



The American Legion, Post 22
Regular Membership Meeting - Minutes

August 28th, 2019 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

Follow with officer roll call:

Present / Absent / Excused

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| a. Commander (Tolsma) | 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 (Applicable host)
 - o New members (Van Delist): Joe Aldentaler and Robert Caffrey.
 - o Boys State participants briefing: Two of the young men we sponsored to Boys State were present to brief the members on their experience at Boys State.
 - Jerek Glenn (STM):
 - Steven Rumbaugh (STM):
 - o Guest(s):
 - Sacred Mountain Retreat (G. Van Delist) – Jerrid Geving and Emily Kruger were present to tell the members about their program and invite members to take part. The presentation started with a testimonial from member G. Van Delist who recently attended the program. Information sheets were handed out and a video was shown.
 - Beau Byrd (Military and Veterans Service Rep) from Congressman Dusty Johnson’s Office. 2525 West Main St in the Clock Tower Plaza, Suite 310 in Rapid City. Beau addressed the members and passed out his business card in case any of them had issues they needed addressed: 605-646-6456

- Committee Reports
 - Finance (Harris/Fink): All **as of 8/28/19**. The amounts have been removed for the website version. If you are a member and would like to see the original, please contact us at post22rc@gmail.com.
 - Business Acct: \$
 - Americanism Acct: \$
 - Benevolence Acct: \$
 - Capital Improvement Savings Acct: \$
 - Legal Loan: \$0 and closed.
 - Membership Acct: \$
 - SAL Acct: \$
 - How are we doing compared to past years (Tolsma/Harris)
 - Tolsma update: Briefed the members on how much better our Lounge is doing financially and otherwise since the change in management. The new manager has met and exceeded the Executive Committee's expectations. Especially in the area of sales/inventory/profit margin/cleanliness.
 - (Harris): Financial health of our Post...**improving trend**. The numbers will be removed for the website version. If you are a member and would like to see the numbers, please contact Doug Harris at post22rc@gmail.com.
 - 2016 Losses in the Bar: **-\$**...covered by the Lotto: Finished \$ in black for the entire year
 - 2017 Losses in the Bar: **-\$**...covered by the Lotto: Finished the year **-\$**
 - 2018 January – July: **(-\$)**: Year-end number, a loss of **-\$**, again covered by the Lotto. Finished the year at \$
 - **Multiple years of losses led to neglect of the facility**
 - 2019 January – July: \$ = **\$21K improvement over previous year**
 - This improving financial health has allowed the EC to pay for badly needed fixes to our facilities.
 - **Upgrades to Kitchen** (new fryer and other equipment) (Tolsma and C. Van Delist).
 - **Replace historic Post 22 neon** sign – now LED...uses less energy and greatly reduced repair bills. (Tolsma).
 - **\$23K+ in attorney fees.**
 - Repairs to **Large HVAC Unit** (\$7K with another \$5K upcoming) (Tolsma initiated and supervised)
 - Repairs/replacement of old/worn out **equipment in the bar**
 - Replace broken ice machine (Tolsma)
 - 2 new reach-in coolers (Tolsma)
 - 4 new TVs (Tolsma)
 - Internet upgrades – business level firewall and much more powerful signal emitters for Lounge and meeting rooms. (Tolsma/Harris)
 - Point of Sale (POS) system to track sales/employee hours/inventory/credit cards, etc. (Tolsma/Harris)
 - newer chairs (Ball/Tolsma/Van Delist/Harris).
 - Multiple plumbing fixes/upgrades (Harris).
 - Repairs to roof (Multiple and ongoing) (Harris).

- Repair of walls in Lounge/painting of the Lounge and Business Office (Harris/Van Delist).
 - Painting and lighting upgrades to the meeting rooms (Harris/Van Delist).
 - Purchase of industrial carpet cleaner and 2 new vacuums to improve the cleanliness of our facility (Harris).
 - Removal of old A/C unit in small meeting room...repair of hole in the wall. (Van Delist)
 - **Upcoming** repairs to exterior walls (Dryvit) and painting of newer building (Harris).
- Membership (Harris)
 - Goal of 638 – 345 renewed: **Currently at 55% of goal.**
 - Membership longevity pins presented to:
 - Robert Caffrey (50 yrs)
 - Gary Larson (45 yrs)
 - Tom Smith (20 yrs)
 - Legion (Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities to National Service) Act of 2019 – how it affects membership:
 - **Reduces the number of eligibility periods from 7 to 2. April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.**
 - Basically, if a person spent at least one (1) day on official orders, and received an honorable discharge, they are eligible.
 - Take this opportunity to share the good word and recruit new members!!
 - C. Van Delist: 5 new and 1 transfer
 - G. Van Delist: 1 new
 - L. Tolsma: 1 new
 - D. Fuller: 1 new
 - J. Schneider: 1 new
 - R. Andrews: 1 new
 - E. Stringer: 1 new
 - D. Harris: 6 transfers
- Americanism (D. Fuller):
 - Fuller has been very busy contacting school officials concerning our Americanism programs. Once he gets dates/times for school visits he will need folks who are willing to go to the schools. Just got ahold of Stevens and Central HS. Looking for people to volunteer to go to the middle schools for flag education etc.
 - Harris (State Americanism Officer) reported that the Americanism packets were going out to all Posts in the very near future. He will also be attending most of the District meetings to brief the Americanism package to the District Commanders and all those posts who attend.
- Athletic Officer (Tolsma filled in): Baseball season ended when we lost the state championship to Renner. 3 of the players were selected to the All State team. The new

stadium at Fitzgerald...will be picking a construction company in the next couple of months. The construction will start at the end of next July 2020.

- Sick call, relief and employment (Fuller): No members reported sick/injured. Last man standing...Paul Douglas has added his bottle to the collection. Getting people approved for burial at BHNC...he will be bringing in the paperwork for the group next month.
- Post Service Officer report (Van Delist): Contacted by 10 Vets, 8 of which wanted gas. We will not be giving out gas money...there are a lot of other programs that we can offer to them. Has taken vets down to get upgrades on their claims/disabilities. 2 working currently: 1 just received his disability rating...working on getting him into Vocational Rehab and help him find a job. Looking for temporary assistance for food. 2nd vet he's working with...he's trying to get him increased comp and help him with his health problems/treatment.
- Unfinished business
 - o Future Facility upgrades/expenses (Tolsma/Harris): Harris and Tolsma have been busy planning future projects to fix/improve our facility. Harris met with roofing contractors to find out what needed to be done to fix our roof problems as well as the methods to accomplish this goal.
 - Replace Flat roof both buildings: \$250K + Option 1
 - Replace Flat roof with pitched roof: \$300K + Option 2
 - Build new building: \$1 Million+, Option 3
 - Currently planning some "self-help" patching to the roof – no set date for this but planning on early Fall.
 - **If any of you know what we should buy that can be applied with paint brush/roller, please speak up.**
 - Repair of Exterior Dryvit on newer building. Also plan to paint this building (self-help).
 - Tom Smith Plastering bid (**\$5,164.00**)
 - Kumelos Design and Construction bid (**\$2,183.68**)
 - o Lounge/business office painting project complete (Harris).
 - Thanks to Dylan Mollman, Annie Van Delist and C. Van Delist for the drywall repairs as well as helping to paint.
 - Thanks to Doug Harris for the cleaning/painting.
 - Many compliments have been received on the improvements to the lounge.
 - o TVs (Tolsma). Thanks to C. Van Delist, Jeremy Snyder and Lyle Tolsma for their efforts.
 - o Also went down to one bill on our TV time. DirectTV is now our sole provider. On Sundays when we have our football day, we have purchased a hotdog machine and will sell those for \$1. This allows us to provide a food choice to our patrons without having to open the kitchen.
 - o Football Jerseys were purchased and will be raffled off during the football season to help raise money for the facility.
- New Business
 - o Post 22 By Laws change (Harris)
 - The Executive Committee has approved a change (see below) and now it moves forward to the membership for approval/rejection.
 - History/Reason for addition/change to Post 22 By Laws. There are two types of Life memberships. The first is Paid Up For Life (PUFL), where the member

makes a one-time purchase from The American Legion Headquarters, so they never have to pay another annual renewal. The other type is the Honorary Life membership which is awarded by the Post and is paid annually by the Post. The Honorary Life membership commits future members to pay, indefinitely, the dues of a member who was selected, for as long as said Post chooses to do so. If/when the Post chooses not to pay the dues, for whatever reason, the member does not lose their membership, they simply have to pay for it themselves. Because this causes understandable consternation on the part of that member, the Post 22 Executive Committee (EC) is submitting an addition to the Membership section of their By Laws to address this problem. It requires the Post to purchase a PUFL for a member who is selected for an Honorary Life membership at the time they are selected, but only if the EC determines the funds are available.

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- I. MEMBERSHIP.
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 - 1. All persons shall be eligible to membership in this Post who are eligible to membership in the American Legion under the Constitution of the Department of South Dakota of the American Legion.
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 - 2. Any person eligible to membership as aforesaid may become a member of this Post upon payment of dues for the current year.
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 - 3. **(Proposed Change) Honorary Life Memberships: If a member of the Post is nominated for and receives a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing at the annual (April) membership meeting, they may be designated an Honorary Life Member. The Post Executive Committee must then determine if the funds are available and if so, purchase a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership for this member. Under no circumstances will this designation be allowed to obligate future members to pay for Honorary Life members for an undefined number of years.**

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- o D. Harris, representing the EC, made a motion for the Post to change the By-Laws to include the above wording (which he read out loud). Seconded by D. Fink. Commander Tolsma opened the floor to debate the motion.
 - Multiple members asked questions for clarification. Most of which were answered by D. Harris.
 - A suggestion was made to pay for current Honorary Life members PUFL now. It was pointed out that this would mean the expenditure of \$3K+ and was not financially feasible.
 - Several members then asked questions, expressed opinions about current Honorary Life members. Past Commander De Benson asked how many current Honorable Life members we have? D. Harris said there were four (4).
 - After about 10 minutes of debate, C. Van Delist made a motion (IAW Roberts Rules of Order) to “suspend discussion that doesn’t specifically address the

motion on the floor". Second by D. Harris. The Commander "called the question". The motion passed by a 2/3 majority (show of hands).

- Commander Tolsma "called the question" on the original motion and Adjutant Harris read the motion for a second time. A "show of hands" vote was taken, and the result was 18 for and 3 against. Motion carries.
 - Commander Tolsma asked if there was any other New Business from the floor (2 times). Hearing nothing, he moved on to the next item.
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- The good of the American Legion (Any member)
 - Cynthia Douglas announced that the District 2 meeting is on the 28th of September in Hot Springs SD. Social starts at 0900, Meeting at 1000, with a luncheon to follow.
 - Member Joey Franze talked about the 21st of September...EAFB Health and Wellness Expo at the Rushmore Mall.0900-1200.
 - Commander Tolsma completed the closing ceremonies to include saluting the flag, retiring the POW/MIA chair, a prayer from the Chaplain.
 - Adjourn (P.M.) 7:28 PM