

York Maine Committee for Veterans Affairs
Meeting Minutes
6pm, Tuesday February 25 2025
York Town Hall

Members present: Don LeFante, Lew DiTommaso, Major General Tom Spencer; Retired, Jimmy Carrabello, Wade Fox, YPD Lt. Scott Study. Members absent Brent Mohr, Alan Potvin and Kevin Smith. Also in attendance Altrusa members Judith Goldstein & Carole Intoccia.

1. **Call To order.** Chair Don LeFante called the meeting to order at **6:03**. A quorum was determined with 6 members voting.
2. **Minutes from January 25 2025** meeting reviewed. Don motioned to approve the minutes with Lew seconding. Minutes approved 5-0.
3. **Chairmans Report; Don LeFante.**
 - a. With the **Memorial Day Parade** approaching, it's been determined that our aluminum chairs will need to be fastened to the P&R trailer. Don's neighbor will be fabricating custom fasteners for this application.
 - b. Keller Williams will be pickup up Veterans and will ride in their trolley.
 - c. DPW's Tim DePerrio indicated that the department will be participating in the MDP.
 - d. An invitation was extended to the Piscataqua Rangers Drum & Fife Corp. Participation TBD.
 - e. Len Samborowski will be the MDP keynote speaker.
 - f. Jimmy motioned to spend no more than \$600 to accommodate lodging for the speaker which would be for 2 nights. General Spencer seconded. Motion approved 5-0.
 - g. Foster's Clambake Restaurant has received a COA for their generous help in supporting our MDM.
 - h. With the ongoing project of disposing our American flags, Jimmy has offered his property to burn said flags and collect the ashes which will then be turned over to Todd and First Parish Cemetery to be interred into the vault. This event will happen once weather becomes warmer where we will convene.
 - i. Marine Corps League will do the gun salute at the MDP.
 - j. Chuck Maranhas will be the photographer for the MDP again. Lew will be getting another person to complement the photography.
 - k. The Vietnam Memorial tribute will be on March 16 at 1330 hours.
4. **Treasurers Report, Don LeFante.**

a. A balance of \$10,462.61 remains in the budget. 4 dates on the spreadsheet need to be corrected. Don motioned to accept the budget; Jimmy seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

5. National Defense Memorial (NDM), General Tom Spencer, Retired.

a. Todd Frederick was asked to speak with civil engineers with regards to the ongoing NDM placement. General Spencer has scheduled a meeting with Todd for Friday 2/28/25. Todd indicated that Geoff Aleva would perform the site drawings at no charge. However, a bill was presented.

b. Don called Forest asking for him to submit an invoice to the CVA for services rendered.

6. Fallen Heroes Banners, Don LeFante

a. CVA will be purchasing (1) Rayslit solar light to determine how and if it will operate.
b. Possibly (4) banners will need to be replaced due to wear and weather degradation. Jimmy motion to spend no more than \$1400 for said banner replacement. Wade seconded. Motion was approved 5-0.

7. USS North Dakota, Wade Fox,

a. Notes to be provided by Wade.

8. Library Display, Don LeFante.

a. Barbara Bourgoine is now dealing with the lower-level display on a temporary basis. She suggested that we wait until the permanent children's library director was put in place.

9. VFW, Jimmy Carrabello.

a. No more events planned for February and upcoming.

12. American Legion, Wade Fox.

a. A monthly calendar that includes all activities is being developed and distributed. It will also include VFW events.
b. A new Service Officer will be announced.

10. Wreaths Across America, Lew DiTommaso.

a. Beginning on 2/1/2025, the 3-for-2 sponsorship group plan with the new "\$5 Forward Plan." When a group is registered on the plan. \$5 for every paid \$17 wreath sponsorship

will automatically be applied forward to the sponsorship of an additional Veteran wreath. Essentially, for every 3.4 wreaths sponsored, an extra wreath will be received.

B Lew will be speaking with Todd to discuss adding a QR code for a newly created First Parish Cemetery WAA handout brochure. The purpose is to generate more purchases for the wreaths.

11 Meeting Adjourned; Don motions to adjourn the meeting. Lew seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:20. Motion approved 5 -0. Our Next CVA meeting will be on March 25, 2025, 6pm, York Town Hall.