



## **SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY HONOR GUARD ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of the General Membership Meeting March 18, 2025**

The meeting opened with a salute, the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer, the reading of the POW/MIA statement, and the reading of the Association's mission statement.

There were 23 attendees at this meeting. The meeting began at 4:06 PM at the American Legion Old Saratoga Post 278 in Schuylerville.

### **Roll Call**

#### **OFFICERS**

Cmdr – Robert Sellar – Present  
Adjutant – Mark Joly – Present  
Quartermaster – Jim Rhoads – Present  
Chaplain - Norm Schultheiss – Present

Vice Cmdr – Gary Squires – Present  
Finance Officer – Jay Ogden – Absent  
Ordnance – Ernie Dreimiller – Present  
Sergeant-at-Arms – Art Knorr – Present

#### **TRUSTEES**

Gary Squires - Present  
Ernie Dreimiller – Present  
Joe Valerio – Present

#### **SQUAD LEADERS**

Mon – Glenn Duffy - Present  
Tues - Frank Merrill – Present  
Wed – Dick Noonan – Present  
Thurs - Ted Mosher – Absent  
Fri - Gary Squires – Present

### **Approval of Minutes of the September General Membership Meeting**

As all association members who have an email account were sent the January 2025 General Membership Committee Meeting minutes, the minutes were not read during this meeting. As there were no additions or corrections, the minutes are approved as distributed.

### **Introduction of New Members**

**Doug Dinon** from the Friday Squad was introduced.

## **Officer Reports**

**Vice Commander:** No report.

**Adjutant:** No report.

**Finance:** In the Finance Officer's absence, the Commander provided the following from the February Finance Report – there are \$56,672.24 available funds from all sources.

**Chaplin:** The Chaplin reported that April 15<sup>th</sup> is the wake and funeral for Robert Garland..

**Quartermaster:** The Quartermaster reported he has provided all squads with additional gloves and scarves. He asked squad leaders to take an inventory of what they currently have, and he will provide additional items to bring each squad's inventory back to normal.

**Trustees:** The Trustees are waiting for Jay to provide them with a letter to sign to relieve Dave Seymour of any responsibility for the association's accounts while he was Finance Officer.

**Ordinance:** The Ordnance Officer, Ernie Dreimiller, provided his report of repairs. Currently, there are 14 rifles in service.

The Commander reported that he had received a request from the secretary of the Honor Guard Association of the Western New York National Cemetery in Corfu, NY. She is looking for any Standard Operating Procedures and Memorandum of Understanding regarding our rifles and their usage. Bob is sending off the information he has to her today.

## **Squad Leader Reports**

**Monday Squad:** Everything is going good.

**Tuesday Squad:** Nothing to report.

**Wednesday Squad:** Jack Grande takes home a rifle each week for cleaning. He does have a letter authorizing him to take the rifles home.

**Thursday Squad:** No report.

**Friday Squad:** Everything is going great. There are three new members.

## **Agenda Discussion Items**

### **1. By-laws Modifications Vote**

John Shahay made a motion to approve the changes to the By-laws to conform to the new Constitution. The motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **2. Nominating Committee Report**

John Shahay reported that there is one nomination, Dave Seymour, for the Trustee position, and he is still searching for someone to accept a nomination for Adjutant.

### **3. Use of Stars from Flags for Veteran Outreach Events**

The Daughters of the American Revolution, Willards Mountain Chapter, has offered to provide stars to our association at no cost to us for the purpose of offering them to veterans at our outreach events. Multiple opinions were discussed, both pro and con.

The Commander recommended that, as an organization, we try to provide flag pins. If we have a source of stars, we can also offer stars when offering flag pins.

## **Open Agenda Discussion Items**

- A.** Wreaths Across America wreaths are scheduled to be picked up Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 9:00 AM.
- B.** The National Vietnam War Veterans Day is March 29, 2025. The cemetery director has requested that the honor guard provide rifles and taps for this event. The Thursday Squad is responsible for providing rifles and taps.
- C.** As of yet, there have been no Space Force veterans interred in the Saratoga National Cemetery. We have no Space Force Flag. The Commander asked if anyone thought we should have one. The answer was yes. It was also recommended if we purchase one, we should purchase two, one for each shelter.
- D.** Dave Seynour recommended that the service flags at the shelter be cleaned. The Commander said he would look at all the service flags and see which ones needed to be cleaned first.

**50/50 Drawing:** The total collected was \$85, with \$43.00 going to the winner, Ernie Dreimiller.

The meeting closed with a prayer and a salute. The meeting ended at 4:49 PM.

The next **Executive Committee Meeting** will be **Tuesday, April 15, 2025**.

The next **General Membership Meeting** will be **Tuesday, May 20, 2025**.

Both meetings will be at the American Legion Old Saratoga Post 278 in Schuylerville. The times for the meetings will be noted when the agendas for each are emailed to all members.

### **Future dates to remember:**

- Saturday, March 29, 2025, Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony
- Tuesday, April 15, 2025, Robert Garland Interment 11:00 AM