is 3 people and I will pick them. Loch Raven Christmas Party is usually on a Sunday. I will ask for Dec 3rd." I will confirm once I talk to the POC there. Chair explained, we provide a hot lunch, play games, give gifts/fill Christmas stockings, and play Bingo and hopefully provide entertainment. I will provide updates as I get them.

Sr. Vice Cdr, L Robinson added, "personal experience shared with her daughter, 2nd year of college, mentioned the good camaraderie, served the food, and blessings

with them. My daughter still remembers it. It's something we should continue to do.

Sr. Vice Cdr, L Robinson: At this time, I need to circle back to the Treasurer Report. The reading of the report will be postponed, and date reset until the Audit is completed. There will not be a report tonight.

- Jr. Vice, L. Fraser, reported, "Once I receive all the audit information, I will choose the people who will conduct the audit to complete it. I need the packets."
- Sr. Vice Cdr, L. Robinson, restated, "the Jr. Vice, Treasurer and 3 selectees will meet at a time that is convenient for everyone to meet."
- Adj D. Rider, advised, "the Audit was postponed due to information requested by the Jr. Vice to contact the Cdr's selected Audit Team with Tracy Neal, Robert Henry, and Brian Jenkins. Cdr was told by the Department that we cannot submit our Financial Report until our Audit is completed. Cdr Ben, delegated Jr. Vice to contact the proposed audit team for their availability. No Chair was selected."
- Comrade (Dept Cdr) M. Whitfield stated, "I selected, called, and emailed last year's Audit Committee - Comrades A. Addo, L. Fraser, T. Neal. Cdr cannot select his Audit team. Guidance is on-line. Treasurers job it to prepare the Financial Report and be present to answer questions or it will be sent back." Audit takes 1-2 hours.
- Adj D. Rider – advised, "Audit packets are ready, we should email the proposed team to ensure everyone's schedule permits."
- Sr. Vice Cdr, L. Robinson, We have 2 Audit team members from last year present, Comrades T. Neal, and Jr. Vice L. Fraser, subject to their acceptance, we only need a 3rd to complete the Audit team. Is there anyone who would like to volunteer tonight to get the Audit moving?"
- Comrade (Dept Cdr) M. Whitfield, says, "I volunteer to be on it."
- Sr. Vice L Robinson, advised, "the 3 of you, Treasurer must decide on a date and time."
- Comrade B. Pearman, stated, "I like to volunteer as an alternate."
- Adj. D. Rider requested if Comrades T. Neal and Jr. Vice L. Frases accept being a member for 2023 Audit team.
- Jr. Vice, L. Fraser, confirmed, Yes.
- Comrade T. Neal, confirmed, Yes.

- Sr. Vice L Robinson, restated, the Primary Audit committee is M. Whitfield, L. Fraser, T. Neal, and Alternate B. Pearman.

Unfinished Business

- **Mid-Winter Conference, 7 – 8 December at the Residence Inn by Marriott, Waldorf, MD**, Room registration cut off is 4 Nov.
 - Comrade (Dept Cdr) M. Whitfield, the conference was cancelled.
- **Charter/By Laws Update** – Memorandum was submitted to Dept Cdr, M. Whitfield on 30 Sept, to be voted on at the 7 Oct - 1st Qtr DEC Mtg.
 - Dept Cdr, M. Whitfield advised, to be official, the request will be brought to vote at the 2nd Qtr DEC on 13 Jan 2024 then sent to National.
 - Adj D. Rider stated we were at the 1st Qtr DEC and it didn't come up.
- **Full Life Membership Incentive Program** – Dept Sr. Vice/ASNSO Craig Barnes confirmed the Official date is Oct 7, 2023, for Chapter supports with \$30 contribution, Department matches the \$30 contribution.
- **Fort Meade Retiree Appreciation Day** – Fri, 27 Oct, McGill Training Center, 0900 – 1400 hrs. Confirmed 2 tables with Retirement Services Office, Asst RSO Roderick Gray/ Christine Hopke – RSO Mgr. Also request NSO support for claims
 - Comrade D. Jones explained our information table, display, and purpose to recruit new members, outreach, and contacts.

New Business

- Department Awards POC is Joan Sabree
- Breast Cancer Awareness Event with Chapter 7, on 4 Nov,
- Chapter 17 – 75th Anniversary, Sat, 4 Nov. Luncheon, AAFB, O. Martis
- Chapter 7, 29 Oct, Baby baskets, asking for donations.
- Operations Green Light - Veterans are asked to display a green light on 6 – 12 Nov to honor Veterans.
- Veterans Seminar and Claims Clinic – 21 October, 9am to 1pm
1st Baptist Church of Guilford – Fellowship Hall
 - Guest Speakers, DSO/NSO, McVet, Maryland Job Center and more. Spouses welcome, Student Scholarships Program information. Webmaster will post to the Website.
 - Chapter 15, Veteran Celebration and Resource Fair
Sun, 12 Nov, 10am to 5pm, Townsen Univ.

Announcements:

Sr. Vice Cdr, L. Robinson – announced as of today, Oct 10, 2023, for the record, I am resigning my position as Sr. Vice Cdr. I discussed this with the Cdr, and though I enjoy the position, due to other obligations professionally and personally, I don't have the dedicated time needed.

- “Is there anyone here who is interested in the position or would like to nominate someone?”
- Comrade D. Jones, “I would like to nominate, Comrade Tracy Neal as Sr. Vice.”
- **Sr. Vice Cdr, L. Robinson** – “There’s a motion on the floor to nominate, Comrade Tracy Neal for the position of Sr. Vice Cdr.”
- Comrade George Franklin – “I seconded.”
- **Sr. Vice Cdr, L. Robinson** – stated to the body, “All those in favor of T. Neal as your next Senior Vice Commander, say “Aye”. Those opposed, say, “Nay”, hearing none, Ayes were the majority. It has been moved and seconded at 20:02 hours.

Good of the Order

- Department Executive Committee (DEC) schedule
 - 2nd Qtr DEC Mtg: Sat, 13 Jan 2024, Chap 13, American Legion, Severn
 - 3rd Qtr DEC Mtg: Sat, 6 Apr 2024, Same location
- Comrade Larmar Couser was given his second award from the Chapter at the 1st DEC Mtg. Accepted position at National in Kentucky.

Memorial Ceremony. Conducted by Sr. Vice Cdr, L. Robinson.

Closing Prayer – Led by Comrade M. Whitfield

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

Next meeting scheduled Tues, November 14, at 7pm.

Odenton Public Library, 1325 Annapolis Rd, Odenton, MD 21113

(410)222-6277.