

York Maine Committee for Veterans Affairs
Meeting Minutes
6pm, Tuesday, September 27, 2022
York Police Department, Training Room

Members present: Mel Spelman, Roger Clements, Lew DiTommaso, Wade Fox, Don LeFante, Jimmy Carabello, Brent Moore. Citizens awaiting vetting to the committee, Tom Coffey and Nate Stone.

1. Call To Order 6:04

2. Minutes from 7/26/2022 meeting reviewed. Wade motioned to approve, Jimmy seconded. Approved 7-0.

3. Budget Status; Don LeFante

a. The only expenditure presented for the new FY budget were Don's business cards.

b. Updated spreadsheet was distributed to CVA members.

c. New expenditures; Service Awards for Barry Waddell and Bill Blasidell; \$120, Wade motioned to approve, Jimmy seconded. 7-0. The Purple Heart Ceremony Handout Leaflet, \$80.65; Motion to approve by Wade, Jimmy seconded. 7-0

d. A roundtable discussion was held regarding protocols for keeping track of remaining FY funds with the purpose of having a running total. This will be an ongoing effort by Don and will be viewed during every subsequent CVA meeting for the FY.

4. Purple Heart Ceremony (PH) Review; Mel Spelman

a. A unanimous thumbs up for the entire ceremony, from the turnout, the weather, the singer Gina Branigan, the performance of TAPS at the conclusion, the keynote speaker Major General Tom Spencer and the benediction by York Street Baptist Church Pastor Chris Crowe. Mason Park was a perfect location with breathtaking views. The CVA heard from many in attendance that it was a fitting and honorable ceremony.

5. Wreaths Across America; Lew DiTommaso.

a. Fund raising will be ongoing leading up to the actual event, 12/3/2022. Lew has been in contact with Todd. Lew will set up a Facebook page devoted specifically to promoting WAA and fundraising throughout the community. As we draw closer to the event, approximately the week before Thanksgiving, Lew will in contact with WTSN for radio promotion during their Community Calendar segments.

6. Veterans Day, possibly Week; Roger Clements;

a. An Overview of the activities planned are 1) York Village Complimentary Breakfast @ Norma's. 2) School Assembly breakfast @ YHS. 3) Classroom "guest speaker" opportunities; YH, CRES, VES & YMS. 4) An 11am moment of silence observed by the town and schools-possible newspapers promoting this as well. 5) A Library event (?) Lew is confirming the date and time for the Curt Bessette/Jenn Kurtz

musical performance of “A Few Seconds With Our Fathers...and Mothers.” This is a presentation of songs and stories of WWII, the honoring of veterans of all wars. We will be attempting to publicize this on the CVA web page. Further discussion and implementation will be tasked during the upcoming days and weeks prior to the week of events.

b. Discussion took place for the possibility of conducting a survey with veterans attending the breakfasts with the question being “What services are important to veterans?”. This will be for data gathering.

c. Also discussed was the possibility for the mention of Veterans Day activities throughout the church community. Nate Stone has been tasked with gathering intel on that front.

d. Roger motioned to spend up to \$1000 for the Norma’s Breakfast. Wade seconded. 7-0.

7. Memorial Maintenance; Don agreed to take on the task.

8. Banner Maintenance; Mel Spelman.

a. Former CVA member Michael Dow, who was easily the champion and driving force behind the Fallen Heroes Banners efforts, agreed to assist us prior to stepping down. This will be confirmed. Michael has all the data concerning maintenance, cleaning/repair costs etc.

9. Memorial Day; Mel Spelman.

a. Tabled for the evening, to be discussed in upcoming meetings.

10. VFW Jimmy Carabello. Calendar of events are as follows;

a. 10/8 Fish Fry 2-5pm with live entertainment.

b. 10/22; Italian Meal; 1-5pm.

c. 10/22; Chicken Shoot; 2-4pm.

d. 10/29; Oktoberfest; Brats/Sausage/Burgers/Hot Dogs 4-8pm.

e. York Election Day; Booth will be set up @ YHS Voting Polls handing out poppies.

11. American Legion; Wade Fox.

a. The AL is currently refocusing on strategies.

12..Monument Care; Mel Spelman.

a. An effort will be taken to coordinate with Parks and Recreation for mowing/leave removal. Discussion also centered around the CVA doing a portion of the maintenance. To be continued.

13. Where Does The Committee Go From Here; Mel Spelman.

a. A long discussion was held with many ideas and thought brought forth, bandied about. Nothing was defined or set in stone. To be continued in future meetings.

14. Review Of Expenditures from Today’s Meeting; Don LeFante

a. The aforementioned Business Card purchase, the Service Awards for Barry and Bill and the motion/approval for the Norma’s Breakfast costs.

15. New Business;

a. Lew Motioned to spend no more than \$150 for 1) A Protective Carry Bag for the powered speaker 2. A protective Carry bag for the speaker stand 3) A protective Carry Bag for the microphone stand and microphone. Jimmy seconded. 7-0

16. Motion to Adjourn; Mel Spelman.

a. Brent Moore motioned, Wade seconded.7-0 Meeting adjourned 8:11pm.