



The American Legion, Post 22  
 Regular Membership Meeting - Minutes  
 February 24th, 2021 at 6 P.M.

Opening Ceremonies (Commander) (6 P.M.)

- Post and salute the colors
- Chaplain offers prayer (remove cap)
- POW/MIA empty chair (Sergeant-at-Arms)
- Pledge of Allegiance (re-cover cap upon completion)
- Recite Preamble of Constitution of The American Legion
- Roll call to determine if quorum is present (min of 10 members): see sign in sheet (24)

Follow with officer roll call:

Present / Absent / Excused

- |                                |   |   |  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|
| a. Commander (Tolsma)          | X | X |  |
| b. Vice Commander (Van Delist) | X |   |  |
| c. Adjutant (Harris)           | X |   |  |
| d. Finance Officer (Fink)      | X |   |  |
| e. Chaplain (Fuller)           | X |   |  |
| f. Historian (C. Douglas)      | X |   |  |
| g. Sergeant-at-Arms (Dosch)    | X |   |  |

- Minutes of previous meeting – Electronically posted on website:  
<https://www.alpost22rcsd.com/mtg-minutes-etc> (Adjutant)
- Introduction of guests and prospective new members
  - o New members:
    - Steve Kurek, US Navy
    - Lee Warnemunde, USA and student at SDSM&T
    - Bill Jeffery, USAF
    - Jason Combs, USAF Ret
    - Tom Kessler, USAF, Ret
    - Nick Dupont, USA
    - Kristopher DeGeest, USMC
  - o Guest(s): Emma Raisanen our Post Oratorical Contest competitor. Talked about her experience at the competition and thanked Post 22 for sponsoring her.
- **Committee Reports**
  - o Finance (Harris/Fink): All as of **02/24/2021**
    - Business: \$
    - Membership: \$
    - Benevolence: \$ (deposit of \$500 from business acct for Feb)
    - Americanism: \$ (Boys State sponsors so far: \$2,900 + \$500 from business acct)

- SAL: \$
  - Capital Improvement Savings: \$ (deposits of \$2,000 from business account and 778.50 from Queen of Hearts)
  - Building Repair Loan: **\$(owed)** – pd 376.78 so far in Feb, will pay another \$1,000 on principal.
- Membership (Harris): 2021 Membership year starts 1 July 2020 = **Goal is 573**.
  - Paid so far 541 = **94% of goal**
    - Renewals are exceptionally slow right now, so getting that last 6+% will be a challenge.
    - Signed 4 new members at the meeting and transferred 2 members in from Virginia.
  - **National Commander Membership Excellence** Pins (presented to “any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion”:
    - Shari Bradstream
    - Doug Harris
    - Tom Smith
    - Chris Van Delist
  - **Go Getter** pins presented:
    - Shari Bradstream
    - Doug Harris
    - Tom Smith
    - Christopher Van Delist
    - Paul Rodriguez
    - Donald Dosch
  - Presentation of **membership longevity** pins:
    - **Alton Palmer, 50 year pin/certificate** – Vietnam Veteran
  - Presentation of New Member coins:
    - Steve Kurek
    - Tom Kessler
    - Lee Warnemunde
    - Nick Dupont
    - Kristopher DeGeest
- **AL Riders** Report (Fleming)
  - Attended 4 Chaplains Ceremony in Sturgis
  - Meetings start again next month.
- **Post 22 Auxiliary** Report (T. Curry) – Not present.
- Americanism (D. Fuller):
  - Results of Department Oratorical Contest: Emma Raisanen (see above comments).
  - Upcoming programs:
    - Boys State and Youth Trooper are now open for applications. Van Delist gave a briefing on the Boys State program and encouraged members to recruit boys for the program.
  - Went to Rapid City Christian for a school visit. Central HS visit is next week. Will be contacting STM for a visit.
- Athletic Officer (B. Garcia): not present, no report.

- Honor Guard update (Bradstream): HG held a meeting last night (2/23/21), went through flag folding and are getting ready for Post Everlasting Ceremony coming up next month. Meeting led by Gary Stanley. Still looking for new members.
- **Sick call, relief and employment** (Fuller):
  - Members who have passed to Post Everlasting: LaVerne Tech passed away recently. Service will be next Tuesday...more details as they become available. Also, Larry Wilsey, Bruce Knauer this month.
  - Other: **Post Everlasting** coming up on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. Looking to schedule a practice session. Looking for volunteers (3 or 4) for this program.
- **Post Service Officer** report (Van Delist):
  - Only 1 request for service...help to gravel and grade a driveway. This falls outside our skill level.
  - One of our members (Henry Olivier) helped move the RV from Spearfish to Custer for a veteran who was in the VA Nursing home in Hot Springs. **Thank you, Henry!**
- **Unfinished Business**
  - Facility Improvement projects update (Harris).
    - Smith and Harris recently completed lighting upgrade in Large and small meeting rooms. All LED lighting now. Cost for parts: **\$614**. Labor savings of at least \$500
      - Will be adding two more 2X4 LED light fixtures in the large meeting room to eliminate the poorly lit area. It will look like the sun is coming up back there, but we intend to install wiring to allow for dimming the lights as needed.
      - Ordering more lights for bathrooms (6) and spares: est. cost = \$270
    - Scheduling 5-year fire sprinkler inspection/nozzle (etc.) replacement project in near future = **\$1,580** cost.
- **New Business**
  - 2020 Volunteer Hours/Donations Spreadsheet
    - **\$91,362** – significantly down from 2019 due to Coronavirus closures/cancellations. Will be posting this information on our website.
  - Nominations for **Legionnaire of The Year** for Post 22 – our winner will go forward to District 2 for the Spring meeting. Discuss the nomination form (Harris).
    - Adjutant Harris nominated Chaplain Don Fuller, second by Don Dosch. Motion carries.
    - There were no other nominations. Harris will prepare the nomination paperwork and submit it to District 2 Commander.
    - Post 22 members have been selected as SD Legionnaire of The Year for the past 2 years; 2018-2019 was Doug Harris (Adjutant) and 2019-2020 was Christopher Van Delist (Vice Commander).
  - **Resignation of Club Manager** Jeremy Snyder effective on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Our Assistant Manager, Debbi Wigge, will be stepping up to Manager and we are looking for a new assistant manager.
  - **Establishment of Scholarships.**
    - **Oratorical:** Post winner receives \$250 for winning at Post level, another \$250 for winning at District Level and then another \$500 if they win at Department level for a total of \$1,000. **We will be awarding \$500 to our 2021 winner Emma Raisanan.**

- **Boys State:** Those boys sponsored by Post 22 will compete for a \$1,000 scholarship (see form). A copy of the form will be given to all boys we select to attend Boys State, so they can fill it out as the week progresses. The submissions will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and a winner will be selected following the Boys State session each year.
    - **Veteran:** This will be a once/year scholarship offered to local veterans currently attending Post-Secondary educational institutions (Colleges and Trade Schools). Applicants will meet a selection board made up of Post 22 members, professors, etc.
- The Good of the American Legion (Any member)
  - District 2 Spring Meeting will be held in Martin, SD on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (times not yet established).
  - **Boys State** (application deadline - May 1<sup>st</sup>) and **Youth Trooper Academy** (application deadline - March 21<sup>st</sup>) are both open for registration.
  - **Eagle Scout of The Year** nominations now open – closes March 1<sup>st</sup>. Our 50 year cap pin/certificate recipient (Alton Palmer) reported that his grandson had just been awarded Eagle Scout rank this year and we are looking to submit him for this award.
  - Post 22 member **Troy Falardeau** received an appointment to Department Commander's newly formed "Membership and Marketing committee".
    - Focusing on 3 areas: Honor Flights, our Posts, and how the community can help us.
  - **2021 Department Convention** planned for June 24-27 in Huron, SD. Talked about what happens at this meeting and how we can establish new/change the old rules.
  - Rapid City DAV (Christine Speirs) reports that this is the last week to get a DAV Life membership for \$100 (normally \$300).
    - Selling raffle tickets to raise money for the rides for Veterans program.
    - Next March 6<sup>th</sup> they will be open to people file claims.
    - Today is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of Desert Storm.
- Adjournment at 1850.