

Jim Gray's ship in the Navy



USS Jim Gray

American Legion Post 315

Post Membership Meeting

8 Jun 21

Opening

- One rap of gavel to signify opening of the meeting:
 - Doors closed by Sgt at Arms
- Three raps of gavel:
 - Please rise and remove your covers.
 - Chaplin will lead us in prayer.
 - Please join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance
 - The American Legion preamble will be passed over at this time
- Replace covers and take seats.

Opening

- POW/MIA Chair
 - A POW/MIA chair is placed at all official meetings of the American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POWs/MIAs still unaccounted from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder to all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the reparation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty and a full accounting of those missing.
- One rap of Gavel
 - I now declare this meeting of Wilber-Bartlett Post 315, regularly convened.

Order of Business

- Is a quorum present?
- Any Guests today?
- Any new members present
 - Stand give military background and reason you joined.
- Reading of minutes of the last meeting.
- Board Meeting report
- Post Committee report
- Finance Report
- Post Service Officer report
- Building and grounds report
- Sick Call

Order of Business

- Old business
- New business
- Closing

Minutes from last meeting

Membership

- Things like the Bar, Service Officer and Membership efforts are just a way for us to get folks in the door as a member. It is our responsibility to change them from just members to active members!

Board Meeting Report

- State of the National and Local Legion Membership
 - We are the 8th largest post in Michigan
 - National
 - 3% loss a year
 - 20-25 years will nearly be defunct unless they stem the losses.
 - Local
 - Onsted has 100 members
 - Michigan Center has 150 members – hasn't had a Board/Membership meeting in months for lack of participation.
 - Tecumseh VFW and Legion small numbers
 - Adrian VFW closed
 - We could see an influx of folks should anyone of these close.

Board Meeting Report

- Why do folks come here?
 - People are here.
 - Bar
 - Demeanor of the Staff
 - Food
 - Regular hours
 - Membership/Recruiting
 - Active Service officer

Board Meeting Report

- Why do folks leave their Posts?
 - No one there and nothing going on.
 - Bar
 - Bartenders not nice
 - No regular hours/food
 - In active Service officer
 - Lack of financial transparency
 - Drama
- What time frame are we talking for this Legion's planning?
 - 20 years or 50 years
- Board voted to go 50 years and beyond.

Board Meeting Report

- **Purpose of Post Committee**

- Give all three Units equal voice in Post affairs that concern them all.
- Committee is composed of nine members:
 - Commander/President of each Unit
 - 2IC of each Unit
 - One alternate from each Unit selected by Commander/President.
 - All votes will be done as long as a Quorum of 6 are present.
 - Make up of Committee and Auxiliary
- The issues concerning the Committee:
 - Bar
 - Building
 - Fund Raising
 - Web Site
- Shared costs/revenue are the price of entry.
 - Board voted to agree on shared costs/revenue on items concerning Committee.

Board Meeting Report

- Bar
 - Bar is not on total probation.
 - Why do we have a bar and do we need it?
 - What do we expect out of the bar financials? Profit/Break even/Loss?
 - Bar currently losing \$2000-\$4000 a month.
 - Revenue/loss sharing.
 - What do we consider bar allocated expenses?
 - Building, electricity costs?
 - Labor situation:
 - Unable to hire and retain bartenders.
 - Do we need table service?

Board Meeting Report

- Bar
 - Board voted that:
 - We want a bar.
 - To keep table service.
 - Allocated expenses.
 - Bar should show a small profit.
 - Bar hours should be expanded to:
 - Sundays – Close at 8 instead of 6.
 - Monday – Close at 9 instead of 6.
 - Friday and Sunday – Close at 11 instead of 9.
 - Dependent on labor

Board Meeting Report

- Rental of the hall
 - It is part of the licensed premises and as such has all the same restrictions as the bar.
 - No alcohol brought in.
 - We will supply the bartender.
 - Price proposed:
 - Usage - \$270
 - Cleaning - \$150
 - Bartender/Legion Rep - \$80
 - Total of \$500

Board Meeting Report

- Legion agrees to Lessee costs as follows.
 - Members are defined as a Post 315 dues paying member except for Veterans funerals
 - **Commander will decide on those here under a year.**
 - Funeral for all members (Legion/Aux/SAL)
 - Usage fee is waived
 - Bartender and Cleaning fees are to be picked up by individual units as they see fit.
 - Bartender and Cleaning fees are negotiable depending on situation.
 - Unit fund raiser
 - Usage fee is waived
 - Bartender and Cleaning fees are to be picked up by individual units.
 - Bartender and Cleaning fees are negotiable depending on situation.
 - All others:
 - Member who leased must be present.
 - Usage fee in place.
 - Bartender fee in place.
 - Cleaning fee in place.
 - **Board voted to accept the above.**

Board Meeting Report

- Building
 - Why do we have a building and do we need it?
 - Different location?
 - Different Building?
 - Back Room
 - Are we ready for dinners
 - Are we ready for bands?
 - Board voted to :
 - Stay here
 - Retain building
 - Open for dinners after 1 Jul
 - Open bands and other back room activities after 1 Jul

Board Meeting Report

- Fund Raising
 - Multi Unit Fund raising
 - Must have a clear goal for money usage
 - One person is charge
 - Dinners are our first multi fund raising
 - What is the goal for dinner money?
 - Single Unit Fund raising
 - Unit responsibilities.

Board Meeting Report

- Web Site
 - We have no way to communicate with members.
 - Facebook is not the right platform.
 - Cost sharing is in effect.
 - I have a person who will set it up for us
 - She does Lucero's, Beach Bar, etc..
 - She will set it up for \$1500-1800 and \$100 a month for support.]
 - We will own the Site.
 - She envisions turning this over to us after a year but we do not.
 - **Board voted to support the Web Site. Funding to be decided by membership.**

Post Committee Report

- Discussed the function of the Post Committee
- Aux President and SAL Commander are meeting with their respective members to agree to the parameters of the Committee.

Finance Report

- Finance Report is not definitive enough to present.
- New finance team is coming on board in 2 weeks
 - Rich Smith – Legion
 - Kathy Haynes – Aux
- We have \$148,000 in the bank.
- Pending large costs:
 - Approx. \$35,000-\$45,000 for the driveway.
 - Electricity
 - Roof

Building and Grounds Report

- Parking Lot
 - Sewer line
 - Approximately cost to replace

Service Officer Report

Sick Call

- Marvin Meyer's wife has died.
- William Roberts, Korean vet, has passed away,

Old Business

New Business

- Motion to support annual Web Site Costs at \$1000
- Motion to support advertising costs for the Bartender at \$100.
- Motion to support Memorial Day “give a Veteran a beer” at \$148.

Closing

- Please stand and remove your covers.
- Chaplin will lead us in prayer.
- Replace covers.
- Face the flag and hand salute – two.
- I now declare this meeting of the Wilber-Bartlett Post 315, the American Legion, Department of Michigan adjourned.