

MINUTES OF ANNAPOLIS BRANCH 24

October 13, 2020

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 36 members present for a quorum.

New Member Initiation: There were four shipmates initiated into Annapolis Branch 24. They were Shipmates John Dorsey, USMC; Ava Yuen, USMC, Stan Rivers, USN; and Dave Lewis, USN. They were given the initiation speech by 1st VP Jimmy Beckett and received the FRA Membership Lapel Pin.

Adopt-A-Highway Comm: Committee Chairman, Shipmate Chris Wallace, announced the next highway clean-up will be at a date to be determined in 2021.

Americanism-Patriotism Comm: Committee Chairman, Shipmate Kim Biggs, reminded us about the essay contest, which ends on December 1, 2020. All essays should be submitted to her on or before She has set the date of January 9, 2021 to have the essays read by volunteers. If anyone is interested in being a volunteer, please contact Shipmate Biggs by email on kbiggs75@hotmail.com.

Audit, Budget & Finance: Committee Chairman Gary Van Nest distributed copies of the budget expenditures for the month of September.

By Laws Comm: Committee Chairman-Shipmate PRPEC Don Hoover stated the approved Branch 24 Bylaws are posted on the branch website along with one change for the members to review. Please review the change in Article 13 regarding the checking account. There have been two volunteers added to the Committee. They are Shipmates John Bocchicchio and Chris Erickson. If anyone else is interested in serving on the Bylaws Committee, please send an email to Shipmate Don Hoover at: donhoover44@gmail.com
Contributions: Nothing to report.

HW&R: Chairman S/M Debi Webb - nothing to report.

Legislative Services: Committee member, Sid Routh, gave a report on the Legislative Services meeting, which was held on September 30, 2020. All Branch members are welcome to attend the committee meetings. Discussed were veteran bills not passed during the 2020 MD Legislative Session and which measures were considered a priority for the upcoming period, which begins on January 13, 2021. The committee determined the following would be submitted to the Branch members for review. 1). Mental Health & Suicide Prevention – Senate Bill 324; Establish a Mental First Aid Program to aid both veterans and caregivers; Senate Bill

904; Creates a matching grant program for veterans and their families or caregivers close to their homes. 2). Encouragement of Veteran Entrepreneurship; House Bill 1007; Senate Bill 532 – Establishes a task force to review policies designed to aid veteran owned small business. 3). Honoring Veterans, Active Service and Their Families; House Bill 4; Create a commission to design and construct a Women's Veteran's Memorial. 4) Career Service Retirement Programs; Senate Bill 488 – Increase present Income present Income Tax Subtraction Modification from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

The Committee agreed to participate in a legislative training session on November 13, sponsored by the Maryland Military Coalition at a site to be determined. Next meeting will be held on January 6, 2021 at the Fleet Reserve Club.

Correspondence: Received a letter from the VA designating the City of Annapolis as Veteran's Day site hosted by the Fleet Reserve Association. Also receive a request from the City of Annapolis Mayor's Office to participate in a pre-Veterans Day ceremony on November 2, to advertise Veterans Day. A few shipmates would be needed to participate. Will vote on this request under new business.

Membership/Retention: As of September 30, 2020 the membership count was 2228. Good job!

Public Relations: Chairman George Shannon is looking for volunteers to assist with the PR Committee. If any shipmate is interested, please contact Shipmate Shannon by email on: gms Shannon40@gmail.com. Shipmate George mentioned a report from Shipmate Richard Bonnett who was instrumental in requesting Branch 24 to make a donation for the construction of the Severn Park Gold Star Family Memorial a tribute dedicated to the Severna Pari Heroes. The Branch donated \$100.

Youth Activities: Nothing to report. We need a volunteer to serve as the Chairman of this committee. If interested, please contact 1st VP Jimmy Beckett by email on: hbeckettmd@gmail.com.

Club Liaison: Shipmate Pat Fedorowicz, Chairman-Board of Governors-Fleet Reserve Club, gave announcements about future club activities, which will be a Fish Fry on October 16 and Oktoberfest on October 24.

Two Bell Ceremony: Ceremony held in honor of the members who have passed onto the Staff of the Supreme Commander. Chaplain Chuck Castelaw along with PRPEC Don Hoover participated in the prayer and bell tolling. The shipmates honored were Shipmates Randall Bocock and Anthony Finanzzo.

Old Business: Shipmate Lew Bearden, Chairman-Planning Committee for the 2021 East Coast Region Convention announced the convention dates will be 22-24 July 2021 at the Double Tree Hotel, Annapolis, MD. In order to raise funds, the 50/50 (\$1 each or 6 for \$5) and (\$25 each or 3 for \$50) Raffle tickets will be sold. We will also look into setting up a Go Fund Me Page to

receive donations for the convention. The Planning Committee will start meeting again to work on the next Regional Convention.

New Business: We discussed the feasibility of changing our meeting from November 10 to November 11, since Veterans Day would be the next day after our regular monthly meeting. A motion was made and seconded to move the monthly meeting to November 11. The vote was unanimous. A motion was made and seconded to participate in the pre-Veterans Day project sponsored by the Mayor's Office. There were several objections made by the Shipmates because November 2 was not Veterans Day and the shipmates suggested to participate in programs only on Veterans Day. A vote was taken and the majority voted "Nay." Did not pass favorably. A motion was made and seconded to change our Branch bank accounts from BB&T to Navy Federal Credit Union to coincide with the change over by the Fleet Reserve Club. A vote was taken and the majority ruled in favor of the change in banks from BB&T to NFCU. The Treasurer, Penny Collins, recommended to make the change at the beginning of 2021.

Good of the Order: Nothing to Report.

Next Branch Meeting: Will be held on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020 at 11:00 am. Next BOD Meeting will be held on December 1, 2020. Branch meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Prepared by:

Approved:

Penny Collins
Secretary

John Gough
President