

# Francis Cannon VFW Post 7589, Minutes of the General Membership Meeting October 5, 2015

Commander Peter MacLeod called the meeting to order at 1930 Hours.

## **Roll Call of Officers:**

Commander MacLeod – Present	Surgeon Warren Ewell - Present
SVC Ron Link – Present	Chaplain Joel Chase - Present
JVC Steve Meade – Present	Historian Paul Chase - Present
QM Rick Raskin – Present	OD: Robert Punihaole - Excused
Adjutant Paul Chase – Present	Trustee #1 Phillipone - Present
Service Officer Steve Botello – Present	Trustee #2 Bursey - Present
Advocate Steve Meade – Present	Trustee #3 Moore – Present

13 Officers present, 1 excused. Total of 18 members present.

Commander MacLeod appointed Rod Gillette as Acting Officer of the Day.

Acting OD Gillette arranged the POW/MIA Chair to remember those Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

**Membership Applications:** QM Raskin reported there were 3 new applications: Phillip Rutz (Iraq Veteran), Kimberly Thomas (Desert Storm) and Rick Kohne , Life Member transfer from Post 1811.

**QM Raskin made a motion to accept these applications to Post 7589. SVC Link seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

## **Reading of the Minutes:**

**Motion was made to accept the Minutes of the September General Membership Meeting as modified. Comrade Link seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

**Quartermaster's Report for September, 2015 was presented by QM Raskin:**

Balance Fwd: \$11,050.68

Receipts: \$9,565.54

Expenditures: (\$10,931.38)

Final Balance: \$9,684.84

QM Raskin announced the completion of the paving for the Parking Lot will begin shortly and funds are in the budget to complete this task which will bring it to completion three years ahead of the date promised to the City of Manassas.

**Qm Raskin made a motion to accept the Quartermaster's Report subject to audit by the Trustees. JVC Meade seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

**Chaplain's Report:** Chaplain J. Chase reported that District 8 Commander and Post SVC Ron Link is making an excellent recovery from his surgery. Ron was visited by a number of Post members during his rehabilitation.

**Report of Committees:**

**Bingo:** QM Raskin reported that Bingo is doing well, averaging nearly \$700.00 in revenue per week.

**Youth:** The program is going well. Commander MacLeod is filling in for SVC Link who is recovering from knee surgery. Schools are being signed up for the Youth Essay Constests. A very successful Flag Handling and Retirement instruction was conducted in September for the Cub Scouts from the Bennett Elementary School in Manassas. Signup Sheets are available for Veterans Week school visitations for Post members.

VFW Essay Themes for the 2015-16 school year:

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8): **"What Freedom Means to Me"**

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9 -12): **"My Vision for America"**

Deadline for essays is November 1, 2015.

New Teacher of the Year deadline; Feb. 15, 2016

Patriotic Art Deadline (Auxiliary Program): March 31, 2016

**MAP:** SVC Link reported he has been attempting to contact “B “ Company for our support of this year’s Xmas party with further developments to follow. Current plans call for the party to be a “Pot Luck” affair.

**Unfinished Business:**

The Post received a letter of appreciation from SERV for our donation on behalf of departed Comrade Ken Lion.

The “Wills for Vets” program has turned out to be highly beneficial and popular. Attendees and their spouses were lined up at the door, ready for the first two meetings that were hosted by Post 7589. Commander MacLeod is reporting the events to the state as Community Service by the Post. The next session will be held at the Post on Oct. 24, 2015. The program is a “pro-bono” volunteer effort by lawyers from the Prince William County Bar Association with coordination by Barbara Diehl of the Manassas Agency on Aging.

The POW/MIA Day ceremony was hosted by American Legion Post #10 on Sept. 18, 2015 and very well attended with Post 7589 Comrade Merle Hancock as the featured speaker.

**New Business:**

Service Officer Steve Botello reported on the initiative to assist Mike and Agnes Towne of Manassas Park, Va. Home Depot is donating \$10,000 for materials and labor to help in rehabilitating their home to suit Mike’s physical situation. Post 7589’s ability to help is limited but QM Raskin made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the effort. The motion was seconded by SVC Link and the motion and the Motion Carried.

Commander MacLeod announced there would be a Post meeting on Oct. 13, 2015 from 1830 to 2000 Hours for a mass phone call effort to get delinquent and non-active members to update their membership and pay any annual dues they owe.

There will be an attempt to find a vehicle for those post members who cannot walk during the Manassas Veterans Day Parade which will honor female veterans this year.

Commander MacLeod announced the last 3 months of every year are jam packed with events and activities. It is our time to recruit, raise funds, show ourselves and be known in the community. This will require our best efforts. There are multiple sign-up sheets and a complete list of activities available.

Manassas Fall Jubilee has been re-scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015 at our new location on Battle Street. Commander MacLeod says this is a popular event which is important to our interaction with the community and is good for recruiting so maximum attendance is needed. Set up time on the 24<sup>th</sup> is 8:00 am, the start of the Jubilee is 10 am.

The District 8 meeting has been changed to the Fredericksburg VFW Post for Noon on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. See Commander MacLeod, SVC Link, and QM Raskin for details.

Trustee Lou Phillipone has volunteered to head the Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> Post 7589 Holiday Party committee with the help of Comrade Mike Marcolla and Surgeon Warren Ewell. The Auxiliary will be part of the planning team. They will have a report for the Nov 2 General Membership Meeting.

The issue of an additional attendee at the Va. VFW Winter Council Meeting in Williamsburg was discussed. QM Raskin estimated the cost to be approx. \$310.00. SVC Link noted this was not in the Post budget. **QM Raskin made a motion to fund the additional attendee who is Service Officer Steve Botello. The motion was seconded by Advocate Meade. A voice vote was inconclusive. A show of hands vote was made and the Motion Failed by a 6-5 vote count.**

Wreaths Across America will be conducted Saturday Noon on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at Quantico National Cemetery. Parking has been a problem for this event in the past and there may be long walks for those attending.

**Good of the Order**

Commander MacLeod reviewed the VFW Post 7589 Upcoming Events:

Oct 10: Auxiliary Yard Sale, Post 7589 HQ, 0700 – 1400 Hrs.

Oct 13: Phone calling to inactive members, Post HQ, 1830 – 2000 Hrs.

Oct. 20: Youth Committee Meeting, Post HQ, 1900 Hrs.

Oct 24: Manassas Fall Jubilee, Old Town, 0800 – 1700 Hrs.

Oct. 24: Wills for Vets, Post HQ, 1300 – 1800 Hrs.

Oct. 29: VFW 7589 Exec. Comm. Meeting, Post HQ, 1900 Hrs.

Nov. 1: PP, VOD Deadline for Entries

Nov. 2 – 14, Post 7589 Essay Contest Judging

Nov. 2: Post 7589 General Membership Meeting, 1930 Hrs.

Nov. 6: Manassas Christian School Veterans Assembly, 0930 – 1030 Hrs.

Nov 6: Buddy Poppy Drive, 1500 – 1900 Hrs, Centreville Giant Store

Nov. 7: Manassas Veterans Parade, 1100 Hrs, Old Town

Nov. 7: Buddy Poppy Drive, ACE Hardware Manassas, 1400 – 1700 Hrs.

Nov. 8: Buddy Poppy Drive, Shoppers Food, Manassas, 0900 – 1300 Hrs.

Nov. 10: Salute to Veterans at Round School, Manassas, 1400 Hrs.

Nov. 11: Post 7589 Veterans Day Ceremonies at Manassas Veterans Memorial, 0830 Hrs. Flag Placement on veteran's graves at Manassas Cemetery at 0900 Hrs.

Nov. 11: Tentative, Veterans classroom visits to Rachel Carson School.

Nov. 12: Veterans classroom visit to Haydon School, Manassas, 1500 Hrs.

Nov. 14: VFW District 8 Meeting at Fredericksburg Post, 1200 Hrs.

Nov. 15-22: District 8 Essay Contest Judging

Dec. 6: Youth Awards Ceremony at Post HQ at 1600 Hrs.

Dec. 19: Post 7589 Holiday Party at Post HQ at 1700 Hrs, (tentative)

A Post Holiday Message: We should all be aware of the fact that the Holidays bring joy and happiness to many, but it also is commonly a time of hardship and depression and unfortunate memories. Let us be alert to those who many need emotional support at this time.

Commander MacLeod gave a safety message regarding driving and kid's Trick or Treating. It happens every year where kids in the dark are struck by vehicles. Take special care when driving during these times and be alert to wet leaves on the roads which can cause loss of control of vehicles.

There being no further business, Commander MacLeod adjourned the meeting at 2040 Hrs.

Submitted by Post Adjutant Paul Chase