



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO
DISTRICT 10, POST 4266
P.O. Box 4266, PARKER, CO

Minutes for Meeting of September 21, 2015

1. **Introduction:**
2. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1900 hrs. by Commander Evan Totten.
3. **Officer of the day (*Adjutant*) shall check Membership Cards:** Adjutant Pete Solano checked cards of all present. All present were authorized to remain.
4. **Opening Prayer** by Milt Scherotter acting Chaplain.
5. **Recitation of Section 230102 of the VFW Congressional Charter** read by Commander Totten
6. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Commander Totten
7. **Officer Roll Call:** Solano called the Officer Roll Call.

• Commander	Evan L. Totten	Present
• Senior Vice Commander	Reuben Trujillo	Present
• Junior Vice Commander	Floyd Merenkov	Present
• Quartermaster	Gerard Brushaber	Present
• Chaplain	Milt Scherotter (acting)	Present
• Adjutant	Pete Solano	Present
• Judge Advocate	Vacant	Vacant
• Surgeon	Edward Sainz	Absent
• 3 Year Trustee	Keith G. Troutman	Present
• 2 Year Trustee	Roland R. Henkel	Present
• 1 Year Trustee	Milt Scherotter	Present
• Service Officer	Floyd Merenkov	Present

Quorum was declared by Commander Totten; 13 members present.

Jeffery Hawk (USAF), Parker resident, retired 1996. Raytheon employee. Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Mike Tarby 20 years USA 1961-1981, Vietnam/Korea Veteran. Leroy Chavez Post Commander 7945 in attendance for inspection. District Commander, Dave Cook present.

8. **Reading of last meeting minutes:** Meeting minutes sent out to all members via email by Commander Totten on 9/21/2015. Senior Vice Commander Rueben Trujillo makes motion to accept meeting minutes from August 2015, Floyd Merenkov seconds motion. Vote to accept the meeting minutes carried.
9. **Membership Applications:** Jeffery Hawk submits application to Brushaber with DD214.
10. **Quartermaster Monthly Report:** Quartermaster Gerard Brushaber read report.
 - a. August Quartermaster report was available at the September meeting.
 - b. Brushaber delivered report to all members via email prior to meeting and made available a hard copy at meeting. Junior Vice Commander Floyd Merenkov makes motion to accept report. Trujillo seconds the motion. Vote to accept report carried.
11. **Trustee Report :** None.
12. **Committee Reports:**



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- a. **Membership** – Brushaber- No new memberships. 72 members, 56 life members, 1 installment life, 1 non-paid transfer, 1 transfer.
- b. **Relief** – Brushaber - No calls for assistance.
- c. **Buddy Poppy** – Trujillo: No reservation for Veterans Day operation in Parker. Trujillo stated he would make contact in the coming weeks to confirm the location. Merenkov reported he reserved Castle Pines King Soopers for weekend of 8 November 2015 for Veterans Day operations.
- d. **Publicity** - Twitter account established with handle @vfwparker. Youtube channel established as Adjutant VFW Post 4266. A video was posted to youtube channel and re-posted on Facebook and Twitter by Brushaber and Solano. Solano stated he would establish a monthly “press release” to advise local area newspapers of our operations. District Commander Cook suggested adding Patriot’s Pen and Voice of Democracy to the first press release. Solano took the comment under advisement.
- e. **Youth Activities** – Solano contacted both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts with information for Scout of the year. Solano also made contact with DCSD re: Patriot’s Pen and Voice of Democracy. Commander Totten attended Cub Scout Flag retirement ceremony in Parker area. Trujillo suggested contacting organizations to have post members to give classes and volunteers to mentor kids. District Commander Cook offered contact information to pack looking for volunteers. Solano noted the Scout organization generated over \$1.2 billion in revenue compared to \$362 million by the VFW in 2014 and suggested no monetary donations be given to such organizations that do not pertain specifically to Veteran issues.
- f. **Americanism** - Solano made motion for \$24 expense for promotional information regarding PP and VOD. Merenkov seconded motion. Vote by members carried the motion.
- g. **Ways and Means** – Brushaber noted Pearl Harbor Day 7 December. Discussion about holding the event on the day of at a location similar to Cabela’s POW/MIA Day. Merenkov made a motion to execute Pearl Harbor Day operations as a fundraising effort at Wal-Mart in Parker, Trujillo seconded the motion. Vote taken and motion carried. Solano proposed using a mobile, digital platform for donations that will augment in person donations. No discussion on matter ensued and the matter remains open. Merenkov asked the District Commander regarding fundraising using Buddy Poppies and a separate collection for the general fund. District Commander noted it is feasible but must be clearly delineated as to what each table was fundraising for (i.e. relief versus general fund). Solano proposed Poker tournament for November 7 to raise funds for general fund. Brushaber made a motion to hold a November Poker tournament, Merenkov seconded the motion. Trujillo motioned an amendment for the Poker event to be held on 14 November, Merenkov seconded the motion. Vote carried and passed to hold a Poker Tournament to raise monies for the general fund. Solano will chair the committee to organize and execute the poker tournament.
- h. **Community Activity** – Commander Totten advocated documentation regarding our community activity. He further advocated looking for



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opportunities in the community and ensuring it is documented. Discussion ensued regarding food bank operations in Parker.

- i. **Service Officer.** Merenkov – No recent calls for assistance. Merenkov discussed Veteran's benefits including getting Disabled Veterans license plate in CO which are free to members with at least 50% rating of disability. Merenkov also noted DV plates are eligible to get a free CO parks pass as well as other benefits. Merenkov also discussed Agent Orange legislation that advocated contacting federal representatives to recognize Agent Orange exposure. Solano made note and posted the legislation on Post Twitter and Facebook sites.
- j. **Legislation** – Commander Totten discussed HR 3423 regarding Agent Orange act of 1991 and it expiring at the end of the month. Totten advocated contacting representatives to ensure the legislation passes Agent Orange extension act of 2015. Member Merenkov also advocated for the passing of this legislation.

12. Remember our National Home for Children- Prayer was read by acting Chaplain Scherotter for the National Home for children in Eaton Rapids, MI. Commander Totten explained to members the history and relevancy of this organization.

13. New Business – Merenkov discussed training meeting at state regarding conduct of VFW meetings according to VFW Manual of Procedures. Discussed role of Commander (Commander cannot make or second motions nor can he or she ask for a motion). The Commander should be last to vote to decide a vote if necessary. Commander determines who has the floor to discuss items of the post. The body executes the meeting. Merenkov discussed presentation by David Stone, which may be published online for everyone to view. Brushaber noted a "how to conduct a VFW Meeting" was posted to the Post Facebook site. Merenkov advocated everyone to review these procedures to the benefit of the post. Commander Totten told the members that this portion of the meeting is intended for member participation. Brushaber advocated agenda items be submitted to commander to be added to agenda. District Commander Cook injected that agenda items don't necessarily need to be submitted to the commander. Encouraged all members to read article 10 of the manual. Cook stated all motions of expenditure should be made under new business

13. Old Business – None.

14. New Business – Brushaber made a motion for expenditure of \$300 for Poker operations in November, Merenkov seconded the motion. Trujillo asked regarding unexpended funds. Commander Totten stated unexpended funds would go back to general fund for this event. Vote by members carried the motion to expend \$300 from General Fund for the Poker Tournament.

15. Good of the Order – Cmdr. Totten

Solano – Presentation on focusing mission towards helping homeless Veterans. (OPEN). Solano presented a case that the Post mission was ill-defined and scattered over several efforts that led to a disjointed effort as a VFW Post. Solano advocated for a singular mission focused on homeless Veterans in Colorado in order



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to be effective at helping Veterans that would draw media attention to the post and thus draw in new members and donors to support the Post mission. Solano proposed a three point approach that included monetary donations, mentorship program and life skills training to homeless Veterans. Trujillo and Henkel both stated their support for a unified mission and a focus of resources on one, single mission. Merenkov stated the presentation should be given at a District level to strengthen the approach to homeless Veterans. Cook declined the offer but appreciated the presentation for its content. The proposal solicited for a formal memorandum of understanding between the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless along with a \$5,000 donation to same to kick off the program. No further discussion ensued and the item remains **OPEN**.

Commander Totten discussed POW/MIA Remembrance Day at Cabela's on 18 September. Brushaber recognized Merenkov efforts for bringing restored Jeep and presentation regarding his Uncle who served at the Battle of the Bulge and was taken as Prisoner of War.

Brushaber discussed the next social event. Merenkov mentioned planning a December social event. No further discussion ensued and the item remains **OPEN**. Commander Totten recognized Trujillo and Scherotter for efforts for the Post social event held at Elk Mountain Brewing Co. in Parker on September 19, 2015.

The next Post meeting: will be **Monday, 19 October 2015 1900 hrs.**

16. Closing Ceremonies: Closing Prayer by Chaplain (acting) Scherotter

17. Meeting Closed by Commander Totten at 2123 hrs.

Submitted by:

Peter R. Solano

Adjutant

Parker VFW Post 4266