

MINUTES OF ANNAPOLIS BRANCH 24
April 13, 2021

Shipmate Branch President, John Gough called the meeting to order at 1920. All Branch officers were present. We had a gathering and virtual meeting. The quorum was a total of 36 Shipmates including 10 virtual and 26 gathering.

There was one member initiation. Shipmate Tony Sensco received his new member pin.

The following reports were given by the Committee Chairmen.

Adopt-A-Highway: Committee Chairman, Chris Wallace announced tentative dates for the highway clean-up. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Branch Bulletin. They are:

<u>1st Date</u>	<u>2nd Backup Date:</u>
May 8	June 12
July 3	August 14
September 4	October 2
November 6	December 11

If you would like to volunteer to help with the clean-up, please place your name and contact information on the sign-up sheet or send an email to Shipmate Chris Wallace at: wallacerchris@gmail.com.

Americanism/Patriotism: Committee Chair, Shipmate Kim Biggs announced the dinner for the Branch 24 Essay contest winners will be held on May 3, 2021 at 5:00 pm. A ceremony will be held afterwards. The Board members can stop by after the dinner to attend the awards ceremony.

Budget and Finance: No report; however, the Budget Proposal for the next fiscal year 2021-2022, will be discussed at a future meeting.

Communications Committee: Chairman 1st VP Beckett spoke about Branch meetings will be both a meeting gathering and virtual. We are going to have both types of meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month to accommodate members who cannot physically attend the meetings. The virtual meeting transmission went very well in the March meeting. We will continue to improve it. Go to the Branch website: www.fra24.org to view Branch information.

Constitution & Bylaws: Chairman PRPEC Don Hoover stated the Bylaws Committee is working on updating the Branch C&BL. As soon as the committee receives the proposed changes, will discuss at future meetings and post on the Branch website for members to review and make comments before final copy.

Contributions: Will vote on Board recommendations for contributions under the Good of the Order.

Hospital Welfare & Rehabilitation: The Two Bell ceremony was conducted by Chaplin Castellaw and PRPEC Hoover. The shipmates acknowledged were Hugh Maurer, Richard Stern, Sr., Joseph Carpenter, Raymond Bollinger, Gary Morey, Richard Mahoney, Robert Stickle, and John Jerome.

Membership Committee: Chairman Jimmy Beckett reported our membership number as of March 31, 2021 was: 2252. Shipmate Jimmy continues to work on getting the three chief's messes in the MD area to consider joining Branch 24 and become involved in Branch activities. Shipmate reported we held a Chief's birthday celebration on April 1. There were 8 attendees who participated including a few Branch members. Shipmate Beckett recruited one new member at this event.

Legislative Committee: Committee Chairman, Pat Guibao gave a report of on pertinent proposed legislation discussed during the 2021 MD State Legislative Session. Please see the attachment for specifics.

Public Relations Committee: Committee Chairman, Shipmate George Shannon will be working on the report for the FRA East Coast Region virtual meeting.

Youth Activities: So far no one has volunteered to be the Committee Chairman for Youth Activities. Shipmate Beckett recommended we explore youth partnerships in the Annapolis area. He recommends "Seeds 4 Success" a local youth organization, which provides various outreach and mentoring activities for Annapolis Youth. They need volunteers to provide mentoring, tutoring, etc. to the youth. Shipmate Beckett plans to contact the organization and ask them to attend a future Branch meeting and give a presentation on their community programs.

FRC Liaison: Chairman-Board of Governors, Pat Fedorowicz, discussed upcoming events at the Club including Pig Roast, Fish Fry, cleaned and refurbished the deck, future painting the stairs, and other proposed activities. Meal Team Six, which are Branch and/or Club members will be preparing food for upcoming events. The Tent has been installed on the 2nd deck for expanded outdoor seating. In May, the Club's newsletter will not be mailed to the members to save money. Instead, it will be posted on the website. At the April 13, meeting there was a Corporate meeting to nominate 3 Board of Governors members. At the May meeting will have another round of nominations and election of Board members. The Board of Governors manage the Fleet Reserve Club's operation. The Naval Academy Days will be held on May 25-26. The Annapolis Boat Show is scheduled to be held in October. The weekend of April 17-18, there will be a Boat Show in Kent Island.

Old Business: Because we offered both limited seating and a virtual meeting at the last Branch meeting on March 9, we had a total of 49 members present. This was a successful venture. We will continue to offer both meeting alternatives.

New Business: The Board recommended the following items to be considered and voted on:

1). **The 2021 Memorial Day Program for the City of Annapolis** has been cancelled. Received notification from the Mayor's Office. We may want to consider planning our

have an Independence Day Parade on July 3 and would like to invite the Branch and the Club members to participate in the parade. No vote taken. Will consider again at the May meeting.

Received correspondence requesting donations to:

2). Peace Crossing Repair Project **\$500 (budget line # 23)**, a motion was given, and it was seconded and approved by the majority.

3). Increased annual donation to the Maryland Military Coalition from \$100 to **\$500. (budget line #23)** a motion was given, and it was seconded and approved by the majority.

4). Full page color ad for the 52nd Annual USCG Chief Petty Officer Association Convention **\$125 (budget line #23)** a motion was given and it was seconded and approved by the majority.

5). Because we will be doing monthly virtual Branch meetings the Board recommended purchasing a new laptop/accessories costing between **\$900-\$1100 (budget line #41)** a motion was given and it was seconded and approved by the majority.

Good of the Order: Nominations were held for Branch 24 Officers for 2021-2022. The eligibility requirements are nominees have attended 6 out of the last 12 meetings and be in good financial standing. We may have to modify this requirement because between April 2020 to April 2021 we had 8 meetings due to the pandemic.

Current Nominees: **Branch Officers – 2021-2022:**

Branch President – Shipmate 1st VP Jimmy Beckett

1st VP – Shipmate 2nd VP Chris Wallace

2nd VP – Shipmate Patrick Guibao

Board of Directors Nominees– 2021-2022:

Rich Bonnett

Don Hoover

Claire Purdy

George Shannon

John Bocchiocchio

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Brittany Santana

Lew Bearden

Kim Biggs
Sid Routh
Valerie Toulotte
Pat Fedorowicz
Kenneth J. Liedy

We will repeat the nominations at the meeting in May and hold officer elections.

Shipmate Collins announced she is working on a new program for veterans who need assistance with filing VA disability claims. Will post info on the Branch Bulletin Board about Veterans Benefits and Filing VA Disability Claims. PNC Valerie Toulotte and PRPEC Collins are now VA certified FRA Veterans Service Officers (VSOs).

Shipmate Gary Van Nest announced the proposed date for the Branch Picnic will be Saturday, September 18, 2021 from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm at the Bay Ridge Civic Association, 80 East Lake Drive, Annapolis, MD 21403.

Next Branch Meeting: The next regularly scheduled Branch Business meeting to be held on May 11, 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 May 04, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

The Branch meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Prepared:

Penny Collins
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved:

John H. Gough, Jr.
President