

MINUTES OF ANNAPOLIST BRANCH 24
March 9, 2021

Shipmate Branch President, John Gough called the meeting to order at 1900.

Other officers present were 1st Vice President Jimmy Beckett, 2nd VP Chris Wallace, and Secretary/Treasurer Penny Collins. Master at Arms, Shipmate Pat Fedorowicz, introduced the visiting Shipmates including PRPEC's Claire Purdy, Don Hoover and Penny Collins. Also introduced was Past National Chaplain Valerie Toulotte. There were 49 members present for a quorum. This was the first time the Branch held both a meeting gathering with 18 Board members presents and 31 members on a Zoom virtual call.

Adopt-A-Highway: Nothing to report.

Americanism/Patriotism: East Coast Region Committee Chair, Kim Biggs, gave a report about the East Coast Region Essays. Several volunteers from Branch 24 read the essays on Saturday, February 13, 2021. We have four Branch 24 contestants who were announced as East Coast Region winners. They are 2nd Place winner: Emma Lopes – 11th grade; 3rd Place winners: Isadora Marshall – 7th grade; Addison Cliff – 8th grade and Ximing Luo – 10th Grade.

Budget and Finance: Chairman Gary Van Nest along with Committee member, PNC Valerie Toulotte held an Audit on March 4, 2021 to review the Branch financial records. The audit was favorable. We are currently under budget.

Communications Committee: Chairman 1st VP Jimmy Beckett discussed the website redesign. He asked the Board members to look at the website and send comments about its redesign and he received a few. Shipmate Erickson stated the Standing Rules are not on the website. Will locate the document and send it to the webmaster to post. With change in seating capacities at dining facilities, we will have a virtual and BOD's members will be in attendance in the dining room. Branch meeting will be on March 9. Will work with the Branch Secretary to plan the set up for the virtual side of the meeting.

Constitution & Bylaws: Chairman PRPEC Don Hoover stated the Bylaws Committee is working on updating the Branch C&BL. Specific sections to be reviewed are: 601-No. of Board Members, 603- Branch Operations Guide location, 701 – Branch Meeting Time and Virtual process; 801 – BOD Meeting Time and Virtual Meetings; 1002 Budget Expenditures; 1003 – Treasurer Petty Cash Allowance; and 1005 – Check payments, Debit Card payments. The Chairman is asking for proposed updates in a timely fashion, which will be discussed at a future Bylaws Committee meeting.

Hospital Welfare & Rehabilitation: Committee Chairman Debi Web was on the virtual call. She reported that Past Branch President George Dorsey is currently residing at the Sunrise Assisted Living/Memory Care facility in Silver Spring. We will contact Shipmate Dorsey and schedule a time to visit him. Chaplain Castelaw will conduct the Two Bell Ceremony to acknowledge our deceased Branch members.

Membership Committee: Chairman Jimmy Beckett reported our membership number as of February 28, 2021 was: 2238. Due to the revised restrictions on gatherings of people in one place to a maximum of 25, we decided to hold a virtual meeting on March 9. The shipmates will be notified by email. 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 and/or Club activities.

Legislative Committee: Committee Chairman, Pat Guibao will hold off on the request for a state grant or a Bond Initiative for the FRC to be used for capital development. Will submit during the 2022 Legislative Session. For the Peace Crossing Restoration Project, Gov Hogan has allocated \$600,000 from the Maryland State Budget to fund the project. Another \$400,000 is needed to fully fund the restoration of the Cross, which represents and acknowledges the deaths of Maryland veterans who died in WWI. There are some bills in the 2021 MD State Legislative session worth mentioning. They are HB 356-Business Filing Fees for Veteran Entrepreneurship (Passed in Committee in the House); HB371-Slots to Assist Homeless Veterans (No action); HB156-Student Military Voters Act; other legislation mentioned were Income Tax Subtraction two year reduction (No action); Create a Women Veteran's Memorial. Anne Arundel County Council approved a Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans with at least a 50% VA rating.

Correspondence: Received several requests for donations over the past several months. Because we could not have Branch meetings, the BOD made the decision to approve the requests. We will vote on these donations under new business.

Public Relations Committee: Nothing to report.

Youth Activities: Nothing to report. We need a volunteer chairman

Old Business: Due to the pandemic and restrictions on the number of people who gather inside the club, we will not hold our annual Las Vegas Night in March. Because the 2020 Las Vegas Night was cancelled due to the pandemic, we agreed to hold the raffle drawing for the three grand prize winners. They were 1st Place - \$300, Shipmate Richard Bowman; 2nd Place - \$200, Elizabeth del Castillo-LAFRA Unit 24; and 3rd Place - \$100, Sandy Feeley. Congratulations to all of the winners.

New Business: Because we did not vote on 3 contribution requests during the months we had no meetings due to the pandemic, the Branch members will consider and vote on the following:

- 1). Donation request made by the Board for \$800 to be donated to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank – 12/20
- 2). Donation request made by Shipmate Rich Bonnett to Faces of Valor - \$250 1/21
- 3). MD National Guard - \$200 – 1/21

Motions were made on all three requests, seconded, and approved by members.

Good of the Order: We discussed the delegates for the FRA National Convention to be held October 2-9, 2021 in Spokane Valley, WA. The President asked if any shipmates were interesting in attending. So far we have: PRPEC's Clare Purdy and Don Hoover, and Shipmate Lew Bearden. We will ask again at the May and June meetings. The Branch membership will have to vote on the delegates at the June meeting.

Next Branch Meeting: The next regularly scheduled Branch Business meeting to be held on April 13, 2021 and we will have both a meeting gathering and virtual. The next regularly scheduled BOD meeting will be held on April 6, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

The BOD meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Prepared:

Approved:

Penny Collins
Secretary/Treasurer

John H. Gough, Jr.
President