

**MINUTES OF ANNAPOLIS BRANCH 24**  
**August 10, 2021**

Shipmate Branch President, Jimmy Beckett called the meeting to order at 1910. All Branch officers were present. Both gathering and virtual meetings were held. The quorum was a total of 30 Shipmates including 5 virtual and 25 attendees.

There were two members initiated, Shipmates George Williams and Paul Lunsway. They received the new member pin.

The following reports were given by the Committee Chairmen.

**Adopt-A-Highway:** Chairman Chris Wallace announced the next date for the highway cleanup is on Saturday, August 14, 2021. Meet up at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 1601 Pleasant Plains Road, Annapolis, MD at 9:30 am. The next date will be Saturday, September 25, 2021, and Saturday, October 23, 2021.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the clean-up, please place your name and contact information on the sign-up sheet on the Branch Bulletin Board or send an email to Shipmate Chris Wallace at: wallacerchris@gmail.com. A blast email will be sent to remind the shipmates about the next clean-up on August 14.

**Americanism/Patriotism:** Chair, Kim Biggs is seeking volunteers to work with her on the Americanism Committee. One of the Shipmates, Noelle Huffer, has volunteered to assist. If interested, please send an email to Shipmate Biggs at: [kbiggs75@hotmail.com](mailto:kbiggs75@hotmail.com). The Essay Contest information for 2021-22 is posted on our website: [www.fra24.org](http://www.fra24.org). The 2021 theme is: "Why I am proud to be an American." There are posters and forms on the small table in the lobby of the Fleet Club. If you have a 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade relative, please take one of the poster packets and encourage them to submit an essay on the new theme. S/M will be promoting the Essay contest through local Annapolis media. One of the winners from last year sent a Thank You card to the Branch. The next Americanism/Patriotism event will be held on Veterans Day, Thursday, November 11, representing the City of Annapolis. Hope you will attend.

**Audit, Budget and Finance:** Committee Chairman, Gary Van Nest reviewed the budget for 2021-2022 and we are on track.

**Communications Committee:** Chairman, Branch President Jimmy Beckett stated the blast emails sent from the website and virtual meetings are working well to notify members about meetings, events, and paying their dues. Members are keeping informed.

**Constitution & Bylaws:** Chairman, PRPEC Don Hoover and the Bylaws committee met on July 8, to review proposed changes. Plans are to discuss the proposed changes at the next Bylaws Committee meeting on August 12. The proposed Bylaw changes will be discussed at the next Membership Meeting on September 14. The proposed changes include Sections 701, 702, 801, 901(a), 1002, 1002(a), 1004, 1006, 1007, and 1009.

**Contributions:** Nothing to report.

**Hospital and Welfare:** Chair, Debi Webb, nothing to report.

**Legislative Committee:** Committee Chairman, Pat Guibao reached out to a few shipmates and asked for their participation on the Legislative Committee. The committee will represent Annapolis, Branch 24 during the 2022 MD State Legislative Session. It is proposed to brief all membership entities within our Annapolis Fleet structure including Branch and Unit 24 as well as the Associate members on any legislation affecting veterans or widows. Committee Chair Guibao will be working with legislative officials on a bond issue for Annapolis Branch 24 to acquire funds for renovations within the Fleet Club.

**Membership Committee:** Chairman Jimmy Beckett reported our membership number as of July 31, 2021, was: 2374 an increase of 73 members from the count in July, which was 2301. Growing membership means increased participation in Branch programs and activities such as the Honor Guard, Adopt-A-Highway, Picnic, and Veterans Day.

**Public Relations Committee:** Committee Chairman, Shipmate George Shannon submitted a press release to the local Annapolis Newspaper, Capital/Gazette about our Open House/Membership Drive on August 28.

**Veterans Service Officer:** VSO Penny Collins discussed creating a schedule to have our VSOs available to meet with veterans to assist them with filing their VA Disability Claims. Will continue to work on the schedule.

**Youth Activities:** Shipmate Branch President Beckett is continuously seeking a volunteer to be Committee Chairman. Need to schedule meeting with the Seeds for Success Program in Annapolis.

**FRC Liaison:** Chairman-Board of Governors, Pat Fedorowicz, discussed upcoming events at the Fleet Club including August 21 – Smoked Ribs, September 11 – Fish Fry, September 25 – Smoked Beef Brisket, October – Boat Shows, October 23 - Octoberfest.

**Two Bell Ceremony:** The Two Bell Ceremony was conducted by Chaplain Chuck Castellaw and PRPEC Don Hoover for the Shipmates who passed on to the Staff of the Supreme Commander. They were Shipmates Philip Elliott, Patrick J. McMahon, Pat Grillo, Kenneth T. Brunsvold and Thomas R. Hill.

**Old Business:** The Annual Fleet picnic will be held on Saturday, September 18, 2021, from 11:00 – 3:00 pm at Bayridge Civic Association, 80 West Lake Drive, Annapolis, MD off Bay Ridge Road. Shipmate 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Pat Guibao is the Coordinator for this year's picnic. There is a sign-up sheet on the Branch bulletin board for attendees, volunteers, and donations of side dishes and desserts. It will be a family affair for all. Signs with directions will be posted along the driving route. For further information, send an email to: [patguibao@icloud.com](mailto:patguibao@icloud.com).

The Open House/Membership Drive will be held on August 28 at the Fleet Reserve Club. This is the sixth year of this event for eligible members to join the Branch, Unit, and Club. VSOs will be present to assist any veteran to file a VA disability claim.

**New Business:** No New Business

**Good of the Order:** Shipmate President Beckett announced the appointment of Shipmate Lew Bearden as the Branch 24 Mentor to New Members. In this role he will give information to new members about branch functions, operations, activities, and committees.

There were various membership awards distributed to members for their recruiting efforts. Two members recruited 32 new or reinstated members, which made them eligible to receive a Life Membership and a Gold Card.

Shipmate Todd Traynham announced an Open House at his VFW Post 9619 located at 6527 Suitland Road, Morningside, MD 20746 to be held on September 11 starting at 12:00 noon. They will be offering VA Disability Claims Service for veterans. Shipmate Traynham also asked about the status of the tent we had on the roof last summer. It was explained to him by Shipmate Fedorowicz the Club is not putting up the tent in 2021 due to the expense.

**Next Branch Meeting:** The next regularly scheduled Branch Business meeting to be held on September 14, 2021, at 7:00 pm and we will have both a meeting gathering and virtual. The next regularly scheduled BOD meeting will be held on October 12, 2021, at 6:00 pm.

The Branch meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Prepared:

Penny Collins  
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved:

H. Jimmy Beckett.  
President